Digital Media Commons in Jackson Library Will Support UNCG Students

This Fall, the Digital Media Commons will open its doors in the lower level of Jackson Library at UNCG. The Digital Media Commons will be a space where UNCG students, faculty, and staff can get help with all aspects of creating and refining multimedia projects. The Commons will be jointly staffed by staff and students from the Libraries, UNCG Writing Center, UNCG Speaking Center, and the Media Studies Program. The Commons will contain lots of group work areas, workstations, media editing rooms, scanners, consultation spaces, a presentation practice room, and staff offices. Patrons will come to the Commons to get assistance with selecting, using, and citing media resources, as well as consult experts on the rhetorical, aesthetic, and technical aspects of developing and communicating their ideas through media.

UNCG students are increasingly required to create and use digital media to complete their assignments. In fact, in a 2010 University Libraries survey of over 800 UNCG Graduate and Undergraduate students, more than 70% of these students had been required or had chosen to complete an assignment with some form of digital media -- a film clip or video, an audio interview, a web page, etc. Of those students, more than half said they could not find -- and would have appreciated -- some assistance creating these media components. This trend on the UNCG campus mirrors national shifts as well. Twenty-first century graduates must now possess media literacy skills in order to critically analyze media, and to create and convey their own ideas and messages in emerging mediums.

The Digital Media Commons site is currently under construction in the lower level of Jackson Library, with plans to begin providing services when the Fall 2012 semester begins in mid-August. To stay updated on this project, visit the Digital Media Commons blog, http://libshare.uncg.edu/sites/blogs/dmc/default.aspx.

UNCG University Libraries Aid High Point's Furniture Library

Cataloging Department Head Mary Jane Conger and her team have been working with the Bienenstock Library in High Point to improve access to its rich collection. Read about the project in the High Point Enterprise. See also this article in the March 27 Furniture World and the piece on page 84 of the March/April issue of Furniture World Magazine. The first phase of the project should be completed before the Furniture Market opens Apr. 21st. The Furniture Library is planning for a 2nd phase to last eight weeks after Furniture Market and a final 3rd phase to do their rare book materials.

You can follow the team's progress at their blog.
New Online Journal Launched by UNCG Faculty Using Libraries' Software

September 2010, after attending an international medical education conference, several UNCG nurse practitioner faculty returned to campus discussing the need for a journal specifically designed for nurse practitioner education. At the time, there was no individual journal that focused on this important professional subject, and articles that did focus on the subject were spread around the literature in a variety of journals, with no journal focusing any great amount of attention on nurse practitioner education. Soon after the nursing faculty returned to campus, however, in a serendipitous development, the University Libraries announced the availability of Open Journal Systems (OJS) software. OJS is an open-source software that is specifically designed to assist faculty and researchers in publishing peer-reviewed open-access journals, and it supports journal management through every stage of the peer-review and editorial process, from the submission of each manuscript to the final publication of each issue.

With Ellen Jones taking the lead, the group of nurse practitioner faculty decided to take advantage of this opportunity. With the technical assistance of Richard Cox, the Libraries’ Digital Technology Consultant, they set up a website for developing their new journal—the International Journal of Nurse Practitioner Educators, and with the assistance of Stephen Dew, the Libraries’ Collections & Scholarly Resources Coordinator, they learned how to use the OJS software for such tasks as handling manuscript submissions, generating automatic emails, managing the peer review process, and publishing issues. Over the next several months, an editorial board was established, peer reviewers were recruited, and manuscripts were solicited. With Ellen Jones serving as Editor in Chief and Laurie Kennedy-Malone serving on the Editorial Board, the International Journal of Nurse Practitioner Educators published its first issue on April 8.

An editorial entitled, “50 Years of Nurse Practitioner Education - It Is Time for A Journal,” leads off the first issue, which also includes six articles on such topics as curriculum development, educational interventions & outcomes, educational research, and innovations & technology.

On the Libraries’ OJS website there currently are three other professional journals that have been published—Journal of Backcountry Studies, edited by Robert Calhoun; The International Journal of Critical Pedagogy, edited by Leila E Villaverde; and the Journal of Learning Spaces, edited by Joe Williams. In addition, although they are not publicly available yet, there are three more journals in the early stages of development—Women in Sport & Physical Activity Journal, edited by Donna Duffy; Partnerships: A Journal of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement, edited by Spoma Jovanovic; The Journal of Appreciative Education, edited by Ye He; and Journal of Applied Peace & Conflict Studies, edited by Sherrill Hayes.

Any faculty member interested in the possibility of using OJS should contact Stephen Dew, shdew@uncg.edu
Post submitted by Stephen Dew.
Biologist Robert Stavn Receives First Grant to Support Open Access Publishing by UNCG Authors

In early February 2012, the University Libraries and the Office of Research & Economic Development created an Open Access Publishing Support Fund in order to support faculty, EPA employees, and graduate students who are becoming increasingly involved in open access publishing. The first grant of $1,000 from this fund was recently awarded to Robert Hans Stavn, Professor of Biology, for his article, “Mass-specific scattering cross sections of suspended sediments and aggregates: theoretical limits and applications.” Optics Express 20 (1): 201-219.

The Open Access Publishing Support Fund is a pilot project that is funded at $11,500, and the primary guidelines for the fund are that the author/applicant must be a member of the full-time faculty, a full-time EPA employee, or an enrolled graduate student; the article must be published in a peer-reviewed open-access journal; the article processing fee must have been paid no more than three months prior to submission of the application; reimbursement will not exceed $1,000 per published article; reimbursement will be limited to one award per fiscal-year per author; and authors are expected to exhaust all other grant or contract funding sources available to them before applying for support from the Open Access fund. Information about the guidelines and the application process, as well as a link to an online application form, can be found at: http://library.uncg.edu/services/scholarly_communication/OAPSF.aspx. If you have questions about the fund, please contact Stephen Dew (shdew@uncg.edu), Collections & Scholarly Resources Coordinator.

Jimmy Humphrey Wins Undergraduate Research Award from University Libraries

The University Libraries Undergraduate Research Award is given in recognition of an outstanding undergraduate research project by an individual or a group that best demonstrates the ability to locate, select, and synthesize information from library resources and uses those resources in the creation of an original research project in any media. The winning entry wins a cash prize of $500 funded by the university libraries. This year it was awarded on April 16th 2012 at the undergraduate honors convocation. UNCG, and Rebekah Megerian of Asheboro were re-elected to the Board.

This year’s winner researched and wrote a paper on missionary work politics, culture, and ethical globalization for Professor Roberto Campo’s international global studies senior seminar. Learn more about this topic, the research involved and background on our winner in this podcast, when Kimberly Lutz interviews Jimmy Humphrey, the 2012 Winner of University Libraries Undergraduate Research Award for his IGS 400 paper "Missionary Work, Politics, Culture, and Ethical Globalization."

Click here for detail on how to apply for the University Libraries Undergraduate Research Award.

Jimmy’s research paper will soon be available in the UNCG Institutional Repository, NCDOCKS

Check out the International Global Studies Program