Notes from the lab: Digital scholarship at the library

By Nabil Kashyap

What has McCabe been up to in support of digital scholarship at Swarthmore (and beyond)? Since January, we have been busy expanding how we already help faculty and students engage the digital in research and pedagogy. Here are a few highlights.

First, we launched a pilot web project for Alumni Week this year. We wanted to leverage the already digitized collection of *Halcyon* yearbooks, but many early volumes included pages and pages of candid photos without any names or any other identifying information. Through our modified interface, visiting alumni had the opportunity to browse pages of the *Halcyon* online as well as to tag photos with names of classmates. These names were then stored and will appear when browsing *Halcyon* volumes available through the TriCo Digital Library. The next phase is to use what we’ve learned in implementing a public interface for crowdsourcing identification in the *Halcyon* and potentially other digital collections.

This summer we worked with Professor Allison Dorsey and three student researchers on a multi-modal digital archive in support of this fall’s exciting new Black Liberation 1969 course. We customized an interface, generated metadata, and implemented a dynamic timeline, preparing discovery and access for almost 1000 documents. Students in the course will have access to a range of primary documents - from magazine and newspaper clippings to student publications, presidential papers to alumni oral interviews, FBI files to popular music - related to the SASS takeover of Parrish Hall in 1969. This trove of archival material will serve as a starting point for students to examine Civil Rights and the dynamics of activism through the lens of the events of 1969. It will also serve as a launch pad for students interested in creating their own critical digital projects through course assignments.

The library has also taken on a number of exciting new projects in collaboration with Academic Technology. As part of a SPEED (Swarthmore Projects for Educational Exploration and Development) summer project, we worked closely with Professor Sibelan Forrester and four student interns to design and implement an interface that allows students to upload multiple translations of a work of poetry and visualize the difference between them. With Professor Rachel Buurma, we are working on extracting data from course syllabi to eventually ask new research questions about, among other things, disciplinary histories. How might we map how disciplines are formed? How do networks of authors connect across fields of study?

We were invited to New York City to share our work at a conference hosted by the Open Syllabus Project, a big data approach to studying syllabi spearheaded by Columbia University.

For more information please contact Nabil Kashyap: nkashya1@swarthmore.edu.
Using resources and spaces in McCabe Library, students worked on END, the Early Novels Database Project, with Professor Rachel Buurma to create detailed bibliographic descriptions of eighteenth-century novels from Swarthmore and Penn. They experimented with visualizing and analyzing that rich metadata in print and on screen, exploring new models of data diffusion in order to help researchers write new histories of the novel.
Student intern helps school in Pakistan

By Mahnoor Malik ’16

This summer, I had a great time compiling a book collection for the bright and enthusiastic students at Master Ayub’s Park School. These students come from underprivileged backgrounds and set out to school six days a week at a public park in Islamabad (Pakistan) where they are taught by Master Ayub and his various volunteers. Although the only resources at their disposal are the volunteers who devote their time and the shade provided by the trees, the students are eager to learn more.

The aims of this project are to improve language and comprehension skills as well as to promote readership. Access to a library, albeit an unconventional one, is vital to the learning and community building processes that take place at a school. It has been an exciting challenge to develop a library for a school that lacks basic infrastructure but is not lacking in passion for learning.

To learn more, please visit: www.facebook.com/maps.initiative

(Mahnoor Malik participated in the library internship program in the spring and received funding from the library for this summer project in Pakistan. She is a RIA this year.)
"Home Before the Leaves Fall, the Great War, 1914-1918" is a multi-institution web site highlighting information on World War I and digital resources available in Philadelphia area libraries and archives.

The Peace Collection, which houses hundreds of thousands of documents, photographs, and other items about opposition to the war, is participating in this exhibit. Peace Collection staff have written several of the web site articles on war opposition, conscientious objection, peace congresses, Quaker relief efforts, and women peace activists, as well as highlighting resources available at Swarthmore.

Some of the most unusual Peace Collection digital resources shown are copies of a newspaper written and published by German prisoners of war held by the British in Scotland.

The full exhibit will be available at least through 2018, with more material added over the next few years: at <http://wwionline.org/>
Jerome and Ruth Balter donate their papers to Peace Collection
By Wendy E. Chmielewski

Philadelphia residents Jerry and Ruth Balter have been peace and social justice activists for at least the last 45 years. Now, in their 90s, they can still be found on the streets of Philadelphia handing out flyers and attending demonstrations against the current war in Afghanistan, against U.S. drone plane attacks, and in favor of fully supported public schools, and a myriad of other issues.

The Balters have donated their papers documenting their many decades of work on civil rights and peace to the Peace Collection.

The finding aid for the Balter Papers is available at: <http://www.swarthmore.edu/Library/peace/DG251-299/dg254Balter.html>

RIAs offer help to students
Five students are working as RIAs in McCabe Library this semester: Stephanie Braziel ’15, Dominique Bush ’15, Mireille Guy ’15, Mahnoor Malik ’16, and Maria Mejia ’15.

RIAs (Research and Information Associates) are part of the trained staff available to answer and refer questions. They are specially trained students who help their peers with finding, evaluating, and using information. Much like SAMs (Student Academic Mentors), the RIAs use their expertise within their majors to assist peers throughout the research process. They answer questions within their realm of training and expertise and also refer students to faculty, librarians, and WAs (Writing Associates), to have questions more fully answered.

RIAs have regularly scheduled office hours Sunday-Thursday, 7-10 pm, at the Research and Information Desk in McCabe Library. Any student may schedule an appointment with a RIA directly, by emailing librarian@swarthmore.edu, or drop in during office hours.

We really want to hear your stories! During Alumni Weekend the library hosted story booths for alumni to tell their tales. We heard from a World War II veteran reminiscing about campus life in the 40s, an anti-war activist retelling the drama of an FBI break-in, and room-mates sharing their perspective on social upheaval during the 60s.

We are interested in learning more about your experiences in the Swarthmore community. Swarthmore Stories will be available in McCabe Library during Garnet Homecoming and Family Weekend, along with our popular annual booksale.

For more information contact Roberto Vargas: rvargas1@swarthmore.edu.
New digital resources added to library collection
by Amy McColl

African American Newspapers, 1827-1998 (Readex)
Part of the Readex America's Historical Newspapers collection, African American Newspapers, 1827-1998, was created from the most extensive African American newspaper archives in the United States - those of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Kansas State Historical Society and the Library of Congress. Beginning with Freedom's Journal (NY), the first African American newspaper published in the United States, the titles in this resource include The Colored Citizen (OH), Rights of All (NY), Wisconsin Afro-American, New York Age, Virginia Journal and Alexandria Advertiser, Richmond Planet, Cleveland Gazette, The Appeal (MN) and hundreds of others from every region of the U.S.

Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology, 70 Year Archive
Includes digitized versions of all volumes from 1933-2003, together with historical introductions to the fields at the time and photographs of the participants in action.

Dance in Video II (Alexander Street)
The second volume expands upon the foundation built in Volume I, providing 400 hours of video that showcase a new catalogue of dancers and partners including the Joffrey Ballet, John Jasperse Company, Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, Bavarian State Ballet, Royal Ballet of Cambodia, Kirov Ballet, and Compañía Nacional de Danza.

Gale Nineteenth Century Collections Online, Collections 9-12
The new collections include Science, Technology, and Medicine part 2; Children's Books and Childhood; Mapping the World: Maps and Travel Literature; and Religion, Spirituality, Reform, and Society.

GREENR (Gale)
GREENR focuses on the academic study of sustainability and the environment. Offers authoritative content on the development of emerging green technologies and environmental and sustainability issues in such categories as energy systems, healthcare, agriculture, transportation, economics, and ecology. Allows users to navigate by issue, organization, and country portals. Includes news, video, primary source documents, interactive maps, contextual multimedia, customizable journals, and news and refereed case studies.

Latin American Newspapers, series I, 1805-1922 (Readex)
The groundbreaking first series features such key publications as La Nacion, La Prensa and Vanguardia (Buenos Aires), Jornal do Commercio (Rio de Janeiro), O Estado de Sao Paulo (Sao Paulo), Mercurio (Santiago), La Prensa (Havana), El Guatemalteco (Guatemala City), Daily Chronicle (Georgetown, Guyana), La Revista de Yucatan (Merida, Mexico), La Patria, Mexican Herald and El Monitor Republican (Mexico City), El Dictamen (Veracruz Llave, Mexico), La Estrella de Panama and Star & Herald (Panama City), El Peruano and West Coast Leader (Lima), Port of Spain Gazette (Port of Spain), Venezuelan Herald (Caracas) and more than a dozen others.

Nature Complete
The Libraries now have access to all content published by the Nature Publishing Group, including all journals, protocols, and multimedia. All titles will have individual records in Tripod (there is no overall URL for the entire collection).

Oxford Bibliographies Online: Ecology, African Studies, Music, Cinema and Media Studies
Developed cooperatively with scholars and librarians worldwide, Oxford Bibliographies offers exclusive, authoritative research guides. Combining the best features of an annotated bibliography and a high-level encyclopedia, this cutting-edge resource guides researchers to the best available scholarship across a wide variety of subjects. The Libraries have added four new subject areas in the last year.

Very Short Introductions Online (Oxford)
Discover a new topic or subject with these intelligent and serious introductions written by authors who are experts in their field.

World News Connection Archive, 1995-2013 (EastView)
Contains hundreds of international news for the period 1995-2013. Material is obtained from non-U.S. open-source political speeches, television programs, radio broadcasts, newspaper articles, periodicals, and books. Content focuses primarily on military, political, environmental, scientific, technical, and socioeconomic issues and events.

Zinio (RBDigital)
Access popular magazine titles online. Zinio provides the ability to shop for, search inside, read, share, and save digital content. Readers can move seamlessly within each publication page between text, interactive graphics, animated illustrations, videos, and much more. Magazines can be read online on your computer, downloaded to your computer and read with the Zinio Reader, or read on iPad and iPhone via the Zinio app available free in the iTunes Store.
Peace Collection Curator Wendy E. Chmielewski presented a paper on Peace Collection resources on women around the world at the “Writing Women’s Lives,” conference in April at Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey. She was also the recipient of an Honorable Mention Prize from the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Research on Women and Politics at Iowa State University, for her research on early U.S. women elected to political office.

Chris Densmore, curator of Friends Historical Library, contributed the chapter, “Aim for a Free State and Settle Among Quakers,” to Quakers and Abolition (University of Illinois Press, 2014). The contributions in this book were originally presentations at the Quakers and Slavery Conference held here in 2010. He also presented a paper on the Underground Railroad at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference in Rochester, NY, and made presentations at Friends meetings at Abington, Homeville, London Grove, and North Collins (NY), the Middletown Public Library, and the Kennett Square Civil War Roundtable.

Visual Resources and Initiatives Librarian Susan Dreher attended the Art Libraries Society (ARLIS) conference in Washington, DC, in May.

Social Sciences Librarian Sarah Elichko attended the 2014 Library Association of the City University of New York (LACUNY) Institute on April 4. The conference, “Information Literacy to Empower: Theory and Practice,” focused on engaging with students in ways that facilitate their understanding of the political, economic, and social contexts of knowledge and information.

Nabil Kashyap attended a weeklong training in August through Humanities Intensive Learning and Teaching (HILT) hosted by Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH). His course, Project Development, examined the lifecycle of large-scale digital humanities projects, from designing research questions and choosing technologies to managing assistants and sustainably preserving outputs. Nabil became the new Librarian for Digital Initiatives and Scholarship in the spring.

Science Librarian Meg Spencer attended the American Library Association (ALA) Mid-Winter conference in January in Philadelphia. In June, she attended the ALA Annual conference in Las Vegas, where she reviewed resumes and met with new librarians. She also met her newly appointed Spectrum Scholar mentee, Anastacia (Stacy) Collins, who is enrolled in the Children’s Literature and Library and Information Science dual master’s degree program at Simmons College.

Barbara Weir, associate librarian for technical services and digital initiatives, attended two conferences during the summer: American Library Association (ALA) in Las Vegas and the Library Assessment Conference in Seattle. In April, along with Kate Carter, digital initiatives librarian, and Doug Willen (ITS), she attended the EScience Institute Capstone event in St. Louis, with the goal of getting help in their planning for research data management. The EScience Institute was sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries/Digital Library Federation (ARL/DLF).

Former staff memeber bequeaths money to library

Kitty Smith, head of the circulation department in McCabe Library from 1964 to 1990, died this year at the age of 88. She left a generous gift to the college library; part of that money will fund the final phase of digitizing the Phoenix.

Kitty graduated from Swarthmore College in 1947 and worked at Haverford College, DuPont Library in Wilmington, and Jefferson Medical Library, before returning to work at the library here in its old building. She managed the move of the collection to McCabe Library when it opened.
SHINE: A Photographic Journey of Latinos in the United States
Photography of José Galvez

McCabe Library
Exhibition: August 26 – September 26
Artist Talk: September 24, 4:15 pm

For over 40 years, photographer José Galvez has documented the everyday lives of Latinos around the United States through photography. Born into the Mexican barrios of Tucson, Galvez worked hard to move beyond what others had decided would be his future. At the age of 10, Galvez purchased a used camera at a pawn shop and was a frequent visitor at the Arizona Daily Star and went on to major in journalism at the University of Arizona. Upon graduation he worked as a staff photographer at the Arizona Daily Star.

Through his new presentation of image and word entitled SHINE, Galvez will share stories of struggle and triumph. Galvez’s stunning photographs complement a talk that encourages listeners to unlock potential, overcome obstacles, pursue new ventures, and mentor the next generation.

Galvez' first professional exhibition was at the age of 22. At about the same time, his participation in the Chicano Movement led him to see his work as more than a passion - he had a responsibility to capture the history of his people.

Recipient of the first Pulitzer Prize ever awarded to a Mexican-American journalist, Galvez moved on to the Los Angeles Times as the first Mexican-American photographer on staff. In 1984, he was on a team of reporters and photographers that received a Pulitzer Prize for a series on Latino life in southern California.

Galvez served as senior photo editor for Americanos, a multi-media exhibition led by Edward James Olmos. In 2000, he published his first solo book, Vatos, a collaboration with esteemed poet Luis Alberto Urrea. Then, in Beloved Land, he and oral historian Patricia Martin explored the lives of Mexican pioneer ranchers in the American Southwest. Galvez’s photographs have been exhibited in museums and galleries here and abroad, including the Smithsonian.

In 2004, José and his family moved to North Carolina to photograph Hispanic immigration in the South. In 2005, the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture (NALAC), through the support of the Ford Foundation and JP Morgan Chase, awarded him and his wife, Anne, partial funding to create the photography/oral history project “Land of Opportunity: Latino Entrepreneurs of North Carolina.”

Sponsored by Swarthmore College Library and Latin American Studies. Free and open to the public.

Joseph Leidy
McCabe Library
Exhibition: October 1 – 31

In 1871, Joseph Leidy established the Department of Natural History at Swarthmore, teaching here until 1885. Professor of anatomy at the University of Pennsylvania since 1853, he taught medical students there for 38 years. His anatomy textbook, published in 1861, became the standard text for medical students for decades.

His book Extinct Fauna of Dakota and Nebraska (1869) contained many species not previously described and many previously unknown on the North American continent.

This exhibit is one of several events planned during the 2014 calendar year to celebrate Swarthmore’s Sesquicentennial.