BENSON LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION ACQUIRES ANZALDÚA ARCHIVE

The Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection recently acquired the archive of the feminist author, cultural theorist and independent scholar Gloria Evangelina Anzaldúa (1942-2004).

The Anzaldúa archive — consisting of approximately 100 linear feet of material — contains manuscripts of the author’s major published works, including “Borderlands/La Frontera” and her “Prieta” stories, as well as unpublished manuscripts, notebooks, correspondence, lectures, and audio and video interviews.

Today “Borderlands/La Frontera,” an autobiographical work that combines theory, personal introspection and poetry, is widely read in college courses along with “This Bridge Called My Back: Writings of Radical Women of Color,” which Anzaldúa co-edited with Cherrie Moraga. Both texts have been successful in bringing the voices of women of color into the mainstream feminist discourse.

Anzaldúa’s papers will be processed over the next year by staff at the Benson with the help of the university’s Center for Mexican American Studies and will be completed and available for access to researchers in fall 2006.

Quicknotes

Annual giving

The Libraries launched its first-ever annual giving program with a special letter from Aggie Garrido, head baseball coach, UT Baseball. The University Federal Credit Union, headquartered in Austin, has pledged to match the first $20,000 raised. Donor levels range from $25 to $1,000. For more information and online giving form see: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/development/annualfund.html

Customer service training

Working with the University’s Human Resource Services, the Libraries has created its own customer service training program. The Customer Service Training Team of Libraries staff members Hugh Baxter, Boris Brodsky, Jan Haney, Cynthia Ivey, Carol Johnson, Missy Nelson, Kim Wallace and Laura Young provided a training session for staff on ten different dates during summer 2005.

Attended by 291 of 318 budgeted Libraries staff members, each training session covered the why’s of customer service training in university libraries, customer service at UT Austin, choosing the right attitude and customer interaction tools and techniques. Future customer service training plans include an online training module to be developed in fall 2006 and ongoing refresher customer service training sessions in summer 2006.

PMA library expansion

A $130,000 gift from the University Co-op to the College of Natural Sciences with additional support from the College made it possible to transform a previously unused second-floor balcony into a study space that increases accommodations at the John M. Kuehn Physics Mathematics Astronomy Library by approximately 50%. The 36-seat study space, which opened in October 2005, features wireless Internet access, eight additional computers and many whiteboard panels for group study.

“The addition of this space is a significant benefit to the PMA Library,” says Librarian Molly White. “The space has unofficially been in use for several weeks and is quickly becoming popular with the students. We’re extremely grateful to the Co-op for their support.”
Previously we discussed in this space re-envisioning the future of our Libraries through collaboration and the use of the great creative potential among our staff.

We are also committed to making our organization responsive to national and international best practices and to learning how others within the research library community are preparing to meet tomorrow’s challenges.

With that in mind, we brought to our Libraries this fall during a two-week period, three groups of national leaders to measure, evaluate and advise us.

The first of these distinguished groups was our newly established Advisory Council drawn from the academy and the marketplace. The second group visiting our Libraries was the UTopia National Advisory Group. Memberships of both groups are detailed in this issue.

In addition, we are collaborating with the McCombs School of Business to design and implement an external review of our business resources. A peer review task force composed of McCombs School of Business and Libraries staff have been working since January 2005 with focus groups and evaluating surveys filled out by business faculty and students. For three days this fall, five business library directors from Stanford, Ohio State, and the universities of Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin met with McCombs faculty and students and Libraries staff. These business library directors also toured both the Libraries and the School’s facilities. Patterned after the McCombs 2002-2003 peer review, this assessment process will provide the foundation for a strategic plan to expand and enrich business library services and resources to support the McCombs initiative to become the best public business school in the nation.

In turn, this will further strengthen the University of Texas Libraries strategic intent to become “the pre-eminent public academic library in the country.” We are indebted to the public-minded citizens from within the academy and out who have contributed their time and wisdom to make the University of Texas Libraries even stronger.

Fred Heath, Vice Provost and Director of the University of Texas Libraries

[Signature]
Prufrack's COFFEE SHOP OPENS

Prufrack's opened on the entrance level to the Perry-Castañeda Library on September 26, 2005. The shop, featuring coffee, tea, smoothies, sushi, sandwiches and pastries, has already transformed the PCL entrance area into a gathering spot for people watching, web surfing, and intense caffeine consumption. A grand opening celebration was held on October 25, 2005, with a ribbon cutting ceremony, free coffee and snacks. Attendees at the celebration included Barbara McKnight, administrative associate in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, who submitted the winning entry in the coffee shop naming contest held in spring 2005.

The winning name is a reference to T. S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrack.

McKnight received a $1,000 award, co-sponsored by the University of Texas Libraries and Aramark Corporation. Students, staff and faculty submitted more than 1,500 entries to the coffee shop naming competition.

For I have known them all already, known them all-
Have known the evenings, mornings, afternoons,
I have measured out my life with coffee spoons;
I know the voices dying with a dying fall
Beneath the music from a further room.
So how should I presume?

Advisory Council Established

The University of Texas Libraries Advisory Council, established during summer 2005, held its first meeting Friday, October 28 at the Littlefield House on the University campus. The advisory council is chaired by Vincent Salas, president of Salas Public Relations and board member of the Texas Book Festival. He is a graduate of the University of Texas.

The vice chair of the Council is Regan Gammon, founder and chair of the Board of the Texas Book Festival. Gammon is currently serving on the boards of the National Parks Foundation, the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest and All Saint’s Day School. She is a native of Midland, Texas and a graduate of Texas Christian University.

Each will serve terms beginning in fall 2005 and ending in fall 2007. Other members of the newly established Libraries Advisory Council are

Professor Hal Box, Laurie Bidder, Tony Budet, Greg Curtis, Dr. William L. Livingston, Prudence Mackintosh, Edward Nawrocka, Richard A. Oppel, Sandra J. Pickett, Christine A. Plosky, Jan J. Roberts, Dr. Andrés Tijerina and Dr. Fran Vick.
PCL MAP COLLECTION WEB SITE RECEIVES 1.1 MILLION HITS IN ONE DAY

During September 2005, as hurricane Rita approached the Texas/Louisiana coastline, the PCL Map Collection web site [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps] broke all previous records for the number of hits per day. On Wednesday, September 21, the site recorded 744,615 hits and on Thursday, September 22, an amazing 1,101,194 hits - an all time record for the site. A hit is "any request to the web server for any type of file, including a web page or an image ...."

The PCL Map Collection site, curated by Paul Rascoe, documents, maps, and electronic services librarian, provided in one location links to a variety of maps documenting the progress of the hurricane, including Louisiana State Police and TxDOT road closure and evacuation maps, NASA satellite maps of Rita, National Weather Service maps, and Gulf Coast oil refinery and chemical production maps on land and offshore.

Dr. David O. Nilsson, a retired special instructor in mathematics, has given $100,000 toward the creation of an endowment to support the collection and study of modern drama at the Fine Arts Library. Nilsson's gift establishes the David O. Nilsson Endowment and Lecture Series for Excellence in Contemporary Drama. The endowment will provide funds for collecting materials relating to modern drama and will fund an annual lecture series to feature playwrights, scholars, critics and performers speaking about their work and issues facing the world of contemporary drama. In 2004, Dr. Nilsson funded the David O. Nilsson Endowment for Mexican American and U.S. Latino Research Materials in the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection.

NATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP FOR UTOPIA HOLDS ITS FIRST MEETING

The new advisory group of regional and national technology experts established to advise on the content and focus of Utopia (http://utopia.utexas.edu), the University of Texas at Austin's digital knowledge gateway, met in Austin on November 3, 2005.

The 15-member group will meet biannually to consult on issues surrounding the three-year-old Web project and to provide suggestions for increasing its viability and effectiveness.

Charter members of the Utopia National Advisory Group are Judy Aschcroft, associate vice president for the Division of Instructional Innovation and Assessment, University of Texas at Austin; Andrew Dillon, dean of the School of Information, University of Texas at Austin; William Gosling, university librarian, University of Michigan; Jim Kerthoff, assistant dean of the College of Fine Arts, University of Texas at Austin; James Kunerka, assistant vice president of resource development, University of Texas at Austin; Carl Lageze, senior research associate at Cornell Information Science; Brenda Laurel, media design chair at Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California; Ellen Mandelisch, associate director for research in the Center for Children and Technology, Education Development Center, Inc.; Anne Margules, executive director for MIT OpenCourseWare; Susan Metros, professor and deputy chief information officer, Ohio State University; Rush Miller, the Hillman University Librarian, University of Pittsburgh; Dan Mogulof, executive director of public affairs, University of California, Berkeley; Paul Reiter, Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the Department of Education, University of Texas at Austin; David Seaman, executive director of the Digital Library Foundation; Thomas F. Staley, director of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin; Joseph Tenhage, director of Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Services, University of Texas at Austin; Dan Updegrove, vice president for information technology, University of Texas at Austin; and John Price Wilkin, associate university librarian, Library Information Technology and Technical Access Services, University of Michigan.

Laurie Bricker, a member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and charter member of the University of Texas Libraries Advisory Council, will be a special liaison to the group.

Initial funding for Utopia was provided through the generous support of the Houston Endowment, Inc.
proposed hotel and club house

From the New York Tribune, December 27th, 1869. B.D. Griswold, Assistant in the University of Illinois Architectural Department.

James R. Gordon, drawing for the proposed hotel and club house, New York, New York.