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University Libraries

Fall 2016

The Liaison Connection Issue 9

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The Liaison Connection Issue 9

Description

Fall 2016 issue of the Library Liaison Advisory Group newsletter from the University of Denver, University Libraries. The newsletter provides information about library collections, services, and research instruction.

Keywords

Library collections, Library news

Disciplines

Library and Information Science

The Liaison Connection

Keep in the know about University Libraries collections, services, and research/instruction.

Fall Quarter 2016 Issue 9

Also in this issue...

- Compass
- Sustainability
- Gift from Alumnus funds Digital Commons
- Moreland Grants
- Student Newspapers as a Teaching Tool
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- Exciting Acquisition in Beck Archives
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University Libraries News

A Word from the New Dean and Director of the University Libraries

I'm excited to be writing as the Dean and Director of the University Libraries at a time of tremendous change and opportunity for academic libraries. Academic libraries have had to adapt pretty dramatically over the past few decades as we have moved from an environment of information scarcity to one of information abundance. This has led to changes in how we utilize our space, how we facilitate discovery, and how we provide services to our students and faculty. It has also allowed us to fundamentally change how we manage our collections. In this column I'm going to talk about my vision for our collections. In future issues I'll address space, services, and discovery.

For most of their history, academic libraries operated in an environment of information scarcity. Scholarly books and journals were not easy to find, so students and scholars had no choice but to use the library. A library like ours had a collection that had grown over time, and a catalog and indexes to help locate specific publications within that limited collection. If someone needed a book or article not in the collection, the best option was interlibrary loan. In this environment, DU's collections were limited to what we had been able to acquire over the years, and we were much more of a teaching than a research library.

Academic libraries are now operating in an environment of information abundance. At DU, the library provides access to far more of that scholarly content than was ever possible in the past. Our e-book and e-journal collections rival those of any university, and because of this our students and faculty have a library experience that is much more similar to that at a major research library than was possible in the past. Our print holdings are still dwarfed by those of the libraries at major research universities, but that matters far less than it once did.

From 2003 to 2015, I was responsible for managing and building our collections, and over that time I developed a philosophy that favors access to a broad range of content over ownership. We have used a variety of methods to build the broadest and deepest collection possible. Ideally, we can always get our students and faculty access to the resources they need when they need them. [\(continued on next page\)](#)



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University Libraries News

A Word From the New Dean and Director (continued from Front)

In partnership with other libraries, we have jointly negotiated for access to large collections of e-journals, increasing dramatically the range of resources our users can draw upon. For example, in 2003 we subscribed to about 220 Elsevier journals and very often we sent people to the CU-Boulder or CU-Health Sciences libraries to get access to other journals published by Elsevier. We then worked with all of the other academic libraries in Colorado to negotiate access – at no increased cost for any institution – to all 1,800 Elsevier journals. We have negotiated similar deals with most other major publishers, and now have access to over 75,000 titles. Our journal holdings are not significantly different from any major research library.

We've also expanded access to books. We still buy 12,000 or so print monographs a year, but we provide access to far more new e-books. Some of our e-books are part of packages we purchase through deals similar to those we do for e-journals, but most of the e-books we provide access to come as part of subscriptions (where we pay a fraction of list price for access to hundreds of thousands of titles) or through demand-driven acquisition (DDA). In our DDA programs we load records for hundreds of thousands more e-books into the catalog and pay for them only as they get used. Through this variety of approaches we have an e-book collection that is substantially the same or better than that at a larger research library.

We have purchased a large number of digital primary source collections in bulk, allowing our students to gain a research experience that until recently would have required travel to multiple archives and libraries. Our digital primary source collections are stronger than almost any library's.



At the same time, we have invested heavily in our archives and special collections, acquiring unique papers and rare and scarce books that provide a rich research experience and that distinguish our library and the University. Our investment in online resources has both made us comparable to libraries at much larger institutions and made us less distinct; special collections create that important distinction.

We will continue to think about collections in this way – working to provide access to as broad a range of content as possible, while investing in resources that help differentiate our library from others. Our collections are a strength and we intend to keep it that way.

Michael Levine-Clark

Dean & Director

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University Libraries News

Compass : The New Library Search All Feature

We have recently completed the first phase of our migration to a new library management system (LMS) called Alma, which will allow us to manage access to our collections much more efficiently and effectively. In this first phase, completed in June, we moved all of our data to Alma and went live, providing access to our collections through the front-end catalog, Compass. We are now working on the second phase – cleaning up data that didn't migrate correctly and getting reconnected to Prospector.

As we reported last fall, we have moved to Alma, which controls all aspects of collection access and management, after twenty years on an older LMS. Alma provides significant benefits in terms of efficiency on the back end, where we manage acquisition and the collections budget, cataloging, user information, and circulation. Because we can be more efficient, we will be better able to provide easy access to what had become an almost unmanageable amount of content – e-books, e-journals, databases, and their print equivalents.

This migration of 5 million records has not been without difficulties. Because of differences in data structure and system architecture, some records migrated incorrectly and others have to be reloaded entirely. We expected this, and we are working on that this fall.

As you are all painfully aware, we had to disconnect from Prospector during the migration. We are rebuilding that connection and have been working diligently to map our new system to Prospector. What we expected to be a brief project has taken much longer than we had hoped. We certainly understand and share the frustration of not having Prospector available and are working as fast as possible to reconnect.

We look forward to completing the migration soon so we can provide better access to our collections and those of our partner libraries in Prospector.

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University Libraries News

Sustainability in the Library

The Sustainability Committee continues to focus on education, modeling best practices, and building community through our initiatives and activities. Although our main emphasis to date has been on the environmental aspects of sustainability, this last year we began to discuss ways of addressing the social justice components of sustainability as well, in keeping with the DU Impact 2025 Strategic Plan. We started off fall quarter 2016 with a book and DVD display, Just Sustainabilities, that featured the work of Julian Agyeman, an important figure in the just sustainabilities movement, and others (<http://julianagyeman.com>).

Last May, the committee acquired two Bridge Community Garden plots, which are overseen by a newly-formed library garden group comprised of staff and faculty members. Participation in the garden has proven to be a great way to make connections between the library, the university, and surrounding community and to promote organic food production. We grew cherry tomatoes, chard, carrots, zucchini, Armenian and lemon cucumbers, peppers, and many herbs that we shared with the library staff. We also sponsored a talk with Master Gardener Deb Neeley, who spoke about growing, harvesting, and preserving herbs.



Plans for the coming year include quarterly waste audits (our diversion rate in August was 61%), Zero Waste Finals, Maker's Market, Taste of Thailand talk about the restaurant's garden and composting practices, Go-Tober alternative transportation event, and more sustainability training with the Office of Sustainability. Keep an eye out for our new tri-bins, coming soon, which we hope will encourage more recycling and composting throughout the building.

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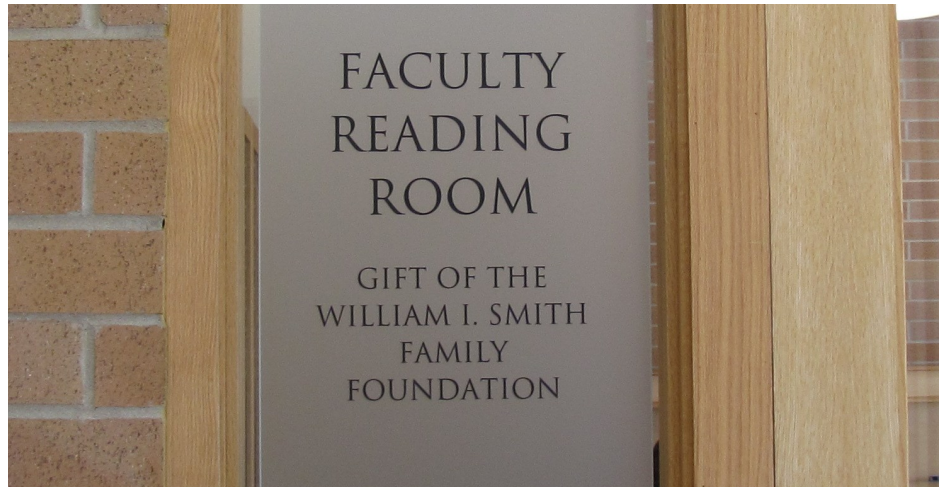
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University Libraries News

Gift from Alumnus Funds University Libraries' Subscription to Digital Commons

An avid reader and writer, William I. Smith earned a BA in 1955 in Education, and a Master's in 1967 in Librarianship & Information Management from the University of Denver. He was a special education teacher locally, and he and his family made a significant gift just prior to his death in early 2015 to the University Libraries. The gift funded a pilot subscription to Digital Commons, an online archive for collecting, preserving, and sharing digital versions of DU-generated research. Scholarly work by University of Denver students and faculty is accessible



To recognize the generosity of the William I. Smith family, the University Libraries added the family's name to the Faculty Reading Room in the Anderson Academic Commons.

via Digital Commons by scholars around the world. Working papers, copies of published articles and conference papers, presentations, senior theses, and other works not published elsewhere may be included in Digital Commons. Learn more at <http://digitalcommons.du.edu/>.

Digital Commons supports the following goals from the library's recently adopted strategic plan:

- ◆ Provide services to facilitate dissemination of faculty and student scholarly and creative work
- ◆ Support evolving research trends by providing new types of resources and services
- ◆ Offer broad and deep collections, content, and resources supplied through a range of methods and centered on library user needs
- ◆ Invest in discovery tools that simplify the user experience and that recognize the need for both specialized and general resources
- ◆ Support increased digital access to primary resources through digitization and digital resource management

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Research and Instruction

Update on the Moreland Information Literacy Grants

The University of Denver Libraries announced the formation of the Joseph I. Moreland Fund for Information Literacy Programs in the 2015-2016 academic year. This three-year pilot program is designed to support the library's goal of embedding research instruction into all undergraduate majors. The program awards instructional development grants of \$2,500 to faculty who would like to design or revise an undergraduate major course in order to infuse an entire course with information literacy and research skills. Research strategies should be integrated with academic content and sequenced throughout the quarter to allow students to learn, reinforce, and master these important skills. Throughout the course design process, the instructor collaborates closely with a librarian to integrate information literacy. The grant is limited to undergraduate major courses.

For the first year of our program, the Moreland Information Literacy Grant projects took many forms, including sequenced research and writing assignments, training in critical analysis and use of primary source materials, and student engagement with creative design tools. All of these projects are the result of meaningful instructor-librarian collaborations and helped students to develop the skills, knowledge, and dispositions central to being critical users and producers of information.

Last year's Information Literacy Grant projects offered a sense of the diverse and creative ways in which grant recipients foster student learning. We awarded 8 grants (\$2,500 each) for the past academic year in Management, Marketing, Sociology/Criminology, and Chemistry. Each faculty grant recipient was required to submit an extensive proposal describing an overview of the course(s), the information literacy objectives, the intended impact of the curricular changes, assessment measures, and plans for sustaining course changes going forward. In addition, each proposal required a supporting letter from the department chair commenting on the importance of a particular course within the major curriculum, and the merits of infusing information literacy and library resources into the major. (*continued on next page*)

Below is a list of the courses and instructors that we worked with in FY2016.

Management 2850: Business and Society (2 sections)

Instructors: Kathleen Novak and Paul Seaborn

Librarian: Esther Gil

Marketing 2800: Introduction to Marketing

Instructor: Ali Besharat

Librarian: Esther Gil

Marketing 2930: Methods of Marketing Research

Instructors: Melissa Akaka

Librarian: Esther Gil

Sociology 2005: Sociological Imagination and Inquiry- Part A (2 sections)

Instructors: Karen Albright and Katie Dingeman-Cerda

Librarian: Jennifer Bowers

Chemistry 2011: Analysis of Equilibrium Systems (2 sections)

Instructors: Debbie Mitchell and Alex Huffman

Librarian: Naomi Bishop

Chemistry 2331: Chemistry of Elements (2 sections)

Instructor: Debbie Mitchell

Librarian: Naomi Bishop

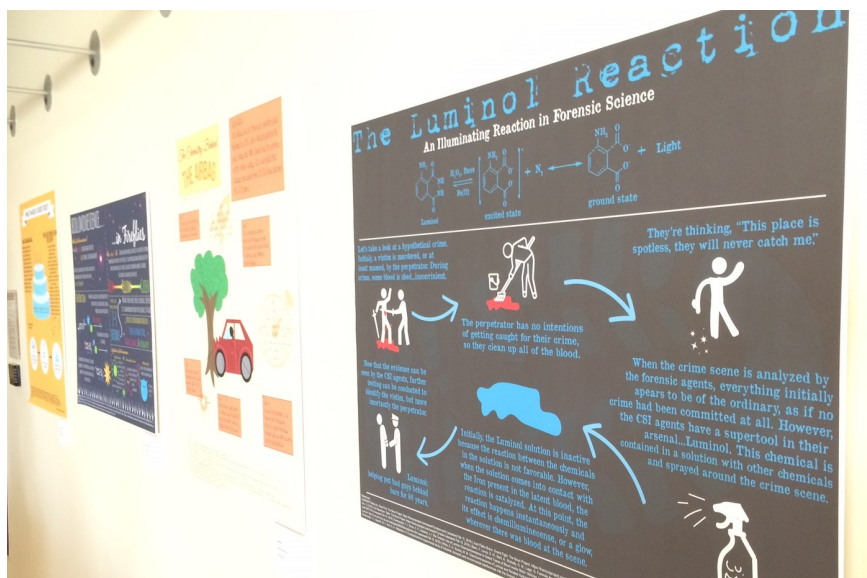
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Research and Instruction

Update on the Moreland Information Literacy Grants (continued)

All eight faculty members who participated in the grants saw significant improvements in student information literacy outcomes. Instructors and librarians also successfully implemented new pedagogical techniques and tools for teaching research and information literacy skills, including interactive online research guides and tutorials, unique primary source materials, and the latest video and photo editing software. The majority of students were able to identify the appropriate research tools to access relevant scholarly sources and synthesize information from multiple sources to construct an argument for their proposed research papers or group projects. The revised courses incorporate concepts and processes related to information gathering, evaluation, and use. Such courses, whatever their subject matter, teach students to select, to critically analyze, and to cite sources; to build upon and respond to others' ideas; and to create new knowledge informed by the research process.



Display of the Chemistry of Elements posters on exhibit, until February 2017, on the upper level of the library, in the NW corner.

The call for proposals for grants for 2016-2017 was completed in early summer and we have already begun working with several professors on course revisions and workshops. We have a few remaining grants available for Winter and Spring classes, so look for another call for proposals in early November.

If you have any questions about the Moreland grants, please contact Carrie Forbes, Associate Dean at (303) 871-3407 or Carrie.Forbes@du.edu. Special thanks to all the professors who are working with us to improve information literacy learning outcomes for students at DU!

Carrie Forbes

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Research and Instruction

Using University of Denver Student Newspapers as a Teaching Tool



For nearly as long as there have been students at the University of Denver, there have been student newspapers. The first, the *Weekly Peanut*, began its run in 1882, two years before the first student (John Hipp) graduated with a 4-year degree. Student newspapers can be a rich resource for teaching skills like document analysis and critical inquiry. In addition, teaching with these kinds of rich primary sources created for and by DU students can ground teaching across the disciplines in the students' own lived experiences, creating an additional opportunity for deeper engagement with the sources. Kate Crowe (Curator of Special Collections and Archives) is happy to work with individual faculty to tailor the sessions and selected newspaper articles (in addition to related materials like photographs or other publications) to the particular needs of a given course.

In-class archives sessions are frequently paired with instruction sessions taught by subject librarians, which focus on the same themes and topics, but spend time showing students the library catalog and other online resources for primary and secondary sources. The in-class archives session typically is a 50-minute timeslot: 5-10 minutes for an overview of the documents the students will work with and any relevant contextual information, 15-20 minutes for students to break into small groups and work through a series of document analysis questions with a selection of 1-3 documents per group, another 15-20 minutes for discussion and sharing, and then a minute or two for the students to fill out a quick instruction feedback form.

Intrigued and want to explore using student newspapers in your class?

Contact Curator of Special Collections and Archives, Kate Crowe (katherine.crowe@du.edu, 303-871-7944)

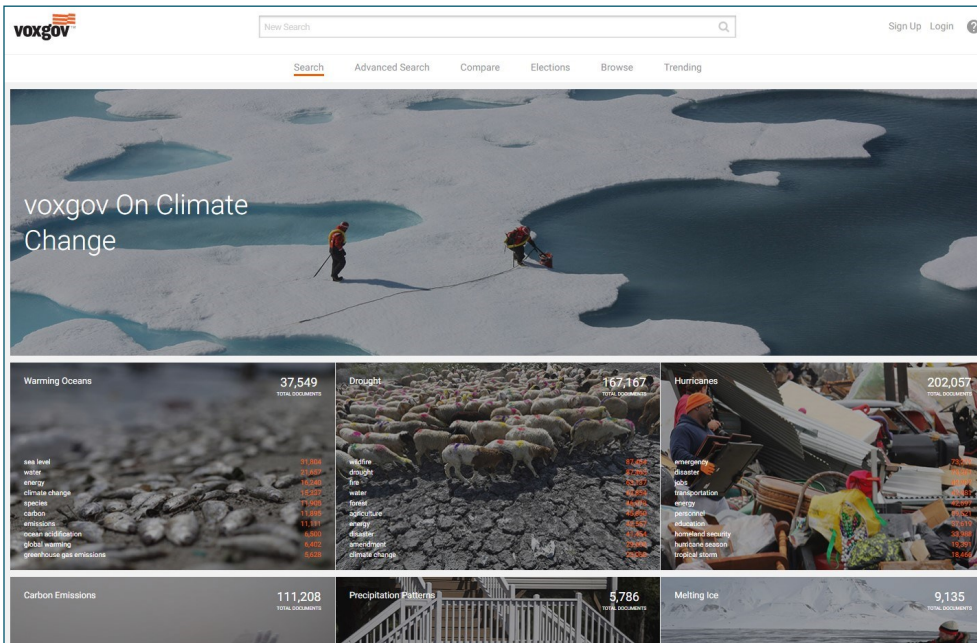
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Research and Instruction

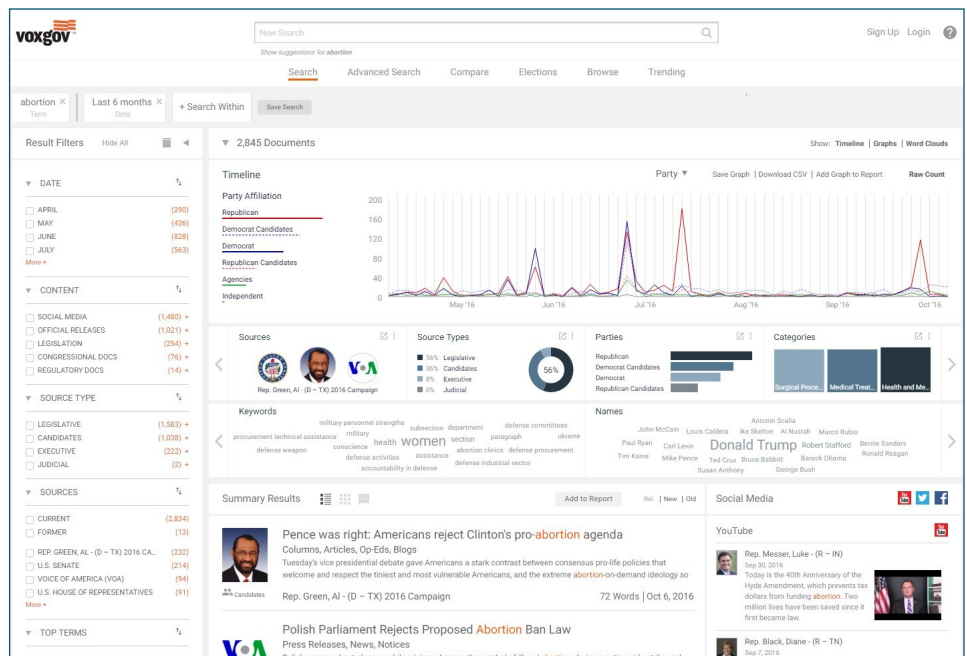
Voxgov: A new database tracking documents and social media of federal government

Voxgov locates not only primary documents of the Legislative and Executive Branches, it also retrieves results from social media (YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter). To use VoxGov, type the title into the "Databases" search box on the library's homepage.



This unique resource helps discover the viewpoints of members of Congress, presidential candidates, and the Executive Branch through public issuances and press releases.

The snappy interface makes it easy and intuitive to add filters and limiters to slice and dice the results. Since primary sources are presented alongside social media sources, researchers will need to distinguish between different types of content. Voxgov presents a bibliographic citation for all resources displayed in the interface, making it an easy resource to integrate into research papers.



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Collections

Exciting New Acquisition for the Beck Archives

We are pleased to announce that the Beck Archives, part of Special Collections at the University Libraries, recently acquired a rare, exquisite 1892 Otto Mears Silver Filigree Rio Grande Southern Railroad-Silverton Railroad Pass. Only a limited number of the passes still exist, and they reflect the story of a 19th century immigrant who pursued the American dream, and in the process helped develop the state of Colorado. Although reputed to have been only a shade over five feet tall, Russian-born Jewish immigrant Otto Mears left an indelible imprint on the face of Colorado history as a toll-road builder, railroad contractor who was president of four major lines, and a noted philanthropist. His Rio Grande Southern Railroad was considered a masterpiece of its kind, and he also personally helped blast out the “Million Dollar Highway” from a nearly perpendicular canyon near Ouray. Indeed, he almost single-handedly connected southwestern Colorado to the wider, outside world.

Mears was born in the Courland Province of Russia in 1840 and was orphaned at the age of three. Otto was then handed from relative to relative in Europe until he was sent to America to join an uncle in New York City. That uncle, in turn, dispatched the ten-year-old Mears to join yet another uncle who had headed to the American West to take advantage of the California Gold Rush in San Francisco. Otto never found that uncle, and as a young boy the enterprising Mears supported himself by selling newspapers and working his way through the California gold camps as a teenager. In 1860, he enlisted in a California regiment to fight in the Civil War on the Union side. After his discharge, he clerked in Santa Fe, and in 1865 migrated to Colorado, where he homesteaded in the San Luis Valley.

The diminutive Mears never shirked from hard work. He began growing wheat, and with his own hands he built a grist mill in Conejos and began his business by supplying nearby Fort Garland with flour as well as lumber. When the Fort Garland market dried up he headed to the area of California Gulch, what would later become known as the silver boom town of Leadville in the 1880s. To get across Poncha Pass, the twenty-seven year old Mears literally hacked his way across the mountains. Former Territorial Governor and Colorado booster William Gilpin soon crossed paths with Mears and suggested he travel to Denver to charter his trailblazing path as a toll road. The rest is history, and Mear was later nicknamed “Pathfinder of the San Juans.” That fateful encounter started Mears on his journey as a famed Colorado trailblazer and pioneer, and his roads were considered miracles of engineering. Before long, he became the prime mover in a series of railroads, including the Silver San Juan, the Rio Grande Southern Railroad, the Silverton, and the Telluride among others.

Mears taught himself the Ute language, became a friend of Chief Ouray, and later he became a member of the State Capitol Board of Managers. It was Mears who suggested gold-leafing the Capitol Dome. He was honored for his many contributions to the state with a full figure stained glass portrait outside the Senate Chamber in the Capitol Building, which is still on view today. Otto Mears’s beautiful gold and silver railroad passes were given out gratis to a group of VIPs from all over the country, but only a limited number were produced. We are very fortunate to have acquired one of these rare historic pieces for the Beck Archives, and this beautiful primary source artifact would make an ideal focus for classes studying Colorado, Western, as well as transportation and immigration history.



Jeanne Abrams

Beck Curator

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Collections

Kanopy and DocuSeek2—Streaming Video Collections for You and Your Students

Need an interesting documentary or feature film for your class? Last August, University Libraries initiated a pilot to Kanopy, a streaming video database that offers more than 26,000 films from Media Education Foundation, New Day Films, Criterion Collection, Kino Lorber, Symptom Media, and PBS, among many other distributors. Kanopy is a great place to find international films (more than 100 languages represented in the collection), early and classic cinema, Indie films, selected Academy Award winners, and documentaries organized by disciplines and themes, such as globalization, body image, LGBT, immigration, diasporas, Hispanic heritage, and African American history, culture, and identity. Kanopy titles are now incorporated into CourseMedia or you can access them through the catalog or the database (<https://du.kanopystreaming.com>).

We also recently subscribed to DocuSeek2 (<http://search.alexanderstreet.com/dsco>), another streaming video collection, which currently includes 973 films from Bullfrog Films and Icarus Films, leaders in social issue and educational films, as well as the National Film Board of Canada. Look here for films about agriculture and food, cultural and ethnic studies, environmental issues, gender and women's studies, political science, psychology and mental health, and social movements and activism, as some examples.

Don't forget that the library also has a very robust DVD collection of feature films and documentaries, located upstairs on the second level. We offer displays throughout the year to highlight our collection that feature selected directors, actors, and other individuals, as well as films from a particular country or region and those about specific subjects. Current and upcoming displays highlight works by director Deepa Mehta, films from the Pulse syllabus, Beyonce's Lemonade, and Brazil. If there is a particular display you would like to suggest or subject area you think we should enhance, please let me know.

Jenny Bowers

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For an archive of *The Liaison Connection* newsletter, as well as past Library Liaison Advisory Group meeting minutes, announcements, and a directory of the members, please visit the [Library Liaison Advisory Group webpage](#).



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