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Newsletters for the Library's Research, Collections, and Scholarly Communication Unit

Newsletters

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Dear SU Faculty,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of SEEDS - ***SE**lecting, **E**xpanding, **D**riving **S**cholarship*, the newsletter for the Library's Research, Collections, and Scholarly Communication unit. My name is Charlotte Hess and I am the Associate Dean for Research, Collections, and Scholarly Communication (RCSC) at the Syracuse University Library (SUL). We hope *SEEDS* will connect faculty members to the vast scholarly and cultural resources made available by the Library. However, *SEEDS* was created not only to give updates on exciting new collections, but to foster discovery, support interdisciplinary awareness, and create an ongoing exchange with you - and between you - about research collections new or needed at SU, and how we can best jointly shape our evolving scholarly communication landscape.

SEEDS will contain four articles per issue. First, an overview on an important library, collections, or scholarly communications topic will be written either by me or Scott Warren, Head of Collections. While I focus on larger strategic and policy goals related to the Library's collections, Scott provides more day-to-day management. We'll also have three other articles: two will be written by either a subject librarian (did you know there are sixteen subject specialists?) or a bibliographer (four librarians who provide broad coordination across many disciplines). The final article will be written by Yuan Li, the Library's Scholarly Communication Librarian and director of SUrface, and will update us all on important developments in that arena.

Each brief *SEEDS* issue will address a variety of critical topics facing the increasingly complex environment of academic libraries and digital scholarship, anywhere from institutional repositories, digital publishing, open access initiatives, streaming media, and the ongoing development of scholarly communication, to changing student profiles, physical spaces, technological improvements, and budget challenges. Keeping abreast of all of these issues requires a consistent orientation towards the future and a willingness to champion new opportunities, while still preserving the best practices and important resources of the past. These are qualities we believe the Library, and the RCSC librarians in particular, exemplify.

A primary goal of the RCSC librarians is to build better connections with the faculty. Please tell us what you like, what you don't like, and

what questions you are trying to answer. *SEEDS* is intended to facilitate dialogue among the Library, the faculty, and the broader campus community and will only be as successful as the conversations it generates.

Throughout the year we will be hosting some library faculty events that you may be interested in. The photo below was taken at our very lively **Reception for New Faculty** that took place on September 27th. As in previous years, we enjoyed the opportunity to bring new faculty together with their subject specialist librarians to chat over wine and hors d'oeuvres. This annual event is a great opportunity for us to facilitate introductions among interdisciplinary faculty, hear about the latest areas of study and research on campus and get to know our newest scholars to join our community.

We will also be hosting a new series of **roundtables on digital scholarship** that will be exploring how scholars in different fields engage digital technologies as the subject matter of their research, in their research methods, their collaborative work, and the systems through which their research is disseminated and preserved. Additionally, we will explore the ways in which the library, the university, and our technology infrastructure can support these modes of scholarship and sustain their future.

The first event in this series will feature Professors Patrick Berry from the Writing Program and Ines Mergel from the Maxwell School on **October 24 from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.** in the Peter Graham Scholarly Commons. Please plan on joining us!

Resource Spotlight

By Patrick Williams, jpwill03@syr.edu

As a librarian in the Humanities, I spend a lot of time discussing books and journals with faculty and students in my areas, but some of my favorite collections at the library are our streaming video resources. I want to highlight three particular collections that are hidden treasures. First is Filmakers Library Online,

from Alexander Street, a collection of over 1,000 documentary films in literature, history, anthropology, global studies, and a host of other topics. Users are able to browse the films by topic and geographic location, and films can be shared in clips and playlists. The Character Studies Theatre Interviews Archives Collection is an archive of over 60 video interviews with notable playwrights, actors, and theatre luminaries including Arthur Miller, Wendy Wasserstein, and Stephen Sondheim and is one of SU's unique Digitized Collections. Finally, SUrface hosts a growing list of recordings of poetry and fiction readings from the Creative Writing Program's on-campus Raymond Carver Reading Series, which brings many prominent writers to campus every year. I hope you will take a moment to explore some of these great collections and let us know what you think.

There's a Guide for That

By Jenna Mayotte, jmayotte@syr.edu

With close to 400 unique research databases available at the library, where should a researcher start? To provide our patrons with the best guidance - straight from the minds of subject specialist librarians - the Library has created interactive, mobile-friendly portals to quality resources and answers to your research questions. Find this expert advice on our website under **Subject Guides** or at researchguides.library.syr.edu.

Our librarians have created guides for research starting points in numerous subject areas, citation guides to combat plagiarism and disorganized research practices, help with navigating collections of videos or E-books, as well as guides for specific courses that can be linked or embedded into Blackboard. We can't always be with you physically when you're doing your research, but with **Subject Guides**, we can be with you virtually - providing recommendations and advice on sources and best practices. These guides aren't limited to offering simple links to databases or endless pages of text - we share video and other media, highlight new books in our catalog, embed social bookmarking, and use widgets and APIs to share content from other parts of the web. A final benefit of these guides is the worldwide librarian community that has grown around this easy to use software. We share expertise across campuses, enabling us to build on each other's experience and develop the best guidance for helping patrons find the information they need.

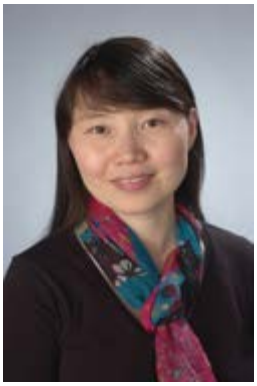
Check us out at researchguides.library.syr.edu and browse our many pages of expert advice created by SU librarians.

Scholarly Communiqués

By Yuan Li, yli115@syr.edu

As the Scholarly Communication Librarian since May 2011, I have been talking about various issues and trends in scholarly communication and management of SUrface, our institutional repository.

Today's rapidly changing landscape of scholarly communication and publishing is affecting researchers, publishers and libraries alike. Because library budgets are no longer adequate to match the skyrocketing price of e-journals and other resources, researchers suffer from a lack of efficient access to many scholarly materials. Meanwhile, scholars are also frustrated with the amount of time it takes for research results to be published, and concerned with restrictions on what can be widely disseminated.



In response, Open Access (OA) has emerged as a viable solution. Two primary vehicles for extending open access to scholarly works are OA journals (Gold OA) and OA repositories (Green OA). OA scholarly journals, which are peer-reviewed and available without subscription fees, have begun to both challenge and complement traditional subscription-based scholarly publishing. OA publishers such as PLoS, BioMed Central and Hindawi have emerged while traditional commercial publishers, such as Elsevier, Springer, and Wiley, offer authors OA publishing options in otherwise restricted access publications. Academic libraries support OA publishing by developing in-house publishing services and providing OA publishing funds to researchers (see COPE for an example). In addition to making scholarly output previously published in traditional venues more easily accessible, OA repositories bring visibility to materials that historically have been hard to access since they may not have been formally published or indexed. These documents include preprints, manuscripts, conference and working papers, student scholarship, and scholarship in non-textual formats.

Harvard and MIT initiated the adoption of OA policies that mandate faculty self-archiving in institutional repositories, and the number of institutions with such policies is growing. Research funders are supporting mandates as well. For instance, the National Institutes of Health, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and the Wellcome Trust all require scholarly articles originating from research they fund to be made openly accessible.

The Library established SUrface to help SU faculty, researchers and students share, promote and preserve their scholarly works and is implementing a system for OA publishing. As creators, disseminators, and users of intellectual content, you are encouraged to join the Library in reshaping scholarly communication and are invited to celebrate with the Library the forthcoming OA Week, a global event promoting OA as a new norm in scholarship and research, from October 22 to 26.