Research and Collections, Humanities and Social Sciences
Annual Report, 2007/2008

The D/M Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) department has 13 staff, 11 librarians and 3 library assistants; two units, Graduate Services (GRDS) and the Data Lab; and two subgroups, Government Information and USA/Commonwealth (USA/C).

Following are highlights of primary job responsibilities, professional activities and departmental obstacles and goals for July 2007/June 2008. The report is organized around the four Doe/Moffitt Themes: Service excellence and responsiveness, Teaching and learning, Collection vision and access, and Staff support and engagement.

Service excellence and responsiveness
HSS staff members participated in public service activities, performed many hours of reference desk, Research Advisory Service (RAS), and individual reference consultations, and served on and chaired various committees and task forces.

- The average weekly commitment for the D/M reference desks is seven hours.
- There were 1,159 off-desk interactions for individual consultations, in-person and via telephone, IM chat and e-mail reference.
- The majority of the evening and weekend Doe and Moffitt Reference Desk hours were contributed by two part-time temporary librarians, and one part-time permanent librarian hired primarily to provide desk reference evenings and weekends.
- Staff participated in setting up the Doe/Moffitt IM Chat Reference pilot project and assisted with management of the Ask–a-Reference Question email service.
- Government Information staff managed an IM and email reference service and answered 42 IM chat questions for the year.
- There were memberships on several local and library-wide committees and task forces such as the Web Advisory Group, Doe/Moffitt Public Service Statistics, Exhibits Committee, Administrative, Public Services, Arts and Humanities, and Social Sciences councils, Collections Integrity and Persistence Policy, CAPA, LAUC-B Executive Committee and Task Force on Library Internships.

Teaching and learning
HSS selectors taught course-related classes for departments where they serve as liaisons, team-taught classes with International and Area Studies (IAS) librarians, librarians in Subject Specialty libraries and with Teaching Library staff, and related online projects.

- Tours and orientation/instructional sessions for the Know Your Library series were conducted for new graduate and undergraduate students, prospective graduate students, faculty, and the campus community.
- Several staff participated in RAS, thirty-minute research appointments for undergraduates writing research papers on interdisciplinary humanities and social sciences topics.
- Rewrote instructional pages on using the library proxy server.
- Conducted staff training workshops on the Next Generation Melvyl Pilot.
- Created blogs for subject web pages to promote departmental outreach.
- Added library instruction components to course bSpace sites.
Collection vision and access
Selectors made several major purchases collaboratively and individually, and worked on other collections projects such as evaluating journal packages, and fine tuning the Gardner (MAIN) Stack NRLF process.

Major purchases:
- Mass Observation Archive
- 18th Century Journals Projects
- Major Additions to the LexisNexis Congressional database:
  - Congressional Hearings (1980-present)
  - Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports (1916-present)
  - Committee Prints (1830-present)
These full-text digital collections were the result of a collaboration among HSS, AUL for Collections, and the Law Library. This was the first major joint purchase between the three partners.
- Digital Congressional Record (title varies, 1789-Present) from LexisNexis, also purchased by HSS and Law. Access to this database will be turned on in early Fall 2008. With the purchase of the Hearings Digital Collection, the paper hearings in MAIN will migrate to NRLF beginning in summer 2008.

Other collection activities:
- Assisted AUL for Collections in annual Title Adjustment process for Elsevier and Blackwell journals, coordinating responses for H/SS selectors.
- Participated in a planning group to define/implement a pilot project to identify and send serial backsets to NRLF. This model will be applied to all the call letter ranges in the Gardner (MAIN) Stack in coming years, and it should contribute a high volume of materials to the yearly NRLF quota.

DMHSS subject specialists:
- Burnette (English, Comparative Literature, the literature of Folklore, Theater, Dance and Performance Studies)
- Carter (Religious Studies, Rhetoric)
- Cochran (General Reference, Linguistics)
- Dekker (Statistics - Social Sciences)
- Hinojosa (California, other states & Latin American government documents)
- Janes (History, History of Science & Technology, Military History)
- Phillips (Gender & Women's Studies)
- Ronningen (Demography, Journalism, Peace & Conflict Studies, Sociology)
- Silva (Legal Studies, Political Science, Public Policy, US Federal government documents)

Staff support and engagement
HSS staff shared there knowledge, talents and expertise individually and collectively by participating in various professional activities, some of which are listed below.
• Created and maintained significant portions of the Doe/Moffitt and UCB Library websites.
• Assisted in designing and editing the new online library calendar.
• Developed a webform to aid users in locating relevant Google Custom Search Engines (CSE).
• Created a Google CSE that searches websites of other UC campus libraries.
• Took part in the New Directions initiative by writing blog posts and comments, facilitating discussions.
• Served on Moffitt Renovation project "think tanks", Reference and Consulting, and Book Collections.
• Staff was asked to serve on several Integrated Library System (ILS) subcommittees.

Presentations and Publications:
• "Academic Writing and Publishing”, a panel discussion sponsored by the LAUC-B Committee on Professional Development.
• "Mashup the Library: A workshop on mashup technology and the art of remixing library and information resources”, presented by CARL North Information Technology Interest Group.
• Two articles republished as postprints through the eScholarship Repository.
• "Where Databases Live", panel discussion for Knight Digital Media Center's Technology Training for Editors workshop, March 26 2008.

Staffing and Personnel changes:
Temporary Reference Librarians Ann-Marie Basso and Corinne Robinson Slouber completed their assignments on May 30; Norah Foster, Graduate Services Operations Manager retired in June, and in July Scott Peterson was hired as the new Operations Manager.

Facility changes:
The Data Lab has moved from 208 Doe to 189 Doe and will be opened for service in the new space in October 2008.

HSS Units:
Data Lab

Graduate Services continues to be a popular place for graduate students and faculty providing course reserves for graduate level humanities and social sciences courses (1637 items this year), a non-circulating collection (300 titles added), and quiet study space. Staffing was difficult this year due to the medical leave then retirement of the Operations Manager; however one of our
student employees, Michelle McDowell, assumed many of the essential unit duties during this period and won a well-deserved Spot award for her efforts. Scott Peterson was hired as the new Operations Manager, to begin work in July, 2008. Priorities and goals for the upcoming year: provide training and orientation for new Operations Manager, update and streamline public and technical services processes; re-incorporate seminar room space (currently used by Data Lab) back into Graduate Services. Staff: Jan Carter, Head; Norah Foster, Operations Manager (retired 6/08); 5-7 student employees

Obstacles:

- Internet search speed is becoming a huge factor in our working environment. The library needs to find ways to upgrade equipment and facilitate speedy responses to searches.
- Inability to keep half-time temporary reference librarians who are talented and bring fresh ideas. We would all benefit from retaining them.
- Slow or no response to systems needs and problems.
- Limited resources to support collection development.

Goals:

- Continue to investigate and explore new technologies.
- Expand D/M Technology Training program to include comprehensive half-day training on creating blogs and wikis.
- Implement D/M reorganization plan.
- Adapt to new department head.
- Explore HSS retreat when new department head is in place.
- Participate in ILS implementation.

Submitted by Humanities and Social Sciences (9/08)

Anne-Marie Basso, Reference Librarian (position ended 5/08)
Michaelyn Burnette, Literature Librarian
Jan Carter, Humanities Curator
Harrison Dekker, Data Services Librarian
Tim Dennis, Reference Assistant, Technology Trainer
Norah Foster, Operations Manager (retired 6/08)
Susana Hinojosa, California State/Latin American Documents Librarian
Phoebe Janes, History Librarian
John Kupersmith, Reference Librarian
Mari Miller, Social Sciences Librarian
Scott Peterson, Operations Manager (started 7/08)
Jim Ronningen, Social Sciences Librarian
Jesse Silva, Federal Documents & Social Science Librarian
Corinne Robinson Slouber, Reference Librarian (position ended 5/08)
Myrtis Cochran, Interim Head, HSS and Reference Librarian