As the 2010-11 academic year begins, I would like to present the Lewis & Clark community with an overview of the Library’s plans for the upcoming year that affirms the Library’s resolve to continue our traditions of exceptional service and intellectual engagement. The recent loss of Watzek Library’s longstanding director, James J. Kopp, was a major blow to the Lewis & Clark Community, but I believe that Jim’s loss has deepened the Library’s resolve to move forward on a number of initiatives that will invigorate our physical space, maximize our financial resources, improve our services in innovative ways, and increase our engagement with the academic activities of the College.

The first of these initiatives is the re-organization of a number of Library spaces. The Writing Center, previously located in Albany Hall has recently moved into Watzek opposite the reference desk in the library atrium. This new arrangement will provide students with writing and research assistance in close proximity to each other. The Visual Resources Center’s new location among the art book collection on the third floor will create an opportunity for a visual arts nexus in the Library. Eventually this area will include a mini gallery and some furniture arrangements that foster group discussion around visual materials. We have also been able to expand the highly popular collaborative furniture area in the library atrium where groups of students love to congregate. In conjunction with these changes, we are planning a shift of the book and periodical collection that will open up clogged stacks to allow for growth in the monograph collection in the coming years.

In this difficult fiscal environment, we are making every effort to get the most from our acquisitions budget. New techniques for monitoring print and electronic journal usage will allow us to identify and, after appropriate faculty review, cancel subscriptions to journals with little or no use. With fewer requests for monographs in some departments in the math and natural sciences, we have shifted a moderate amount of funds to more book-focused departments particularly in the humanities. Furthermore, we are evaluating options for academic e books and will be participating in a pilot program with the Orbis Cascade Alliance that will introduce patron-driven acquisition of e books.

This year, the Library will continue to improve and promote some of our most popular services including Summit, ILL, in person and virtual reference, and research consultations. These services will be enhanced through the creation of a mobile web site that should provide basic access to Library information on smart phones (iPhone, etc). We also hope to provide more digital options for course reserves submission and plan on promoting our article scanning service and electronic student thesis archiving service. Improving and adding content to our catalog/discovery tool “L&C WorldCat” remains an ongoing process, which will continue along with upgrades to our popular audiovisual search tool. As modern media tools continue to evolve, the Library is exploring ways in which we can bring our resources to increasingly popular electronic reading devices like the iPad and Kindle.

The Library is also planning many exciting areas of engagement with faculty and students. Once again our liaison librarians will partner with faculty to create tailored research guides and deliver in-class instruction sessions in support of research assignments. We’ll be making a concerted effort to broaden our reach and develop new partnerships with faculty and departments along these lines. Our Visual Resources Center will continue work on imaging projects for the Art department while developing new ties with other areas of the College with interests in visual culture. Collaborative digital initiatives remain a strong focus for our staff. We are moving forward on a number of existing digital initiatives including accessCeramics, Oregon Poetic Voices, and Oren Kosansky’s NEH funded Moroccan Jewish Community Archives project. Over the course of the year we hope to formalize the Library’s digital initiatives program as a resource that can enable faculty to pursue innovative teaching and research projects.

The unique literary and historical collections housed in Special Collections are a distinctive resource of the College that we plan to continue to develop and foster. This year we are processing historically significant collections recently acquired from the Portland YMCA, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Peter
Sleeth, poet laureate of Oregon Paulann Petersen, and Native American activist Helen Sanders. We are also developing better electronic access to the William Stafford papers and photo collection. These collections will continue to create opportunities for undergraduate research, and we will once again direct practicums for students from the History, Art History, and English departments. Special Collections will also be involved in authoring and editing a number of publications including an authoritative descriptive bibliography of the works of William Stafford to be published by an outside academic press. The Special Collections imprint, Berberis Press, will continue to issue exhibit catalogs, broadsides, and special publications including the second and third issues of our Stafford Studies series. The William Stafford Collection has created an opportunity for Special Collections to develop a focus on regional poetry, and this is embodied in the Oregon Poetic Voices project, an online collection of poetry readings from around the state supported by a two-year grant from the Library Services and Technology Act.

Throughout the year the Library will be connecting to the wider community through lectures, poetry readings, and exhibits, student thesis presentations, and our annual Watzek Rocks! concert. Particularly notable among these is a reading to celebrate our Fall Library Book Exhibit by two of Oregon’s Poets Laureate, Paulann Peterson and Lawson Inada, on October 28th. Another special but bittersweet event will be a retirement reception in November for Watzek’s two most longstanding employees: Associate Director Elaine Heras and Reference Librarian Betty Ann Smith. Replacing these two experienced and dedicated librarians will be a challenge. To that end, Library Advancement Coordinator Elaine Hirsch will be stepping in as Interim Associate Director and we will be hiring a one year reference/instruction librarian to replace Betty Ann.

This year will be one of transition and new beginnings for the College and the Library, but throughout this period we would like to encourage the entire Lewis & Clark community to visit the library, engage with its staff, and explore its resources. On that note, we are excited about the recent appointment of President Glassner and look forward to showing him around the Library.

Mark Dahl
Interim Director
23 September 2010
Summary of Planned Activities for Academic Year 2010/11  
(revised 2/2011, 8/2011)

access services (circulation, stacks management, interlibrary loan)
1. Complete first major shift of the collection since the 1995 building renovation to make room for ongoing monographic acquisitions (underway 8/2011)
2. Improve reserves services including better integration with interlibrary loan and more options for submission of content
3. Promote on-campus article scanning service and on campus delivery service available for faculty and graduate students (done)
4. Promote and continue to expand student theses program (done)
5. Explore benefits of e-readers for check out (done)

collection management services (acquisitions, cataloging)
1. Review print and electronic journals to find cost savings for FY12 (done)
2. Alter workflows and practices to prepare for reduced staffing in cataloging Summer 2011 (done)
3. Select and implement an e book platform for academic monographs (done)
4. Participate in patron driven e book acquisitions trial through Orbis Cascade Alliance (done)

systems/technology
1. Create a simple mobile web site (done)
2. Train Anneliese in web technologies and library systems (done)
3. Develop a new audiovisual database
4. Perform a number of important system upgrades (done)

digital initiatives
1. Develop a proposal for a larger scale digital initiatives grant (done)
2. Develop and expand the Oregon Poetic Voices website (done)
3. Assist in implementation of Oren Kosanky’s NEH funded Moroccan Jewish Community Archives project (done)
4. Implement the organizations component of accessCeramics (done)
5. Investigate new digital projects (done)
6. Move other projects from the investigation stage to implementation including collaborations with the Binford Spider Lab and the Music Department (done)

research services
1. Through formal and informal channels, develop new relationships with departments and faculty to support research activity on campus through library instruction and other forms of outreach (done)
2. Hire one year reference/instruction librarian to replace Betty Ann Smith and librarian to cover Dan Kelley while leading the Ecuador program (done)
3. Collaborate with the Writing Center to provide more coordinated and complementary services
4. Increase engagement with senior projects through consultations, instruction sessions, and by attending and in some cases hosting thesis presentations (done)
5. Implement E&D student research award (done)

special collections/archives
1. Launch and expand Oregon Poetic Voices website supported by Library Services and Technology grant (done)
2. Expand access to William Stafford Archives through electronic finding aids, digitized photos (done)
3. Complete the Pirie Bibliography on Stafford and publish Stafford Studies #2 (done)
4. Process Portland YMCA collection, Helen Sanders papers (done)
5. Develop capacities in preservation and book arts through membership in Portland’s EM-Space Book Arts Center. (done)
6. Add more digital Lewis & Clark yearbooks to online collections
7. Host practicum students from History, Art History and English departments (done)
8. Complete a variety of preservation and cataloging projects (done)
9. Host a number of exhibits and readings including Poets Laureate exhibit and reading (done)
10. Initiate the International Whaling Commission Papers project, a collaborative archival project funded by the President’s Strategic Initiative fund. (done)

**visual resources**

1. Open a new VRC on the third floor of the library that is integrated into the surrounding space, including the art book collection (done)
2. Launch a VRC blog with updates to targeted faculty via email (done)
3. Evaluate a new system for the Lewis & Clark digital image collection currently hosted on MDID@LC (done)
4. Continue digital production projects for Art faculty and other faculty with interests in visual culture (done)
5. Develop a new platform for digitally archiving and showcasing the work of senior Art majors
6. Continue to expand accessCeramics including further grant proposals and more collaborations with external organizations (done)