Summer 2011 Capstone Poster Session

Friday, August 12, 2011

2pm-4pm

1616 Guadalupe Street, 1st floor
Chloe Barnett

*Artists' Books in the Smithsonian Institution Libraries: Discovering “Hidden” Collections*

Smithsonian Institution Libraries
Facility Supervisor: Karen Pavelka
Field Supervisor: Anna Brooke

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL) has collections of artists’ books that are, for the most part, unknown to researchers and the public. The goal of my capstone project was to discover these “hidden” collections through research, survey, and examination, creating recommendations for improving access and the framework for an online and gallery exhibition. I conducted research on the genre of the artists’ book, focusing on the challenges these materials present in collecting, preservation, and cataloging. I examined the artists’ books in the libraries of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the National Museum of African Art, and the American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery and consulted with librarians and local experts about ways to improve access to artists’ books at SIL. My work culminated in a report including a survey of the SIL holdings, recommendations for improving access through cataloging and the creation of an image-enhanced database, a bibliography, detailed research on collection “highlights,” and a proposal for future exhibition themes and materials.

Gina Bastone

*Moving Beyond the Traditional Finding Aid: Highlighting Human and Women's Rights Work in the Frances "Sissy" Farenthold Papers*

Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice/ Dolph Briscoe Center for American History
Facility Supervisor: Melanie Feinberg
Field Supervisors: Karen Engle, Kristen Hogan, and Brenda Gunn

Frances "Sissy" Farenthold is well known for her political career in the Texas State Legislature in the 1960s and 1970s. Less well known, however, is her work on global human and women’s rights issues. In light of this discrepancy, the Rapoport Center initiated this project to re-examine Ms. Farenthold’s papers held at the Briscoe Center for American History. I have selected a group of documents covering her efforts in the women’s peace movement, including many initiatives for nuclear disarmament. These documents will be presented in a revised finding aid, and a portion will be digitized for a website hosted by the Rapoport Center. I created the initial architecture and content for the website, including contextual narratives and a metadata schema describing the documents. I also managed two undergraduate interns, who assisted me with an item-level inventory of several boxes and created bibliographies for the website.
Lauren Bridges  
*Creating Reader’s Advisory Guides and Earning Real-life Librarianship Experience*  
New Braunfels Public Library  
Faculty Supervisor: Philip Doty  
Field Supervisor: Kit Ward-Crixell

Library patrons often rely on librarians to guide them to a new book to read. The problem is, librarians are not always up-to-date on all teen/young adult books because that is near impossible. To solve this, I wrote and compiled teen/young adult reader’s advisory guide documents for use by New Braunfels librarians and patrons themselves to help guide them to books that would interest them based on theme or a book or series they already have read and enjoyed. The guides gave an overview of each recommended title, along with its library call number for easy location. A paper and digital copy of all the guides were given to the library so that the guides can be used in any way the library staff would like. While the guides were the focus of my project, I also volunteered in various areas of the library: including cataloging books and other materials, working at the reference desk, and assisting with the teen summer reading program. Through this project, I happily discovered that I enjoy all aspects of librarianship and that reader’s advisory and cataloging are my favorite aspects.

Annette Buckley  
*Working Order: Research Library Services in a Natural History Museum*  
The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County  
Faculty Supervisor: Philip Doty  
Field Supervisor: Richard Hulser

I undertook a month-long internship at the Research Library of The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHM), to understand its role as a library operating within a large, important natural science museum. First I participated in the work routine of the Chief Librarian as he directed the library’s broad operations including: 1) Reconditioning the Library’s formerly closed physical facilities, a component in reestablishing Library services in support of the NHM’s research and outreach mission. 2) Serials control for scholarly publication subscriptions and scholarly publication exchanges among 500+ institutions worldwide. 3) Meeting researchers’ information needs in the fashion best suiting them. Second, in the context of the library supporting the information management needs of the NHM’s researchers, I conducted an outreach reference project for the Mineral Sciences Department. A key challenge for the Mineral Sciences Department, shared by many of their fellow departments, is that their minerals database is dated, unstable, does not deliver the desired user-friendly interface, and will not be usable in the long term. I delivered to the Department a survey of the situation and a list of potential candidates for migration, plus a list of recommendations for future improvements to their collection management system.
Anna Chen

Rethinking Hoarding Inside and Outside the Museum
Master’s Report
Faculty Supervisor: Patricia Galloway
Second Reader: Philip Doty

Hoarding tends to appear in museum studies scholarship only as a foil for “proper” museological collecting. Yet hoarding has attracted a constellation of assumptions and meanings. In popular discourse, hoarding is often perceived as a behavior learned from a life of deprivation, while clinical discourse about hoarding seeks to determine how it should be classified in the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. These multiple perspectives inform the ways in which hoarding, and by extension collecting and museum practices, can be defined and understood. In this paper, I examine how the idea of the museum is incorporated, reworked, or even rejected in three case studies of hoarding: art-historical approaches to Andy Warhol’s hoarding habits; Clean House, a comedic TV show that cleans and redecorates families’ cluttered homes; and Hoarders, a “reality-horror” TV show that pairs hoarders with psychiatrists and professional organizers. In each case study, the discourse surrounding the hoarder attempts to bring hoarding in line with “acceptable” collecting practices. At the same time, I argue, this particular discourse competes with other messages about the cultural role of collecting, which can have important implications for museums and archives.

Ariel Cummins

Discover the Magic of Reading: Summer Reading Programming
Bee Cave Public Library
Faculty Supervisor: Philip Doty
Field Supervisors: Barbara Hathaway and Angela Palmer

Summer time is invariably one of the busiest times in public libraries. Kids have ample free time, lists of summer reading, and a thirst for books on topics that range from magical rainbow fairies to dinosaurs. Summer Reading Programs encourage kids to read and offer programs for kids ranging from babies to teens, but libraries are forced with trying to stretch staff at a time when circulation, reader's advisory, and reference needs are at their highest. As the Summer Reading Programming Assistant at Bee Cave Public Library, I planned several programs, including a Come-and-Go Craft Day and a Magic Tree House Book Club. I also provided reference and reader's advisory assistance, allowing the staff to concentrate on planning and expanding summer reading offerings.
Ichthyology ran in Dr. Clark Hubbs’ family: his father was a noted ichthyologist, family vacations revolved around collecting specimens, and some of his siblings also continued on in the field. In 1949 he came to The University of Texas at Austin as an Instructor of Zoology and quickly rose through the ranks, reaching emeritus status in 1991. Hubbs’ professional contributions were numerous: he published over 300 papers, trained many graduate students, and was president of more than 15 scientific organizations or committees. One of his most lasting legacies is the fish collection that is now part of the Texas Natural History Collection, which he started and built. With an idea for a book about the fishes of Texas, he essentially began the Fishes of Texas Project. I have arranged and described Hubbs’ professional papers, resulting in a finding aid as well as a digital exhibit that will help to promote the Texas Natural History Collections and the Fishes of Texas Project.

Emily Deal

“To the People of Texas”: Enhancing the Online Presence of the Broadsides Collection

Dolph Briscoe Center for American History

Faculty Supervisors: Karen Pavelka and Michael Winship

Field Supervisor: Ann Serrano

The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History (CAH) on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin is home to a rich collection of historical broadsides, single-sheet publications commonly used to disseminate information to the public during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Included in the Center’s broadsides collection are legal decrees, proclamations, and posters, which not only provide a wealth of information about the development of Texas, but also serve as examples of nineteenth century American print culture. Until recently, records for these valuable documents were limited to an analog card catalog in the reading room at the CAH. The goal of my project is to increase access to the collection by creating online bibliographic records for a selection of broadsides from the critical period in the early nineteenth century leading up to the Texas Revolution (1835-36). The records will include links to digitized images of broadsides available in the Center’s Digital Media Repository, further enhancing their online presence for researchers. My project also includes the creation of a broadsides cataloging manual, so that future CAH catalogers can continue the work of promoting and making accessible the broadsides collection.
Library Policy and Procedures function on both a theoretical and practical level. I was interested in helping an institution set up a staff wiki that would make all the policies and procedures available to the entire library staff. Concordia University Library was looking to edit and re-organize their collected Policies and Procedures which had not yet been completely formalized. Concordia University had recently created a campus-wide Intranet and the Library suggested I place the edited and organized materials on the library space. As such I have had to consider what information is useful to all members of Concordia library staff, and what library information is useful to Concordia staff at large. After familiarizing myself with a large amount of information, I began consolidating and organizing topics. I ended up with a general outline with four major sections that deal with both practical and theoretical functions of the Library. The pages will be edited and consolidated to fit the outline and then systematically uploaded to the Intranet. The last phase of the project will include duplicating specific parts of the Policy and Procedure that are beneficial to student workers or other Concordia University Employees in a section that is publicly viewable. This project has granted me a ground-level view of how Policy and Procedures effect and influence the day-to-day running of a library.
Gregory L. Ferguson

The Influence of Progressive Reform on the American Library: Shifting Attitudes Toward Freedom of Information

Master’s Report

Faculty Supervisor: Barbara Immroth
Second Reader: W. Bernard Lukenbill

The foundations of American progressivism were established in the 19th century and were heavily influenced by the emergence of Marxism, immigration, feminism and organized labor movements. These issues were and continue to be influential in American society. The American public library system developed within this context, and its values and goals were influenced by these ideologies. The role of the library was initially conceived to be that of a provider of enlightenment for the underprivileged. The goal was to lift up the common people and help them to become productive citizens of society. But this assistance can also be seen as a form of social control. The selection of materials for a specific purpose is tantamount to censorship. As a consequence, the library’s initial role of censor shifted toward a more user-focused system. Librarians were no longer gatekeepers and censors of information, but rather facilitators of the individual reader. The ALA endorsed and promoted projects that reflect this progressive shift. Consequences of the ALA’s shift toward progressivism include encouragement of radical social changes and changes in the educational system which began to encourage children to question dominant historical narratives. This paper examines the American public library’s relationship to a free society, and the role of the librarian in the public realm.

Summer Fouché

Best Practices for High Volume Costume Collections: Processing the Robert De Niro Costumes and Props Collection

Harry Ransom Center

Faculty Supervisor: Karen Pavelka
Field Supervisor: Jill Morena

The Robert De Niro Costume and Props Collection is a high volume collection held by the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin. Donations to this collection are made on an ongoing basis and on-site space is limited, so a more streamlined archival processing workflow was needed. I designed and implemented a pilot program to catalog, photograph, and house for offsite storage, 75 boxes of costumes from the Robert De Niro Costumes and Props Collection. After assessing the regular process, I created and documented a streamlined workflow to be used with a brief record cataloging template. Overseeing a group of volunteers, we implemented this brief record process. I also researched and documented best practices for creating and organizing the master and access images accompany each digital record. This project addressed issues unique to three-dimensional and textile based collections while also being heavily focused on best practices and organization of digital records, digital photographic master files, and their derivatives.
In 2010-2011 the Austin Independent School District launched its pilot program for dual language instruction in ten elementary schools throughout the city. By the year 2015-2016 one-way dual language programs and some two-way dual language programs will be available in all elementary schools offering bilingual education services. Because school libraries function as the information center for a campus and its community, it can be assumed that librarians delivering dual language services will need to make some modifications to their holdings. There is no district guideline established yet and this project creates only a preliminary assessment of a media center’s state of preparedness. By reviewing the literature on libraries serving dual language programs, surveying the pilot schools' librarians about their experience and examining available AISD library annual reports, I targeted program areas that could be examined and made recommendations for improving collections. Classroom teachers’ and administrators’ perspectives will be gathered at the resumption of the school year.

The Judd Foundation is the organization responsible for preserving the legacy of Donald Judd, the contemporary American artist best known for his sculpture, as well as his writings about art and architecture. In particular, the office in Marfa is tasked with maintaining Judd’s various property holdings in the area, as well as preserving his papers and artwork that had been kept in those spaces. The Archivist at the Judd Foundation is in the process of arranging and describing the vast quantities of material that had been held in a wide variety of locations in Marfa, from closets to bank vaults. Some of this material had previously been "processed," but not according to the most up-to-date archival principles. During my time in Marfa, I arranged and described a subset of these materials, ranging from copies of Judd’s own drawings, to material dating back to the planning stages for the Chinati Foundation, to exhibition ephemera, to gallery and museum exhibition files. I also prepared a document retention policy for the use of the Judd Foundation, as well as a survey to help gain a better understanding of the activities of its staff members relating to document creation, use, and ultimate disposal.
Catherine Grady  
*Of the People, By the People, For the People: Crowdsourcing and Information Retrieval*  
Master’s Report  
Faculty Supervisor: Matt Lease  
Second Reader: Randolph Bias

Crowdsourcing, the outsourcing of tasks to a large group of anonymous workers online, can be an efficient way to create data for research in the information retrieval domain. However, there are many considerations when designing and implementing a crowdsourcing task. In my report, I survey the current research on crowdsourcing in order to track the use of this new tool in information retrieval and posit possible future uses. Additionally, I evaluate these tasks from a usability perspective, focusing on the ways in which user design and other usability considerations could affect the outcomes of crowdsourced IR tasks. Finally, I consider the viability of crowdsourcing as a kind of information retrieval tool in its own right, as well as the potential impact of crowdworkers on a field that already seeks both to interpret and satisfy the information needs of “the crowd.”

Jane Gruning  
*Processing a Hybrid Collection at the Goodwill Computer Museum:*  
*The Datapoint Collection*  
Goodwill Computer Museum  
Faculty Supervisor: Patricia Galloway  
Field Supervisor: Virginia Luehrsen

As archives increasingly accession electronic materials, new problems confront archivists in processing unfamiliar and inaccessible formats. Many collections, like the Datapoint Collection, contain electronic materials in addition to more traditional elements such as paper. Datapoint was a San Antonio-based computer company founded in the late 1960s. They initially focused on the design and manufacture of computer terminals, and their Datapoint 2200 model is sometimes called the first personal computer. As the first individual to begin processing this large collection, I created an inventory and processing plan as a basis for future work with the collection. I began detailed cataloging of Datapoint manuals, many of which accompany hardware that is also part of the collection. In addition, I used the Ditto machine at the GCM to create images of otherwise inaccessible 8” floppy disks to aid in the project of creating a database of digital signatures for Datapoint computers. This effort will hopefully promote access to the contents of the disks in the future. The goals of this project are to provide a foundation on which future processing of this large collection can be based, and to contribute to the creation of processing workflows and standards for the GCM.
School librarians collaborate with classroom teachers to support classroom instruction, but a librarian also has the enviable ability to move beyond mandated curriculum and develop extended learning opportunities that can have an enormous impact on student growth. Kay Gooch, the librarian at Gullett Elementary School, wanted to develop a comprehensive fiction genre study for her third, fourth, and fifth graders. The goals of the unit are that students: develop an appreciation and understanding of a wide range of texts, broaden their knowledge of the literary elements that define a genre, refine their abilities to critically evaluate what they read, enhance skills necessary for negotiating a library, and learn to read differently for different purposes. The students will have several lessons that define selected genres and read passages of familiar texts that exemplify their classification. Each student will be provided with a “passport” that includes personal statistics, a photo, and several blank pages. Throughout the course of the school year, as students read a book from a different genre, they will receive a specially created stamp in their passport. Once the students have collected all seven stamps, they will create a culminating multimedia project that showcases the wide range of literature they have read.

The University of Texas Fine Arts Library hosts a variety of specialized equipment for digitizing a wide variety of media. Their media stations include slide scanners, turntables, VCRs, and DV players, among others. This equipment is unfamiliar to many users and several experience difficulties in utilizing it. For this project, I implemented a series of video equipment tutorials created by Dr. Roy’s Spring 2011 Library Instruction and Information Literacy course at the School of Information. I prepared handout versions of the tutorials to accompany the videos as an additional or alternative source of instruction. I created a series of web pages to host the content that echoed the design of the Fine Arts Library’s website. I identified additional relevant resources available through the UT libraries, including ebooks and related tutorials and provided links alongside the video tutorials. I also created a marketing plan for implementation of the new pages, videos, and handouts for the Fine Arts Library to utilize.
Irena Klaic

Weeding and Rebuilding in the Scarborough-Phillips Religion and Philosophy Collections
St. Edward’s University Scarborough-Phillips Library
Faculty Supervisor: Philip Doty
Field Supervisor: Todd Butler

The Weeding and Rebuilding in the Scarborough-Phillips Religion and Philosophy Collections project consisted of two parts. The first part was evaluation of philosophy and religion collections while selecting materials for withdrawal. I reviewed over 15,000 books, and in collaboration with Scarborough-Phillips librarians developed criteria for withdrawal. All the books published prior to 1990 (85%) were evaluated based on the number of checkouts, internal use, physical condition, and relevance. Over 20% of the books that met the criteria were suggested for withdrawal. Online editions did not fall under the scope of this part of the project but online content was taken into account to avoid duplicating when ordering new books. The second part of the project was review and subsequent selection of new materials for purchase. I carefully examined philosophy and religion courses that were taught at St. Edward’s University in the last five years and selected relevant materials that supported the curricula. The budget for purchasing new materials was $3,800 for religion books, and $2,600 for philosophy books. Faculty and library director will jointly make final decisions upon review of my proposals by the end of 2011.

Kathleen Loglisci

Summer Reading Program Teen Volunteer Coordinator
Cedar Park Public Library
Faculty Supervisor: Barbara Immroth
Field Supervisor: Kit Coates

With children off from school, summer is usually the busiest season for public youth librarians. They host programs for large groups, incentivize reading with rewards, and boost circulation. In June and July, the staff at Cedar Park Public Library depend on teen volunteers for added support. The teens are asked to sort books, register summer reading club participants, and bundle and distribute prizes. I was responsible for supervising these teens to ensure that they stayed on task and addressed patrons with courtesy. As I scheduled, trained, and occupied the teens, I gained experience with the configuration of a summer reading program. I also had the opportunity to do crowd control during performances, cover the children’s reference desk, and assist the youth librarians with various tasks. The apprenticeship offered me insights into the library world that a classroom environment could not have provided. It also granted the Cedar Park youth librarian an extra set of hands on her busiest days. I hope that my feedback will advise teen volunteer coordinators in the summers to come and that the teen volunteers will utilize the college preparation packet that I designed for them based on a needs-assessment exercise.
Solveig Lund  
*Adult Nonfiction Collection Assessment and Augmentation*  
Cedar Park Public Library  
Faculty Supervisor: Philip Doty  
Field Supervisor: Julia Mitschke

The Cedar Park Public Library serves a population of more than 60,000 people and in order to ensure that they continue to meet their patrons’ needs I assessed how well the adult nonfiction collection serves users and made suggestions for improvement. The first part of the project was the analysis of quantitative data, such as Interlibrary loan records, reference logs, and usage statistics, to establish a baseline of user service. Then I compared Cedar Park Public Library's adult nonfiction collection, the geography and travel, Middle Eastern history, and the Crusades sections in particular, to other area libraries and recommended core collections. I could then determine if the Library was achieving their objective of providing quality, updated materials that meet the current trends in adult nonfiction. In addition to an analytical report stating my findings, I provided the Library with collection development recommendations, including titles for immediate selection and deselection, documentation of my process for future application, and a five-year timeline for the continued maintenance of the adult nonfiction collection. I also worked weekly hours at the information desk providing reference services to library patrons.

Jessica Meyerson  
*A Tracking Application for Digital Scholarly Editing Projects*  
The University of Nebraska Center for Digital Research in the Humanities  
Faculty Supervisor: Patricia Galloway  
Field Supervisor: Katherine Walter

The Center for Digital Research in the Humanities at The University of Nebraska - Lincoln, is a point of intersection between more traditional methods of archival research and scholarly editing, and more recent methods in digital publishing, tools to aid in the 'distant reading' of large bodies of text, & layered data, (i.e. - ArcGIS mapping layers, etc.). During my time at CDRH, I was tasked with creating a prototype for a tracking database for the William F. Cody Archive that is to be used as a scholarly editing tool and that is based in part upon the current Walt Whitman instantiation developed by UNL. Since the needs of the editing teams of the two archives are different (Whitman primarily dealing with poetry and prose manuscripts and Cody primarily dealing with any type material except poetry), the approach was first to rebuild the database to reflect a more modular construction; one that could be reused for similar tracking applications across a range of future projects regardless of the content focus. The next step was to change source files within the CodeIgniter installation, (which was used as the framework for the application), to reflect the changes in the database. A significant component throughout the project was documentation: of questions, concerns, and changes made along the way. Documentation included commenting the original Whitman tracking code, commenting any additions or changes I made to the code, keeping a personal record of daily tasks related to the project and annotating any resources that helped inform my understanding of the task before me. This project has allowed me to develop my PHP programming skills, my ability to conceptualize complex data structures, and to contribute to a multi-stage, geographically dispersed project.
John William Nordhaus  
*Big Buckets at the Federal Housing Finance Agency*  
The Federal Housing Finance Agency  
Faculty Supervisor: Ciaran Trace  
Field Supervisor: Cheryl Smith  

My task at the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) has been to assist FHFA in the creation of a Big Bucket Retention Schedule (BBRS) unique to its business needs and processes. FHFA opted to create a BBRS based upon functional categories rather than individual records series so as to better support the development, implementation, and long-term use of the Electronic Records Management System being developed in tandem with the BBRS by FHFA. A clear methodology has been followed in creating this BBRS. Agency publications, journal articles dealing with the agency, and legislation affecting the agency have been pored over to gain a level of fluency with whom FHFA regulates, what programs FHFA runs, and what constituencies FHFA serves. Legacy records schedules and file plans have been collated and analyzed in detail so as to be able to discuss with FHFA’s records creators what records they used to create, continue to create, and expect to create in the future. Interviews have been conducted with senior-level and executive staff across FHFA’s offices and teams to uncover, in their own words, what their teams do, why they do it, and what records they create in the process. And, all of our findings have been tracked and collated to facilitate the phase of the project we are now entering: formulating FHFA’s BBRS.

Kathryn Puerini  
*Processing and Digitizing a Collection of Large Format Negatives from the Department of Public Safety*  
Texas State Library and Archives Commission  
Faculty Supervisor: Patricia Galloway  
Field Supervisors: Laura Saegert and John Anderson  

The Texas State Archives houses a large collection of photographic materials from the Department of Public Safety. The particular collection involved in this project was recently accessioned by the State Archives and consists of approximately 660 negatives from the 1950s and 1960s in various formats. The images, taken by photographer Clinton S. Sherrell, contain subject matter such as Highway Patrol, crime scenes, officer training, and regional meetings. Most of the photographs were taken in Beaumont, Texas and surrounding areas. The purpose of the project was to create an item level inventory of the collection, arrange the images, rehouse in archival folders, create a finding aid to be encoded in XML, and digitize approximately 100 representative images. The negatives were arranged according to date (when possible), subject matter, and location. They were scanned using a Hasselblad Flexight negative scanner. The finding aid and digital images will eventually be available online via the Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) digital repository, greatly increasing its visibility accessibility to potential researchers.
Marion Rocco  
**Online Readers' Advisory for High School Students**  
Akins High School  
Faculty Supervisor: Barbara Immroth  
Field Supervisor: Bonnie Hauser

At Akins High School, students are greeted by a number of eye-catching book displays upon entering the library. These displays of new titles and popular series not only help students find great books to read, they also send the message that connecting students with books they will enjoy is a priority for the library. Librarians can also use the Internet to promote books and reading by providing booklists, trailers, reviews, and other readers' advisory tools through the library web site. This summer at Akins High School, librarian Bonnie Hauser’s goal was to create a new web site that would include a number of online readers' advisory tools. I participated in this project by using the Akins Library catalog and Google Docs to compile booklists for students on a number of high demand topics such as Coping with Death and Loss, Body Image and Healthy Eating, and True Crime. Embedded in the newly redesigned web site, these booklists will make it easy for students to find and select books on popular topics. Once complete, the new Akins Library site will also include other readers' advisory tools such as a Goodreads widget featuring new books, blog and podcast entries, and additional booklists.

Bethany Scott  
**Digital Archiving for Large-Scale Image Collections**  
Texas Advanced Computing Center  
Faculty Supervisor: Pat Galloway  
Field Supervisor: Maria Esteva

Archiving digital collections includes many challenges to provide long-term storage and continuing access to files that may become corrupted or outdated during their life cycle. Especially for the owners of large photographic collections, which may include files of over 1 GB in addition to a quantity of images in the hundreds or thousands, few solutions for preservation are readily available. TACC has the data storage and computing resources needed to allow for long-term digital archives, and we partnered with photographer Lawrence MacFarland to get an idea of the needs and challenges of working with such a collection. Through a detailed interview, I gained information about MacFarland’s process of working, from taking photographs, digitally processing them, and storing them on external hard drives. Because MacFarland’s images span over 100 individual hard drives, a remote storage solution will allow him to organize and view his entire collection at once. I analyzed MacFarland’s filenames conventions to extrapolate metadata that will allow the artist to search and arrange files based on different attributes and categories. I also tested several different applications for uploading images to remote storage. In the final system, we can accession files into the archive, extract descriptive and technical metadata from those files, and present a user interface to allow the artist to search and arrange images.
Ebsco Discovery Service (EDS) integrates local library content with the content provided by databases from a variety of vendors, including Ebsco, JSTOR, ScienceDirect, and more. The result is a single search bar that takes advantage of a unified index to query the full scope of a library’s collection with speed comparable to a Google search. Libraries that subscribe to EDS can customize the user interface by adding “widgets,” or small applications executed within a web page. Using JavaScript, I designed widgets that provide links to content such as library subject research guides and online authorities such as the Encyclopædia Britannica. To provide end users with in-context, relevant information, the JavaScript algorithms first perform “screen-scraping” to determine information about the items returned by a user’s search. The algorithms then act on this information to dynamically create links to related content. The goal is to provide a rich learning experience for library users by drawing from supplementary sources that shed light on concepts related to user research. I am attempting to use Wikipedia APIs to expand the scope of this new learning environment, and Eric and I plan to conduct a user study after I do.

In a time when all types of libraries are feeling the pressures of the current economic climate, the concept of joint-use libraries provides a solution in the form of cooperation among various library types. CyFair Library, as a collaboration between the Lone Star College system and the Harris County Public Library system, has been designed to meet the needs of both the students at the college and the adults, teens and children in the surrounding community. My goal in working with CyFair Library was to learn first-hand about the unique requirements of librarians in a joint-use library, with a primary focus on public services. I gained insight into meeting the needs of a diverse group of information-seekers by participating in the various areas in which the librarians interact with their patrons. This included working at the adult and children’s reference desks, observing and participating in instruction and summer programming, including planning and facilitating my own computer workshop and children’s story time, and aiding in the coordination and development of volunteers.
Kristin Walker  
*Fine Arts Library Internal Staff Wiki Project*  
The University of Texas Fine Arts Library  
Faculty Supervisor: Philip Doty  
Field Supervisor: Beth Kerr

The University of Texas Fine Arts Library is one of the busiest branch libraries on campus. The Fine Arts library employs a large number of classified and student staff to perform daily operations as well as specialized reference work. Currently a wiki for staff use is in existence, however it is out of date, poorly organized and lacking in functionality. The proposed project includes researching other wiki software options, adding a large amount of new content, migrating existing documents from shared server space over to the wiki, adding a scheduling calendar and organizing the content in a coherent way for staff to use as a ready reference for policies and procedures. The expected culminating project will be the fully functional Fine Arts Library Staff Wiki that includes an interactive calendar and updated procedures entries.

Elizabeth Wardlaw  
*Creating a Wiki for a Private Law Library*  
Vinson & Elkins, LLP  
Faculty Supervisor: Terry Martin  
Field Supervisor: Elizabeth Petty

Finding legal reference resources at an international law firm can be difficult, but the implementation of a finding aid, like a wiki, can help expedite the research process. For my Capstone, I created a wiki for the Vinson & Elkins libraries that can be used by all employees of the firm. The wiki highlights information about the libraries in Dallas, Houston, Austin, Washington, D.C., and New York, like the Westlaw and LexisNexis research aid schedule, contact information for each librarian, the libraries’ collection development policy, and a guide for using the catalog. Using the free Wikispaces platform and information found on the firm’s intranet, I created the wiki to help the libraries’ patrons with their legal research needs. While developing the wiki I worked as a summer intern in the Dallas library, where I performed daily library duties like routing serials, aiding with legal research questions, weeding and rearranging the print collection, cataloging new materials, hosting Westlaw and LexisNexis demos for the summer associates, and monitoring articles in a given practice area. Working in the library gave me valuable insight about how the attorneys use library resources, which helped me develop a wiki that will make their research less daunting.