

HOLLAND AND TERRELL LIBRARY, WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

We spoke with two key figures involved in the digitization activities at Washington State University's Holland and Terrell Library: Bob Matuozzi, Humanities Bibliographer and Subject Specialist, and Greg Matthews, Digital Projects and Metadata Librarian. Matuozzi, an academically trained archivist, has been with the library since 1995, chiefly serving in Humanities and Special Collections, while Matthews has worked in several areas at the library since 1998, including cataloging, reference, instruction, and technical support.

General Description

As the largest humanities and social science library on Washington State University's Pullman campus—the university's main campus—Holland and Terrell Library serves the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Business and Economics, as well as departments in the College of Agriculture, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences. Established in 1950 with the construction of the Holland Library, and then supplemented in 1994 by the Terrell Library (then named the “New” Library or “Holland Addition”), the library is a desirable location for both study and relaxation. “One of the library's strengths,” explains Matthews, “is its location in the heart of campus.” All of its materials are housed in the building, with no outside storage. Among other highlights, the library maintains government documents supporting the humanities and social sciences as well as education initiatives and a host of Pacific Northwest related collections.

The McWhorter Papers

“About two years ago,” says Matthews, “we took a look at the landscape of digitization projects as they currently existed at the libraries.” He explains there was a concerted effort by the dean to lend a higher profile to digitization at Washington State. “Our digital assets at that time came almost exclusively from [Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections].” “With no distinct digitization unit in the library,” adds Matuozzi, “digitization efforts here really began with the appearance of the World Wide Web.” As the pair relates, one of the first collections to be digitized at Holland and Terrell was the McWhorter Papers. The collection documents amateur historian Lucullus V. McWhorter’s research and study of Pacific Northwest Native American history and culture. The collected papers span nearly an entire century, with particular focus on the late nineteenth century and up until McWhorter’s death in 1944. Manuscript materials in the archive prove to be preeminent records of Indian history, tales, folklores, legends, customs, and languages, including transcriptions of oral histories and primary source materials of the 1877 Nez Perce War. An index and further information on the collection can be found here:

<http://ntserver1.wsulibs.wsu.edu/masc/McWhortr/Mcwh1.htm>.

Unique and Idiosyncratic Collections

“Like any public institution [like WSU],” explains Matuozzi, “the one thing that’s really fundamentally distinctive is the archives and special collections.” From here the library had culled assorted Pacific Northwest materials, as highlighted by the McWhorter collection. But Holland and Terrell also boasts an array of idiosyncratic collections both curious and

interesting to supplement the McWhorter Papers, all of which are managed via OCLC's digital collection management software, CONTENTdm. When the university's digitization efforts were ramped up, content that was not digitized elsewhere and was exclusive to Washington State was of particular interest. Faculty publications and uncommon journal titles, for example, proved to be key projects. There were unique collections maintained in a unique environment, such as a digitized print bibliography covering Lyme disease research and a complete digitization of the university yearbook, from 1895 to the present.

"As a land grant university, we play to the strengths of [WSU]" says Matthews. As such, Holland and Terrell's digitization efforts rely heavily on the opportunities that arise from coursework and other projects that are unique to the school. One such project is the digitization of a bulletin produced since 1913 by WSU Extension, which has offices all over the region. With this, the library digitizes both historical content as well as current content—the bulletin is an ongoing tool utilized by WSU Extension, both in print and the digital realm.

LandEscapes

When the dean of the university sought to formalize the then-amorphous digital projects unit in the libraries, one aim of these digitization efforts was to establish the library as a publisher in its own right. The focus here was on the digitization of the university's literary and arts journal, LandEscapes. Since its inaugural issue in 2000, LandEscapes has published all manner of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, art, photography, graphic novels, screenplays, and original works by WSU undergraduates—all of which formerly in print.

But now, in an initiative which has come to fruition in the last few years, the journal exists in the digital realm as well, thriving on a platform that allows personnel in the English department to do all the vetting and production work online. Likewise, content has expanded to include audio and visual, with the journal publishing student animation and music. Says Matuozzi of the digitization of LandEscapes: “It’s been a huge success and has taken on a life of its own. It’s opened up the campus publication to be truly representative of the campus.” The magazine operates under the guidance of writer and Faculty Advisor Peter Chilson, and while content and maintenance is handled outside the library, in hosting the magazine the library is now acting as a publisher, drawing praise from Matthews as “the first instance of [the dean’s] promise coming to life.” While still available in print, the journal can now also be accessed online at the following address:

<https://openjournals.wsu.edu/index.php/landescapes>.

Multimedia

Much like the LandEscapes journal itself, the library’s overall breadth of digital collections reaches beyond just still images and scans: WSU also supports a great deal of multimedia collections, including materials in film and radio. Of particular note is the J. Elroy McCaw Memorial Film Collection. Donated to the library by the family of the late broadcasting executive and station owner J. Elroy McCaw, the collection is comprised of four to five hundred acetate films. “They represent films that have otherwise been lost to history,” says Matthews of these sole copies which feature not just B-list actors but the likes of Spencer Tracy and Peter Lorre as well. “The McCaws also gave the funds to digitize the collection,”