ALCTS Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries Interest Group

University of Pennsylvania Libraries Update – June 2017

Alma implementation
After 20 years on Voyager, Penn will be implementing Alma. Following a nine-month planning process, we froze Voyager acquisitions and cataloging data on May 26. Our projected go-live date is June 26. We will also be replacing our locally-developed public interface, switching to Blacklight as the front end to Alma.

Colenda Digital Repository
Penn has completed phase one development of a new digital repository, locally named “Colenda”. Colenda is a system for long-term preservation and access to digital assets stewarded by Penn Libraries. It is a project of the Libraries, developed using the Samvera (formerly known as Hydra) open source software framework.

Shared Shelf implementation
Penn has implemented Shared Shelf. We are in the process of moving our image collections to this platform from our older locally-developed interface. We have contributed our Marian Anderson Collection of Photographs to the Shared Shelf Commons

Strategic Planning
The Penn Libraries is completing its Strategic Plan for 2015-2017. The plan is available at: https://confluence.library.upenn.edu/display/libstratplan. We are currently beginning our planning process for our next strategic plan.

Projects
- **Indic Manuscripts**: Penn is completing an NEH grant to catalog and digitize more than 2,700 Indic manuscripts. The collection is the largest in North America and contains materials from 1200 to 1930 in Sanskrit, Hindi, Marathi, Awadhi, Nepali, Braj, classical Tamil, Thai, Prakrit, and Pali. http://dla.library.upenn.edu/dla/medren/ancillary.html?id=collections/manuscripts/grant
- **Bibliotheca Philadelphiensis**: Penn is working with fifteen PACSCL libraries to digitize and host a regional collection of medieval manuscripts. This is a CLIR/Mellon digitization grant, with an anticipated total of 160,000 pages from more than 400 individual volumes. https://pennlibnews.wordpress.com/2016/01/06/penn-libraries-open-manuscript-portal-to-host-the-countrys-largest-regional-collections-of-digitized-medieval-manuscripts/
- **HathiTrust contributions**: Penn has recently initiated a process for contributing digitized collections to the HathiTrust collection. https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/mb?a=listis;c=1918876677
Facilities

- The new **Moelis Family Grand Reading Room** opened recently. This is the Penn Libraries’ response to a desire for quieter space for reflective study in Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center (following recent renovations more directed toward collaboration and communication among students). In this new space, renowned Dutch artist Claudy Jongstra has installed of her largest mural so far ‘Fields of Transformation’. Fields of Transformation comprises three huge pieces, varying in dimension, the largest being nearly 6 meters high by 15 meters wide, made of felted wool and pure silk. [https://pennlibnews.wordpress.com/2017/05/03/dutch-artist-claudy-jongstra-installs-major-art-piece-fields-of-transformation-in-the-moelis-family-grand-reading-room/](https://pennlibnews.wordpress.com/2017/05/03/dutch-artist-claudy-jongstra-installs-major-art-piece-fields-of-transformation-in-the-moelis-family-grand-reading-room/)

- **Kislak Center for Special Collections, Phase 3**: The final phase of Kislak renovations was completed in summer 2016. Phase 3 included two Closed Stack boxes with new shelving; the Steven Miller Conservation Laboratory (a state-of-the-art paper conservation lab) and the Class of 1937 Memorial Reading Room (a graduate student-only study area).

- **Other Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center renovations**:
  - Hechtman Studio (a multimedia recording space)
  - Relocation of staff from the Information Processing Center and the Teaching, Research & Learning division to new offices throughout the building
  - The move of the Center for Teaching & Learning and the Online Learning Initiative into Library spaces.

Personnel

- David Nerenberg was hired as Director of Financial and Administrative Services replacing Laurie Fanelly, who retired.
- Tina Cowan resigned as Director of Library Advancement. A search is underway.
- Marcella Barnhart was hired as Director of the Lippincott Library, replacing Mike Halperin, who retired.
- Michael Overgard was hired as the Head of the Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text & Image (SCETI).
- Emily Morton-Owens was hired as the Director of Digital Library Development and Systems.
- Jay Nicolletta was hired as the E-Resources and Serials Acquisitions Librarian.
- Peter Collins was hired as the Assistant Director of Patron Services.
- Salvatore Caputo was hired as the Manager of Library Facilities.