Your Research Interests Survey

As we know, the library acquisitions budget for History is sadly limited so it is more important than ever that I have a more specific knowledge of research projects in which you are engaged or, more generally, your research interests for, say, the next five years. This can help me make even more targeted use of the limited History Book Budget funds available. Also, at those rare times when extra funding becomes available, I can then also make more targeted recommendations for major purchases such as databases or microform collections or reference sets. Remember, all of this is separate from the automatic approval plan titles the library receives and in which I take no active role.

In order to be most effective, I’d like to engage in a brief in-person meeting with you individually to find out in more detail about your specific research interests. Something on the order of 15 – 30 minutes should be enough. I last did a similar survey about six years ago some of you may recall. (This is NOT the same as the more general library needs survey interviews I did with many of you in 2015 either). I recognize that e-mail may be more convenient, especially for those of you who may be away on research trips, etc., so I’ll be happy to receive your response to questions I could send you that way too. However, I think in-person brief meetings can be more effective.

I will be happy to meet with you in your office (no need to come to the library!). This is, of course, voluntary, but I would welcome any chance to meet with you if interested. I am sending out this appeal near the start of each month starting in June through December, since I recognize many of you may have been away over the summer, etc. Please let me know if you are interested and let’s see if we can identify a mutually convenient date and time to meet.

Thank you for your consideration.

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Book Budget Available

Just a reminder that the History Book Budget for Fiscal year 2019-2020 is now available, so this is a good time to send me your requests for library materials. As always, the budget is pretty modest, so please bear this in mind when requesting anything.

Also, keep in mind that the library has a separate automatic approval plan, so we are actually adding more to the History collection (and other disciplines) than what I am ordering via the History Book Budget alone.
Liquid Galaxy

Recently installed on the First Floor of the Ralph Brown Draughon Library, the Liquid Galaxy data visualization tool, a kind of panoramic multi-screen display, is now available for use and exploration. This is so cutting-edge, that the Auburn University Libraries are asking for your input for suggestions in how it might be used for teaching or research. Please visit: aub.ie/galaxy.

Savvy Researchers Boot Camp

Several working groups were established in the library in August 2018 including the Graduate Student Working Group, with the intention of investigating existing library operations or services and new ways of meeting library patrons’ needs in a constantly changing library environment.

The Graduate Student Working Group (Adelia Grabowsky, Juliet Rumble, Liza Weisbrod, and yours truly) came up with the Savvy Researchers Boot Camp. Based on surveys and focus group responses, the Boot Camp is held on a Saturday near the start of each semester and is a series of workshops hold in various locations in both the Ralph Brown Draughon Library and the adjoining Mell Classroom Building. It features librarians and other library staff members, plus related service partners such as the Miller Writing Center, providing instruction in a variety of non-discipline specific topics relating to graduate-level research ranging from citation managers (EndNote, Zotero, etc.) to effective poster design, to how to conduct literature reviews to document delivery services, to name a few.

So far, we have held a Boot Camp February 2, May 18, and September 21. We will soon start planning for the next Savvy Researchers Boot Camp for early 2020. Each time, we have tabulated feedback (which is solicited) and hosted focus groups, in an effort to improve offerings and to find out what is of most interest to graduate students.

Publicity for registration is normally sent out to graduate student coordinators for each college, school, or department in advance with a limited registration period so as to keep things manageable. Attendance has grown each time with 115 graduate students attending the most recent Boot Camp on September 21.

Information Literacy/Library Instruction

Just a reminder that I am available to teach custom-tailored instruction sessions for your classes. These sessions will be designed to promote information literacy concepts and acquaint students with relevant library resources. Please contact me (dodgeti@auburn.edu or 844-1729) well in advance so that we have time to collaborate on lesson plans and that I may accommodate your first choice for days/times.