

LIBRARY NOTES

L U N I V E R S I T Y O F O R E G O N

EDITION XIII: STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Students Make All Things Possible

“Students are the backbone of our work—we couldn’t do what we do without them,” says Normandy Helmer, head, preservation and binding department, Knight Library.

Tiffany Weber is a post-baccalaureate geography major working in the Map and Aerial Photography Library. Tiffany maintains the map library’s extensive aerial photo collection, responds to site requests from students and faculty, and orders and indexes photos. She is planning a future career as a librarian in her area of interest—aerial photography.



Normandy Helmer and Amy Cook, Beach Preservation Laboratory, Knight Library.

“I love learning . . . and I want to keep on learning! One way I can do this is by becoming a librarian. Working at the library has given me the experience of being part of a close-knit team . . . the library staff has been particularly supportive in helping me define my career goals and the steps I need to take to get there.”

Tiffany is one of more than 350 student employees in the UO Library System, one of the largest student employers on campus. Student assistants provide circulation and reserve services, learn to provide reference assistance for patrons, and perform vital tasks that keep the library running, including preservation, binding, cataloging, and inventory collection.

“Students are instrumental in preparing every single book that comes into the library to get on the shelf. They do virtually all of our in-house binding. They do a significant portion of our preservation work—the repair and housing of rare and fragile materials,” says Helmer.

Curator Bernard McTigue concurs: “We couldn’t run the library without students. Not only do they process manuscript and photo collections, run the Special Collections

reading room, and in effect, stand guard over our treasures, they also unflinchingly bring their enthusiasm and intelligence to the job.”

Increasingly, students need to work while getting their education. The library provides an opportunity to gain valuable experience that can lead to a career after graduation.

“Student assistants are the glue that holds the Instructional Technology Center together—they keep it running and functioning smoothly,” says Paul Frantz, interim coordinator of the ITC, a learning laboratory where students use computers to write papers and obtain access to Internet resources.

Student assistants working in the ITC are trained to help patrons with everything from basic computer problems to more advanced queries.

“I am here to answer any question that comes across the desk, whether it’s a specific software question or a more general reference question,” says Matt Reynolds, a senior majoring in animation. Matt has been working in the ITC since it opened three years ago. This type of experience provides a firm foundation for students with an interest in pursuing careers in information technology.

Why do students want to work at the library?

“Because I love libraries!” says sophomore Laura Smith. “I love working here—I find it helpful when I’m doing research for my classes to understand how the library is organized, something I have learned through my job.”

“I’ve always wanted to work in a library,” says Tracy Picha, an aspiring journalist who came to the UO from Canada and is now working on her master’s thesis. “When I come to work in the library, I step out of my daily routine and into the past. It has been a wonderful experience working with the staff in Special Collections.”

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Tracy's job includes helping junior high and high school students find information in Special Collections.

In some areas of the library, students bring special language skills to the job. For example, student assistants in East Asian literature and serials place orders with East Asian catalogers and help library staff transliterate new receipts.

The impact of dedicated student employees goes beyond the realm of campus. Last year, student assistants in Interlibrary Loan helped the UO library respond to 55,000 loan requests from 1,500 libraries around the world.

At the UO, students come to the library to think and to learn, to work and to gain experience. In doing so they contribute to the intellectual spirit of the library. In short, students make all things possible at the UO library.

Did you work at the library when you were a student? We would like to hear from you! Send your name and year(s) that you worked to Knight Library, 1299 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1299, attn: Lisa Manotti.



Tree of Knowledge, one in a series of three copper garden sculptures depicting trees bearing the fruit of knowledge—the book; by artist Wayne Chabre, Spangler South Garden, Knight Library.

*“A blessed companion is a book—
fitly chosen is a life-long friend.”*

Douglas

The Library Would Like to Thank

- Steven Ungerleider, for securing the Jewish Heritage Video Collection for the Knight Library. The collection comprises a video lending library of nearly 200 motion pictures, documentary programs, and scholarly courses addressing central topics of Jewish life.
- Virgil Edwards, for making provision in his estate plan for the library to receive his extensive collection of materials related to the life and career of Bing Crosby. Mr. Edwards has arranged to establish the Virgil Edwards Fund to make the collection available to the public.
- Fritz and Mary Kramer, for their gift of the Karl and Maria Buresch Austrian Collection to the Knight Library's Special Collections. The 1,500-piece collection includes works by Austrian writers about Austria, plus slides, manuscripts, and personal letters spanning the years 1918–80.
- Michael Richards, for his gift to the Oregon Campaign in honor of Campaign Chairman David M. Petrone.
- The Class of '47, for a gift that will fund the creation of main directories in Knight Library. Each cabinet will display a listing of library services, maps, and the day's educational and cultural events.

For information about ways to contribute to the Oregon Campaign, including gifts through your estate plan or an income trust, call the Office of the Librarian, (541) 346-3056.

'Evening of Baroque' Brings Music to Library

Friends of the University Libraries and the UO School of Music recently sponsored an educational concert in the Knight Library's Browsing Room, featuring Baroque-period sonatas by Corelli, Vivaldi, and Buxtehude. Proceeds from the performance were used to purchase music reference materials.

According to *Eugene Weekly*, "The performance was thoroughly enjoyable: the musicians obviously loved what they were doing; the audience felt a real connection to the players; and the intimate space served the more nuanced sounds of the period instruments well. For a few dollars, the audience heard . . . rarely performed yet delightful music, learned . . . interesting music history and supported the good causes of books, music and knowledge."

—Brett Campbell, *Eugene Weekly*, May 29, 1997.

a book that

Jerrold, 1803-1857.

New Exhibit at Knight Library

The Georges St. Laurent Collection, an exhibition of wildlife sculpture by artist Bruce Killen, is on display in Knight Library's Special Collections reading room. For more information, call (541) 346-3068.

Background illustration: original woodcut engraving by Susan Lowdermilk.

For World Wide Web Fans!

Business reference librarian Alexey Panchenko recommends these informative Web sites:

- Are you a connoisseur or just someone who appreciates the aroma and taste of our Oregon wines? The Oregon Wine Advisory Board has put together this wonderful site with links to wineries in the Rogue, Umpqua, Willamette, and Columbia river valleys. And when you find what appeals to your palate, you'll be able to order it on line.
<http://www.mind.net/wine/info.htm>
- No crowds. No lines. This post office is open seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. Look up ZIP+4 codes; get addressing tips, information on stamps, the latest postal rates and products; and check out other useful consumer information. You can even get information about your passport.
<http://www.usps.gov/postofc/>
- Wondering how much oil this country uses each year? Curious to see how the federal government measures its own productivity? Trying to find out how many marriages end up in divorce court? More than seventy agencies in the United States Federal Government produce statistics of interest to the public. The Federal Interagency Council on Statistical Policy maintains this site to provide easy access to the full range of statistics and information produced by these agencies for public use.
<http://www.fedstats.gov/>

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What Your Gift Can Do for the Library

Provide Resources

A gift of \$500 will enable the library to purchase the current Simmons Study of Media and Markets CD-ROM, a valuable research and educational source for students in marketing, communication, advertising, and economics.

Future musicians, music teachers, and composers will appreciate the purchase of Chopin's Harmony on CD-ROM for \$100.

A gift of \$4,000 will enable the library to purchase the Arden Shakespeare CD-ROM: Text and Sources for Shakespeare Studies, a new, authoritative research tool for Shakespeare scholars. Designed for use by undergraduates, researchers, and teachers interested in higher-level research, this text-based CD-ROM features the acclaimed Arden Shakespeare modern critical editions of plays, poems, and sonnets as well as reference supplements and supporting materials.

Employ Students

A gift of \$2,500 provides funding for a part-time student employee to work at the library for one academic year.

Save Historical Student Drawings

One of the more heavily used collections in the Architecture and Allied Arts Library is a collection of one-of-a-kind architectural drawings by UO master's students dating back to the early part of the century. A gift of \$10,000 will fund a special project to digitize this historical collection to ensure that it remains available to future generations of scholars.

This edition of Library Notes is printed on Rubicon™ paper, an alternative to wood-pulp papers. It is manufactured from 100% bamboo pulp and produced elemental chlorine free. This paper is acid free and completely recyclable.

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