

ALA Annual 2021 | Virtual

Combined Update for the ALA Core Chief Collection Development Officers of Large Research Libraries and the ALA Core Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries. Summary of activities by provided by:

Erin Grant, Director for Cataloging and Metadata Services (CAMS)

Stephanie Lamson, Director for Preservation Services (Preservation)

Corey Murata, Director for Collection Analysis & Strategy (CAS)

Denise Pan, Associate Dean for Collections & Content (C&C)

Si on Romaine, Director for Acquisitions & Rapid Cataloging Services (ARCS)

Top of mind

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Anti-Racism (EDIAR) Initiatives

- Libraries [position statement](#) with goals, updates, and featured work, e.g. [Improving Accessibility During COVID](#).
- Libraries staff-led [working groups](#): how we work, policy review, recruitment & retention, and staff growth & development
- C&C convening Collections Task Force on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-racism is charged with leading the UW Libraries in an examination of how the structures of racism, inequity, and privilege shape the work of building and maintaining collections at the UW Libraries.
- A small ad-hoc group of catalogers and archivists have been working on a [Critical Cataloging and Archival Description Draft Statement](#) intended as a page on the Libraries' [EDIAR](#) website. The statement seeks to make transparent Libraries staff role within catalog records and finding aids, while acknowledging our legacy descriptions (e.g. LCSH) contain problematic and harmful language, and include a feedback process with form (in development) for our users and uwlib-critcat@uw.edu listserv for us to track materials flagged by users and to begin the process of remediation as feasible and appropriate.

COVID-19 Initiatives

- Reconciliation of Perpetual Access Entitlements for major e-journal packages: working remotely, Acquisitions students and staff reviewed perpetual access entitlements for Taylor & Francis, Elsevier, Cambridge. Inventory records in the Alma ILS were accordingly updated, to support initiatives related to print de-selection and overlap analysis.
- Nick Schockmel, Acquisitions Metadata Specialist, ARCS will be a recipient of the 2021 [UW Staff Together We Will Awards](#). Nick will be awarded this honor in recognition of staff who made the quick pivot to online learning and remote work possible in 2020 by enabling digitized versions of print volumes held by the Libraries through the Hathi Trust Emergency Temporary Access Program (ETAS) could be discovered directly from our catalog.

Staffing and Organizational Changes/Updates

New Hires

- In March we welcomed Lou Wainer, MLIS (UW), as the new E-Resources Metadata Librarian in Cataloging and Metadata Services. Lou has worked for Princeton University as Metadata Librarian with a specialty in Ibero-American languages and cultures, and with the UW Libraries as Digital Imaging Assistant and Electronic Resources Specialist.

New CAMS Unit Head Positions - In response to CAMS reorganization in 2019-20, internal calls and remote-only interviews were conducted in fall 2020 for unit heads of three of the four CAMS units, and officially put into place in December 2020:

- Diana Brooking, Head, International Studies Cataloging Unit
- Theo Gerontakos, Head, Metadata & Cataloging Initiatives Unit
- Cate Gerhart, Head, Monographic Cataloging Unit

Retirements - many thanks and best wishes on happy and healthy retirement to:

- Barbara Petite - Administrative Assistant III, CAMS and 20+ years of service to the UW Libraries.
- Phyllis Chan - Serials Copy Cataloger, CAMS since 2006, and 40 years of service to the UW Libraries.

Librarian Promotions and Reappointments

- Moriah Caruso - reappointment Senior Assistant Librarian (2020), Digital Preservation Librarian, Preservation
- Morag Stewart - promotion to Associate Librarian (2021), Acquisitions Librarian, ARCS

Transitions

- Patrick Osby, Assistant Dean for Administrative Services has taken a new position as the Chief Human Resources Officer at [Plymouth Housing](#). While the position is vacant, Financial Services reports to Denise Pan.
- Lizabeth (Betsy) Wilson, Vice Provost for Digital Initiatives and Dean of University Libraries, retires on June 30 after leading the Libraries for 20 years, read more from [ARL](#). Lauren Pressley, Associate Dean for Research and Learning Services, and Denise Pan will share the duties of dean of University Libraries for two months.
- Simon Neame will join as Dean of University Libraries on Sept. 1 from University of Massachusetts Amherst where he leads the W.E.B. Du Bois Library, the Science and Engineering Library and the Wadsworth Library at the Mount Ida Campus.

Budget & Space Updates

- Due to a pre-COVID shortfall in the 2019-2021 biennial budget combined with the 4.6% reduction to the FY21 budget, we are initiating a [review of all subscriptions](#) during the 2020-2021 fiscal year with cancellations to take effect in the 2022 subscription year. The Libraries had the ability to cover most of the budget reductions by using one-time endowment funds; however in order to meet the difference, we have an initial cancellation target of \$125,000 in database and e-journal subscriptions. Anticipating a flat budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and anticipated average increase of 4% for subscriptions, the resulting shortfall in funding would require the Libraries to cancel \$1.5 million of journal and database subscriptions.
- Plans are underway to expand shelving and preservation capacity at our remote shelving facility. Currently a majority of the Libraries facilities for collections at the Seattle campus do not meet environmental standards for long-term preservation. Moreover, all of the existing shelving capacity for Libraries collections on-campus and off-campus are approaching or have reached their operational capacity and many are more than 100% full.

Initiatives & Developments by Department

Acquisitions & Rapid Cataloging Services Department

- Brought a limited number of staff on-site to sort a 7 month (April-October 2020) backlog of mail and to organize backlogged items in a way that will support efficient processing/receiving of physical resources when additional staff return to on-site work in fall 2021.
- Migrated from Primo Central Index to Central Discovery Index; shifted management of PCI/CDI from Cataloging to Acquisitions. Migrated e-resources troubleshooting questions from QuestionPoint to LibAnswers.
- Libraries in the news, Siôn Romaine is a co-author for the Library Journal's [Periodicals Price Survey 2021- The New Abnormal](#)

Cataloging & Metadata Services Department

- Created UW Libraries [Open Metadata Guidelines](#)
- [Orbis Cascade Alliance Changes to "Illegal aliens" Library of Congress Subject Headings](#)
- Accepted into [Program for Cooperative Cataloging's Wikidata Pilot Project](#); continuing with [Program for Cooperative Cataloging URIs in MARC Pilot Project](#) and [Big Ten Academic Alliance Cooperative Cataloging Partnership](#) (BTAA CCP activities suspended in March 2020 due to Covid-19)
- Completed participation as a cohort member of the [Linked Data for Production: Pathway to Implementation](#) (LD4P Phase 2), including completing a RDA-to-BIBFRAME mapping project.
- Migration of the UW Libraries linked data publishing platform to [Github](#), including (1) full application for transforming RDA/RDF data to BIBFRAME; (2) a repository with code for extracting people from EAD finding aids, reconciling with Wikidata entities, and adding links to Wikidata items to finding aids; (3) [Newspaper Genre List](#), available in multiple RDF serializations as well as MARC records
- Cataloging outsourcing pilot for Vietnamese language materials

Collections Analysis & Strategy

- Completed first round of keyboard testing of our licensed databases and e-resources as part of the [Library E-Resource Accessibility Testing](#) program. Due to the sudden availability of student employees needing work that could be accomplished remotely when the University made the rapid shift to remote learning and work last spring, we were able to complete keyboard testing of the 650 databases and e-resources on [A-Z Databases](#) list.

- Initiated a weeding project for the main Suzzallo/Allen library collection on the Seattle campus. Pre-pandemic, crowding in some call number ranges resulted in being unable to shelve thousands of new books. The weeding project was started early in 2020 and paused when the pandemic forced us to focus on more pressing issues. The weeding work resumed in the fall of 2020 with the Weeding Strategy Task Force developing criteria and lists of weeding candidates for subject librarians to review. We are currently in the process of getting GreenGlass to assist with this ongoing weeding activity.

Preservation Department

- Successfully completed Mellon *Collaborative Paper and Photograph Conservation* grant (\$300,000) that supported the three-year appointment of a Joint Associate Conservator for Paper and Photographs shared between the UW Libraries and the Henry Art Gallery in December 2020..
- Began planning for [Mellon Sustainable Cooperative Conservation Services at UW](#) but was unable to complete significant conservation treatment due to very limited building access, March 2020-January 2021. This grant expands upon the previous grant to include the Burke Museum of Natural History with the goal of developing shared conservation services and increased collaboration between the three cultural heritage institutions on campus.
- Received National Film Preservation Foundation Basic Preservation grant to preserve films from the Robert Garfias American Music Film Collection, particularly unique Blues performances by John Lee Hooker, Son House, and Mance Lipscomb from their visits to Seattle in the late 1960s and early 1970s.
- Prepared and processed 15TB (550 packages and 160,000 files) for digital preservation in 2020 compared to an average of 3TB per year from 2017-2019 using Archivematica and AWS storage.
- Developed a new workflow and provided closed captioning for more than 120 UW special collections films using Microsoft Stream for automatic captioning followed by student and staff corrections to automated transcripts and caption timings.