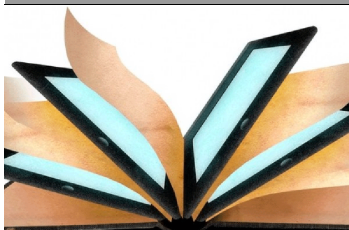


October 1 – December 31, 2013



library.gmu.edu

George Mason University Libraries

# University Librarian's Letter

*Dear Colleagues,*

*Best wishes to all of you as we begin 2014!*

*This issue of the Letter looks back during the last quarter of the past year. The highlighted activities and events are just an overview of the varied endeavors successfully pursued, both individually and collectively, within the Libraries. These have ranged from the serious and consequential to the more ephemeral - and fun.*

*I would like to congratulate you for a successful Fall 2013 semester and express my appreciation for all that you do for Mason's students, faculty and staff.*

## Welcome!

### Research & Educational Services Division

- **Michael English**, Assistant Head, Access Services Department
- **Monic Sibley**, Evening Circulation Assistant, Johnson Center Library

## New Roles

- **Christal Ferrance**, Accessibility Coordinator
- **Megan McDonnell**, Access Services Supervisor, Arlington Campus Library
- **Sarah Sheehan**, Virtual Reference Coordinator

## New Name

Fenwick Library Reference Department *renamed*  
Research Services Department, Fenwick Library

## New Collection: C-SPAN Organizational Records & Historical Archive

[C-SPAN](#) (Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network) gifted its organizational records and historical archive to the [George Mason University Libraries](#).

C-SPAN also committed funding for a two-year project relating to the materials, which will encompass processing, physical and intellectual organization, selective digitization and construction of a scholarly research portal.



The C-SPAN collection comprises historically significant, unique and unpublished materials including both physical and digital records. Other materials include outreach and educational files, photographs, clippings and memorabilia. Mason Libraries will develop a scholarly research portal to document C-SPAN's history and its public programming.

"Archiving the organizational records with the University Libraries deepens the relationship our university has already established with C-SPAN, to the substantial benefit of students and researchers at George Mason and across the globe," commented President Ángel Cabrera.

Created in 1979 as a public service, C-SPAN is a nonprofit organization which provides access to the nation's political process and the country's broader cultural discourse. The C-SPAN network, three cable television channels and C-SPAN Radio, average 8,000 hours of original programming each year. "This is an important step because it creates a lasting and publicly accessible repository for C-SPAN's corporate history," said Brian Lamb, C-SPAN executive chairman.

## Open Access Week

The Libraries led Mason's 5th annual International Open Access (OA) Week. Mason's activities and programs included workshops, discussions, webinars, and campus visits. A new website for [Mason OA Week programs](#) also made its debut.

Some highlights across the campuses:

- What are the risks of publishing in an open access journal and what must be done to combat predatory OA publishing? Will OA publishing eventually supplant the traditional scholarly publishing model? On October 23, the nationally ranked George Mason University Forensics Team tackled these questions and more in a roundtable discussion, "Open or Not? What You Need to Know About Open Access to Research" hosted by the University Libraries and the Department of Communication and held in the Johnson Center.
- On October 22, Jerry Brito, senior research fellow, Mercatus Center, George Mason University and director of the Center's Technology Policy Program, presented a talk about three major reforms to the Copyright Act which would help foster greater public access to cultural and scholarly works and rebalance copyright. Hosted by the University Libraries, this presentation was held in Founders Hall, Arlington Campus.
- Prince William Campus Faculty Author and Open Access Information Fair was held on October 24. Publications from faculty authors were displayed; Professor Iosif Vaisman and Professor Don Seto spoke about their experiences with publishing in open access journals. Professor Layne Kalbfleisch talked about her work as an editor of an open access journal. **Claudia Holland** spoke about George Mason University Libraries' [Open Access Publishing Fund](#).



## @the Center

Johnson Center Library (JCL) Gateway Services staff organized and conducted two new student events in December.

- On December 6, Alison Boyles, a Mason undergraduate student, won the exclusive use of a Deluxe JCL Study Room during Reading Days & Final Exams, December 9 –18. The "Win a JCL Study Room" contest ran from November 15 to December 5; Mason students could enter the contest by liking the JCL on Facebook and/or following the JCL on twitter. The lucky student winner was selected from the combined pool almost 400 names. **Jason Byrd**, Learning Technologies Librarian, coordinated this initial event; Reference Assistants **Allison O'Connor** and **Priya Brenner** assisted with setting up the refurbished room with equipment, comfortable furnishings and even supplies for making coffee.
- On December 9, JCL Gateway staff and The Writing Center hosted an Undergraduate Research & Write-In Day from Noon to 5:00 pm. Lunch and a structured environment in which to write their final papers were provided. Despite the inclement weather delay, library staff assisted 14 undergrads who ventured out to get help with their specific research and writing needs. **Patricia West**, Head, Gateway Services, applied and received a grant from University Life to support the event, which included a stipend for a writing tutor to be on hand to assist with grammar and composition questions. Coordinated by **Allison O'Connor**, Reference Assistant, additional Gateway Services staff provided research assistance for this program: **Priya Brenner**, Reference Assistant; **Donald Brown**, Reference Assistant; **Christal Ferrance**, Instructional Design Librarian; **Royce Gildersleeve**, Reference Assistant and Patricia West.



## DWR in ACL

In December, Arlington Campus Library (ACL) created a Dissertation Writers' Room (DWR) for Mason PhD students needing dedicated space for dissertation work. Using an existing ACL group study room, it now features four work spaces and secure storage for research materials. Doctoral students, advanced to candidacy and in good standing with the University Libraries, were qualified to apply to use the DWR. Once verified by the student's academic department, doctoral students applied for a space, which was assigned on a first-come, first-served basis until room capacity was met. Four students were assigned to the DWR - within 24 hours of advertising this new program! The students will have exclusive access to the DWR Spring Semester through the end of Summer Session 2014.

To include your department's news and your professional activities in the *University Librarian's Letter*, please send the information to Debra Hogan by January 5, April 5, July 5, October 5.

George Mason University Libraries • University Librarian's Letter • Distributed Quarterly • Publication Layout & Production: Jamie W. Coniglio, MLS, Research Services Department, Fenwick Library

## Research & Professional Activities

**Theresa Calcagno**, Engineering Liaison Librarian, **Michael Perini**, Research & Instructional Services Specialist, and **Andrea Baruzzi**. "Developing the Doctoral Student: The Role of the Academic Librarian." Poster Session. North Carolina Library Association 60th Biennial Conference, Winston-Salem, NC, October 17, 2013.

**Steve Gerber**, Music & Theater Liaison Librarian.

- "Affirmative and Ironic Resonances from the Personal Sheet Music Collection of Julia Ward Howe." Paper. Atlantic and New York State Chapters, Music Library Association, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, October 4, 2013.
- Notes on *Thre(e)* [sic] *Solos for the Violoncello with Accompaniment for a Bass*. NOTES (Journal of the Music Library Association), December 2013, p. 259.

**Doug Hernandez**, Reference & Instruction Specialist.

- Coordinator, 2013 Shinnyo Fellowship Seminar. Presenter, "A Celebration of Service and Peace." Shinnyo Fellowship for Peacebuilding through Intercultural Dialogue, hosted by George Mason University, September 12, 2013.

*"He who marvels at the beauty of the world in summer will find equal cause for wonder and admiration in winter...  
In winter the stars seem to have rekindled their fires, the moon achieves a fuller triumph,  
and the heavens wear a look of a more exalted simplicity."  
~ John Burroughs, The Snow-Walkers, 1866*

## N.B.

- In December, 2011, Mason Libraries was certified to contribute authority records to the Library of Congress / Name Authority Cooperative (NACO) program. NACO authorizes trained and certified institutions to contribute name and series authority records to the Library of Congress Name Authority File, used by libraries around the world. In 2013, libraries worldwide made a major switch to the new Resource Description & Access (RDA) cataloging standard. Cataloging & Metadata Librarians **Friedgard Cowan**, **Ian Fairclough** and **Tricia Mackenzie** completed the rigorous training by the Library of Congress using the new standard. Based on their efforts and expertise, Mason Libraries achieved RDA-NACO certification and, as of October 2013, is contributing RDA authority records.
- George Mason University Libraries became the first North American library to join the [Alexander Street Press pilot program for evidenced-based acquisition \(EBA\) of video resources](#).
- Elizabeth Bass, student assistant, SC&A, was featured in a news brief in [C&RL News](#), December 2013.

## Around Campus

- On October 30, 2013, **Lara Bushallow**, Head, Systems Group; **Jamie Coniglio**, Head, Research Services, Fenwick Library; **David Gibbs**, Head, Collection Development & Preservation, and **John Zenelis** presented an overview of Mason Libraries' collections, programs and services to Mr. Maqsood S. Mohammed, MBA, Director of Relations, Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research, Kurdistan Regional Governments-Iraq and Dr. Omeed Almuhandis, Director of Scientific Affairs/R&D/Studies & Planning/Scholarships/Cultural Relations, Kirkuk University, Iraq.
- **Doug Hernandez**, Reference & Instruction Specialist
  - CEHD selected Representative and Participant. "Global Citizenship and Cultural Assumptions about Peace and the Military." [George Mason University and the Ikeda Center, Co-Sponsors](#). Fairfax, VA, October 17, 2013.
  - Presenter. U.S. State Department IVLP Burundi Delegation Visit. George Mason University, December 16, 2013.
- **Diane Smith**, AUL/RES, was appointed to represent the Libraries in the University's "[Mason Matters](#)" program.
- [GIS Day 2013](#) was celebrated on November 20 in the Center for the Arts, Fairfax Campus. University Libraries demonstrated "Online GIS using ArcGIS.com" throughout the day, led by **Joy Suh**, GIS/Geoinformation Sciences Liaison Librarian.
- **John Zenelis** provided an update on the Libraries' current activities at the Department Chairs & Academic Directors Meeting, November 13, 2013.

# PHOTO FINISH



## Mason Libraries Holiday Party

Thursday  
12.12.13 | 3-5p  
@ The Hub



### APRÈS SKI!

