Data Services Provides Expertise for Campus Research

Data Services, a unit within the Washington University Libraries, supports students, faculty, and staff in the areas of data analysis, management, and curation. The unit offers multiple approaches to data analysis and provides assistance ranging from informal planning consultations to training and help with the development of analytical workflows.

Data Services is located on Level A of John M. Olin Library, where it oversees the University Libraries’ Research Studio and Data Visualization Environment (DaVE). The Data Services suite is equipped with a 3D scanner, a large format scanner, photogrammetry equipment, and other cutting-edge resources that support research across campus.

The unit is engaged in a wide range of partnerships. With Facilities Planning & Management and Emergency Management, the team has updated Washington University’s building evacuation maps. They’ve also provided data and web map consulting/training for a number of campus units.

The team has collaborated on projects with faculty and staff from departments and schools across the university, including the Brown School, the Institute for Public Health, the Olin Business School, the Charles F. and Joanne Knight Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, and the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts. A recent project with Saundra Weddle, visiting professor in the Sam Fox School, on mapping historical Venice, involved digitizing features from aerial imagery. The unit also recently assisted Alex Bradley, associate professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences, with the creation of topographic maps for his field methods class.

If you’re interested in working with the team or would like more information, contact Mollie Webb, GIS programmer and interim director of Data Services.
Complete Strategic Plan Now Available

The University Libraries’ complete Strategic Plan, intended to guide our organization through 2024, is now published online. The new plan, developed over the past 18 months and incorporating input from hundreds of campus stakeholders, includes a revised mission statement, a group of updated organizational principles, and 6 strategic priorities, which are supported by 18 goals and 32 action-oriented, measurable operational objectives. The Libraries will continue to share progress updates with the Washington University community through various outreach methods. We appreciate everyone who lent their input and expertise to this endeavor.

News from the Film & Media Archive

Eyes on the Prize News

Washington University Libraries’ Film & Media Archive was recently awarded a grant of $226,392 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to fund the Eyes on the Prize II Interview Digitization and Dissemination Project.

The project will digitize 106 hours from the original 16 mm camera negatives of 182 interviews conducted in the production of Eyes on the Prize II: America at the Racial Crossroads 1965-1985, the second half of the seminal documentary series that chronicles the civil rights movement. The series was originally released in two parts: Eyes on the Prize America’s Civil Rights Years 1954-1965 in 1985 and Eyes on the Prize II: America at the Racial Crossroads 1965-1985 in 1988.

Produced by St. Louis native and Washington University alum Henry Hampton (1940-1998) through his Boston-based film-production company, Blackside, Inc., the series as a whole won more than 20 major awards and attracted over 20 million viewers. The Film & Media Archive received grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to preserve and digitize Eyes on the Prize America’s Civil Rights Years 1954-1965, along with 75 hours of unedited interviews conducted for that series. The project was completed in 2016. The complete Eyes on the Prize II interviews are part of the Film & Media Archive’s Henry Hampton Collection.

The funding for the new digitization project came about through the NEH’s Humanities Collections and Reference Resources program. The NEH awarded a total of $28.6 million in grants for 233 humanities projects across the country.

“We are so excited to finally make the complete interviews from Eyes II fully accessible and freely available,” says Nadia Ghasedi, associate university librarian for Special Collections Services. “There are hours of never-before-seen footage within these interviews that are significant to the cultural and historical record. We are grateful to the NEH for funding this important project.”

See p.4 for details about a related event coming up on September 10.

Won by a Sweet Preservation

With funding from a 2018 National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF) grant, the Film & Media Archive successfully completed the preservation of Won by a Sweet, a rare silent 16mm promotional film from 1929. The film was produced by R.P. Young Productions for the National Confectioners’ Association (NCA).

Commissioned by the NCA, the industrial film tells the fictional story of a track coach who, wanting the best performances from his athletes at the State Track Meet, implements a no-candy rule. When his star athlete is caught eating candy before the meet, the coach has no choice but to remove him from the squad. However, as the big meet approaches, the coach, too, toys with the idea of eating candy. In a surreal hallucination, the coach is visited by the “Spirit of Candy,” who liberates him from his misperception that candy isn’t healthy.

The film is a rare and fascinating moving-image example of the promotion of candy in the complex context of 1929, when the nation was on the cusp of the Great Depression. Part of the NCA’s “Candy is Good for You” campaign, it’s a fun, campy time capsule with significant research value to scholars of advertising, economic, social, and cultural history.

The film was donated by Dr. Dan Gillen, whose great-grandfather was in the confection business. Funds from the NFPF grant were used to generate new preservation elements, including a black-and-white duplicate negative and a new color answer print, as well as Blu-ray access copies for on-site viewing.

For more information about the Film & Media Archive, contact Joy Novak, head of Special Collections Management for the Julian Edison Department of Special Collections.

CONTACT US
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Subject Librarians
Subject Librarian Details
Leland Deeds is now associate university librarian for the Collection Management and Access Services Division. As leader of the division, Deeds manages the full collection lifecycle, from selection, acquisition, and technical processing to providing access for print, electronic, and digital objects. Deeds is also involved with technology infrastructure planning and programs that facilitate technology-dependent inquiry and productivity.

“I look forward to meeting Washington University’s changing and expanding research and instructional needs,” Deeds says. “Enhancing the discoverability of our traditional, licensed, and unique local resources is a priority.”

Deeds is the former head of systems at the University of Miami Libraries, where his department provided support for many of the libraries’ automation systems, as well as desktop computing and A/V support.

Deeds has served as the librarian for Academic Computing Support at Union Presbyterian Seminary, where he launched the library’s Multimedia Creation Lab, co-led the implementation of their first patron-driven acquisition program, and served as part of the Institutional Effectiveness Office on campus. Additionally, Deeds worked as access services librarian in the Clemons Library at the University of Virginia, managing circulation, course reserves, and facilities projects.

Deeds earned a master of science degree in information science from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. He also holds a bachelor of arts degree in religion from Bard College and a master of theological studies degree from Emory University. He is a member of the American Library Association, the Library Information Technology Association, and the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Scholars have become increasingly fascinated by data visualization, although various techniques have been used for centuries to illustrate complex ideas in simple ways. “Charting History: Data Visualization Through the Years” presents a history of data visualization, with examples from Washington University Libraries’ collections that illustrate the importance of data visualization as it relates to research and disseminating information.

The exhibit is curated by Cassie Brand, curator of Rare Books at the University Libraries, in collaboration with Heather Corcoran, Halsey C. Ives Professor in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts; Bill Winston, GIS analyst in University Libraries’ Data Services unit; and Geoff Ward, associate professor and associate chair of the African and African-American Studies Program.

The exhibit “Charting History: Data Visualization Through the Years” is on display now through December 6, 2019, in the Jack E. and Debbie T. Thomas Gallery on Level 1 of John M. Olin Library.

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New Resources at University Libraries

The collections at Washington University Libraries are always growing. We recently added a number of new e-resources to our roster of digital materials and expanded access to existing e-collections.

Here’s an overview of some of our new online resources:

- **American Antiquarian Society (AAS) Historical Periodicals Collection**: The AAS Historical Periodicals Collection contains more than 6,500 historical periodical titles dating from 1693 to 1877. The University Libraries purchased the first five series in 2018 and added series six in 2019.

- **Early American Imprints, Series I: Evans, 1639-1800**: Supplements from the Library Company of Philadelphia and American Antiquarian Society.

- **Early American Imprints Series II: Shaw-Shoemaker, 1801-1819**: Supplements 1, 2, and 3 from the American Antiquarian Society.

- **Governing Africa: British Records from African Countries under Colonial Rule**: This electronic archive includes reports to the British government by their governors in the African colonies. The statistical reports cover 13 colonies, with some data that predates the abolition of the slave trade.

- **LGBTQ History and Culture Since 1940, Part II (Gale)**: Primary sources include periodicals, newsletters, manuscripts, government records, organizational papers, correspondence, and an international selection of posters.

- **SAGE Research Methods Online**: Contains more than 1000 qualitative methods books and reference works, designed to guide users to the content they need to learn a little or a lot about their method.

- **The Times (London) Digital Archive**: University Libraries now have access through 2013 (previous access ran through 1985).

- **Women’s Wear Daily Archive**: Electronic archive of Women’s Wear Daily, the leading fashion-industry trade paper since 1910. Covers the history and business of twentieth-century fashion.

SELECTED UPCOMING EVENTS

*all free and open to the public*

**Film Screening & Discussion: Looking Back to the Movement**

**Thursday, September 10**

4:30–6:30 p.m.

Olin Library, Rm 142
and Mendle Classroom

Join us for a celebration of Eyes on the Prize and the generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize the interviews conducted for the second half of this seminal civil rights documentary series. Enjoy a reception and short presentations at 4:30, followed by a pop-up exhibit featuring ephemera and clips in the Mendle Classroom.

**Faculty Book Talk & Reception: Heidi Aronson Kolk**

**Thursday, September 19**

4:30–6:00 p.m.

Olin Library, Rm 142

Heidi Aronson Kolk, assistant professor in the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts and assistant vice provost of Academic Assessment, will discuss her new book Taking Possession: The Politics of Memory in a St. Louis Town House. The book explores the complex motives for preserving a single historic property—an 1851 town house in downtown St. Louis known today as the Campbell House Museum—as a site of public memory.

**Faculty Book Talk & Reception: Kevin McFadden and Jeff Pike**

**Thursday, October 10**

4:30–6:00 p.m.

Olin Library, Rm 142

Poet Kevin McFadden and Jeff Pike, professor in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, will discuss City of Dante, a poetry sequence by McFadden based on illustrations by Pike. The poetry sequence is an elegy on a father’s death that revisits Dante’s Florence and explores the spiritual stations between doubt and belief. Pike created imagery for the book while in Florence.