Fall 2009

Academic Gateway, Fall 2009

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On November 17, 2009, all eyes were on the sky at the King Library. To commemorate the International Year of Astronomy, the King Library was chosen to participate in the unveiling of never-before-seen images of the Milky Way’s core taken from NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope, Spitzer Space Telescope, and Chandra X-ray Observatory.

The celebration kicked off with welcoming comments from SJSU library dean Ruth Kifer, San José Public Library director Jane Light, San José City Council member Sam Liccardo, and SJSU provost Gerry Selter. After the unveiling, SJSU physics and astronomy professor Michael Kaufman explained the images and described how the three observatories collaborated to create the six-by-three-foot multi-wavelength images. Focusing on the core of the Milky Way, the Hubble Space Telescope captured a near-infrared image, the Spitzer Space Telescope observed infrared light, and the Chandra Observatory supplied X-ray light. Together, the images were assembled in a mural-sized mosaic, presenting a wide-range view of the Milky Way’s core.

The audience asked a variety of questions about black holes, the water recently discovered on the moon, the Milky Way, and the possible existence of aliens.

On Saturday, November 21, the celebration continued with a series of programs and activities for all ages, including presentations on multiwavelength astronomy and the Kepler Space Mission by physics and astronomy professors Michael Kaufman and Natalie Batalha. The day ended with night sky viewing through telescopes, assisted by the SJSU Physics Club.

If you missed the celebration, the NASA images will be displayed in the King Library’s Fourth Street lobby until the end of December 2010.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

As 2009 draws to a close, I am pleased to say that the library remains a vibrant center of learning for the university community as well as the general public. Although we have experienced serious budget cuts and all staff and faculty have been furloughed two days per month, we have continued to provide access to a vast array of digital information resources and we have been able to make modest additions to our print collections.

This semester, liaison librarians have taught more than 100 information literacy classes to more than 3,000 students, local photographers and artists have provided high-quality exhibits for our gallery areas, numerous public programs have been offered, and librarians have worked one-on-one with students and faculty to assist with research projects. On furlough days, when we have had limited staffing and services, students and faculty have been understanding and patient, given the circumstances.

In this issue of Academic Gateway, you will read about some of the new services and enhancements we are implementing such as LibGuides, Text-a-Librarian, another updated smart classroom for information literacy instruction, newly licensed databases, digital special collections, and much more.

We have now completed the first year of our National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) challenge grant, which is building stronger digital humanities collections for the library. I am happy to report that we received more than $50,000 in matching funds from the NEH as a result of local contributions to the endowment, and I would like to thank all contributors who helped us earn this NEH match. This year’s target is $300,000 in local funds, which will enable us to receive a $100,000 match from the NEH. Please consider making a contribution to help us reach this new goal. Every contribution makes a difference. For more information, feel free to contact me directly at rkifer@sjsu.edu.

As always, I appreciate the commitment of the faculty to the university library, and welcome you to contact me anytime should you have questions or suggestions for ways that we can better serve the university.

—Ruth Kifer
SJSU Library Dean

DID YOU KNOW? The NEH challenge grant supports our efforts to strengthen our humanities digital collections, ensuring that the library keeps pace with digital resources and with the university’s humanities academic programs and scholarly research.
Coming events and exhibits

For more information about these and other public events, visit the King Library website at http://www.sjlibrary.org/about/events/.

**Tours of the King Library**

**Every Thursday, 11:30 a.m., Welcome Desk, ground floor**

Drop-in tours covering the library’s design, collections, and art are offered every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. Where else can you see a revolving secret door, a low-rider table complete with hydraulic lifts, or a set of tables shaped like the seven continents? These pieces and more comprise 34 public art installations designed to provoke curiosity and encourage exploration throughout the King Library. Sign up for a tour at the Welcome Desk on the library’s ground floor. For more information, call (408) 808-2181.

**Friends of the King Library book sale**


One weekend per month, the Friends of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library host a book sale. Revenues from the sale are donated to the library for a variety of programs that benefit the community. Join us each month in the Caret Plaza at the university entrance to the King Library. Saturday sales run from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday sales run from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**From Internment to Segregation: The Japanese American Experience, 1921–1946**

Through January 9, 2010, Special Collections exhibit area, fifth floor

The exhibit draws from two significant collections documenting Japanese internment during World War II: the Flaherty Collection, which includes documents and photographs related to the Western Defense Command, the War Relocation Authority, and the Wartime Civilian Control Administration; and the Willard E. Schmidt Papers, which document many aspects of Schmidt’s duties as the chief of internal security for the War Relocation Authority.

**“World War II Revisited”**

Through January 9, 2010, Special Collections exhibit area, fifth floor

This exhibit features posters from World War II that were used to inform civilians of their wartime duties such as providing production labor, joining the workforce (for women), buying bonds, and supporting the government.

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday observance**

**January 14, 2010, 12:30 p.m., King Collection area, third floor**

Celebrate the legacy and continuing influence of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at his namesake, the King Library. Community members will share stories reflecting their personal experiences. Light refreshments will follow the program.

**Pride and Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience**

February 3, 2010, exhibit area, second floor

“Pride and Passion” chronicles the history of baseball’s Negro leagues, and the challenges and successes of African American baseball players over the past century and a half. This traveling exhibit is made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In collaboration with community partners, the King Library will also present related programs and activities over the course of the five-week exhibit. For more information, visit http://www.sjlibrary.org/about/events/pride.htm or contact Molly Westmoreland at (408) 808-3000.

**“Eyes on the Sky”**

Through December 31, 2010, Fourth St. lobby, first floor

This exhibit presents never-before-seen multi-wavelength images of deep space captured by NASA’s great observatories: the Hubble Space Telescope, the Spitzer Space Telescope, and the Chandra X-ray Observatory. Part of the celebration of the International Year of Astronomy, this exhibit is made possible by special funding from NASA’s Science Mission Directorate. For more information, call (408) 808-2397.

**Author Matt Tavares on Henry Aaron’s Dream**

February 3, 2010, 7:00 p.m., rooms 225–229, second floor

Enjoy a free presentation by author and illustrator Matt Tavares, featuring his latest release, the tale of a kid from the segregated south who would become baseball’s home-run king. A question-and-answer session and book signing will follow the formal presentation. This event is part of the King Library’s Pride and Passion program series (http://www.sjlibrary.org/prideandpassion.htm). For more information, call (408) 808-2183.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Each year, the King Library hosts more than 200 free public programs, many of which highlight the expertise of SJSU faculty.
Special Collections announces digital gateway

The King Library is pleased to announce its new Digital Collections, an online database of rare and unique materials digitized by the SJSU Special Collections unit and San José Public Library California Room. The King Digital Collections bring together rich resources for research and enjoyment by the university and the community through a new discovery portal.

The web-based collections document the history of the Santa Clara Valley from its agricultural beginnings to the high-tech boom and formation of Silicon Valley. Subjects covered include local politics, social and cultural traditions, education, local business and industry, and historical events.

The SJSU collection includes campus records dating back to the university’s origins as the first State Normal School in 1862; the Gordon Photographic Collection, which documents the history of the valley from the 1900s to the 1960s; the Flaherty Collection: Japanese Internment Records; and the Ted Sahl Collection, which documents social movements in the region including the LGBTQ community, the farm labor movement, and antinuclear demonstrations in the Bay Area. The California Room collections similarly document the history of the region and include postcards, photographs, maps, the Frontier Village Collection, the Fiesta de las Rosas Collection, and local yearbooks and city directories.

By presenting easily accessible versions of the images and other materials held by SJSU Special Collections and the California Room, this digital library will facilitate the discovery of the library’s resources and promote new scholarship in our community. Users can search the collections globally or individually by collection, conduct advanced searches, set search preferences, and create a list of favorites. They can also visit the library to study items of interest.

The King Digital Collections include thousands of historic photographs, but only a fraction of those images was originally identified and dated. Research is ongoing to include the most accurate information with each image. Library users who recognize people or places in the images are invited to click on the “Tell us about this item” link at the top of each page and share what you know about the images.

To access the King Digital Collections on the web, visit http://digitalcollections sjlibrary.org.
New online databases support in-depth research

Databases aggregate content on a subject and make it available electronically. The SJSU library subscribes to hundreds of databases on a variety of topics, including arts and humanities, companies and industries, and science, engineering, and technology. Most of the databases provide the full text of articles, while others provide abstracts and citations that point users toward the original sources. Still others house image, sound, or video files.

NEW LIBRARY DATABASES
The following new databases can be found both in the library’s online catalog and on the library’s Articles & Databases web page at http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/databases. Community users may access these resources when visiting the library.

**African American Experience** is a full-text resource exploring the history and culture of African Americans as well as the greater Black diaspora. Its two goals are to provide solid information from authorities in the field and to allow African Americans to speak for themselves through primary sources.

**American Indian Experience** is a full-text digital resource exploring the histories and contemporary cultures of the indigenous peoples of the United States. The collection features more than 150 volumes of scholarship and reference content, hundreds of primary documents, and thousands of images from precontact to the present day, from the Inuit of the north to the Seminoles of Florida.

**Arts & Humanities Full Text** includes resources related to art and design, archaeology, anthropology and classical studies, architecture, urban planning, philosophy, geography and religion, modern languages and literatures, music, theatre, film, and cultural studies.

**Counseling and Therapy in Video** includes streaming videos and transcripts of demonstrations, training programs, actual therapy sessions with clients, reenacted sessions, lectures, discussions, and workshops. The sessions are hosted and edited by leading psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, and academics in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

**Digital Collections: King Library Special Collections** represent rare and unique materials held by SJSU Special Collections & Archives and the San José Public Library’s California Room. The collections document the history of the Santa Clara Valley from its agricultural beginnings to the formation of Silicon Valley. Topics include local politics, social and cultural traditions, education, local business and industry, and historical events.

**INTELECOM Online Resources Network** is a digital repository of streaming video clips in political science, also useful for civic education and the study of U.S. history. The database offers a comprehensive and up-to-date collection of key political science topics, both historic and contemporary. Featured experts include James Baker, Robert Reich, and Paula McClain.

**Journal Citation Reports** is a comprehensive resource that allows users to evaluate and compare journals using citation data drawn from more than 7,500 scholarly and technical journals from more than 3,300 publishers in more than 60 countries. It is the only source of citation data on journals, and includes virtually all areas of science, technology, and social sciences.

**Latino American Experience** is a full-text database exploring the history and culture of Latinos in the United States. Its content spans from the pre-Columbian indigenous civilizations of the Americas, to the Spanish and Mexican settlement of much of what is now the United States, to the triumphs and challenges facing present-day U.S. Latinos.

**Los Angeles Times, 1985—** includes the content of the LA Times from 1985 to the present day. The LA Times is a daily newspaper published in Los Angeles, California, and distributed throughout the western United States.

**Music Online: Jazz Music Library** includes thousands of jazz artists, ensembles, and albums, with works licensed from such legendary record labels as Audiophile, Concord Jazz, Contemporary Records, Fantasy, Jazzology, Milestone, Nessa Records, Original Jazz Classics, Pablo, and Prestige. The list of artists ranges from past greats to musicians performing and recording today.

**OAIster** is a catalog of digital resources from worldwide open archive collections of digitized books, articles, audio files, images, movies, and databases.

**Opposing Viewpoints** provides an excellent first step in researching any current social issue. The collection includes pro-vs.-con articles, opinion pieces, newspaper and scholarly articles, and information from many other types of sources, all in full text.

**Palgrave Connect** is a collection of ebook titles in business, the humanities, and social sciences from Palgrave Macmillan, a global academic publisher.

**Pop Culture Universe** includes more than 250 volumes of reviewed materials, images, lesson plans, and overviews about American and world pop culture and history.

**Research Starters—Education** includes encyclopedia-style summaries of topics in education to provide students with overviews of topics relevant to their studies. The database contains abstracts, a keyword list, suggested readings, and sections on applications and issues.

**Worldcat Dissertations and Theses** indexes more than eight million academic dissertations and theses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
To learn more about these and other online resources, or to make an appointment to come to the library for a demonstration, contact Sue Kendall, the university library’s head of collection development, at (408) 808-2039 or susan.kendall@sjsu.edu.
New ways to ask reference questions: Text and chat with librarians

Members of the university and local communities now have two new ways to reach reference librarians electronically: through online chat services and cell phone–based text messaging.

Chat services, staffed by librarians from the King Library, can be accessed through the library’s website by going to the library’s “Ask a Librarian” page at http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/reference/ and clicking on the chat box during open hours (Monday–Thursday, 1:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.). If users access the 24/7 chat during other hours, they will find that their questions are answered by librarians throughout the United States.

The “Text a Librarian” service allows users to text questions to librarians through their cell phones. To text a librarian, type 66746 on your cell phone. Start the message by typing ASKSJ. The best questions to ask by texting are simple ones that require short answers. This service is staffed Monday through Friday, 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.; questions asked after 6:00 p.m. will be answered the following day.

These new services augment the existing reference options—in-person service at the second-floor reference desk, telephone assistance, email help, and personal consultations—by making it even easier to ask questions. Students, faculty, and staff can get answers from a reference librarian when they are outside the library or even when they’re in the library doing research or studying on the upper floors.

All are invited to try out the library’s new electronic reference services. For more information, visit http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/reference/.

DID YOU KNOW? The King Library provides access to 250 online databases filled with scholarly articles, music, photos, artworks, statistics, and business information.

Developing successful research assignments

Developing research skills today will help students in the future. Many jobs require self-training, which demands that workers know what resources they need and how to find them. A well-designed research assignment can help students hone these skills. But what makes a “good” research assignment? Here are some elements librarians in the King Library consider important.

Determine your objectives. Begin with what you want your students to accomplish. That might be simply exploring a variety of resources—reputable websites, databases, and books—and learning to cite sources in the appropriate style.

Encourage time management. Consider dividing the assignment so that it has several benchmarks spread throughout the semester. This provides a framework for students and helps them keep on track.

Consider the resources. Nothing is more frustrating for students than to be required to use a resource that is in limited supply. When creating your assignment, make sure that students are working in a variety of areas rather than on a very narrow subject for which the library has minimal resources.

Help avoid plagiarism. Help students avoid plagiarism by having them defend their ideas during a presentation or a question period, requiring an annotated bibliography, or asking them to submit their papers to Turnitin.com.

Subject-specialist librarians at the King Library are available to help faculty develop and review research assignments. Librarians also teach information literacy classes that can be tailored to specific courses. To find the subject specialist for your department, visit http://www.sjlibrary.org/about/contacts/sjsu_specialists.htm.

For an in-depth look at designing successful research assignments, see “Creating Effective Research-Based Assignments” from the library at the University of California, Berkeley, available online at http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/assignments.html.
Introducing LibGuides for one-stop research

SJSU students now have a fresh new way to conduct research at the King Library. LibGuides, introduced in August, combine subject guides, useful resources, and access to research assistance in online collections compiled by SJSU librarians.

To date, SJSU librarians have created more than 100 LibGuides, including guides for each SJSU major and numerous course-specific guides. Popular pages include an A to Z list of SJSU articles and databases, a business research guide, and a nursing resources guide.

LibGuides represent a dynamic Web 2.0 content sharing system that enables librarians to create highly customizable and interactive subject pages, resource guides, and course-specific pages. Numerous academic institutions across the United States have already introduced LibGuides to their students and faculty, including UC San Diego, Yale, Princeton, and Cornell.

Not only are LibGuides easy to navigate, but librarians can quickly update existing pages and instantly create new guides based on the needs of both faculty and students. LibGuides also feature some of today’s most popular social networking tools, including user-generated ratings, tags, and interactive chat widgets.

What can students and faculty expect to see when they visit a typical LibGuide page? In addition to seeing links to the most useful databases, websites, and print materials for a given subject area, students and faculty can email or chat with a librarian, watch videos, subscribe to RSS feeds, view online tutorials, and post comments. Librarians have also embedded Cross Search widgets into many of their LibGuides. Cross Search is a powerful tool that allows students to search simultaneously across multiple databases and save their results in personalized folders for later use.

Because each LibGuide serves as a one-stop research portal, students save time and avoid many of the frustrations typically associated with the research process. To browse through the LibGuides, visit http://libguides.sjsu.edu. Students and faculty are also encouraged to provide feedback and offer suggestions by contacting any SJSU librarian.

New online tutorials available

If your students are short on time or just need quick assistance with library research, try pointing them toward the King Library’s new three- to six-minute online tutorials. These tutorials help students use library research tools and resources for assignments and reinforce their information literacy skills. Tutorials are available 24 hours a day, enabling members of the San José State community to become self-sufficient in their lifelong learning.

Here is a partial list of tutorials that are currently available:

- The Art of Topic Development (six minutes)
- Finding Scholarly, Peer-Reviewed Articles (six minutes)
- Using the Library Catalog (five minutes)
- Searching the Library Catalog by Subject (four minutes)
- Customizing Google Scholar (four minutes)
- Finding Articles in Academic Search Premier (five minutes)
- Academic Search Premier Timesavers (five minutes)
- Using RefWorks (four minutes)

New tutorials are frequently being created in response to user needs and requests. To view all available library tutorials, visit http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/index.html.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are large rooms on the second floor of the King Library that can be reserved for faculty programs and other campus events. For more information, visit http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/rooms/#public.
In May 2009, in consultation with the University Library Board, the SJSU library completed its first five-year self-study since its collaboration with the San José Public Library (SJPL) began. The purpose of the study was to examine the university library program and determine the effectiveness of services supporting the curricular and research needs of the university from August 2003 to July 2008. The study was designed to parallel the program planning process of other academic disciplines at the university.

Topics examined include the unique contributions the SJSU library makes to the university community, trends in academic libraries, benefits of the SJSU-SJPL collaboration, the university library’s strategic plan, and joint planning priorities and projects.

The study assessed the impact of library services and resources on student success. Services benefiting students were highlighted, such as the Student Computer Services center and the library’s newly reengineered learning labs, which feature SMART boards, laptops, independent projection screens for media presentations, a wireless network, and collaborative software.
To keep pace with student and faculty demand, the library allocated two-thirds of its collection budget for electronic resources, including ebooks, online journals, and citation and full-text databases, making it possible for research to be conducted remotely, 24 hours a day. Similar effort has been placed on digitizing special collections, establishing an institutional repository to store the scholarship of SJSU students and faculty, and providing innovative methods for offering reference services using email, chat, and digital learning objects, such as online tutorials, to supplement reference desk activities.

During the 2003–2008 period of the study, subject-specialist librarians continued to work in collaboration with faculty members to align objectives for workshops, information literacy sessions, teaching materials, and evaluation and assessment methods with curricular and campus goals. The library maintained a strong commitment to the campus’s Inclusive Excellence, Student Success, and Retention and Graduation initiatives. Librarians also participated in the Faculty-in-Residence program at the Center for Faculty Development, instructing faculty in making their instructional materials accessible.

Behind-the-scenes library activities—including management, circulation, access, interlibrary services, technical services, information technology, library-wide assessment, and professional development and training of library staff—were examined to ensure that the library runs efficiently and supports its mission and goals.

Library resources reviewed included the budget, fundraising, and grants awarded. Three major grants were awarded to the library between 2003 and 2008. These include a grant awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to prepare a new generation of librarians to serve our communities, a matching grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to build an endowment for humanities databases, and a National Historical Publications and Records Commission grant to catalog and encode manuscripts and university records in SJSU Special Collections.

The self-study concluded with plans for the future, including emphases on becoming a digital library, establishing a more robust assessment program, and following a list of recommendations to keep the university library growing and vital to its community. External reviewers Barbara Butler, dean of the Sonoma State University library, and Amir Dabirian, then vice president for information technology and chief information officer at CSU Fullerton, visited the university library for two days, meeting with the provost, members of the Graduate and Undergraduate Studies divisions, the University Library Board, library managers and their units, and faculty and students from various disciplines. In their summary, the reviewers stated that the “SJSU library is successfully meeting its mission of high-quality services and access to collections for the university community.”

The library’s self-study is available at: http://sjlibrary.org/gateways/academic/sjsu_5y_review_09.pdf.

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Read any good books lately?

Read a good book lately? Students and faculty at SJSU may say they don’t have time to sit down and read a book for fun. But studies have shown that reading outside of schoolwork enriches and benefits all academic individuals.*

The members of the Reading for Fun subcommittee of the University Library Board, an SJSU Senate committee that includes university and library faculty and student members, are encouraging the campus community to read beyond their textbooks and participate in a new venture: an online club, Reading for Fun.

This leisure reading club, still in the early stages of outreach, has already taken strides to prepare the campus for its extracurricular literary makeover. Committee members are investigating ways in which social networking and Web 2.0 tools might be used to share favorite books, reading practices, and book lists. Currently the committee is beta testing its Facebook, Twitter, and LibGuides presence.

So the question is, Have you read a good book lately? Tell us about it—we’d love to hear from you! Visit our web pages at LibGuides (http://libguides.sjsu.edu/readingforfun), Twitter (http://twitter.com/SJSUFunReading), or Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/home.php?f=pages/SJSU-Reading-For-Fun/1610012193685).

This year’s Steinbeck Fellows are Katie Chase, Skip Horack, and Andrew Milward. Sponsored by the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies, the Steinbeck Fellows program offers new writers of any age and background fellowships in creative writing and in the study of Steinbeck’s life or work.

The 2009–2010 fellows read from their works-in-progress as part of the King Library’s fall First Wednesdays lecture series. The fellows’ next presentation will be held in the spring. For more information on the Steinbeck Fellows program, visit http://as.sjsu.edu/steinbeck/steinbeck_fellows/.

Government publications coordinator Sue Kendall spoke at the 2009 Federal Depository Library Conference in Washington DC, and was recognized for her contributions to the King Library’s innovative statistics usage program for electronic government documents.

Valeria Molteni, biology, nutrition, and nursing librarian, has become one of the American Library Association’s (ALA) 2010 Emerging Leaders. The Emerging Leaders program gives new librarians an opportunity to develop leadership skills and network with peers by working on projects with ALA.

Molteni was also accepted to the 2009 Association of College and Research Libraries’ Immersion Program for Intentional Teachers, which gives experienced academic librarians the refined skills and ability to reflect with others on their professional growth as a teacher. In addition, Molteni was elected as a new board member of the Trejo Foster Foundation for Hispanic Library Education, which advocates for quality services for the Hispanic and Latino communities in the library and information education field.

Tina Peterson, librarian for information literacy, distance learning, occupational therapy, health science, and meteorology, has been accepted to the 2009 Association of College and Research Libraries’ Immersion Program for Assessment. This program gives experienced librarians the chance to improve and create activities in classroom and program assessment.

Interim associate dean Mary Nino contributed two chapters to Librarians as Community Partners: An Outreach Handbook, which will be published by the American Library Association in 2010.

DID YOU KNOW? The library absorbs the cost of any copyright fees for articles you order through interlibrary loan.