The Whitman College Library Curriculum Development Initiative for Manuscripts, Archives, Rare Books, and Other Special Collections Materials

Purpose

The purpose of this initiative is to make available periodically (e.g., annually) up to $5,000 to fund faculty-library collaborations that connect the College’s archives and special collections with the curriculum. This initiative aims to enhance use of current library resources as well as develop new resources in conjunction with existing or new courses. To that end, funds can be used to locate, prepare, acquire, or work with materials.

This initiative will be tested as a pilot for three years, after which time it will be assessed for its value and viability as a program.

Rationale

Archives and special collections materials, as both texts and artifacts, provide unique learning and research opportunities for undergraduates. Archives and special collections enhance a liberal education by cultivating critical thinking about primary sources, the creation and dissemination of knowledge, and communication methods and media. Because of their uniqueness and rarity, archives and special collections inspire curiosity, reveal new information, and deepen understanding of various subjects.

The archives and special collections of the Whitman College Library include historical manuscripts and archival records related to the settlement and development of the Pacific Northwest and early European and Northwest books. These collections have been used across all the academic divisions at Whitman in both teaching and research.

Application Guidelines

Applicants will submit a brief proposal to a review committee (see below), of up to 750 words, developed in collaboration with college librarians. The proposal should include:

1. The name(s) of the faculty and librarian(s) who will collaborate on the course.
2. A description of the course, the manner in which archives and special collections will be integrated into it, and future plans for the course.
3. A description of the material or collection(s) that will be used for the course. New items and collections may be acquired or created as part of the proposal. The library has designated funds available specifically for the purchase of rare books related to the Medieval and Renaissance periods.
4. A description of how librarians, and when appropriate, other library or college staff will be involved in the planning and offering of the course.

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1 This proposal is modeled on the Oberlin College Library Curriculum Development Initiative for Special Collections. See http://www.oberlin.edu/library/friends/GrantGuidelines.html.
5. The anticipated pedagogical benefit of incorporating archives and special collections into the course.
7. A timeline and budget for developing and offering the course.

**Review**

Librarians will first review applications using the criteria below and make recommendations to a review committee. The review committee, composed of the Faculty Library Advisory Committee, the Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, and the Head of Instructional and Research Services, will select proposals to fund using the same criteria.

Review Criteria:

- Contribution to the academic program
- Pedagogical approach
- Collaboration with librarians
- Connection with and enhancement to current library collections

**Reporting**

Grant recipients will report back to the review committee on their assessment of the course. The report should touch on the criteria stated above and provide information about learning outcomes and student accomplishments.

**Timeline for 2012/2013 Award Cycle**

Call for proposals announced by PDF Office by May 1, 2011
Proposals due October 1, 2011
Award announced by December 1, 2011
Funds available January 1, 2012
Assessment due August 1, 2013

Prepared by Michael Paulus, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, May 2010
Timeline updated February 2011