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Challenges: What's the Big Deal?

Over the last 10-15 years, academic libraries have negotiated with publishers to subscribe to large packages of journals (referred to by librarians and publishers as “big deals”). At DU, we increased the number of journals from major publishers by a factor of ten by negotiating with partner libraries in the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries. With Elsevier, for instance, we subscribed to about 200 journals before entering the big deal, but due to the large amount we collectively spent on subscriptions, we were able to increase that amount to over 1,800 titles. This big deal, like many, is based on what we paid for those 200 journals individually, and what CU-Boulder paid for about 800 titles, and so on. Our share of that deal is huge – in the high six figures – but is only about a quarter of what CU-Boulder pays, because our portion of the cost is based on that smaller original set of subscribed titles. Even so, we share access to the same title list.

We’ve entered into big deals with most major publishers, gaining access to most or all of the titles they publish, and because of this our collection of journals is much more similar to those at large research libraries than was the case before we entered into these deals. Because our subscription budget was smaller than most of these universities when we entered these big deals, we spend less than they do (but we are still talking about millions of dollars annually).

Typically, we sign consortium-wide multi-year contracts with these publishers, and typically the cost of these packages increases by 5% or more annually. And this is why these seemingly great deals are a cause of concern for libraries. In order to maintain access to exactly the same titles we had last year, the university needs to come up with 5% more money for the library budget each year. If our budgets don’t increase, we can spend less on monographs or other one-time expenses to cover the increase in journal costs, or we can cut subscriptions. But we can’t easily cut these big deals. Taking the Elsevier deal as an example, if we wanted to spend less than we spend now, we’d have to subscribe to fewer than our original 200 journals, so we’d lose access to more than 1,600 titles, many of which are used heavily. We’ve been lucky at DU to get increases that cover most or all of these increased costs annually.

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Challenges: What’s the Big Deal? (continued from Front)

For years, librarians have been talking about the unsustainability of the big deal. Many research libraries have gone from spending 60% of their collections budget on subscriptions to 90 or 95% as they’ve used more and more of their overall collections budget to cover inflation. While they’ve talked about the inevitable end of the big deal, very few libraries have pulled out, but that seems to be changing. I am hearing librarians at large research libraries talking about their need to pull out in the next year.

Because the university has covered journal inflation costs in our budget, we won’t need to pull out of any big deals anytime soon. However, because our big deals are negotiated with partner libraries, we need to be concerned about their budgets. If other libraries in the Colorado Alliance are forced to restructure their big deals, we might have no choice but to follow along.

In the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA), another consortium to which we belong, we are having conversations about what a future without big deals might look like and how we can continue to provide our users with the broadest and deepest research collection possible. It’s important for us to be talking about this now, because we have to change this model.

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Opportunities: Vision and Initiatives

I arrived in February as Associate Dean for Scholarly Communication & Collections Services. In this position, I oversee most of the behind the scenes operations that involve collections and the infrastructures that provide access to them. My vision for the work in my areas is to expand access to published content through a variety of strategies, and bring to light the hidden gems in our archives and special collections. When I arrived at DU, after a decade or so at the University of Colorado Boulder, I found a faculty and staff hard at work in the final phases of one of the most difficult projects a library can ever undertake: a complete migration of our data to a new management system.

Entering year two, we are moving from learning to mastering what are rather new resulting workflows. We have created a faculty position that will work toward optimizing our relatively new discovery interfaces, and are redeveloping and increasing capacities in our digitization of special collections and archives. We are also working with other universities, publisher associations, and national standards bodies to explore pilots of new authentication and research output tracking systems. What I love most about DU Libraries is the variety of innovative, experimental projects we undertake with respect to all my areas of responsibility. We have strong collections and talented people making sure they are available to the community.

Jack Maness
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Public services in academic libraries encompass a rich variety of expertise and specialization that come together to connect and empower scholars and learners with information. Just as libraries have selected and built their collections over time, libraries have developed and enhanced services to meet the specific needs of the community they serve.

Here at the University of Denver Libraries our public services units include: liaison services (research support for students and faculty, instructional services, collection development), outreach/programming, circulation, interlibrary loan, reserves, and stacks maintenance. My goals for public services include increased collaboration with campus partners to support new curricular and pedagogical practices, to provide advanced research support for students and faculty, and to improve ease of access to information. I’d like to highlight two areas to demonstrate how we are adapting our services to better meet the needs of the DU community.

Changes in Liaison Roles:
In a traditional liaison model, librarians use their subject knowledge to select books and journals and teach guest lectures. While these are important activities, they are no longer sufficient to meet the needs of today’s students and researchers. Our subject librarians now work to understand how scholars in a particular discipline communicate and share information with one another in order to help inform the design and development of new publishing services, such as digital institutional repositories (Digital Commons). Our liaison librarians also monitor the curriculum of a degree program and pedagogical norms of a discipline in order to help integrate 21st-century literacies into courses. Subject librarians can provide a variety of services from literature review support, to citation help, to data management. At the same time that we are enhancing the expertise of our subject librarians, we have also added librarians with functional knowledge of particular areas, such as teaching and outreach (see article on new positions).

Changes in Access Services:
Access Services departments in academic libraries perform a wide range of duties. These tasks include providing patrons with “access” to collections as well as to the physical space. They are our largest unit in the library and are responsible for everything from delivery of materials to keeping the AAC building open 105 hours per week, including 24-hours per day during finals. Recent changes include the design of new workflows within Alma (the new library system) to create more efficiency in the delivery of materials, a pilot project for a new electronic reserves system (Leganto), and participation in the Information Delivery Services (IDS) Project for interlibrary loan (a resource-sharing cooperative that evaluates resource-sharing strategies, policies and procedures to save costs and increase access for patrons). Many Access Services projects are highly technical and require the integration of multiple systems with the goal of increasing the speed, ease, and accuracy of borrowing/lending to get you the books, articles, and other materials that you need for classes and research.

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University Libraries: Supporting Inclusion and Diversity

University Libraries are strongly committed to Inclusive Excellence (IE), which reflects a broader commitment by the university and a long-standing commitment within the library profession. As such, it serves the needs of the DU community across all ranges of race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, nationality, age, disability, socioeconomic background, and other identity categories through its services, collections, and hiring practices. As noted in our Statement on IE, “this commitment ensures the libraries provide a rich academic, intellectual, and cultural environment for everyone.”

University Libraries’ has engaged in a wide variety of initiatives in support of IE, including the following:

- Adopting a “Freedom of Expression” statement that is displayed on all AAC digisigns, which is intended to make patrons welcome and safe.
- Adding collections that represent the diverseness of humanity, such as the purchase of Native American/Indians of Central and South America feature films and documentaries.
- Providing spaces for others on campus to express various ideas related to diversity, such as for the Clothesline Project curated by The Center for Advocacy, Prevention, and Empowerment (CAPE) and exhibits such as #RESIST: Student Activism at the University of Denver.
- Featuring books and videos on a wide array of themes. Themes have included Colorado’s Diverse Religious Legacy, African Americans in the West, Holocaust Remembrance, and Queer Women. Explore our Book Lists for Various Diversity Related Subjects guide.
- Sponsoring Author Lectures like “I HAVE A DREAM: What Martin Luther King’s Words Mean for Our Times,” presented by Gary Younge and “Breaking the Jemima Code,” featuring Toni Tipton-Martin.
- Delivering library workshops on how to search for foreign-language materials and online language-learning databases.
- Incorporating diversity and inclusion into the hiring process for library faculty.
- Collaborating with others to present an array of events, such as with Art Jones, as well as the Office of Inclusion and Diversity and the Center for Multicultural Excellence, to offer “A Nation that Does Not Yet Exist: The Role of Spirituals in Resistance and Resilience” and to provide a soul food dinner.

In addition, University Libraries’ has had a diversity committee in place since 2007, which is currently named the Inclusion and Diversity Committee. This committee is an advocate for embedding IE throughout the library, and collaborates with other committees, departments, and task forces, both within the Libraries and across campus, to promote wider understanding and application of Inclusive Excellence and to support a diverse DU community.

We welcome any faculty who wants to collaborate with University Libraries to provide programming in support of Inclusive Excellence. Contact either your library liaison or the Chair of IDC, Esther Gil.

Esther Gil
Business & Economics Reference Librarian
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Compass: New Search Interface

The Library expects to launch the new search interface for Compass (CompassBeta) during the Winter Interim. The initial beta version is available now, at this link: https://goo.gl/WUAmGE.

We are reconfiguring our discovery layer/system, Compass, to accommodate the research needs of the DU community, to the best of our ability (i.e., within the parameters of what the system allows us to do). Discovery layers are software components that provide a streamlined search interface for users to find information across multiple library databases, the library's catalog, and beyond. We have taken feedback gathered via our liaison librarians and student interactions over the past year, and, along with the results of a usability testing pilot project that was conducted in Spring of 2017, analyzed what changes would produce an improved search experience for the greatest number of people.

We welcome feedback from faculty and students on the beta version from now through the end of the quarter. The feedback form can be found at: https://goo.gl/QMYDdg. It is also linked to on the beta version landing page. If you, or someone else, is interested in participating in a more formal usability testing or focus groups, please contact Erin Elzi.

December will be spent reviewing the feedback, making changes, and pushing the new user interface to production. This is just the first stage in building a more effective search experience across all University Libraries’ search tools.

Erin Elzi
Design & Discovery Librarian
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Meet our New Faculty Members!

Meg Eastwood, Science and Engineering Reference Librarian

Meg Eastwood joined the University Libraries as the Science and Engineering Reference Librarian in June 2017. Before coming to DU, Meg worked at the University of New Hampshire, as the Life Sciences & Agriculture Librarian, and at Northern Arizona University, as the Engineering & Natural Sciences Librarian. Meg has a BA in Biology from Grinnell College and an MS in Information Studies from The University of Texas at Austin. In the years between those degrees, she worked as a field assistant for ecological studies and as a lab prep/RA for the Shoals Marine Lab on Appledore Island, ME. Meg’s interests include research data management and open access publishing.

Bridget Farrell, Coordinator of Library Instruction and Reference Services

Bridget Farrell joined the University Libraries as the Coordinator of Library Instruction and Reference Services in August 2017. In her new role, Bridget oversees the Research Center and works with librarians and faculty to shape the library’s instructional services. She serves as the liaison to the Morgridge College of Education and the Writing Program. Bridget comes to DU from Auburn University, where she worked as a Reference and Instruction Librarian and served as the liaison to the College of Business and International Student Programs. She holds a BA in English literature and Spanish from Murray State University and MS in Library Science from the University of Kentucky. Her research interests include reference assessment practices and mentoring’s role in mitigating psychosocial issues in librarianship.

Jack Maness, Associate Dean for Scholarly Communication & Collections Services

Jack Maness joined us as Associate Dean for Scholarly Communication & Collections Services in February. In this role, he oversees our information technology, cataloging, metadata and digitization, acquisitions, collection development, special collections, and archives operations. He spent the last eleven years at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he managed several branch libraries and was responsible for science and engineering collections and services. He holds his MLS from Emporia State University and his BA in English Literature from the University of Colorado, Denver.

Elia Trucks, User Experience and Student Outreach Librarian

Elia Trucks is the User Experience and Student Outreach Librarian. She previously held positions at Florida State University as the Outreach and Programming Associate at the main campus in Tallahassee, and as the Library Supervisor at the FSU Study Center in Florence, Italy. She received her Master of Library and Information Science degree and her Bachelor of Arts in Art History from Florida State University. She has a passion for helping students achieve their academic and personal goals, furthering social justice and diversity initiatives, and connecting via social media.
The Beck Archives of Rocky Mountain Jewish History, part of Special Collections, recently received the donation of a rare liquor jug from the Goldhammer liquor company, which was gifted to the Beck Archives by Joseph Goldhammer, an Adjunct Professor at the DU Law School. For good or ill, taverns often played a central role in the development of Denver and the American West. They frequently served as quasi-community centers and as gathering places, where discussions about city building, politics, economic plans, and cultural development took place.

Jewish immigrant Adolf Goldhammer was born 1847 in Hungary and came to Denver, Colorado in 1885 with his wife, Betta, and sons, Abe and Jacob. Goldhammer owned a saloon and liquor store on West Colfax in the late 1880s until 1916, when Colorado became a dry state. It was first called the West Side Family Liquor House and evolved into Adolf Goldhammer’s Wholesale Wines and Liquors. Goldhammer often opened his establishment to the Jewish community for meetings, lectures, debates, and theatrical productions.

Jeanne Abrams
Beck Curator
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In addition to the academic support services we can provide, the library offers many outreach initiatives during the year to students and the DU community.

This summer the library held a solar eclipse viewing party during the total solar eclipse of the sun on August 21. Thanks to a generous donation from former DU librarian Joe Kraus, we handed out over 200 solar eclipse glasses to students, staff, and faculty, who watched the spectacular event outside the Anderson Academic Commons.

One goal of the library’s outreach initiative is to establish partnerships across campus. One of our first co-sponsored events will be a film screening of An Inconvenient Sequel on October 26 at 4:30 p.m. in Lindsay Auditorium (Sturm 281). A decade after An Inconvenient Truth (2006) brought climate change into the heart of popular culture comes the follow-up film that shows just how close we are to a real energy revolution. The event will begin with a live question and answer portion with Al Gore, followed by the film and a panel discussion with faculty members from the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. This event is co-sponsored by the Center for Sustainability and Undergraduate Student Government.

Other programming will have a more lighthearted and fun aspect, like the Troll in the Library Scavenger Hunt. On October 30, we will host a night of magical Halloween fun with a Harry Potter-themed scavenger hunt through the Anderson Academic Commons, a costume contest, arts and crafts, snacks, and games.

Don’t forget to keep up with our social media for updates, news, and events.

@DUCommoms  @DUCommoms  @DUCommoms

Elia Trucks
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Get Help with your Data Management Plans

Writing a grant proposal for the National Science Foundation, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the NEH's Office of Digital Humanities, or one of the many other federal and private funding agencies that now require a data management plan (DMP)? Agencies now get so many applications that they sometimes eliminate proposals for failing to follow formatting guidelines, such as using the wrong sub-title for a given section. Don't let your grant proposal be rejected for technical reasons -- use the agency-specific DMP templates built into the DMPTool – the Data Management Planning Tool – at https://dmptool.org/

DU is now a participating member of the DMPTool, so you can log in with your DU credentials to access the DMP templates. When you're finished with your plan, you can submit it for review by a librarian here at DU. Later this fall, we'll be customizing the templates to reflect the resources and services available at DU.

Stolen laptops, retracted papers, and other reasons to practice good data management

A contested paper on microplastics in fish\(^1\) was recently retracted from Science\(^2\) -- one of the major reasons for the retraction was that the original data were no longer available. The researcher's laptop, containing the only copy of the data, was reported stolen soon after the paper was published.

Don't lose your hard-earned data -- follow through on your data management plans by implementing a basic set of data management best practices in your labs. For example, when it comes to data back-ups, remember that you want a copy “Here, Near, and Far.” You want one backup close at hand (in your lab or office), one backup in a nearby location (at home or elsewhere on campus), and one backup that's far enough away that you could use it to restore your data in case of a natural disaster. Come learn more at our Data Management workshop on Wednesday, October 28th from 2-3pm – register at http://libguides.du.edu/libraryinstruction/workshops. You can also set up a research consultation or see our research data management guide for more details.

Meg Eastwood
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New Lending Policies

On July 5, 2017, University Libraries instituted a number of changes to our circulation policies that will have far reaching effects. These policies and their implications are listed below.

1 week checkouts now 2 weeks
Circulating movies, video games, and game consoles from the Main Library will now circulate for 2 weeks with 3 renewals.
Previously, this material had circulated for 1 week with 1 renewal.

Recalls
The library is instituting recalls in order to make material more accessible for patrons. All patron groups will be subject to recalls on material they have checked out. If an item is due more than three weeks from the date of the request, the due date on the item will be updated to be three weeks from the date of the request. If the item is due in less than three weeks, the due date will not be updated, but no renewals will be allowed on the item. Patrons will receive an email indicating that an item has been recalled, with the updated due date. Overdue fines for recalled items are $1 per day. All patron groups are subject to these fines.

Faculty Renewals
Material checked out by Faculty members will be automatically renewed before the due date. This will include books and media material. Material will be automatically renewed when it has not been recalled, and the total number of renewals has not been met. Prospector items and Interlibrary loan items will not be automatically renewed.

Please contact Ryan Buller with questions.

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

Exhibits and Artwork

The Shogun’s World: Japanese Maps from the 18th & 19th Centuries

The Shogun’s World: Japanese Maps from the 18th & 19th Centuries, on display through December 10, 2017 at the Anderson Academic Commons, showcases the beauty and importance of cartography as a genre of Japanese printmaking. The maps in this exhibition, on loan from the MacLean Collection, were produced in the 18th and 19th centuries and offer depictions of the entire world, the Japanese archipelago, and the country’s major cities (Edo, Kyoto, Nagasaki, Osaka, and Yokohama) in the last century of shogunal rule.

These works share several characteristics unique to traditional Japanese mapmaking such as distinct perspectives and orientations, ceramic as a medium, and the integration of Western map-making techniques. Highlights include a Buddhist map of the world that translates spiritual forces into physical locations and a blue and white “map plate” that features a relief map of Japan divided into provinces, with additional land masses and mythical locations such as “the land of women” circling the edge of the plate.

The exhibition is curated by Richard A. Pegg, PhD, director and curator of Asian Art at the Maclean Collection and co-sponsored by the University Libraries & Rocky Mountain Maps Society. Please contact us at library-eac@du.edu or rebecca.macey@du.edu if you have questions or comments about the exhibition, about integrating it into curricula or co-curricular opportunities, or about the various exhibition spaces and services at the Anderson Academic Commons.

Join us for a tour and conversation with curator Richard Pegg on December 5, 2017 at 7–8:30 PM in the Special Events Room (290), Anderson Academic Commons. Free public event, but RSVP required.

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