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Timely Tidbits, Mar. 16, 2012

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March 16, 2012

TIMELY TIDBITS

Scholar's Mine

Scholars' Mine has several exciting things happening. We are hard at work scanning the Rollamos, our campus year book. At long last we will be placing them online using FlipCreator the new software we selected last month. FlipCreator allows us to display them in a book format, providing a very nice graphic display which includes: page turning, table of contents, zooming, bookmarking and more. We will be unveiling this new collection at a reception in the Havener Student Center during Homecoming week.



Thanks to our new employee Amanda Gully, we have begun reviewing all faculty content in the Mine bringing it up to date. Amanda has also been working hard on finishing the Wei-Wen Yu Center for Cold-Formed Steel Structures collection.

We also have several new student employees: Abhilash, Phillip, and Sara are all new this semester and Samuel continues to work for us as well. All are doing a great job. A special thank you to Philip who has used his Photoshop expertise to automate several processes, saving us hours of processing time.

Cataloging/Metadata News

The Cataloging Department has submitted all the Missouri S&T MARC records from MERLIN for an OCLC bibliographic reclamation project. Basically, this project synchronizes what we have in MERLIN with the OCLC database, remedying any data degradation that has occurred over the years. Our library is eligible for one free reclamation. Thanks to Allison for volunteering to take the lead on the catalog maintenance when OCLC sends us back reports.

Cataloging has also undertaken a few projects to enhance ebook catalog records with table of contents. In one project, Adam Beshir, our catalog student, copies the table of contents from the ebook webpage, pastes them in

Word, runs a macro, and then pastes them into a catalog record. Here is an example:

<http://laurel.lso.missouri.edu/record=b8436095~S8>

We have also signed up to receive daily notifications of OCLC records that have had table of contents added. Adam inserts this extra metadata into MERLIN records. After only 3 weeks of participating, nearly 800 records have been enhanced.

Finally, Jane has been cataloging ebook versions of the PEER (Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center), a project that compliments her cataloging of physical books and other materials.

Puzzle Fun!



We have received several positive comments from students and faculty about our puzzles. Everyone seems to enjoy them. One faculty member was particularly complimentary saying she thought it was a great idea for our technically minded students.

Director's News

For the past few months, I have been heavily involved with a project known as the S&T Research Capacity Task Force. This Task Force is guided by Vice Provost for Research Krishnamurthy and Vice Provost for Graduate Studies Al-lada; Margaret Cline, CIO, and I were invited to participate as Resource Persons. We were divided into three sub-committees: People, Structure, and Culture.

The sub-committee discussions have been very insightful, but the most interesting part of the "Culture" sub-committee (to which I was assigned) has been the interview process. Sub-committee members paired up to conduct confidential two-on-one interviews with a range of faculty members and department heads from all across campus. We're striving to insure every department is represented, which makes 24 in all. I've been fortunate to have participated in eight of these—and it has truly been a fascinating experience!

So far, there has been no discussion of how the Library contributes to the campus' "research capacity," but I asked the Library Leadership Team to bounce some ideas around last week. We will undoubtedly submit a few ideas to the entire Task Force.

Before the end of the month, the Task Force will prepare a set of Recommendations—these will be presented to Interim Chancellor Wray and incoming Chancellor Schrader in early April (maybe her second day on the job!). After that, it's difficult to predict what the next steps will be, but I'm "cautiously optimistic" that the Library will benefit indirectly from the recommendations of the Task Force.

*As you slide down
the banister of life,
may the splinters
never point in the
wrong direction.*

—Irish Blessing

