

# LIBRARY NOTES

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

EDITION XIV: FORGING ALLIANCES

## *Preserving the Record of a People: Library Receives Archive*

*"It is my hope that this precious archive will continue to grow, marking the beginning of a lasting friendship between the University of Oregon and the Coquille Indian Tribe."* —George W. Shipman, University Librarian.

In the environmentally controlled recesses of Knight Library's Special Collections, stacks of freshly packed archival boxes await scholars and community patrons. The boxes house the Coquille's (pronounced ko-kwell) Southwest Oregon Research Project, a gift to the Knight Library from the Coquille Indian Tribe.

The archive consists of nearly 60,000 pages relating to the ethnographies, languages, and history of Southwest Oregon Indians. It began as an idea—an idea brought to reality by George Wasson, an elder of the Coquille Indian Tribe, who is pursuing his doctoral degree in the UO Department of Anthropology.

George recalls, "I was introduced to archival research through a training grant at the Smithsonian in 1975–76. It was then I saw the vast collection on southern Oregon in the field notes of John P. Harrington. There were names of my relatives, interviews with my father and other elders . . . information I'd always wanted to know. That experience boosted my self-confidence as a Native American. Right away, I wanted to help other young adult Indians regain their severed identity."

Through Wasson's determination and creativity, the Southwest Oregon Research Project (SWORP) was funded by a joint grant from the Coquille Indian Tribe, the University of Oregon, and the Smithsonian Institution. SWORP gave Wasson; his niece, Denni Mitchell; and Jason Younker and his younger brother, Shirod Younker—all of whom are members of the Coquille Indian Tribe and university

scholars—broad access to the Smithsonian Institution's National Anthropological Archives and the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

"This program gave the university a tremendous opportunity to add to Oregon history. The invitation to examine materials at the Smithsonian was an unparalleled opportunity for UO graduate students to get first-hand experience in the nation's archives," says Steadman Upham, UO vice provost for research and dean of the Graduate School.

Beyond the mission of historical research, the scholars' pursuit was profoundly personal. They were taking a step toward rediscovering their cultural heritage.

Says Denni Mitchell, "We had an office in the back halls at the National Museum of Natural History Anthropological Archives. You need to have a pass to get through security . . . the reading room was small and cramped. The staff would bring us the

materials we requested: old documents in boxes—musty brown pages, pages falling apart. Some documents were so fragile we had to wear gloves. We had such a short amount of time . . . If we saw something that pertained to our area we had to mark it to be copied. We couldn't sit and read it. This was hard. . . . Sometimes I couldn't help it; I had to read. There was my history, right there in my hands."

Among the unearthed documents are a collection of place names for Coquille territory, including explanations of the name origins; a map and census of the Coquille, made before their relocation in 1857; vocabulary lists; and chilling accounts of brutality—descriptions of Indian tribes being forced from their homelands on the Oregon coast.

Wasson's hope is to use the information to correct inaccuracies on historic markers in Oregon and to fill in the blanks of culture, mythology, and histories. His first step was to donate the collection to the UO Library System, where it is available to scholars, historians, and the community.



*Coquille Indian Tribe Chairman Edward Metcalf presents Southwest Oregon Research Project Archive catalog to tribal leaders. Potlatch Celebration, May 17, 1997.*

*continued*

## From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

As crisp notes of fall greet students returning to campus, the UO Knight Library is filled with creative energy.

More than ever, the library is a teaching center. The information technology curriculum, a joint effort by the library and University Computing, provides extensive computer and Internet training for students and faculty members. Roughly 5,000 students will attend classes at the library this year!

This and other examples of excellence at the UO library are made possible through the generosity of our many friends.

As you know, we welcome all donors to the UO Library System into the fold of the Friends. By donating to the university library and becoming a Friend, you join a group 2,000 strong that believes the library is central to the university's intellectual life.

Friends of the University Libraries receive *Library Notes* and invitations to exciting cultural events. I hope to see you at one of them in the coming months.

Very cordially,



Louise M. Bishop  
President, Friends of the University Libraries

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A Potlatch Celebration on May 17 at the University of Oregon brought elders, tribal council representatives, and family members from six Indian tribes together for the first time in 150 years. In a traditional gift giving ceremony, leaders from the Coquille Indian Tribe and the University of Oregon presented gift copies of the archive to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw; the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians; the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde; the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz; and the Tolowa Indian Tribe.

This significant historical event was the first step toward creating an environment of renewed cooperation among the tribes—and a new alliance with the University of Oregon.

*The Coquille's SWORP Archive is available to the public in Knight Library's Special Collections. For more information, call Bernard McTigue, curator, (541) 346-1904.*



*A quiet moment in the stacks, UO Knight Library.*

## Former Student Assistants: Where Are You Today?

To those of you who responded to last issue's story on student assistants at the library, thank you! It was wonderful to hear from our friends who worked in the Catalog Department during the years 1937-40.

Did you work at the library when you were a student? Please send your name and year(s) that you worked to Knight Library, 1299 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1299, attn: Lisa Manotti.

## New Acquisition Ready to View

The Jewish Heritage Video Collection has arrived at the Knight Library. Made possible by a private gift, the collection comprises a video lending library of nearly 200 motion pictures, documentary programs, and scholarly courses addressing central topics of Jewish life and culture.

*Front page background illustration: Map of 1855, Coquille's Southwest Oregon Research Project Archive, Special Collections, Knight Library.*

## *Library Adopts New PLAN for Students: Peer Library Advising Network*

New students at the University of Oregon face a vast and sometimes intimidating array of information resources at the UO library. They don't know where to begin or what questions to ask the library's skilled reference librarians. It's easy to feel overwhelmed.

But Jon Cawthorne, outreach services coordinator, has the answer. Beginning fall 1997, students can take advantage of a new education service at the Knight Library—a service run *by students for students!*

Funded by a generous gift from a UO alumna, the Peer Library Advising Network (PLAN) will reach out to undergraduate students through one-on-one and small-group instructional sessions, personalized library reference service, tutoring, specialized library tours, and more.

Says Cawthorne, "Peer advisers are a valuable addition to our library reference staff. In addition to the level of service they provide their peers, they will gain excellent work experience in a position of responsibility and an understanding of the latest research tools and technology."

*For more information on this exciting outreach service, call Jon Cawthorne, outreach services coordinator, (541) 346-1897.*

## *The Library Would Like to Thank:*

- James F. and Shirley Kendall Rippey, for their gift toward the creation of a new library at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston, Oregon. The gift is in memory of Loyd and Dorothy Rippey, Jim Rippey's parents and long-time residents of the Charleston region.
- An anonymous trading partner of Nike, for a gift to the library's endowment campaign, purpose to be announced at a later date.
- Margaret Hart, for her gift to support the South West Reading Alcove in the Knight Library.
- The Coquille Indian Tribe, for their gift of the Coquille's Southwest Oregon Research Project Archive and sponsorship of the Potlatch Celebration.

## *More Exciting Sites on the World Wide Web*

From Business Reference Librarian Alexey

Panchenko:

- Do you think that Powell's Bookstore is one of Portland's greatest attractions? If your answer is yes, you'll be happy to know that now you can browse their shelves from the comfort of your own home. Powell's web site will let you search books by author, title, subject, or publisher. By the way, do you know who won the most recent Pulitzer Prize or the Nobel Prize for Literature? Check the Award Winners list at Powell's web site:  
<http://www.powells.com/>
- Are you an inventor? Has a great idea just dawned on you, and you need to make sure nobody else has had the same idea? Check the patents registry! You can search, retrieve, and study more than two million patent descriptions on the IBM Patent Server Home Page:  
<http://patent.womplex.ibm.com/>

These gifts total \$2.7 million. Three years into the Oregon Campaign, the library is more than two-thirds toward its goal of raising \$9 million to endow library collections and teaching programs.

*For information on ways to contribute to the Oregon Campaign, including gifts through your estate plan or an income trust, please call the Office of the Librarian, (541) 346-3056.*

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## *What Your Gift Can Buy the Library*

A gift of \$100 will purchase Geohistory Maps, a software program on CD-ROM offering 200 map views covering civilization from the Mesopotamians to the present and allowing users to display and superimpose different maps in sequences and combinations of their choice. A gift of \$200 will enable the library to purchase one copy for Intel-based and another for Macintosh computers.

Faculty members teaching Scandinavian and medieval history, literature, and culture will appreciate a gift of \$450 to purchase a set of three atlases of the Old Norse sagas, entitled *Islenskur soguatlás* (Icelandic saga atlas). Published in Reykjavik, written in Icelandic, and replete with beautifully colored maps, this resource would enhance the library's collection of specialized reference materials.

A gift of \$500 will purchase the current Simmons Study of Media and Markets CD-ROM, a valuable research and educational source for students in marketing, communication, advertising, and economics.

Replace a twenty-five-year-old set of maps in the Map and Aerial Photography Library with a gift of \$2,040. This gift will purchase a topographic map set of 204 maps for England and Scotland at 1:50,000-scale.

A gift of \$4,000 will purchase the Arden Shakespeare CD-ROM: Text and Sources for Shakespeare Studies. A new, authoritative research tool for Shakespeare scholars, this text-based CD-ROM features the acclaimed Arden Shakespeare modern critical editions of plays, poems, and sonnets as well as reference supplements and supporting materials.

*This edition of Library Notes is printed on Rubicon™ paper, an alternative to wood-pulp papers. It is manufactured from 100% bamboo pulp and produced elemental chlorine free. This paper is acid free and completely recyclable.*

*Photography by Jack Liu*