Book paging and new technology expand interlibrary loan service

The Stiern Library has made getting books from other campuses much easier and has also started bringing books from the CSUB library downstairs to the checkout desk for anyone who makes that request.

“We are always looking for ways to improve the user’s experience in the library,” said Janet Gonzales, the Interlibrary Borrowing Specialist, in the Library Services Department.

When the library implemented the OneSearch system this summer, it created a consolidated sharing network between the 23 campuses in the California State University system that has greatly improved service for students.

Known as CSU+, this new sharing system offers one-click requests for books held by other campuses.

“I’ve gotten a lot of positive feedback about it,” Gonzales said.

She said the turnaround time for book requests has vastly improved because of the new system and because of the cooperative agreement the schools all reached, promising to respond to all requests within 24 hours.

“That means that when someone requests a book it will usually be here in 24 to 48 hours,” she said.

Books that arrive from the other libraries are held at the checkout desk until the requester picks them up.

Thanks to the new system, the library has also recently implemented a book paging service aimed at easing book retrieval for students and other patrons. In addition to obtaining books held by other libraries with a single click, searchers can also click the “request” button to have books in the CSUB library retrieved for them by Interlibrary Loan staff.

Gonzales suggested book paging as a way to improve service to students, so that all the books they need for their research, regardless of where they originated, can be picked up at the first floor checkout desk.

“It makes it a lot easier for them,” she said.

New quiet reading area honors donor

Retired North High School English teacher Lois Chaney cared deeply about education.

When she passed away in the fall of 2015, she left the library a portion of her legacy -- art, her book collection, and a substantial sum of money.

Some of that money has converted a rarely used government documents area into a

See Reading, Page 2
Immigration exhibit tells region’s story

An exhibit in the Historical Research Center entitled *The Long Journey: The History of US Immigration From 1790* is partly constructed from a large collection of donated immigration records that date from the early settlement of Kern County.

The exhibit has drawn an estimated 3,000 people from around the region to the library, many of them students in high school and community college classes.

The historical immigration records were donated to the library’s Historical Research Center (HRC) by the Superior Court. Many of those records have been contextualized for the exhibit and tell the story of regional immigration.

“This collection is a real treasure for researchers, who can discover all kinds of information about immigration trends and settlement patterns in Kern County,” said Chris Livingston, Archives Librarian and HRC Curator.

Livingston led a group of students and volunteers, who built the exhibit using only records, photos, and materials from the library’s archives. Political science and sociology professors and their students have particularly praised the exhibit and used it as a teaching and learning tool. It took eight months of planning and research to create the exhibit.

“We had a lot of positive comments about the exhibit and we’re pleased with the way the project came together,” said Livingston said.

The library examined immigration through a series of speakers and exhibits over the course of fall semester. Those events also included the premiering of the documentary film *American Migrant Stories*, an exhibit of Pulitzer Prize winning photos, a presentation by renowned photojournalist Don Bartletti, and a poetry reading by Latina poet Vickie Vertiz.

The immigration exhibit, is scheduled to remain up until June 2018.

Reading (Cont’d from page 1)

quiet reading space, where students can study in comfortable chairs in a place specifically designed for deep reading. Some of the art that Ms. Chaney collected is on exhibit in the space.

“I know that Lois would have appreciated the space we created in her name. She was a voracious reader who loved books and art,” said Library Dean Curt Asher. Ms. Chaney was the widow of Dr. Homer Chaney, a member of the founding faculty at CSUB who taught in the History Department.

The library inaugurated the Lois Chaney

Reading Area early in the fall semester. “Students love the space. It’s always full,” Asher said.

One of the unique elements of the space are the circular pods that provide solitude. The pods are partly sound insulated and provide a private surrounding for studying.

Several students have commented to librarians and contacted library administration to thank them for creating the space.

Two general camps of library users seek space in the library: Those seeking quiet study space for individual, in-depth reading and those seeking group study space, where they can talk and share ideas. These needs can clash and create challenges for library planners.

“We are working through these issues with an architect, and our remodeling plans address the needs of all our users,” Asher said. “The Chaney Reading Area is a great example of how a gift to the library can address the needs of our students and will continue to help them succeed far into the future.”
Don Bartletti has been on the ground in wars, first as a soldier and then as a photographer, but most of his career has been spent documenting the border and the immigrant struggle for a better life. His Pulitzer Prize winning photos are on exhibit through December 19 in the library.

“My camera records exactly what happens,” the Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist said in a presentation in the Dezember Reading Room on October 10. “I’ve done it ethnically for forty years. I’ve done it with an open mind, so you can look at those pictures and make up your mind.”

Bartletti, who is retired from a lengthy career with the Los Angeles Times, presented forty years of immigration history captured through his lens.

Bartletti won the Pulitzer in 2003 for his photos in the Los Angeles Times, entitled Enrique’s Journey, that chronicled the dangerous rail journey of a Honduran teenager as he traveled north to the United States. Sonia Nazario, the author of a six-part series in the newspaper that Bartletti’s photos accompanied, also won the Pulitzer Prize in 2003. Those photos are exhibited on the Wall Gallery through the semester. The Pulitzer Committee described the photos as a “memorable portrayal of how undocumented Central American youths, often facing deadly danger, travel north to the United States.”

His hour-long talk exposed the desperation and hardship that many immigrants face as they attempt to cross borders, the complexity of immigration issues in human terms, and the relentless violence of the drug wars in Mexico and Central America.

Bartletti, who was an infantry officer in Vietnam before entering journalism, said that when he began his work, legions of people were heading north.

“My interest was that this was a phenomenon,” he said as he pointed to a slide from the 1970s showing an immigrant trail crowded with foot-weary travelers entering the United States. “Every day thousands and thousands of people would march along these foot paths. The Border Patrol would wait on the ridge line or just over it.”

Bartletti discussed the lives he chronicled during his long career on the border in his talk, entitled, “The Road Most Traveled: Causes and Consequences of Illegal Immigration.” Sociology professors Gonzalo Santos and Marisa Sanchez led questioning and discussion afterwards.

“Immigration is a particularly timely topic right now,” said Library Dean Curt Asher. “We are honored to have Mr. Bartletti’s photography exhibited here.”

Nazario’s book, which resulted from the newspaper project, went on to become a national bestseller. CSUB as well as dozens of other universities selected the book as a common reader in 2014.

Bartletti’s talk was part of the CSUB library’s Walter Presents Series, and was cosponsored by the CSUB Sociology Department.
Tales from the Vault #10

Tucked away in the vault are two cancelled checks, one dated 1905 and the other 1910. The amounts of $70.45 and $36.25 were drawn on an account owned by the Yellow Aster Mining and Milling Company. Both checks are signed by John Singleton and R.S. Burcham. The origins of the company go back to 1895.

Finding gold in California had been a main attraction since its discovery at Sutter’s Mill in 1848.

During the fall of 1895, three prospectors looking for riches met at a placer camp in the mountains near Red Rock Canyon. One night, as they were setting up camp, the three gold hunters, Charles A. Burcham, John Singleton, and Frederic M. Mooers, noticed a bright reflection off in the distance. The next morning, they packed up and headed toward the reflection’s source. As they neared the source, they started finding flakes, then nuggets, of gold. This led to the establishment of the Yellow Aster Mining and Milling Company. Charles A. Burcham sold half of his interest in the mine to his wife Rose S. Burcham, who ran the company. In 1904, the Los Angeles Times hailed Rose’s accomplishments in mining, naming her to the list “Men of Achievement.”

The Yellow Aster gold discovery was one of the largest, if not the largest, in Southern California. The discovery also led to the establishment of the town of Randsburg. There are many other stories waiting to be uncovered. Rose Burcham’s story and many others are available in the Historical Research Center. Come visit us! You never know what you’ll discover!
Fake news meets its match

Librarians Chris Livingston and Andrea Anderson held a workshop on the timely topic of “fake news,” telling students that false news stories and public rumors are not recent phenomena.

Livingston gave examples of historical fake news such as medieval anti-Semitic myths and 19th century yellow journalism. Anderson described how social media has accelerated the sharing of fake news stories and how the internet leads people to seek out information that confirms their biases.

The pair went on to talk about the tools on the web and in the library that can help people discern legitimate reporting from stories that mislead or contain false information. Web tools like Politifact and factcheck.org, as well as library databases like CQ Researcher and ProQuest Newsstand, are good sources to use to verify veracity, they said.

Kern County Poet Laureate inspires students

Kern County Poet Laureate Don Thompson left his Buttonwillow ranch and came to CSUB to read his poems to students, friends, and poetry aficionados.

The readings spanned the decades, from his early work through present. Much of his poetry draws its inspiration from the natural world and rural life.

Thompson’s poetry was exhibited in the library until October 10 and was paired with wildlife photos by local photographers Kevin Fahey and Greg Iger.

Thompson was named Poet Laureate by the Kern County Arts Council last year.

American Migrant Stories packs the house

Film director and producer Miguel Orozco premiered American Migrant Stories in the library to a fully packed Dezember Reading Room in October.

“A lot of folks forget that we are a country of immigrants. Everyone comes from somewhere,” Orozco told KGET Channel 17 news in an interview at the event.

The film, which was part of a four-event series on immigration held during fall semester in the library, used Kern County as a lens through which to view immigration history, with harrowing stories of deportations. The film also presented the work of a group of Kern County attorneys who travel the county informing immigrants of their rights and responsibilities.

The film was produced for CSUB’s Center for Social Justice and the Immigration Justice Collaborative. It was part of the Walter Presents Series.

Classical mystery stumps scholars

CSUB Arts and Humanities Dean and classics scholar Bob Frakes discussed the uncertain purpose of a document entitled, Collatio Legum Moscaicarum et Romanarum, a late Roman legal compilation of unknown authorship that combines statements from late Roman law with those of the Bible. Frakes described the various theories and debates about the work and its purpose. Frakes dug deeply into medieval manuscript collections to gain a better understanding of the compilation.

Frakes’ talk drew CSUB students and faculty interested in medieval literature and history to the Dezember Reading Room. The event, the first Walter Presents of the year, kicked off the library events planned for the 2017-18 school year.

Health care is a focus of spring events

Award-winning Native American journalist Mark Trahant will speak in the library on February 13. His talk, Rewriting the Story about American Indian Healthcare, is part of the library’s Native Voices Project, a spring semester series focusing on health care. The library will also be hosting a National Library of Medicine exhibit through the semester, holding a health screening on Friday, March 2 with the CSUB nursing department and bringing to campus addiction medicine expert Dr. David Smith, Founder of the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic, to discuss the famed San Francisco clinic that brought free health care to thousands on young people in the 1960s.
For the wife of the dean, the Walter Stiern Library is a big part of her life.

“I am at the library a lot,” Aida Asher said. “I often help out with events and other projects because I think that the work they do in the library is so important.”

Aida was a teacher in Durango, Mexico, and earned her degree in Child Development there before immigrating to the United States in 2002. She and her husband, who was a librarian at CSUB then, met in 2001 when she was in Bakersfield visiting her sister. She now works for the Panama Buena Vista Union School District as an Intervention Aide.

“I’ve been working with kids my whole career,” she said. “There is nothing more rewarding than knowing you are helping children get a good education.”

Aida grew up in a family of nine children in Durango. The education field is a tradition in her family. Her mother retired from a teaching career and her daughter is currently a teacher in Durango. Her sister is a teacher and counselor in Bakersfield. Aida was one of founders of the Nellie Campobello Public Elementary School in Durango and she served on the state board for the teacher’s union.

She also studied English at the Intensive English Language Center (IELC) at CSUB.

“When I was taking classes at the IELC, I spent a lot of time in the library,” she said.

Aida’s son went to CSU Chico and is now a project manager for a company that builds solar power plants around the country.

Aida said that she gives to the library because she has seen first hand the benefits it brings to the lives of students.

“It’s so important for college students to have a place where they can meet and work together,” Aida said. “There are so many books and articles at the library. It wasn’t like that when I was getting my education. These students are very fortunate to have so much to choose from.”

During the summers, she spends time with her twin three-year-old granddaughters. She also likes to travel and paint.