

Curated Collections – Northwest Building

Project summary:

The goal of our project was to work with participating libraries across the Harvard Library system and with faculty, staff and students to develop an exhibit program that emphasizes the connections between teaching, learning and research. The idea was to feature library resources and highlight the work of Harvard researchers in all the sciences. In addition, we hoped to foster discussion and cross-disciplinary engagement; engage with faculty, staff and students to participate actively in presenting the collections; provide public outreach opportunities for researchers receiving grants from NSF and NIH; and work closely with museum staff to extend the reach of the exhibits and strengthen ties with them.

Accomplishments:

The grant originally anticipated purchasing two exhibit cases to be placed in the spacious lobby of the Northwest Building to house rotating displays. A casual conversation with Jan Sacco, Director of Exhibitions at the Harvard Museum of Natural History led to the suggestion that she and her staff custom build the cases, a proposal that I eagerly accepted. In the end they were able to build three cases instead of two. Working with Jan and her staff has strengthened ties between the Library and the Museum and broadened the reach of both.

Those three exhibit cases have now been installed in the NWB lobby. The initial displays were created by the Botany Libraries' Lisa DeCesare and Harvard Forest faculty member Andrew Richardson. The cases are beautifully designed; there are hidden wheels so that they can be moved if necessary for events in the area; the covers are UV safe; there is storage under two of the cases; and the screws attaching the acrylic tops require a special tool to remove, providing extra security. (However, it's worth noting that the area is heavily traveled during the day, and from 5 pm until 8 am there is a security guard in place.)

Next steps:

Plans for the next exhibit are underway, with a launch date of February 1. It will be on Bioluminescence, and will feature work of retiring Molecular & Cellular Biology faculty member J. "Woody" Hastings. In mid-February Professor Hastings has a new book coming out on the subject, and we will probably plan an event around that. In addition, we will include displays on bioluminescent deep-sea creatures that are being studied by faculty in Organismic & Evolutionary Biology such as George Lauder and Peter Girguis. We will also reach out to faculty in other disciplines who might work on other aspects of the subject. In addition, there will be items from the library's

collections and graphics provided by Renate Hellmiss of MCB. We are excited because this will truly be an interdisciplinary exhibit.

After Bioluminescence, we will be working with the Harvard Collection of Historic Scientific Instruments on a new exhibit dealing with Time. We can involve different scientists in this; for example, many of our researchers work on circadian rhythms.

Challenges:

The plan was to create a web presence to enhance the exhibits and also serve as a digital archive, with use of social media to further broaden outreach. Unfortunately these have not yet been implemented as they were part of the other half of the grant. However, I do intend to work on this, particularly on a blog. Meantime we will use the MCB Library page and newsletter and the Ernst Mayr Library blog for updates.

Publicity and presentations:

In August, I attended the Annual Conference of the International Association of Marine and Aquatic Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) and gave a short presentation on the project. I plan to do a poster at the SLA Annual Conference in San Diego in June. Ultimately I hope to write a paper explaining the project and giving suggestions about how other institutions might use some of our ideas to foster closer relationships with their researchers.

We have posted information about the project on various Harvard websites. Before the exhibits were actually in place, Renate Hellmiss and her staff created a Watch This Space poster that we will reuse whenever exhibits are changing. I have also sent email announcements and will do so on an ongoing basis.

There will be a fairly large publicity push when the Bioluminescence exhibits are put in place in February.

-- Submitted by Dorothy Barr, 30 November 2012

Project summary from Kaitlyn Fitzgerald

The Loeb Library component of the *Curated Collections for the Curious* entailed the search for and construction of an exhibit which showcases the research trajectories of students within the Graduate School of Design. The project helped to make connections between PhD level students and the library while searching for projects to be showcased. The exhibit also serves

to provide the larger student body with access to research being conducted within the school.

Accomplishments

Through the grant we have been able to create a network of students who would like to be included in the future of the *Curated Collections for the Curious* exhibit series.

Challenges – please explain anything you couldn't do

We have been able to accomplish all of the goals laid out by the project proposal. As a result of my own role as a student the time line has shifted as a result to the demands of my course load.

Next steps

Our next steps include the formal launching of the exhibit which will be coordinated with the staff at Loeb Library and the student whose work we are displaying.

Confirmation that you deposited code, if applicable

N/A

Budget spent

Materials Physical Display: \$1160.06

Technology: \$1954.00

Salary: \$4320.00

Total Spent: \$7434.06

A list of any publicity you did, e.g., articles, blog posts, podcasts, etc

N/A

A list of any presentations you gave that involved your project

N/A