

Special Collections and OSU's Academic Plan:

Highlights from 2002

In 2002, how did the special collections of The Ohio State University Libraries and Health Sciences Library contribute to the university's goal of becoming "one of the world's great public research and teaching universities," as stated in the Academic Plan (October 2000)?

Even as the Academic Plan "is the initial roadmap for the journey to academic excellence" it is the roadmap for this report. The Academic Plan names six general strategies and fourteen supporting initiatives. Accordingly, this document lists each of the strategies of the Academic Plan and states how the functions or general activities of the special collections carry out the general strategy. Finally, the report cites specific actions within the context of the strategy that took place during 2002. Included are highlights only; a comprehensive list would lengthen this report considerably.

Within the OSU Libraries, special collections are the Cartoon Research Library (CGA), the John Glenn Archives, the Hilandar Research Library (HIL), OSU Archives, the Polar Archival Program, Rare Books and Manuscripts/ Charvat Collection of American Fiction (RARE), and the Theatre Research Institute Library (TRI).¹ The Medical Heritage Center (MHC), another prominent special collection is part of the Health Sciences Library, but the curator meets and works closely with the faculty and staff responsible for special collections in the OSU Libraries.

Strategy: Build a World Class Faculty

- *Recruiting.* Research materials that are rare or unique and of extraordinary quality have been used in the search processes during the past year. In 2002:
 - Prospective faculty in Greek, Latin, History, History of Art, Theatre, Spanish and Portuguese, Slavic, and health professionals have toured HIL, MHC, RARE, and TRI respectively.
- *Exhibiting.* Loaning research materials for national and international exhibition serves to promote the University as a center of world-class scholarship. In 2002:
 - TRI provided images of its *Uncle Tom's Cabin* collection for inclusion in a massive web project, Uncle Tom's Cabin & American Culture, at the University of Virginia (<http://Jefferson.village.Virginia.edu/utc/sitemape.html>).
 - RARE provided items for the Newseum, an interactive museum on the World Wide Web and developed a virtual exhibit with

¹ Rare Books and Manuscripts and the Charvat Collection of American Fiction are presented as RARE because they share the same staff at this time.

- University of Michigan's department of Rare Books and Manuscripts to coincide with the November game;
- CGA's on-going loan to the Charles M. Schulz Museum continued as its exhibition *Speak Softly and Carry a Beagle* traveled to Florida and to Tennessee. Meanwhile, *Arnold Roth: Free Lance* was shown at the Cartoon Art Museum in San Francisco; in addition CGA developed a website, an exhibit, and a symposium for *Thomas Nast: Prince of Caricaturists*;
 - Polar Archives held an international symposium "Relationship of the Indigenous peoples of the Far North to the Explorers, 1818-1909" and presented two papers at the International Polar Libraries Colloquy in Copenhagen;
 - MHC sponsored the traveling exhibit "Art of Neuroscience: Image and Understanding, 1515-2000";
 - The Glenn Archives mounted a web exhibit to celebrate the 40th anniversary of John Glenn's first space flight in 1962;
 - TRI hosted University Fellow Wendell Stone for the year as he worked with the Tom Eyen Collection.
- *Research use.* Special Collections are part of a global community of scholarship in that researchers from all parts of the United States and many different countries used special collections at The Ohio State University Libraries last year. In 2002:
 - OSU Archives provided documentation and information for researchers at or from Guam, Germany, Canada, and Great Britain;
 - RARE was a destination point for scholars from Great Britain, Portugal, Japan, France, and numerous universities in the United States;
 - Polar Archives continued to work with producers in Norway and in Australia for documentaries concerning polar explorers in its collections;
 - HIL hosted the 2002 Fifth International Hilandar Conference in Yugoslavia; visitors to HIL included the Director of the Serbian Orthodox Church Museum in Belgrade and researchers from the University of Amsterdam, Oxford University, the University of Edinburgh and Glasgow University, as well as from Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Texas at Austin. Researchers from Bulgaria, Canada, England, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Russia, Scotland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Yugoslavia contacted HIL for information;
 - CGA served researchers from Canada as well as from New York, Missouri, Arizona and California, while providing electronic reference services around the world;
 - MHC had inquiries from researchers in France, China, and England as well as in the USA.

Strategy: Develop Academic Programs that Define Ohio State as the Nation's Leading Public Land-Grant University.

- *Collections.* In research libraries, proof of national and international stature is not only research use but also the continued acquisition of rare and unique materials of prominent research value. In 2002:
 - TRI acquired the collection of theatre designer William Pitkin from the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, added to its Eileen Heckart collection, and gained multimedia artwork from Cuban artist Leandro Soto;
 - Polar Archives received oral history interviews from pioneering scientists and military personnel in the Arctic and the Antarctic, as a result of its grant from the National Science Foundation;
 - CGA received original cartoon collections estimated at more than \$157,000 in value, including work by several Pulitzer Prize winning editorial cartoonists. Amongst the acquisitions was a complete run of JUDGE (1881-1947);
 - RARE acquired letters by James Purdy, Samuel Beckett, James Thurber and another installment of the William T. Vollman Collection;
 - HIL received six important manuscript collections (on microfiche) of Moscow State University that pertain to Old Believers and enhance an even larger collection of materials documenting this culture;
 - MHC acquired a bleeding bowl to complete its collection of historical medical instructions and also acquired a collection of annual reports of Columbus area hospitals.

- *Recognition from national agencies and foundations.* In 2002:
 - Curators from Rare, and University Archives served as reviewers and panelists for the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Historic Publications and Records Commission;
 - CGA curator chaired the Pulitzer Prize Committee in editorial cartooning;
 - TRI curator is a board member of the national Dance Heritage Coalition;

- Polar received an unrestricted grant (\$15,000) from the Lincoln Ellsworth Foundation and another \$5,000 from the Kane Lodge Foundation;
- RARE in collaboration with OSUL's Preservation Office received a grant from the National Park Service (Save America's Treasures Program) for preservation activities focused on its James Thurber collection;
- The Glenn Archivist served on a committee of the Society of American Archivists' Congressional Papers Roundtable responsible for the development of standards for Congressional Research Center;
- MHC curator was co-pi in a grant from the Columbus Medical Association to publish a book on the health care and medical education in Columbus and Franklin County and in addition, receive a grant from the American Library association to support the traveling exhibit "Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature.
- *Participation with units that have received Selective Investment Awards because of their national prominence. In 2002:*
 - CGA and History Department hosted a Thomas Nast symposium in Dec. 2002;
 - RARE hosted classes in History, English and Dance that featured the use of collections in Rare.

Strategy: Enhance the Quality of the Teaching and Learning Environment

- *Classroom instruction by curators in 2002:*
 - CGA curator taught JCOM 648.02 and was a guest lecturer for English 980. She lectured as part of the First Year Experience Program ("Comics and The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay"). Meanwhile, students in History 598 and Art 101 visited CGA as part of the curriculum. So, too, did honors classes in history view the Thomas Nast exhibition;
 - HIL curator lectured in Classics 800, Comparative Studies 245, and Serbo-Croatian 104;
 - TRI curator gave guest lecture and demonstration on Renaissance dance for Theatre 532 (Theatre Repertory), a guest lecture and introduction to TRI for Theatre 801 (Research methods), and taught an independent study for a student who wished to do in-depth work in stage gesture for opera;
 - RARE hosted classes from the Departments of English, History, Fine Arts, German Language and Literature, Spanish and Portuguese, Greek and Latin, French and Italian, Dance, and Industrial Design;

- OSU Archivist was a member of a team that organized and taught “OSU Its History and its World”(ASC 494), in which Dr. George Paulson of MHC was also a member of the faculty team.
- *Non-classroom activities.* Exhibits and special events also help to enrich the quality of the teaching and learning environment. In 2002:
 - CGA held exhibits *Arnold Roth: Free Lance; A Shoe for All Seasons: the 25th Anniversary Exhibition; and Thomas Nast: Prince of Caricaturists;*
 - MHC used images, books, and artifacts from its collection and that of Steve DeGenaro in the exhibit “A Preserved Passage: Medical School dissection Images, 1844- 1938 ” and held medical history lectures that were available to the general public;
 - RARE continued its leadership role in the Aldus Society, a community bibliographic society which includes numerous OSU faculty; had responsibility for a major exhibit and lecture program concerning avant-garde writers; and an exhibit concerning Irish literature in Dublin, Ohio;
 - OSU Archives provided exhibits in the lobby of the Main Library pertaining to the history of OSU, a major exhibit concerning the history of Ohio Stadium in Sills Gallery; developed a website concerning the OSU vs. Michigan rivalry in football, and gave presentations regarding the history of OSU to clubs of the OSU Alumni Association;
 - HIL provided a special lecture to the Aldus Society and provided conferences concerning Byzantine Studies and Music with exhibits;
 - TRI helped students in theatre courses, including “Introduction to Theatre,” “Fundamentals of Script Analysis,” “Acting Fundamentals,” “Stage Directing,” “Speech and Voice,” “Stage Movement,” “Theatre Repertory,” “Advanced Stage Direction,” and more. Students who are not majors in Theatre have used resources of TRI for courses such as “Introduction to the Study of Literature and Culture in Spanish,” “Introduction to Research in Music Education,” History Senior Colloquium,” and “intermediate German III: Texts and Contexts from 1945 to the present;”
 - Glenn Archives mounted a web exhibit containing text, photographs and audiovisual materials to commemorate the 40th anniversary of John Glenn’s historic space flight of February 20, 1962.

Strategy: Enhance and Better Serve the Student Body

- *In 2002, special collections found numerous ways of connecting to students as individuals and as members of student organizations:*

- OSU Archives has helped numerous student organizations better understand the history of OSU and themselves -- *The Lantern*, Ohio Staters, Bucket and Dipper, Welcome Week, and the Marching Band and Mortar Board, to name a few;
- HIL, RARE and TRI have been destination places for prospective graduate students in Slavic, Theatre, History, and English departments. Three students in Theatre credited their TRI visits as the deciding factor in choosing graduate programs;
- Special Collections had discussions with Honors and Scholars about working more closely.

Strategy: Create a Diverse University Community

- *By means of public programs, by acquiring collections, and by making available documentation of diversity, the special collections feature the diversity that is our university and our culture. In 2002:*
 - RARE continued negotiations with the Ohio Latino Arts Association to receive its records and made contacts with prospective donors of Civil Rights collections;
 - TRI's curator received "Outstanding Cultural Activism Certificate of Appreciation" from OSU's Multicultural Center and African American Student Services and created an exhibition in Bricker Hall "75 Years onstage: OSU African-American women in the Performing Arts";
 - Each of the Special Collections has a wealth of documentation concerning race and ethnicity and Rare, CGA, and TRI are developing a course proposal that uses primary sources to illustrate and evidence themes of race and ethnicity.

Strategy: Help Build Ohio's Future

- *Service to the state of Ohio and contributions to its future occurred in different ways. In 2002:*
 - TRI, RARE, MHC, and OSU Archives continued to contribute digital images to the Ohio Memory Project, a Web site that serves to document the history of Ohio and will be used by teachers and K-12 students as well as other researchers;
 - Glenn Archives loaned artifacts to the new John and Annie Glenn Museum in New Concord and worked closely with the museum's staff in the development of exhibits and an introductory video;
 - OSU Archivist continued as one of the governor-appointed members of the Ohio Historic Records Advisory Board and is a member of the Ohio Electronic Records Committee;

- MHC participated in the Franklin County Homecoming Days Bicentennial celebration and was featured in the Ohio Medical History Consortium Bicentennial Brochure;
- CGA worked with Columbus College of Art and Design for a conference on graphic narrative to be held in 2003;
- Special Collections curators agreed to prepare exhibitions for the Sills Exhibit Hall (Main Library) for the Ohio Bicentennial throughout 2003;
- RARE was a destination place for groups from other Ohio colleges, including Wittenberg, and Wooster and works closely with Thurber House in Columbus;
- OSU Associate Archivist provided Ohio History Day exhibit and presentation for a Columbus Public Elementary School.