With the 2011/12 academic year upon us, I would like to highlight some of the most important initiatives underway at Watzek Library. I’m optimistic that this year we will once again be able to provide exceptional service to our community while raising expectations for what is possible at a college academic library. Through the agenda outlined below, we will expand the universe of materials available to our users, better align our services to support teaching and scholarship, and enhance the library’s role as a haven and hub on campus. It is important to recognize that most of these initiatives come on top of a heavy load of daily operational activities, which include everything from ordering, processing and circulating materials to fielding reference questions, archival requests, and technical support queries.

We are particularly challenged this year with the loss of a research librarian position, especially as Darren Heiber has set a strong precedent for service with the academic departments to which he serves as liaison. Darren’s departure will necessitate that more librarians in specializations outside Research Services step up into liaison roles and take on added responsibilities in library instruction through the guidance of the core Research Services group, particularly the instruction team. As challenging as this redistribution of liaison responsibilities will be, it should help us better integrate some of our more specialized services and collections—visual resources, special collections, digital initiatives—into liaison activities.

This year should present some opportunities to better define and evaluate our approach to information literacy. Faculty Outreach Librarian Dan Kelley has drafted a document that describes our current approach in this area as highly flexible and integrated within liberal arts learning. This document has already served to align our thinking on this issue internally and will serve as a starting point for discussions with faculty and Dean Jordan through the E&D Steering Team, the Curriculum Committee and potentially the Library/EdTech Committee. Furthermore, the library should be better positioned to evaluate its information literacy and instruction programs following Instruction Services Librarian Kate Rubick’s experience in the ACRL Immersion program on assessment this November.

The information landscape continues to shift, and we are seeing particularly significant movement in the area of electronic books this year. With an ongoing commitment to our collection of print monographs, we are slowly and carefully expanding electronic book offerings in a few strategic areas: demand driven purchasing, licensed sets that provide particularly good value, and on request when a good fit for curricular use. Collection Development Librarian Jim Bunnelle will be monitoring our e book usage and developing a plan in this area for discussion and review inside and outside the library.

Beyond electronic books, our Access Services group will be working to enhance access to library resources through new means. These include on demand purchasing of books and
articles through interlibrary loan, more streamlined reserves services, and an electronic book reader program. Collection Management Services will be operating under leaner staffing this year as they integrate new workflows and anticipate changes to come from a consortial level integrated library system.

Special Collections and Archives will continue to accession and process new collections with the help of student employees, practicum students, and interns. Completion of the Pirie bibliography, to be published by Oak Knoll Press next year, will be a culmination of their many achievements connected to the William Stafford Archives. Their work with the Digital Services group on grant funded projects such as Oregon Poetic Voices and the Rabat Geneziah project will continue, as that group initiates some new projects of its own such as Social Practice Art and Lewis & Clark Around the World. We hope to further expand the reach of digital initiatives this year by supporting the work of more faculty and emphasizing projects that involve student learning. Furthermore, Visual Resources will be undertaking a major shift of its collections to the ARTstor Shared Shelf platform, which in concert with a number of special projects supporting instructional needs for images, should increase the impact of the Visual Resources program overall.

Upgrades to the library space over the summer have improved the overall appeal and functionality of the library building, and funds for new furniture this year will provide a further opportunity to create attractive spaces for comfortable study on the top floor of the library. With a more effective marketing and outreach apparatus that ever, we continue expanding the library’s role as a venue for cultural events and social activities: from student poster presentations, to poetry readings, to film screenings, to sponsored study breaks, to Watzek Rocks.

To achieve this ambitious agenda, the library will need to function as a team, both within individual units and across them. To this end, the library administration will be working hard to connect individuals and groups together to accomplish goals and to clarify guidelines for the ways that cross functional teams and committees function in the organization. Furthermore, our recently established community building committee will be meeting to come up with ways that we can further develop trust and collegiality between and among one another.

Watzek Library provides a highly diverse set of services and resources but behind it all is a common goal: to enhance learning, scholarship, and creativity among members of the Lewis & Clark community. I look forward to working towards this goal with my colleagues through the rest of this academic year.

Mark Dahl, Interim Director of the Aubrey R. Watzek Library
11 October 2011
Summary

Administration
- Oversee an academic-year planning process at the department and library-wide levels
- Clarify expectations for the functioning of internal library committees and teams and develop charters that outline their missions
- Create a community building committee to develop ways to foster collegiality and trust between employees and across units in the organization

Access Services
- Improve reserves service with support for new formats and more online functionality
- Improve ILL service through the use of more features of the new ILL software including use of e books and on demand purchasing
- Improve routing of requests between local, Summit and ILL services
- Develop evaluation process for student employees
- Partner with IT to establish high public services standards for support of computer labs in Watzek

Collection Management Services
- Develop e book plan with Collection Development Committee
- Survey student and faculty preferences for print and electronic book formats
- Implement local demand driven e book project
- Support e book ordering on request
- Review the government documents collection, deselecting where appropriate

Digital Services and Initiatives
- Create a process to prioritize digital projects
- Look for opportunities for new projects with faculty members
- Complete a number of digital projects underway including Rabat Geneziah (with Oren Kosansky), Umpqua AVA project (Deborah Heath), Senior Art (Stephanie Beene), India (Dell Smith), and Alternative Distribution (Garrick Imatani)
- Find ways to collaborate with IT on scholarly digital projects
- Conduct necessary upgrades of software and hardware including setup of a new web server
- Review and update library software including reference tracking software, ERE, reserves

Public Services/Library Space
- Assess and improve our current discovery tool (WorldCat Local) while surveying the environment for new opportunities
- Explore the feasibility of a single service point for reference and circulation
- Continue to advocate for the library across campus
Promote Watzek Library as a haven and hub through a variety of exhibits and events
Create comfortable/attractive study spaces on third floor using approved capital funds for furniture

**Research Services**
- Adapt to the loss of a librarian position by supporting instruction sessions and consultations across academic departments using a number of librarians outside the Research Service group
- Given the limits of current staffing, continue to expand support for student research across academic departments through instruction sessions and research consultations in lower and upper division courses
- Represent the library in discussions about information literacy and research in the curriculum through the Curriculum Committee and the E&D Steering Team
- Create a workshop on library resources and the E&D Spring research component for E&D faculty
- Formalize the Kopp research award and fine-tune the award process
- Develop assessment practices for library instruction program

**Special Collections/Archives**
- Complete the James Pirie William Stafford Bibliography for submission to Oak Knoll press in fall 2012
- Process and develop finding aids for a number of collections: Ralston (Albany College history), the Portland YMCA, Vern Rutsala, portions of the Stafford Archives
- Create exhibits on Classics (with Gordon Kelly), Dickens (with Pauls Toutonghi), Stafford (with Multnomah County Library) and Modernism (with Rishona Zimring)
- Transition the Oregon Poetic Voices project to a new funding model
- Work with the business office on more efficient records retention policies

**Visual Resources**
- Migrate the digital image collection used for instruction to the ARTstor Shared Shelf platform
- Develop a platform for storing and presenting the Art Department’s senior portfolios
- Complete a number of scanning and cataloging projects to support faculty instruction with images
- Provide an increasing number of instruction sessions and research consultations to support the use of images and visual culture across the curriculum