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FROM THE DEAN

“Stay Connected” is more than a newsletter name; it is what we want to do with you as an interested reader.

In this article, I want to elaborate on the new and improved version of the Morgan Library Stay Connected newsletter. We will be highlighting individuals who have written the article, so you will be able to reach out to them and stay connected. We are working to provide a wider range of content in the newsletter; this will include shorter, but more stories. The beauty of this, is we get to highlight more of what is happening and changing at the Morgan Library, which we are very excited to be bringing to you. Again, it’s an opportunity to stay connected with you, in areas you may find exciting.

The new added bonus of truly staying connected allows us to fill an unlimited amount of space on the Internet. This is where you will be able to find photo galleries, video work, and extended content. As a research university library that encourages the advancement and general use of technology, we are excited to start working with more digital content for this publication. The Internet has evolved drastically over the years, starting out as a defense operation with traditional practices that have provided a strong foundation, allowing us and other libraries across the world to evolve into what we currently are. We look forward to sharing this continuing journey into the new technology age with you. We are proud to bring you some of the most advanced ideas and technological advancements that this world has to offer. We are working to provide a wider range of content in the newsletter; this will include shorter, but more stories. The beauty of this, is we get to highlight more of what is happening and changing at the Morgan Library, which we are very excited to be bringing to you.

In this issue, you will find how these new technologies are interacting with our old technologies. This interaction is something that we believe is an integral part of creating a new technologically savvy library, while still keeping the core beliefs and foundations that have supported us from its inception. We hope that you find the information within Stay Connected both exciting in the new technologies we are working with and also nostalgic in the traditional practices that have provided a strong foundation, allowing us and other libraries across the world to evolve into what we currently are.

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NEW TECHNOLOGY

The first reaction to seeing Google Liquid Galaxy in the Morgan Library is usually one of awe, followed by curiosity, followed by delight. Though many people are familiar with the power of Google Earth—a virtual globe that enables the user to “fly” to anywhere on the planet and see images of Earth’s surface in remarkable detail—Google Liquid Galaxy takes this visualization a step further by enlarging the display and providing the means for an immersive, more intense, shared experience.

Developed by Google engineers during their “20 percent time,” it essentially enables multiple instances of Google Earth to run simultaneously and seamlessly across an array of contiguous displays. At the Morgan Library, the first GLG was built using spare parts—surplus computers and monitors—and resulted in a 10-monitor, desktop version. Currently set up in the main computer lobby of the Library, this GLG display is open to any library patron who wants to sit down and take it for a spin. The controller takes a little getting used to—it functions like a video game controller—but, before long users generally become adept at flying to their childhood homes or the top of Mount Everest or any other point of interest they choose on earth’s surface. Upon seeing the utility, excitement, and potential of this technology, the Library decided to take it one step further. Instead of having a display that provides an immersive experience to one or two people, why not bump it up a bit to create a wall-scale version so that many people can experience it at once? The recent renovation of the Event Hall provided the perfect venue and opportunity for such a creation. The Library secured new equipment that could take Google Liquid Galaxy to the big screen. Now situated in a space that can comfortably seat up to 100, GLG has been seen and utilized by many classes, and outside groups (including the city of Fort Collins, The Nature Conservancy, and middle school students, among others) to visualize their projects and to learn about places in ways never before possible.

While using GLG for basic visualization of Earth is impressive on its own, value is added by overlaying additional spatially referenced datasets over the background images. That is, with Google Earth imagery as the backdrop, users can choose or create thematic overlays that focus on their topics of interest. While CSU has a number of such overlays available (campus trees, the Cache la Poudre watershed, historic maps), the GIS/Google Earth community continues to create ever more interesting and diverse layers that are available to the public. (See Google Earth Gallery.)

The Event Hall and Google Liquid Galaxy can be reserved by CSU affiliates as well as off-campus groups. Story By: Sophia Linn

WHAT ARE THEY READING

Two cases came to prominence at the time of the establishment of this group of scientists, naturalists, and other interested parties who united to help local law enforcement find these individuals. The services of NecroSearch are now in demand nationally, but the team meets and discusses each request on its merits, not sensationalism. NecroSearch does not lead investigations, but offers support in the search based on the members’ knowledge of earth science, physics, archeology, anthropology, and other sciences using scientific methods.

Ralf Christophersen

Ralf Christophersen has served as a volunteer with the Agricultural and Natural Resources Archive of CSU Libraries for the past five years. Born in California, Christophersen grew up in Saudi Arabia, where his father worked for Aramco. After attending high school in Beirut and at the Army-Navy Academy in Carlisbad, Calif., Christophersen completed a four-year tour of duty with the Navy and later earned a history degree and teaching certificate from Mount Mercy College in Iowa. He and his wife, Clarice, traveled to Japan and Germany to teach in primary and secondary schools for the Department of Defense, and decided to retire in Colorado. Christophersen provided the following review of one of many books he has read during the past year.

NO STONE UNTURNED

by Steve Jackson

Kensington Books, NYC 2002

Central and Western Colorado features wide, wild geography and rugged terrain, where hikers and others have fallen victim to either foul play or accidental disappearance. Steve Jackson’s nonfiction thriller, No Stone Unturned, describes searches for missing persons in the Colorado wilderness by various state and federal agencies in cooperation with NecroSearch International, an informal group of Colorado-based forensic investigators.

Rolf Christophersen, (Second from the right) as a young Boy Scout in Saudi Arabia.

Prominent scientists from Colorado State University, the University of Colorado Boulder, and the Colorado School of Mines; members of police departments; and ordinary Colorado citizens with unique skills have belonged to this informal organization. Their expertise is unparalleled, and their approach is based partly on their idea of how successful their contribution might be. Some call them the Pig People. Find out why by reading this fact-filled book, which details a few of their triumphs.

Story By: Rolf Christophersen
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Dear Dr. Book,

Due to the recent epic flooding in Colorado, reflection on how families lost so much, including irreplaceable family documents. My home is near a stream and I want to be prepared in the event of flooding or any type of water damage. What do you do with wet paper materials to dry and save them for the future? Concerned Homeowner

Dear Concerned Homeowner,

Questions about salvaging water-damaged materials come up often and are on our minds after the Front Range flooding last September. When dealing with water-damaged materials, time is of the essence. Mold can begin forming within 48-72 hours from the time of the original damage. Drying paper materials is a fairly easy operation, but salvaging materials from mold damage is difficult.

Two procedures are most often used for drying paper materials – air-drying and freeze-drying. If the volumes are only slightly wet, you have the time and space to spread them out for drying, this is an effective way to go. Air-drying works especially well in the summer when “sun power” can be used. For example, if your books are wet only around the edges, and you have caught the damage almost immediately, they should air-dry within a day or so and thus prevent any further damage. Using fans to increase air circulation speeds up drying. If the volumes are quite wet, it is best to freeze the materials, and then proceed with the most appropriate drying methods. When in doubt, freeze the paper volumes. Freezing does not harm the volume itself and prevents any further damage from occurring. It also gives you time to make an informed decision on the most appropriate option.

When volumes are dirty from floodwaters, they can be cleaned with water; however, paper is very fragile when wet and may tear at the slightest pressure. Wrap each volume separately in freezer paper, and put them in a freezer. The wrapping technique need not be fancy, but it protects the volume, makes it easier to handle, and prevents color dyes from running from one volume to the other. Store materials either flat side down or with the spine down. The faster the volumes are frozen the better, but a home freezer works just fine. One caution: if materials were standing in potentially contaminated or very dirty water, make sure to use gloves and protective clothing.

The materials remaining in the freezer will be fine for as long as they are there, allowing you time to evaluate what to keep or toss and to locate local sources for book-drying and restoration. It is also recommended that you review your current storage arrangements and environment. Refer to Preservation of Family Paper Documents on our website for further information, or write to Dear Dr. Book in care of Stay Connected, Colorado State University Libraries, Fort Collins, CO 80523

Story By: Ann Schwalm

This year marks the 18th anniversary of the biennial Colorado International Invitational Poster Exhibition. This event is hosted by Colorado State University's Department of Art, and poster designers from all over the world to showcase their work in the exhibition. The CIIPE is the only exhibition of its kind in the United States. Originally organized through CSU’s graphic design department in 1979, the show has continuously grown into the premier poster exhibition that it is now. Each year, the CIIPE awards the Honor Laureate to one artist with a lifetime record of excelling in the poster medium. This year’s honor laureate is Danish artist Gitte Kath. She is not only a graphic designer, but is also currently working as a stage designer. Furthermore, Kath has been the stage designer and stage director at the Teatret Møllen in Haderslev, Denmark, since 1974. She has received numerous awards in both graphic design and stage design throughout the world.

This exhibit brings with it a wealth of knowledge and experience showcased in the traditional poster medium. Second-copy originals for this event have been housed at the Morgan Library since 1991. A decision was made in 1991 that, since CIIPE was such a great show, University Libraries should preserve the original posters and make digital images of them available online as well,” said Patty Rettig, head archivist at the Morgan Library. There are currently more than 2,000 posters within the collections, which can be accessed in a searchable database on the Archives and Special Collections website. The website currently features the seventh thru the 16th CIIPE exhibitions, or roughly those exhibitions from 1991 and 1993 are available only to current CSU users, but those exhibitions from 1995 and later are available for the public.

Story By: Garrett Mynatt & Nick Patenaude

http://lib.colostate.edu/posters/
Morgan Library was a true nerve center for Colorado State University when I arrived on campus in 1965 as a newly minted assistant professor of history. Since then the campus and the library have grown spectacularly, as we all know. Nevertheless, Morgan Library has constantly retained its vital position as a center for the whole campus. Then, as now, all of the colleges, all of the departments, all of the faculty, and all of the students depended upon library resources and services in one way or another. For those of us in the College of Liberal Arts, Morgan Library was an open window where we could see what was going on in our special fields throughout the world. Half-a-century ago, we who were in liberal arts depended upon the stacks housing books and articles in Morgan or in a remote storage near campus. We could use interlibrary loan to acquire books and articles that CSU did not have. Now, scholars can use wondrous, speedy electronic connections to archives and repositories all over the world. But it is expensive to keep these 21st-century connections operating. Morgan Library recently knows how much of the library is devoted to student support. Large rooms are filled with computers, while other rooms have comfortable furniture, providing a relaxing atmosphere in which to study. There are also designated areas available for group work, plus equipment and space specifically for students with particular needs. These facilities were created or improved during recent sweeping changes. But Morgan Library is always in a state of dynamic change and must remain so in order to keep it at the cutting edge of research and teaching. To fuel this ever-ongoing process, donations from our broad community are needed. We all know that state funding for our land-grant University has declined to a relative trickle. Meanwhile, the cost of state-of-the-art technology has risen dramatically, and so has the cost of journals and some kinds of books. Donors can rest assured that they are contributing directly to the very heart of the University’s core values when they write a check for the benefit of Morgan Library.

Story By: Henry Weisser

Yes, I want to support Colorado State University Libraries!

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