

PAN Forum
ALA Midwinter 2019

The Future of Print at ASU Library

Who We Are

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This talk will be presented by Shari Laster, project coordinator for the Future of Print at ASU Library; Lorrie McAllister is the co-investigator on the project, along with Dr. Jim O'Donnell, and worked extensively with Shari in developing this presentation.

**which
books?
where?**



context!

engagement

from shared
to networked
print

ASU charter

ASU is a comprehensive **public research university**, measured not by whom it excludes, but rather by **whom it includes** and how they **succeed**; advancing **research and discovery** of public value; and assuming **fundamental responsibility** for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the **communities** it serves.



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The Library is the gateway to the ASU educational enterprise and therefore a critical partner in realizing this charter. We aim to engage with our communities to advance research, scholarship, and to be an integral part of their current and lifelong educational pursuits.



We *intentionally* use the term open stacks, as a revival of the movement originating in the mid-1800s, largely in public libraries, to allow many people to browse the library’s book stacks directly. We consider library spaces to be educational opportunities, and we open them to people to use information and build knowledge from the resources readily available at hand. Our stacks are “open” in the 19th century sense, but we also welcome associations with the word “open” that have developed over the past two decades. Print Open Stacks exist alongside Open Educational Resources, the Open Access movement, and the Open Education movement. Print collections and other tangible resources are public goods that should be discoverable and usable by the public.

With open stacks, we also seek to engage students, faculty, staff, and the public in partnering to co-create collections, and provide input on which books are of interest to them, in which types of

spaces.

opportunity: **Hayden 2020**

ASU Library



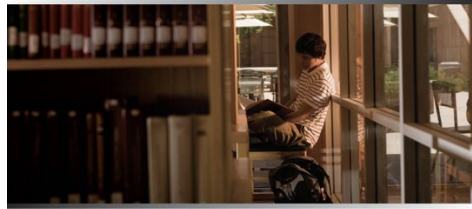
This is an artist's rendering of what we expect the Hayden Library to look like when fully open to our community in early 2020. It is a 252,670-square-foot library tower located at the center of ASU's Tempe campus. The campus serves over 50,000 students enrolled in residential programs.

The expansion of classroom and study space is an important part of this renovation project. A smaller collections footprint designated for the building asks us to consider how we move from "collections as a backdrop for various activities" to "collections as a *service and engagement opportunity*" within the physical space of this building.

engagement: open stack collections

ASU Library

Which books? Where? ...



The Future of the Academic Library Print Collection: A Space for Engagement

October 2017

ASU Library

Arizona State University

The work made possible by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

In 2017, ASU Library received funding from the Andrew W Mellon Foundation to explore this future. In collaboration with other stakeholders, ASU developed a white paper describing a framework for envisioning new “open stack” collections. With an additional, generous three-year grant from Mellon, we are now actively exploring ways in which this ideas can be enacted in practice. Our focus in 2018 has been to identify and explore what “engagement” means with collections at a human-sized scale, and to explore ways in which data about our collections can be leveraged for answering the large-scale question of which books go where.

experiments and compelling ideas



This collection was the first in a series of mini-projects our Future of Print team has developed and implemented. This one, and the others in this presentation, were assembled by the library's Curation Specialist, Emily Pattni. This is a collection of poetry (mostly American, mostly 20th and 21st century), located at Fletcher Library on ASU's West Campus in Glendale, AZ. All of the books are shelved spine-backward. We used this project, which we called "Surprise Me!" to start a conversation with students about how they feel about books in the library.

experiments and compelling ideas



Another project we have completed is “Health Humanities Horizons,” hosted at the ASU branch library at the Downtown Phoenix campus. We leveraged existing liaison librarian relationships with faculty to seek input on what would comprise a compelling introduction to the health humanities, in conjunction with a new certificate program at ASU. A number of faculty were happy to help, suggesting books, movies, music, and other materials that offer a transdisciplinary peak into this field. We are using what we learned from this process to come up with better ways to invite teaching faculty to participate in collections selection and display.

experiments and compelling ideas

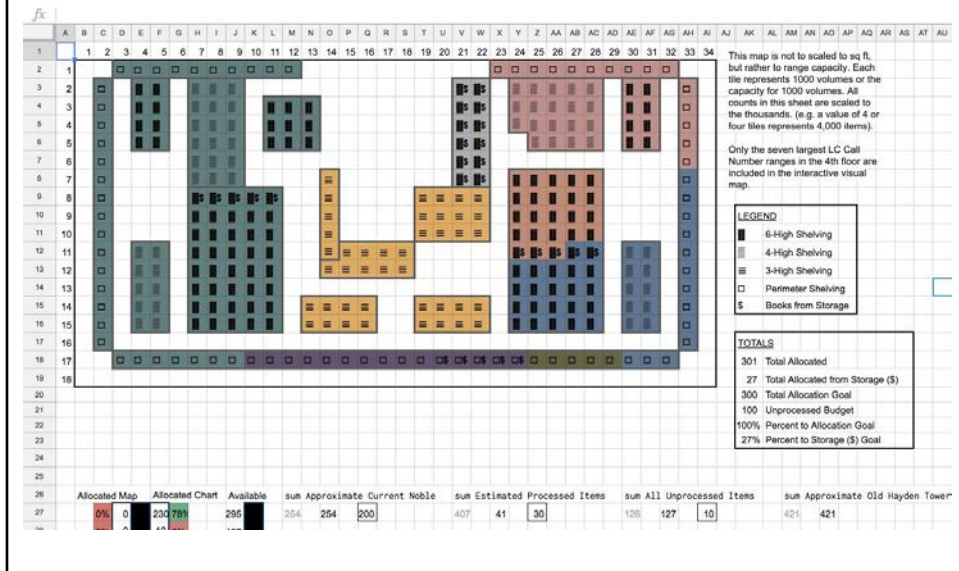


ASU Library

One idea we started with is a reflection on the ‘why’ of library collections, along with the ‘how.’ “Collecting Collections,” now hosted in Hayden Library, brings this interest to life. It features books about collections and books reflecting on collecting practices, along with a collection of 3D-printed items. We also ask visitors to contribute by describing what they collect.

There are more projects in process now. For each project, we are producing a reflective analysis, a collections data set, and a toolkit for future applications. As these reports are finished, we will look for ways to share widely. What we learn from this and other projects will inform rotating, showcase collections in the new Hayden Library.

Hayden planning



Alongside the showcase collections, our renovated library will feature general collections for browsing and use. We are able to take advantage of our high density storage facility to store and quickly deliver books that are not held in these featured spaces. So our collections plan for Hayden Library can be based on broad principles about active and engaging collections in the spaces that the architects have designed.

This screenshot is a tile map developed by our Data Analysis Specialist, Tammy Dang, to help us plan possible layouts for one floor of Hayden Library. The library migrated to the Alma LSP in 2017, so we are able to take advantage of the Alma Analytics tool to explore the data we have about our collection. We are also examining factors we think are adjacent to engagement, such as recency of acquisition and frequency of circulation. This is still a work in progress. Some of what we are learning is how much

ambiguity we can tolerate in moving from vision to action.

**looking ahead: the
bigger picture**

how can we move toward **print** **collection awareness** at network scale?

Our local collection development and management decisions affect what other libraries keep in the local area, state, region, and even the nation. If each of our institutions makes decisions about what to keep based on each others' holdings, and they are not coordinated, and there are no forums for ongoing collection *development*, what is the aggregated effect on the overall scholarly record and the availability of these works in libraries?

We are starting to learn more about efforts underway within consortia and library systems, and hope to pursue new relationships that may lead to our future involvement in similar projects.

Case Study Outline

Outline

A case study allows your library's project team to communicate with current and future collaborators, while serving as an internal discussion and planning tool, and ideally as an eventual snapshot of academic practices as they change over time. This outline sets forward a way to structure a case study, suggesting description of the context for the organization and offering some detail about library use, holdings, audiences served, and available resources.

Overview of Institution and Current Collections Landscape

This section should provide a summary of background statistics and information that gives the reader context for your parent institution and your library's current philosophy, services, initiatives, and practices with regard to collections overall, with special attention paid to print resources.

- I. About the library or system
 1. Library or libraries: locations, function on campus
 2. Estimates of collection size (e.g. volumes held, e-resources, microforms, serials, etc.)

We have developed a case study outline as a self-study tool and as a means of sharing and comparing institutional approaches to collections. This outline is posted to our project website and we welcome any others who would like to study their local context to explore this tool.

Like any project, completing a case study is an investment in time and resources. We are finding that the process of completing the case study has been an opportunity to expand our internal capacity for self-study and reflection, which is a good thing. Our process started with determining goals for undertaking the study, identifying the project team & timeline, and agreeing on a statement of purpose. We then began to gather background data about our library collections, our institution, and the communities we serve. As we continue to review, summarize, and analyze this data, we expect to see challenges and opportunities emerge that will help us

plan for the future.

Planning and ongoing work cannot take a back seat to learning and growing as we move forward. So, what we are doing right now is reflected in our self-study, and we expect it to change over time.

what's next...

**“A glorious future for print books demands strategy.”
– Dr. James J. O’Donnell**

Our University Librarian, Jim O’Donnell has said that “a glorious future for print books demands strategy.” We would add that it also demands attention, planning, preservation measures, and methodologies for curation that address the needs of library constituents and communities, *and* that align with the organization’s mission. Finally, it asks for an awareness of activities at both local and networked scales.



lib.asu.edu/futureprint

We welcome your questions and reactions!