

Library Liaison Advisory Group

Zoom Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

1. Veterans Legacy Program (Carol Helstosky and Elizabeth Escobedo)

- a. Government contract facilitated by the National Cemetery Administration, through the Department of Veterans Affairs
 - i. Asked awhile ago if the History Department would like to participate
 - ii. In partnership for the last years with Esteban Gomez in Anthropology
- b. Brings together undergraduate researchers to learn how to research the lives and legacies of those buried in Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver
 - i. To think about ways to share their experiences with a broader audience
 - ii. Produced an exhibit that highlights veterans that students have researched
 - iii. Created website called [More Than A Headstone](#)
- c. Allows students to learn how to be researchers
 - i. Using primary resources
 - ii. Starting with a headstone at Fort Logan Cemetery and a spreadsheet that has name, conflict individuals were involved with, birth/death dates, medals, etc.
 - iii. Student success in learning how to use library resources
 1. Gained significant research skills
 2. Many have gone on to do a thesis in history
- d. Peggy put together a research guide
 - i. Project links, primary resources, archival resources
- e. The project has been very student driven
 - i. Several have submitted to the DU Journal of Undergraduate Research and have been published there
- f. We urge you to share the word about our project and weblink, we'd love to get more views.
 - i. If you know a student who may be interested in this project, please have them get in touch with us.
 - ii. Carol Helstosky, chelstos@du.edu, and Elizabeth Escobedo, Elizabeth.Escobedo@du.edu

2. Library Collections Update (Michael Levine-Clark, Jack Maness, Carrie Forbes, Shannon Tharp)

- a. We've had a \$550K cut to our collections budget this year
 - i. This is intended to be temporary and restored when things get back to normal
 1. That could be next year or in several years
 2. We are moving into the budget development phase for the university now and will ask for it back, but there just may not be enough money in the university budget to put it back in all at once
 - ii. Usually we have to request around a 3.5% - 5% budget increase just to maintain inflation costs
 1. It's not typical to receive the full amount requested

2. This year we did not receive it, only a small amount
3. The total impact is actually greater than 550K because of that extra cost of inflation for our current subscriptions
 - a. We are having to cancel subscriptions to manage this
- b. Every year we cancel and replace things as needed, but try to avoid cancelling things that are being used
 - i. This year we may have to cut things that are being used
- c. We are not cancelling Kanopy
 - i. Titles in Kanopy are essentially on a leased temporary access
 - ii. We do not own any of those titles, we buy access to them as requested
 - iii. We've only added a mediation process, so that request and access processes are no longer instantaneous
 - iv. If you need a video from Kanopy for a class, we will get that for you
 1. Just a slightly more cumbersome process so that we aren't buying titles as a substitute for Netflix, or to just review and not actually used
 2. More info on mediated access to Kanopy: <https://libraryhelp.du.edu/faq/329412>
 - v. PBS, Criterion, and Documentaries will remain freely open and unmediated in Kanopy, based on usage statistics (there will be no request form)
 1. Everything else that we don't yet have licensed will have a request form
 - vi. Titles can be turned on pretty quickly after you fill out the request form
 1. We do have a workflow, so we ask that you give us 3 business days in advance to get the video up and running
 - vii. We held out as long as we could, but most libraries across the country have moved to mediated access
 1. We've seen invoices of \$10k or more per month just from Kanopy
 - viii. Please review the linked FAQ above, and if you have any questions get in touch with Shannon, Jack, Carrie, Michael, or your library liaisons
- d. Refworks is a resource that libraries have moved away from in the last five years
 - i. It's not offering anything unique as a bibliographic citation manager and there are other freely available software options such as Zotero that are equal or better
 1. If you've been using Refworks you can easily move all your data into another software
 - ii. Info on helping you export citations: <https://libraryhelp.du.edu/faq/326104>
- e. We've suspended the automatic acquisition of print books
 - i. Saves money but also we don't have enough staff in the building to process those materials
 - ii. We are prioritizing print books that have been requested by faculty and students, and also electronic resources
- f. We are currently reviewing subscription renewal packages for journals
 - i. There are a couple packages through EBSCO
 1. Liaisons are working on prioritizing those based on their expertise and upon usage

- ii. Please pay attention to emails from your liaisons
 - 1. They may be communicating proposed cuts in the coming days and weeks
- iii. We are doing our best to analyze and negotiate with publishers
- iv. Hopefully some of this money cut from serials can go back into one-time purchases, such as books
- g. In many respects we are faring better than most, libraries across the country have been dealing with much bigger cuts than our 8% cut
- h. Q&A:
 - i. After the Kanopy mediation how long is the movie available
 - 1. All licenses last one year after purchase. They are working on putting the expiration date with each movie. Hopefully we will see this in the coming months
 - ii. Does the library need to send out a separate email about Refworks?
 - 1. Yes.
 - iii. If you know any students using Refworks, especially if they are dissertating or working on a master's thesis, please send them to us so we can help them get squared away. It's easy to port over citations but we don't want anyone to get caught not realizing that RefWorks is going away.
 - iv. Do we need to send you an email or feedback of journals we use the most?
 - 1. No, there are things that we would never cut, so we don't want to waste your time. We will have announcements, liaisons will share titles slated for cancellation when they are ready
 - v. Again, please watch out for emails from us and reach out with any questions

3. Collections as Data Update (Kim Pham)

- a. Grant funded project through the Mellon Foundation
 - i. Allows librarians to turn archival material into data
- b. Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) technology was used for this project
- c. Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society (JCRS)
 - i. Tuberculosis sanatorium in Denver (1904-1954)
 - ii. Heavily used collection of primary source materials regarding the treatment and history of tuberculosis
 - iii. Also highlights the migration and growth of Colorado's Jewish Community
- d. Handwritten letters and documents have been digitized
 - i. Used for research and teaching in a variety of courses
 - ii. Clinical laboratory and history research, genealogy
- e. Researchers duplicating transcripts has been a barrier to research
 - i. Started this project to build capacity in systems to support the creation of transcripts and archival images for researchers to use
 - ii. Potential to perform analysis beyond traditional forms of archival research
 - iii. Explore potential of machine learning to help
- f. Traditionally, OCR (Optical Character Recognition) has been used by libraries to read and structure text
 - i. For example, like a pdf reader

- ii. Texts can be made searchable
- g. HTR is a bit newer, more modern technique and can help with handwritten text
 - i. Machine learning allows technology to learn the visual features of more complex things like handwriting
- h. During Initiation and Planning Phase
 - i. We learned how to use the Transkribus platform
 - ii. Developed workflows
 - iii. Developed ethics and advisory board
 - iv. Terms of Use approved through the board
- i. Data Preparation Deliverables Phase
 - i. Ground truth/training data
 - 1. Training dataset <https://zenodo.org/record/4243023>
 - ii. Generated validation data
 - iii. Transkribus software provided correct data in order to develop models
 - 1. Improves recognitions and later apply models to entire collection to generate transcripts
 - 2. Initial dataset was manually performed
- j. HTR Pipeline Phase
 - i. Applied model in Transkribus and trained the model on that dataset
 - ii. Ran model over and over
 - iii. At two months there was a character error rate of 50%, at the end of the project there was an error rate of 9%
- k. Collections as Data Phase
 - i. The more data added to ground truth and training data, no longer had a significant impact on the character error rate, it exponentially dropped off
 - ii. Ran the model on the rest of the collection and produced the full dataset
 - 1. Also available on [Zenodo](#)
 - 2. Currently access is restricted so you will have to request access
 - a. Entire dataset - access restricted
<https://zenodo.org/record/4150881>
- l. Next Phase is the Delivery Platform Phase
 - i. Methods to access and viewing
 - ii. Developed Digital Collections Infrastructure
 - iii. Still working on a workflow
 - iv. About 20 records uploaded to Digital Collections
 - 1. Sample in repository:
<https://specialcollections.du.edu/object/0769f4cb-7bc6-43ad-9525-a6343168bec4#?c=&m=&s=&cv=&xywh=-2049%2C-3%2C6631%2C3300>
 - v. Developed a viewer interface for plain text viewing of transcripts
 - vi. Built an API (Application Programming Interface) for users to access data
 - 1. API access - <https://specialcollections.du.edu/cad/form>
 - 2. Included a user interface for researchers to use the API
 - a. Lower barrier tool to access the collection and learning how to use the API

3. Accept terms of use required

m. Future Directions

i. DU Wiki

1. Documentation is complete and will be published on wiki

ii. Data and computational skill workshops

iii. We'll work with liaisons to reach out to faculty

n. If this is something you're interested in, you can reach out to Kim or your liaisons.

o. <https://du-collections-as-data.netlify.app/>

p. <https://collectionsasdata.github.io/>

4. Other:

a. Library Hours for Winter Interterm- <https://library.du.edu/hours.html>

i. The AAC will close to DU community access after finals (December 4) for the interterm. As of right now, the library has enough phase 2 staff to run curbside and outside locker pickup over the break. Outside locker pickup will remain available during the interterm until through Dec. 17.