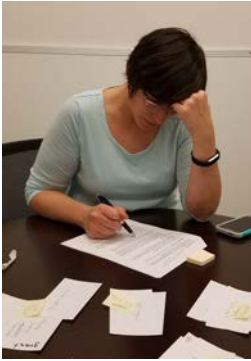


**Atmospheric Science Librarians
International (ASLI) Conference 2019**

The Future of Print at ASU Library

Who We Are

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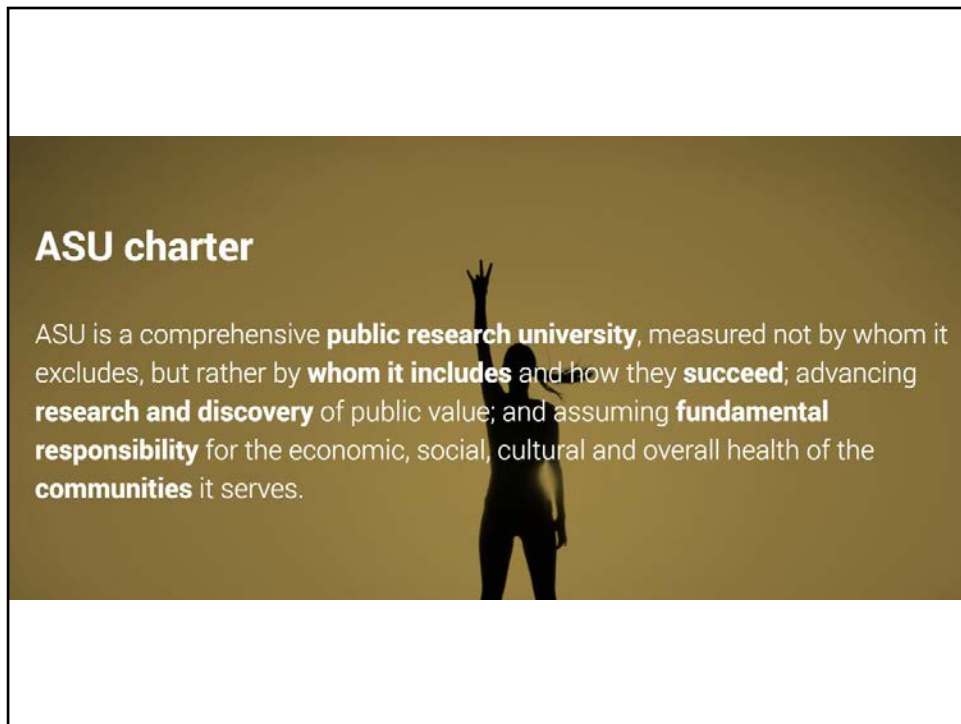


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**which
books?
where?**

{ context!
engagement
from shared
to networked
print

The goal of the Future of Print project is to answer the question, “which books? where?” Today we will speak about the motivation for this work at Arizona State University, explore a bit about how engagement with print collections is an essential component of this project, and then move to our hopes for this work going forward.



“ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom we exclude, but rather by whom we include and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.”

The Library is the gateway to the ASU educational enterprise and therefore a critical partner in realizing this charter. We aim to engage with our communities to advance research, scholarship, and to be an integral part of their current and lifelong educational pursuits.



In planning for this ambitious work, and when considering print collections at ASU, we were interested in how to rethink print collections while keeping in mind that digital means of inquiry and access is the primary way that many of our constituents interface with information.

We *intentionally* use the term open stacks, as a revival of the movement originating in the mid-1800s, largely in public libraries, to allow people to browse the library's book stacks directly unimpeded by restrictions. We consider our buildings and spaces to be educational opportunities, opening them to people to use

information and build knowledge from the resources readily available at hand.

Our stacks are “open” in the 19th century sense, but we also welcome associations with the word “open” that have developed over the past two decades. We are staking a claim for the print Open Stacks, existing alongside Open Educational Resources, the Open Access movement, and the Open Education movement, to name a few.

When academic libraries open their doors, whether to K–12 learners, independent researchers, community archival and public history projects, or those seeking access to government information, we believe that print collections and other tangible resources are public goods that should be discoverable and usable by the public. Open stacks, both print and electronic, are a manifestation of the public social institution of library collections, following the norms of other social institutions, such as open government or open science.

With open stacks, we are also taking a further step to make the collection development process more

participatory. We are engaging people (students, faculty, staff, and the public) in partnering to co-create and provide input on which books are of interest to them in which format and in which types of spaces.

opportunity: **Hayden 2020**

ASU Library

The reinvention of the Hayden Library, the largest library on our Tempe campus, was an opportunity to test our thinking around the open stack concept and Print Collections as an Engagement Tool, rather than as merely a solution for access.



This is an artist's rendering of what we expect the Hayden Library to look like when it's fully open to our community in early 2020. It is a 252,670-square-foot library tower located at the center of ASU's Tempe campus. The campus serves over 50,000 students enrolled in residential programs.

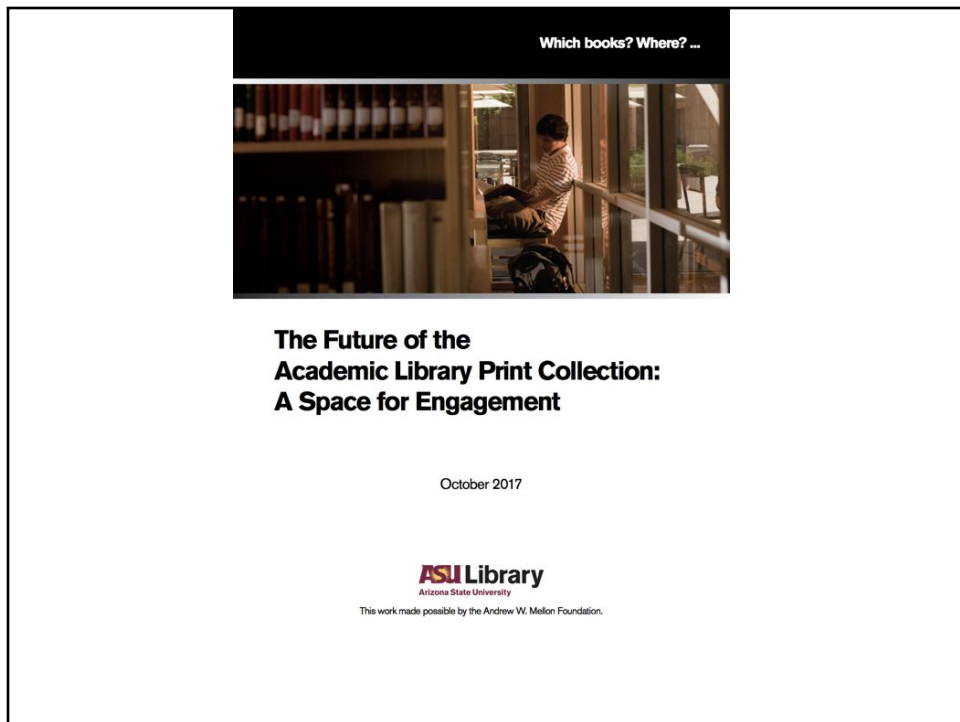
While the expansion of classroom and study space is an important part of this renovation project, so too is thinking flexibly and creatively about what our collections should look like. A smaller collections footprint designated for the building asks us to

consider how we move from “collections as a backdrop for various activities” to “collections as a *service and engagement opportunity*” within the physical space of this building.

engagement: open stack collections

ASU Library

Next, we will discuss how we are seeking to enact this vision.



In 2017, ASU Library received funding from the Andrew W Mellon Foundation to explore this future. In collaboration with MIT Libraries and other interested stakeholders, ASU developed a white paper describing a framework for envisioning new “open stack” collections. With an additional, generous three-year grant from Mellon, we are now actively exploring ways in which this ideas can be enacted in practice. Our focus in 2018 has been twofold – to identify and explore what ”engagement” means with collections at a human-sized scale, and to explore the ways in which data about our collections can be leveraged for answering the

large-scale question of which books go where. We don't have findings to report yet, but we will share a little about what we're learning.

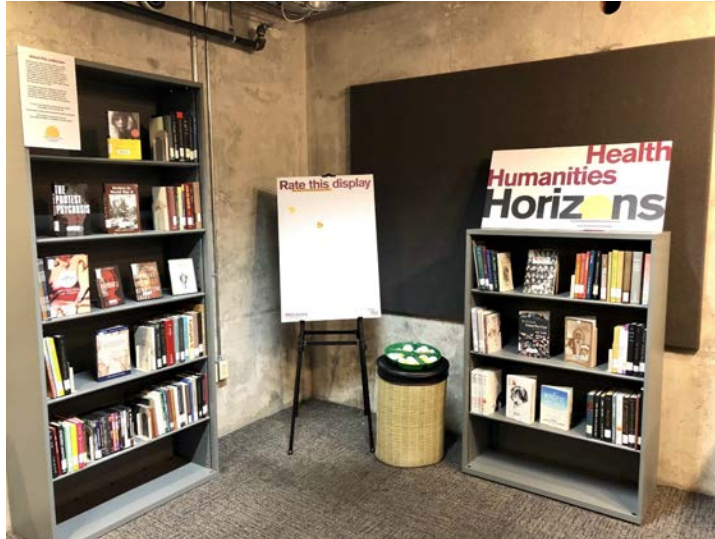
experiments and compelling ideas



This collection was the first in a series of mini-projects our Future of Print team has developed and implemented. This one, and the others in this presentation, were assembled by the library's Curation Specialist, Emily Pattni. What you're looking at here is a collection of poetry (mostly American, mostly 20th and 21st century), located at Fletcher Library on ASU's West Campus in Glendale, AZ. All of the books are shelved spine-backward. We used this project, which we called "Surprise Me!" to ask students how they felt about books in the library. We also held a focus group where we fed students nachos and listened to

what they had to say. The intent was not to persuade visitors to check out books, or to test out spine-backward shelving as a scheme. Instead, the point was to provoke thought and reaction, and you can see from our emoji assessment board that we accomplished this.

experiments and compelling ideas



Another project we have completed is “Health Humanities Horizons,” hosted at the ASU branch library at the Downtown Phoenix campus. We leveraged existing liaison librarian relationships with faculty to seek input on what would comprise a compelling introduction to the health humanities, in conjunction with a new certificate program at ASU. A number of faculty were happy to help, suggesting books, movies, music, and other materials that offer a transdisciplinary peak into this field. We are using what we learned from this process to come up with better ways to invite teaching faculty to participate in collections selection and display.

experiments and compelling ideas

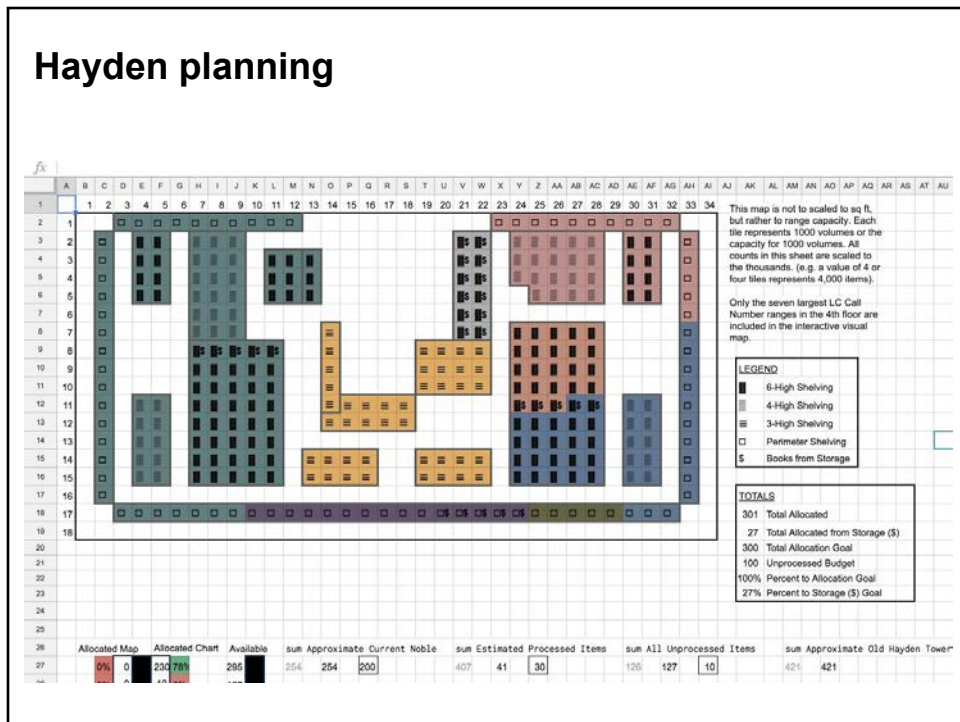


ASU Library

One idea we started with, early in the process, is a reflection on the ‘why’ of library collections, along with the ‘how.’ This collection, hosted in Hayden Library, brings that interest to life. It features books about collections and books reflecting on collecting practices, along with a collection of 3D-printed items. We also ask visitors to contribute by describing what they collect.

There are more projects in process now. For each project, we’re producing a reflective and holistic analysis, a collections data set, and a toolkit for future applications. As these reports are finished, we will look for ways to share widely. What we’re learning from this and other projects will inform

rotating, showcase collections we will plan for spaces in the new Hayden Library.



Alongside the showcase collections, our renovated library will feature general collections for browsing and use. We are able to take advantage of our high density storage facility to store and quickly deliver books that are not held in these featured spaces. So we can develop a strategy based on broad principles about active and engaging collections, that will lead us in developing a real, actionable operational plan that indicates which books we should put where, working with the staff we have and the spaces that the architects have designed.

The library migrated to the Alma LSP in 2017, so we are able to take advantage of its powerful Alma Analytics tool to explore the data we have about our

collection. We're also examining factors we think are adjacent to engagement, such as recency of acquisition and frequency of circulation. What I'm showing here is a screenshot of a tile map developed by our Data Analysis Specialist, Tammy Dang, to help us plan possible layouts for one floor of Hayden Library. This is still a work in progress, and some of what we are learning is how much ambiguity we can tolerate in moving from vision to action.

looking ahead: **the bigger picture**

As we look ahead, we see two pathways for our work: one for collections that are small, focused, and curated in close coordination with our communities, and one for large collections, which is data-driven and operates best at scale. We understand that these approaches are not mutually exclusive, but the ideal convergence of these approaches has not yet shown itself to us. We do know that the resulting works can live in harmony within a single structure and within the same spaces.

how can we move toward **print collection awareness** at network scale?

We know that our local collection development and management decisions affect what other libraries keep in the local area, state, region, and even the nation. Many of you have likely undertaken a deaccession effort that uses aggregated data from other institutions to judge how rare your holdings are. If each of our institutions makes decisions about what to keep based on each others' holdings, and they are not coordinated, and there are no forums for ongoing collection development, what is the aggregated effect on the overall scholarly record and the availability of these works in libraries?

Access to the scholarly record is of essential importance for the long term. Consortia and projects

such as the Western Regional Storage Trust, HathiTrust, and the Rosemont Initiative, are collaborating on shared print archiving, but where are the conversations about shared print collection development?

How do we ensure that what we're learning about shared print archiving will be usefully applied to current collection development and the scholarship that's happening right now? As you can see, we have more questions than answers, but we are sharing our questions here in the hopes that others may join us in our further investigations.

Case Study Outline

Outline

A case study allows your library's project team to communicate with current and future collaborators, while serving as an internal discussion and planning tool, and ideally as an eventual snapshot of academic practices as they change over time. This outline sets forward a way to structure a case study, suggesting description of the context for the organization and offering some detail about library use, holdings, audiences served, and available resources.

Overview of Institution and Current Collections Landscape

This section should provide a summary of background statistics and information that gives the reader context for your parent institution and your library's current philosophy, services, initiatives, and practices with regard to collections overall, with special attention paid to print resources.

- I. About the library or system
 1. Library or libraries: locations, function on campus
 2. Estimates of collection size (e.g. volumes held, e-resources, microforms, serials, etc.)

For now, we have developed a case study outline as a self-study tool and as a means of sharing and comparing institutional approaches to collections. Self study always takes longer than anticipated, but we hope to share our ASU case study to use as a conversation tool with potential collaborators in the future. We have posted this outline to our project website and welcome any others who would like to study their local context to take a look.

what's next...

**"A glorious future for print books demands strategy."
– Dr. James J. O'Donnell**

Our University Librarian, Jim O'Donnell says that "a glorious future for print books demands strategy." We agree and would add that it also demands attention, planning, preservation measures, and methodologies for curation that address the needs of library constituents and communities *and* align with the organization's mission. Finally, it demands an awareness of activities at both local and networked scales.



lib.asu.edu/futureprint

Thank you for joining us in this snapshot of our thinking about “which books, where?” We welcome your questions and reactions.