Rare Materials Available through Digital Partnership

The University of Maine has reached an agreement with BookSurge International to make available out-of-print books in Fogler Library through Amazon.com’s print-on-demand services. This partnership will allow Fogler Library to achieve partial cost recovery of its efforts to digitize books, the products of which will be freely available to the public for online reading through its web site.

The book digitizing project uses a cutting-edge book scanner, developed by Kirtas Technologies, that facilitates large-scale scanning of bound volumes by virtue of its automated page turning technology. Fogler Library envisions using this technology to create digital collections of public domain publications with full-text searching and online access. The collections now planned include: University of Maine publications, historical Maine town reports, local Maine histories, and publications relating to Wabanaki peoples. The library is only able to digitize materials out of copyright (published before 1923), in the public domain (government documents) or for which the University of Maine owns the copyright (University publications).

“This project will dramatically enhance our ability to support research in history, the social sciences, the environment, genealogy, and on various public policy issues,” explained Fogler Library Dean, Joyce Rumery. “It will also make a significant contribution towards our goal of making our holdings available to all Maine residents, since researchers will no longer have to come to Orono to use them.”

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(Photograph courtesy of the Monhegan Historical and Cultural Museum.)

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Message from Dean Joyce Rumery

Another exciting academic year has begun and I am very pleased to welcome both our new and returning students to the University. The UMaine Hello and New Student Orientation on Labor Day weekend marked the beginning of another fulfilling semester for both the library staff and the UMaine community. We are looking forward to the upcoming academic year and remain committed to making the library a great resource for all of our users.

As was noted in our previous newsletter, Fogler Library participated in the LibQUAL survey during the spring semester. We have now received all of the data from the Association of Research Libraries and are ready to begin a detailed investigation into how users evaluate our services and resources, and how they view the library building. Our findings will be reported to the University community through our web site, informational flyers, and an open summit. The summit will allow us to present the survey results in detail and to have a conversation with our users about their needs and how the library can best respond to those needs. The survey results will help us in our assessment of the library and will tell us where we need to focus our energy.

Library staff will also participate in the upcoming New England Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation. We will participate in the mock review as well as the visit from the Association in 2009. This will be an opportunity for the library to do a self-assessment and will also draw on the information from the LibQUAL survey.

Our scanning projects took off with the launch of our Yearbooks Online web page. Prism yearbooks from 1859 to 1997 were digitized and made available for all users via Fogler’s Alumni Services webpage. The Yearbooks Online were very well received by alumni during the June Reunion Weekend. Our next project will focus on the collection of Maine town reports and is a collaboration with the Maine State Library. The Maine town reports from the early 1800’s will be scanned and will also be available for users via the web. As we were working on these two initial projects we were invited to participate in a venture to make scanned materials from our collection available for purchase from Amazon.com. As part of this new venture, we will digitize Maine histories from our Special Collections Department. These titles will then be available for print-on-demand purchase from Amazon. Fogler Library will still have these materials available through the web for our users at UMaine.

We are also very pleased to provide access to ScienceDirect beginning this fall. This database offers more than 1,800 full-text online journals covering scientific, medical, and technical information. This resource will be invaluable to our students and faculty for their research and was made available thanks to annual funding from the University of Maine System, the University of Maine, and the University of Southern Maine.

We are once again offering a series of programs that are free and open to the public. We would love to see you here. If you are able to visit us I would be pleased to give you a tour of the library so you can meet the staff and hear more about the resources and services I have described. I hope you are pleased with what we are doing and you will continue to support us into the future. Thank you for your support.

The Friends Remember Juliet Kellogg and Elizabeth Whiteman

Juliet S. Kellogg, 88, lifelong resident of Bangor and a Fogler Friend, died February 8, 2007 after a long period of declining health. Born August 19, 1918, she graduated from the Bangor public school system, then Wheaton College, Norton, Mass., where she earned an A.B. in zoology in 1939. Julie earned a master’s degree in zoology in 1941 from the University of Maine. She worked as a researcher at Cold Spring Harbor Biological Lab, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, the Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Cornell University Biological Labs, and the National Cancer Institute. Julie also had a long and committed career of voluntarism and public service.

Elizabeth Delano Whiteman, 94, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, died April 11 at Chestnut Hill Hospital. She was the wife of the late Maxwell Whiteman. A generous supporter of Fogler Library and the Foger Friends, Mrs. Whiteman is survived by her daughter Beth Trautmann (Frederic) and nieces Rena Herson (Gene), Louise Delano, and Carole Akselrod.
Preserving the History of Maine’s Sea Fisheries: Part 2

by Richard Hollinger, Head, Special Collections

(Photographs courtesy of the Monhegan Historical and Cultural Museum.)

In Part I of this article, we discussed Fogler Library’s efforts to collect records of Maine’s fishing industry, a major sector of the state’s economy, but one that is not well documented as agriculture or logging.

In addition to collecting original archival materials, Fogler Library has been working to digitize and make available online a large body of unique fishing-related documentation that is held by various Maine repositories.

The primary purpose of this project is to facilitate historical research on fish populations in the Gulf of Maine. For this reason, the project has focused on digitizing logs of fishing vessels, catch and landing records, and records of fish sales, as they provide data that can be used for this kind of research.

Thus far, we have digitized several thousand pages of materials from the Boothbay Historical Society, the Castine Historical Society, Machiasport Historical Society, Old Berwick Historical Society, Monhegan Museum, Maine State Archives, Maine Maritime Museum, Penobscot Marine Museum, and Fogler Library. These can be searched and viewed at the University of Maine System’s Digital Collection site:

http://libraries.maine.edu/gateway/advsearch.aspx

In the next few months we will be adding to this online collection, relevant publications that are in the public domain and some additional archival materials from Fogler Library and other repositories.

We will be seeking outside funding to expand the collection by scanning materials in archives in Canada, Europe, and Massachusetts and by including materials relating to freshwater fisheries in tributaries to the Gulf of Maine. On an ongoing basis, we will be seeking to acquire or digitize relevant unique materials that remain in private hands.

Herring catch on Monhegan Harbor.

Pilothouse on seine boat with pile of fish aboard.
In the News

100 Years in the Federal Depository Library Program

The Russians were early into their experiment with parliamentary democracy. The British Army was withdrawing from a foreign country. A senator resigned his seat. The Maine Legislature was hassling over the University of Maine budget allocation.

Yesterday? Last week? No, all this happened in early March 1907 when Congress directed something of benefit to the University of Maine and to the state as a whole.

The Norton Amendments enacted on March 1, 1907 designated all Land Grant Colleges — including the University of Maine — as federal depositories. To bolster scientific and political research and to assist in building an informed citizenry, from then on UMaine’s library would receive, free, all new government publications as they were issued in Washington.

Fast forward to 2007, a significant year in the history of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), marking the 100th anniversary of the largest group of libraries ever to enter the program in a single year. Since its establishment by Congress in 1813, the FDLP has collected, organized and preserved information published by the federal government. In turn, its participating depositories assist people in locating and using federal information. Libraries designated as depositories provide local, no-fee access to anyone.

The University of Maine’s Raymond H. Fogler library has recently been recognized by the Government Printing Office in Washington for its commitment to 100 years of service as a depository library. To commemorate the milestone, the GPO sent a crystal plaque to honor the library’s participation.

“The University of Maine Library had actually been serving as a depository library prior to 1907, receiving a small selection,” explains Frank Wihbey, Head of the Department of Government Publications, Maps, GIS, and Microforms. For example, a few documents were given to the University library directly by members of Congress in the late 1800s.

Wihbey explains that most depository libraries, then and now, are selected through Congressional privilege. Senator William P. Frye of Lewiston nominated the University of Maine library, and it was officially declared a depository in 1897. But in 1907, under the provisions of the Nelson Amendment to the First and Second Morrill Acts, 43 land-grant colleges were simultaneously declared to be a part of the depository program. This allowed Senator Frye to make another selection for Maine, the Dyer Library of Saco.

“The act of 1907 significantly boosted our acquisitions, at no cost. So 1907 remains a historic milestone for our library and the federal program,” Wihbey explains, “We are quite pleased with this recognition from Washington for our library’s commitment to providing public access to government information.”

Joyce V. Rumery, Dean of Libraries at the University, added, “There is a synergy of Land Grant College membership and the Federal Depository Library Program which aligns with the mission of the University. This is one of many federal-state partnerships that have benefited UMaine and the State.”

The government publications collections at Fogler Library now totals 2.2 million documents, including some in paper, microform, floppy disk, map, videocassette and CD-ROM formats. The URSUS online catalog lists hundreds of thousands of federal publications on the premises, and many thousands more are accessible by a mouse click on the URSUS screen. The UMaine collection is the largest grouping of United States federal materials north of Boston, and remains the only regional depository in the country that serves a tri-state region.

Nicholas Smith Awarded Honorary degree

Those who were lucky enough to be present at Native American Studies scholar Nicholas Smith’s presentation at Fogler Library last October (see the Olive Tree, V. 15, number 1) will be pleased to know that Smith was awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree at spring commencement. He was honored for his work documenting the history of Native peoples in Maine and neighboring states and provinces. Smith’s scholarly record includes more than 60 publications, numerous translations and the development of a widely used bibliography related to Wabanaki studies.
University of Maine Yearbooks Online

The Prism, the University of Maine’s yearbook, is now available online as part of a digitization project sponsored by Fogler Library in partnership with the University of Maine Alumni Association. The University of Maine’s yearbook, was published for the years 1895 to 1997. In 2004, a yearbook with the title Dirigamus was published. No yearbooks have been published since then.

Issues of The Prism vary in content and layout, but seniors are always highlighted. Individual photographs of seniors are arranged in alphabetical order by last name (within each college), and accompanied by information about hometown, major, and fraternity or sorority. Some books also contain photos of members of other classes. Also included are sections on the faculty and administration, campus organizations, athletic teams, Greek societies, and events.

The Prism provides a fascinating peek into the history of the University and the wider world. The 1919 Prism was “Dedicated…To the absent brothers in Arms.” In the WWII years, special sections focused on servicemen, courses on welding and nursing, and defense-related campus activities. Photos of the 1906 Carnegie Library and the just-completed exterior shell of the new library building, later dedicated as the Raymond H. Fogler Library, appeared side by side in the 1944 Prism. In 1955 students armed with shovels and pickaxes gathered “to scratch a path to the Union,” which opened that year.

Yearbooks from the late 1960s on often presented multiple pages of images without any captions. Concerts in 1974 included Chicago, Canned Heat, and Blood, Sweat and Tears. In 1982, the student walkout from classes protesting the low salaries of faculty and staff is highlighted at the front. The penultimate Prism began with the statement “Yearbooks are old-fashioned!”

Visit the Yearbooks Online at:
http://www.library.umaine.edu/yearbooks/

Membership Offer for Faculty

The loyalty, devotion, and generosity of University Alumni, faculty, students, and friends made possible the construction of this library.

Since the construction of the Raymond H. Fogler Library a half century ago, students, faculty, and visitors have passed by this inscription which adorns the library’s central staircase. These engraved words are both testament and tribute to the many individuals whose outpouring of private support helped to build the University’s library into the foremost center for learning and research in Maine.

The important resources Fogler Library provides to users statewide and the vital part it plays as the heart of Maine’s academic community have long been recognized by alumni and friends. Over the years a number of generous individuals have discreetly continued the tradition established by the Library’s builders. Today, private support to augment public funding is critical as Fogler Library strives to maintain its leadership position in teaching, research, and public service.

This semester we are inviting all UMaine faculty to become part of this tradition by joining the Friends at a special rate of $25. Your gift will help ensure the Library’s continued growth and excellence. For more information contact Friends Coordinator Gretchen Gfeller.

Voice: 581-1696 | E-mail: gretchen.gfeller@umit.maine.edu
Events Update

Contentment Cove

Maine author Miriam Colwell, who turns 90 in July, has spent more than half her life wondering if her fourth novel, Contentment Cove, would ever see the light of day. This and other topics were part of the discussion when Colwell visited Fogler Library this summer for a reading and book signing. Miriam Colwell was born in 1917 and raised by her grandparents when her mother died and her father fell ill with tuberculosis. She lived in the tranquility of Prospect Harbor until being shepherded into an exciting life in the arts through her companionship with painter, sculptor and writer Chenoweth Hall.

Colwell wrote Contentment Cove back in the 1950s. The book tells the story of what happens to an isolated Down East community when the influx of summer residents and new residents forever alters the lives of the natives and the character of the village – a topic that remains as relevant today as when the book was written.

“The more things change, the more they remain the same,” she said, reciting a line from her book. “It was a long time ago, but certainly when I wrote it, it illustrated the changing demographic on the coast of Maine. And it seems that issue remains timely and topical still today.”

An attentive audience of over 40 people attended the event. The University Bookstore was on hand selling copies of the book.

Faculty and Students Going (G)Local at Fogler Library

Several members of the University of Maine campus community gathered to share readings focused on the earth, fair trade, and the environment. The event, titled Going (G)Local: writing and reflecting on the earth, was part of the campus Works in Progress series, a cross-disciplinary program that features writers reading and discussing their work.

“The idea of (g)locality is one that comes to us from Africa, and has resonated across the world,” notes Tina Passman, Associate Professor in the UMaine Department of Modern Languages and Classics and one of the readers. “It emphasizes community and commonality, while celebrating our differences. It is a 21st century idea, and I’m glad we are bringing it to the University of Maine.”

Passman and Kathleen Ellis, poet and adjunct faculty in English and Honors, read from Gary Snyder’s acclaimed epic poem, Mountains and Rivers Without End. They were joined by several English department students, including David Attean, Alyssa Franzosa, Matt Kaczowka, Ben Lizanecz, Tricia Lyons, Nate Rutter, and Jennifer Smick.

Additional readings included those of UMaine Peace Studies instructor and Zen Buddhist monastic, Hugh Curran, who shared some of his work, as did Mimi Killinger, Honors College instructor and author of the recently published book The Good Life of Helen K. Nearing. Undergraduate student Sarah Bigney also shared reflections on her time spent in Chiapas, Mexico, researching for her honors thesis on the impact of fair trade on coffee farmers.

Going (G)Local was held in the Special Collections Department on Thursday, April 5, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
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By becoming a Fogler Library Friend, you will help sustain a valuable resource.

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We appreciate your tax-deductible donations. Thank you for your support!

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