Pratt SILS Student Showcase

Sunday, May 15, 2011
Pratt Manhattan Campus
6th Floor
1:30-4:00 p.m.
www.show.prattsils.org

Welcome to the First Annual Pratt SILS Student Showcase! The Showcase highlights the extraordinary work of select students in the Graduate School of Information and Library Science completed during the 2010-2011 academic year. Our hope is that the Showcase will further enrich our community and open a dialogue between students and professors about the projects and academic pursuits achieved at SILS throughout the year. All participants were selected by a full-time faculty member to show their work. The event is presented by the SILS Student Association (SILSSA).

Contents:

Showcase Committee:
Brian Soldo (Chair)
Erin Davis Anderson
Jenny Mathias
Erin Shea

Showcase Faculty Advisor:
Dr. Gilok Choi

Special thanks to:
Dr. Debbie Rabina
Dean Tula Giannini
Quinn Lai
Robyn Hjermstad
...and all the SILS faculty and staff that made this event happen.

Pratt SILS Student Showcase

Unwritten History in a Paperless Age: The History, Theory, and Practice of Oral History
Amelia Catalano, Christina Manzella, and Lisa Paolucci

Views of what comprises humanities cultural history have recently gone in a new direction. Historians have found that long relied upon written histories can only provide skewed interpretations of historic events that do not take into consideration the history of many marginalized peoples who rely upon oral histories for the passing-on of their culture. Oral histories have recently become accepted as essential supplementary sources to written histories, as well as being historical primary sources in their own right. Many academic disciplines turn to oral histories as means to bolster their studies, which lends credence to these unwritten sources' academic importance. However, issues arise when choosing the best means of preservation for oral histories. Many of these problems stem from the need for oral histories to be passed directly from person to person. Other problems, such as the lingering stigmas against oral histories, still exist. There are also monetary and spatial consideration problems which are characteristics of traditional oral history preservation techniques. Our project investigates the historical origins of oral histories, and how this past has shaped the perception of these histories today. We also explore the problems inherent in oral history preservation, how oral histories fit into the digital age, and exciting new means of digital access which allow for a deeper understanding of how oral histories fit into the newly forming world culture.

LIS 697-02: Cultural Heritage Description and Access - Dr. Cristina Pattuelli

1:50 PM

Visualizing International Information - Murder in Mexico & The Brain Drain
Homicide rates in Mexico: Becki Levant and Tynan Hoffman
Brain Drain: John Tomlinson, Susan Hoover and Susan Midler

Using intergovernmental and non-U.S. governmental sources, students collected information about the homicide rate in Mexico and about international skilled migration (the so-called "brain drain"). Homicide rates are changing significantly in Mexico due in part to drug trafficking, and one group of students produced an animated map to show these changes over time, as well as a map comparing Mexican states to countries with similar homicide rates. The brain drain is a complex phenomenon that is often misunderstood, and a second group of students produced visualizations exploring aspects of it. These included relation to economic growth, response to crises, and the scale of the brain drain in different countries.

LIS 619: International Information Sources – Dr. Debbie Rabina

Pratt SILS Student Showcase

2:10 PM

How Three Become One
Jesse Brauner

My research focused primarily on museum libraries. There were three issues I addressed in my paper: 1) the increasing dependency on outside funding and donations, 2) the pressure to upgrade to newer and more advanced technology and 3) the need to establish better relationships with the patrons and the local community. The heart of my paper was the interconnectedness between these three issues. How they all affect and are dependent on each other, and how addressing or changing one of them inevitably leads to questions and changes regarding the other two.

LIS 651-03: Information Professions - Dr. Irene Lopatovska

2:30 PM

Information Oasis- The Library of the Future
Presented by Mindy Carner. Project team also included Travis Harwood, Molly Lee, Denise Pasquinelli, Christopher Weller, Michael Hollitscher, Gregory Zeidner, Jeffrey Tyack, Katherine Chabalko, Jessica Peterson

The Information Oasis is inspired by a conversational infrastructure. Its presence in the community opens a channel for creativity and inspiration to occur. It commits to engage through involvement, noting the value to be had in continuing the conversation given the personal cost of being engaged: the energy, time, attention, and stress required for a community in conversation to construct and reconstruct meaning. In this atmosphere a community is ripe to evolve by facilitating the ability to Learn, Coordinate and Collaborate with one another.

LIS 682-01: People-Centered Methods and Design – Dr. David Walczyk

2:50 PM

Creativity, Capitalism, and Consternation: Copyright
Katherine Pradt

Information professionals can't turn around without knocking into copyright. This presentation explores how it got that way, why we need to know about it, and what we can and can't do because of it. The rights of intellectual propertyholders and broad public access to information are values that are often in conflict, and in the age of digitization and instant transmission, these skirmishes have become pitched battles. Using image, sound, and video, I will give a brief history of the evolution of copyright law, and an overview of the issues that copyright raises in librarianship and other information professions.

LIS 651-01: Information Professions - Dr. Irene Lopatovska

4

Pratt SILS Student Showcase

3:10 PM

re|collection: An online family-based social network, photo archive, and digital repository

Kevin Pelrine, Shannon McBeen, Lily Barrish, and Amanda Weeden

re|collection is a social media platform for seniors that allows an older generation to connect with their family, recreate their own family history, and share their memories online. One part social network, one part digital archive, re|collection aims to strengthen family ties and preserve family history through online social interaction and digital archiving.

LIS 697: Social Media (Fall 2010) – Dr. Anthony Cocciolo

3:30 PM

Creating an Oral History Digital Archive for the Lesbian Herstory Archives

Casey Fisher and Megan Rulli

The project of digitizing the Lesbian Herstory Archives' oral history collection and building a website to support its public access was undertaken by the Fall 2010 Digital Archives class. Under the direction of Anthony Cocciolo, the graduate students digitized oral histories from tapes into wav and mp3 files. Utilizing open source resources, the class built a site for the digitized oral histories using the Collective Access platform. The class managed the design and metadata standards for the content. They also added some life to the oral histories with the assistance of the rich material available at the Archive.

LIS 665-01: Projects in Digital Archives (Fall 2010) - Dr. Anthony Cocciolo

3:50 PM

Speaking of Dance: Creating A Digital Archive of Dancers Talking About Dance

Kenyetta Dean and Megan Watcha

Faculty Sponsor - Dr. Anthony Cocciolo

4:10 PM

Cultural Heritage Class Social Network
Chris Weller

The class created personal profiles for using XML and an ontology called FOAF (Friend of a Friend), which is used to create a social network by describing connections between people. Although FOAF never became the social networking glue it was meant to be, it is commonly used as a way to describe social and professional connections and provide contact information to semantic web and linked data applications. Students' profiles were used to create a social map of the class.

LIS 670: Cultural Heritage: Description and Access - Dr. Cristina Pattuelli

4:20 PM

Fact Checking Fair Weather
Elena Kemelman

The young adult novel Fair Weather by Richard Peck (2001) contains many historical facts. Some of these facts were checked for their historical accuracy and are presented here along with the reference sources consulted.

LIS 652-2: Information Services & Resources - Dr. Debbie Rabina

The Comprehensive English Preparation Project Website
Lindsay Chell, Barbarajean Majewski, and Susan Marcinek
http://cepproject.wordpress.com

"The Comprehensive English Preparation Project is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to teaching Brooklyn public high school students how to write. The director, John DeWind, has needed a website for his program, but doesn't have the technical knowledge to do it himself or the budget to hire a professional firm. He has the following goals for the website:
1. Low-cost, easy to maintain and professional-quality.
2. Provide information about the program to teachers and administrators, who may be interested in bringing the program to their school.
3. Provide an archive of the students' work as a means of recognizing students' accomplishments and demonstrating the success of the program to interested teachers/administrators.
4. Provide a venue for alumni of the program to continue their writing and keep in touch with each other."

LIS 654: Information Technologies – Dr. Gilok Choi

Printers' Marks of the Diamond Law Library
Emily Fairey, Jessica Haas, and Katherine Pradt
http://www.diamondprintersmarks.com/

When Emily Fairey, a member of our group, did an internship in the Diamond Law Library at Columbia University, she discovered a little-used and little-known collection of books of Roman law from the 15th to 18th centuries. These books contained a treasure beyond the legal history they contained: They are a trove of early European printers' marks. Printers' marks were an early form of trademark, which were often intricate, densely symbolic works of art that spoke of the individual printer's faith, philosophy, location, self-conception, and historical or literary knowledge. As a project for Management of Digital Content (LIS 697-01) with Professor Gilok Choi, we created an online collection of a sampling of these marks, each with associated metadata that offers explanations of the symbolism of the marks and biographical information about the printers. We used Drupal 6.2 and many contributed modules to make the site as browseable and searchable as possible. We aspire to stimulate interest in the Diamond collection and in printers' marks in general, and we hope to attract a community of scholars and interested laypeople to this site. Eventually, we would like to see the site grow to include not only more marks from the Diamond library but also contributions from other libraries and enthusiasts.

LIS 697-01: Management of Digital Content - Dr. Gilok Choi

Pratt SILS Student Showcase

First Amendment Visualization
Emily Hashimoto, M. Rini Hughes, Sarah Pickard, and Aimee Slater
http://tinyurl.com/3rdgpjj

When we consider how fiercely we as Americans guard our personal rights, the First Amendment emerges as an important guiding principle with which we measure personal freedom and government regulation. This is a constantly evolving debate, however, and the First Amendment has experienced many interpretations, both restrictive and progressive, through the last 234 years. To understand its evolution, our group created a data visualization of the First Amendment, tracking Supreme Court cases, federal and state legislation, and executive branch events beginning in 1777 and continuing into this year. We ranked each plot point on a -4 through 4 scale, with -4 representing the most limiting First Amendment rulings, and 4 representing the most supportive. You can see by the fluctuating plot points throughout the 20th century that we as a nation are still trying to find balance between personal freedoms and social constraints.

LIS 611: Information Policy - Dr. Debbie Rabina

NYCFM German Fire Mark Collection
Kate Jadwin, Quinn MacRorie, and Abby Rubin
http://www.showcase.prattsils.org/

The goal of this project is to create a website for a curated digital image collection of original German fire marks, held by the New York City Fire Museum, using Drupal. Our collection provides key visual elements to the story of the fire mark, a tale and history of an industry in which individuals had a direct interest in the development of indemnity for loss by fire and the preservation of property and life. Due to the museum's great variety and sheer size of their fire mark collection, this project aims to help users specifically seeking German fire marks. Taking this into account, we hope our contribution helps to reveal the progress of German historical enterprise; tracing the use of the fire mark can reveal the development of German industry from its beginnings to it present role in today's economic community and society. Our site was created with a wide range of users in mind, the overarching goal being to provide easy navigation, offering accessibility and usability.

LIS 697 - Management of Digital Content - Dr. Gilok Choi

8

Pratt SILS Student Showcase

Embedded Metadata Explorer: Promoting Examination and Acceptance of Embedded Descriptive Metadata's Applicative Utility
Matt Miller and Christopher J. Mullin
http://www.embedmydata.com/

The Embedded Metadata Explorer (EME) was conceived and developed to promote and advocate for wider usage and acceptance of embedded descriptive metadata-based practices for digital archiving and preservation initiatives. Previously introduced and outlined as part of an in-class presentation, the next step in making the case for EME's viability is to discuss its applicative utility within the contexts of program development, scholarly research and qualitative, experimental field studies.

LIS 653-02: Knowledge Organization – Dr. Cristina Pattuelli

Poster Presentations (Rooms 602 and 608)

Orientalism 2.0?: A Look at Orientalism and it's Place in Contemporary Media
Lauren Elizabeth Bradley

Edward Saïd, the post-colonial theorist, criticized Western academics and journalists for being, what he called, Orientalists, that is for generalizing all the people of the world who were not in Europe or the US as being one and the same. He argued that Westerners think of all these people as "the other", the Oriental. This paper and poster examines the Western media coverage of the recent uprisings in the Middle East and explores if Saïd's critique can be applied to their coverage.

LIS 611: Information Policy - Dr. Debbie Rabina

Mobile Medical Resource Design
Antonio DeRosa

Mobile reference is the new frontier in medical research and practice. Used by clinicians, physicians, nurses, and patients alike, mobile resources offer medical information at the point-of-care. MedAIDS strives to serve those healthcare providers who have on-the-fly, and research, reference needs pertaining to patients with HIV and/or AIDS. The simple interface and intuitive quick links make it easy for any user to search and retrieve medication, diagnosis, treatment, and evidence-based information on HIV and AIDS.

LIS-697-11: Medical Informatics - Professor Helen-Ann Brown Epstein

9

Chalula, an East African Village Library
Lola Galla

This showcase presents a series of photographs taken at Chalula Library, in a rural village of Tanzania, in 2008. The photographs document the community and the users of the library, from the chief of the village, to the women and children. The purpose of this showcase is to bring attention to Chalula and its basic needs, while also promoting literacy through education and libraries.

LIS 651-04 Information Professions - Dr. Irene Lopatovska

Checking up on Tom Robbins: Even Cowgirls Get the Blues
Amy M. Laughlin

Tom Robbins' 1976 book, Even cowgirls get the blues, centers around a character, Sissy Hankshaw, who takes up hitchhiking as a career due to her larger-than-life thumbs, and numerous hijinks ensue. Mr. Robbins proposes a number of facts -- both unusual and well-known -- as part of his eccentric writing style, many of which turned out to be less fact-ful than fantasy-ful.

LIS 652-02: Information Services and Sources - Debbie Rabina

Geographic Information: Geospatial Objects in the Digital Library
Julia O'Brien and Mike Satalof

Digital libraries are the ideal hosts for geographic information system (GIS) interfaces, which patrons can search for placenames and geospatial objects, such as latitude and longitude coordinates. Digital libraries have the potential to initiate these programs, by linking all geographically referenced materials in their collections. Maps, photographs, books and articles are sources of placenames and information objects, which can be cross-referenced in digital gazetteers. The existing metadata elements for digital georeferencing are not always mappable and information communities are isolated from each other. Unified georeferencing systems will allow information institutions to share and explore geographic data. Integration of geo-data will give libraries the ability to deliver enriched information to their users and reveal previously hidden data in their collections.

LIS 653-4: Knowledge Organization – Dr. Cristina Pattuelli