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Spring 2002

HSU Library Newsletter, 2001-2002 Volume 2

Humboldt State University Library

USER SATISFACTION SURVEY COMING TO YOU THIS SPRING

It's been 5 or more years since we last polled our users on their satisfaction with the Library's services.   To update our information, we wanted to find a normed web-based instrument for assessing current user satisfaction levels. This spring we will be joining 170 other libraries using a 25 question web-based user satisfaction survey, LibQUAL+, created by the Association of Research Libraries and the Texas A&M libraries.   All students and faculty will receive an invitation to participate. The test announcement will be sent out on March 26 and the first call for participation will be sent April 2, with two additional reminders being sent out on April 8 and April 15. This survey is anonymous, and we hope that many of you will choose to participate. There is a national prize of a palm pilot and locally we're offering one cash prize for $150 and two for $25. To maintain anonymity, names are separated from the questionnaire and submitted separately for the prize drawing.

MAJOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS PROJECTS UNDERWAY WITH PROCESSING AND ONLINE EXHIBITS

Don H. Clausen Congressional Papers. We have produced a 16- page full color brochure highlighting the accomplishments of Mr. Clausen's congressional career which are documented in the Papers. The brochure is also being incorporated into an online exhibit on the Special Collections web page. Most importantly, we began final processing of the collection in February, with a target completion date of Summer 2003. We would be happy to send you a copy of the brochure upon request.

Swanlund/Baker Photograph Collection. This collection has been processed with copy prints arranged by region and/or broad subject in 17 binders located in the Library's Humboldt Room. The finding aid which describes this collection is online and the collection web page includes 22 scanned images.

Susie Baker Fountain Papers. The photocopied sets of this collection have been enhanced with preservation microfilm of the originals including the index from the Humboldt County Library.

A finding aid was prepared and is available online. The collection web page has been updated with images scanned from the microfilm.

Ericson Photograph Collection. As we were completing work on preserving and cataloging this collection of 497 glass plate negatives, three students in the new HSU Museum Studies Certificate program chose to focus on the Ericson Collection for their exhibit projects. The online exhibit is available on the collection web page. It documents both the collection itself and also the process involved in preserving an archival photograph collection, especially in the current era of technology.

Visit the Special Collections web page and check out these individual collection web pages at http://library.humboldt.edu/infoservices/humco.html.

INFORMATION COMPETENCE

Are you pleased with the quality of research found in the papers and projects of your students? The Library continues to offer a number of possibilities for improving skills at finding, using and evaluating information. The Online Workshops for Library Skills (OWLS) self-paced tutorials (http://library.humboldt.edu/infoservices/OWLS/OWLintro.htm) can be assigned and used individually by your students. The one unit Communications 280*: Introduction in Information Research Skills* continues to be offered and has received excellent evaluations from students who have taken the class. You can see the current course syllabus at http://library.humboldt.edu/~rls/speech280.htm. In addition library faculty are available for individual class presentations on an appointment basis. For additional information see Scheduling a Library Instruction Class (http://library.humboldt.edu/infoservices/scheduling.htm).

PHAROS

After several years of development, Pharos has shed its wraps and is now casting its light into the world of information finding tools. Pharos is a CSU system project to provide improved access to information. The name Pharos is derived from the ancient Lighthouse of Alexandria, Egypt, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Alexandria was also the home of the famous Museum and Library of Alexandria. Using Pharos users can:

- ·   Search the *CSU Catalog*--the combined catalog of the holdings of all 23 CSU Libraries that totals 12 million items, of which 4 million are unique. It is also enhanced with additional table of contents information for individual books for improved searching, information that is not available in the HSU Catalog.

- Request on *interlibrary loan* books found in the CSU Catalog by clicking the "Request This Item" button found within Pharos. (Note: The number of CSU libraries participating in Pharos ILL will expand to 23 as the Spring 2002 Semester progresses from the original 10 participating libraries; and presently non-book materials are excluded from the Pharos ILL system.)
- Use the CSU Catalog to request items that are currently *checked out* at HSU if they are available from another CSU Library.
- Search *multiple* databases at one time using the "Pharos Multi-Database Search" option. The default option searches the HSU Catalog, Academic Search (magazine and journal articles) and Gale Reference Center Gold (magazine and journal articles); and there are additional options that allow you to select up to five databases to search at once.
- Use *one common* web interface to search many different library catalogs, scholarly article and fulltext databases, and Internet search engines, rather than having to learn multiple interfaces.

Pharos is linked on the HSU Library home page and in other appropriate areas on the Library's web pages.

MAPPING SOFTWARE IN THE LIBRARY

Maps help us better understand the world around us, including how to get from point A to point B. In addition to a large collection of printed maps and atlases, the Library has a collection of mapping software that allow the user to electronically view the world in various ways. Some of these programs allow you to create customized maps. For instance there are several collections of US Geological Survey topographic maps for California which include the capability to trace hiking routes and display the resulting route elevation profiles and distances. Another feature creates topographic maps in 3-D view.   One of the most popular programs contains all the National Geographic maps that have ever been produced. For more advanced users ArcView GIS software is available along with some associated data sets that can be used with the software. For a complete list of available programs see *HSU Library Geospatial Programs* at http://library.humboldt.edu/~rls/GeoPrograms.htm

NEW DATABASES

This spring the Library has added the following databases, all of which are full-text resources:

Contemporary Authors

Contemporary Literary Criticism
CQ Researcher
Dictionary of Literary Biography
PsycArticles
Scribner's Writers Series

They can be accessed by name from the HSU Library's databases list at
http://library.humboldt.edu/infoservices/indexes/alphafast.html and via the appropriate subject lists. If you have any
questions or want to discuss using these databases in class assignments, please contact your subject librarian or Mary Kay,
Electronic Resources Coordinator at x3414 or mhk1@humboldt.edu.

PRINT RESEARCH GUIDES AND LIBRARY HANDOUTS ON DEMAND AT TWO NEW STATIONS IN THE LIBRARY

In the age of electronic access to more and more of the Library's resources, it is still nice to have a good printed guide to
help you along. The HSU librarians have traditionally kept a wide range of research guides and other handouts up to date
to serve this need. The difficult part has been keeping the supplies of handouts up to date with the frequently changing set
of resources that we can make available. To provide the most recent versions of all of our handouts, the Library has just
installed two new stations for self- service printing of all of the Library's many guides and handouts.   The most up-to-date
versions of our handouts and guides are kept posted on the library web site, at
http://library.humboldt.edu/infoservices/Handouts.html

Two computer stations, located on the first and third floor of the Library, are equipped with quick, high-quality printers that
produce paper-saving, double-sided versions of any of the Library's handouts or guides. The stations are specially
configured to print only the handouts from the Library's site. With all of the Library's handouts now in one place on the
computer, you may be sure that you've printed out the latest information. We at the Library can be sure that we are neither
going to run out of popular handouts, or waste paper printing handouts that are not needed.

ARRIVALS PROGRAM IS A NEW FEATURE OF THE LIBRARY'S CATALOG

If you want to easily stay up to date with what has arrived in the HSU Library, click on the NEW ARRIVALS button on the
Catalyst (HSU Library Catalog) front page.   Every evening, a script on our computer gathers up a list of the last month's
worth of materials that have arrived and been processed. This listing is available for a quick search to generate your own
personal listing of new materials. The searching is simple and very fast. You can select how many weeks you want to see,
from one to four weeks of arrivals. You can also select a particular location, such as the Video Collection, or the Compact
Disk Collection. Then enter a keyword, a phrase, an author or the first letters of a call number; click on search; and within
seconds you have your list of new materials available to print or email to yourself.

The Library would like to thank Michael Doran of the University of Texas at Arlington, for his well-written, open-source
program used in creating this new service.

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