10-2012 Newsletter

Minnesota State University, Mankato. Library Services

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Totaling 4,900 square feet and located just outside of Bresnan Arena, the updated Brock Otto Hall of Champions display is an impressive sight. It includes nine large photo banners and six display cases that recognize and reflect the heritage of Minnesota State University, Mankato as well as the big dreams, big opportunities, and big impact that the University has today. The Hall of Champions highlights heritage, academics, athletics, student life, and alumni. The recent renovation has transformed it in several ways. All of the display cases have been redesigned, streamlining their content and making them more visually striking. New lighting has been installed inside the cases and in the hallway, new signage has been added to each case, and new full-color photo banners have been added above the cases.

The project has been a collaboration of the University’s Integrated Marketing Team and the Archives staff in Library Services, with support from Facilities, Printing Services, and Intercollegiate Athletics. Under the direction of Archives Technician Anne Stenzel, the interior of the cases was completely redone during the 2012 spring semester. This involved working with many campus departments and units. The ideas and content provided by units such as Alumni, Athletics, Student Activities, Theater and Dance was invaluable to the success of the project. The Archives Graduate Assistant and student workers were also active participants in the “new” Hall of Champions. Their creative ideas and student point of view added significantly to the project.

The Hall of Champions, part of the original design for the Taylor Center in 2000, was named after James Robert Otto and Georgene Brock, recognizing their years of service as Athletic Directors and coaches for the University. It was designed to reflect the University’s history as well as its vision for the future. Reflecting back to the school’s founding in 1868, the Hall of Champions includes memorabilia and documents associated with life on campus, academics, athletics, student organizations and much more. Collecting and identifying content for the original cases was a challenge because the University Archives did not have a tradition of collecting memorabilia. Much of the case content was donated specifically for the Hall of Champions by alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the University. The original design and implementation of this project was done by Kris Connors, Starr Kirklin, President Richard Rush, Shandwick International and their design firm Prospera.

University Archives at Minnesota State University, Mankato was given the responsibility of maintaining the exhibit. This has included cleaning the cases, preservation of materials, updating of select materials, and other routine activities. The University Archives plans to update two cases each year to keep the exhibit relevant to the University community. While the cases still reflect the history of the University back to its time as a Normal School, there is now more emphasis on the University today to reflect the “Big Ideas, Real World Thinking” at Minnesota State University, Mankato.
Database Spotlight: The Times Digital Archive, 1785-2006

The Times Digital Archive offers researchers access to 220 years of news. It contains 1.4 million pages and nearly 70,000 issues. The archive supports research across multiple disciplines, including business, political science, humanities, economics, philosophy, and art.

The following topics are just a few examples of what may be found in the archive:
- Dr. David Livingstone’s exploration of Africa
- The events and politics leading up to WWI and WWII
- The first photographs taken on Everest
- Readers’ letters debating the virtues and downfalls in Margaret Thatcher’s policies in the 1980s
- Obituaries of the rich and famous

There are several ways to search The Times. The ‘Basic Search’ provides broad search options either by searching every word in an article or searching article titles and citation data only. The ‘Advanced Search’ allows the user to narrow a search by applying more information such as page numbers, article title, author, day of the week, issue and document number. The fuzzy search option also enables the user to find words similar to the specified search term, in case spelling has changed over time.

If you have questions about using this resource contact the Reference Desk in Memorial Library at 507-389-5958.

MNVOTES: Introduction to Voting Workshop

Provided by Office of the Secretary of State and Minnesota State Mankato Library Services

Tuesday, October 16, 2012
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
ML 81 lower level of Memorial Library

Library Services will present a voting workshop on October 16 at 11:00 a.m. The program will be held in ML 81. This hands-on presentation will encourage eligible voters to get registered, get informed, and go vote. The workshop is designed for students and others who are preparing for their first voting experience. The program is free of charge and open to everyone.

Honoring MSU Authors

Minnesota State University Authors at the reception held in their honor April 10, 2012 in the Marilyn J. Lass Center for Minnesota Studies.