

Citizenship Project

As an editor for the Humanity Network's American Religion section (<https://networks.h-net.org/h-amrel>), conduct 15-20 written interviews with archivists, librarians, and other information professionals about materials in their collections related to the history of religion. These interviews will highlight the major holdings of these institutions and help researchers throughout the nation develop a better understanding of the vast amount of untapped resources out there.

I have already conducted six such interviews, and they have been very well-received by the historical community online and by archivists of religious institutions and colleges.

Goal: Interview 15-20 information professionals who work at archives, libraries, or museums about holdings related to the history of American Religion.

Plan:

- Create a list of 25 interviewees and their contact information
- Contact them and request permission to interview them
- Follow-up regularly to get the interviews if they are willing
- Edit and post an interview online each week
- Monitor community feedback and continually improve the interviews

Scholarship Project

In conjunction with three colleagues in the Religious Education department, compile and edit a 13-essay volume intended to be a textbook for Religion-C 225, Foundations of the Restoration. Michael McKay, Ken Alford, and Anthony Sweat are all well-known scholars in the field of Mormon history, and have published extensively on various topics related to Church history. We are currently working together to create a series of videos to support the class, and the videos

will be based on the essays. Several essays have been received and are in the peer-review stage, in addition to being edited and revised by the editors (including me). We intend to finish this publication before the end of the year, and publish it through BYU Studies. Our hope is that it will become the Church's standard text for the course, which is taught in institutes all over the U.S.

Goal:

Assist in the editing and publication of a textbook for the Foundations of the Restoration course (Rel-C 225). Publish the book by Summer 2017.

Plan:

- Spend several hours each week editing essays
- Produce an appendix of primary sources related to early Church History and where they are held
- Produce an appendix of secondary sources related to the course topics that will allow students to continue researching on their own
- Follow-up regularly with my colleagues to make sure the project stays on course (weekly phone meetings with at least one of the other editors)
- Submit manuscript for publication by December 2016 if possible

Librarianship

Working with Gerrit van Dyk, our Mormon Studies librarian, create a hands-on lecture that allows students to handle important LDS documents and attempt to draw conclusions based on the primary sources. This introduction will also teach students about resources available to them online, but the primary goal is to put original documents in students' hands and help them learn how to approach primary sources.

Goal:

Develop a stand-alone introduction to Special Collections for students in Religion classes.

Plan:

- In August 2016, work with Gerrit van Dyk to choose documents that we can allow students to handle—letters, journals, pamphlets, books, and early LDS newspapers.
- Develop a lecture around the topic “How we received the Doctrine and Covenants”
- Approach Religious Education faculty and invite them to bring their classes into Special Collections during Fall 2016 and Winter 2017.
 - Explain what we will be doing, and make sure that we are meeting the needs of the professors and students within the context of the specific course
- After the sessions, provide in-class surveys and gather as much feedback as possible to improve the lectures

Faculty Development Plan

Job Description

The mission of the Curator of 19th and 20th Century Mormon and Western Americana (Printed Works) is to identify, appraise, acquire, preserve, and to ensure the cataloging of printed materials of enduring historical value related to Utah, the Western U.S., and Mormonism following accepted professional standards and practices. This position is responsible for the 19th and 20th century portion of the Americana collection, including Mormon works printed prior to 2000, works from or about the Trans-Mississippi West prior to 2000, and works related to the history of Utah printed prior to 2000.

Self-Assessment

Strengths:

- a.) Ability to adapt existing resources to new problems
- b.) Working with faculty
- c.) Skilled at identifying research sources for historical, religious, or other social science queries
- d.) Connecting with my colleagues
- e.) Face-to-face communication
- f.) Organizing conference panels in the fields of history and library science
- g.) Great at proposing scholarship
- h.) Strong writer

Skills:

- a.) Negotiations
- b.) Library management
- c.) Special Collections librarianship
- d.) Conversant in cataloging conventions in both manuscript and printed materials
- e.) Mentoring
- f.) Acquisitions
- g.) Donor relations
- h.) Project management

Competencies:

- a.) Mormon History
- b.) History of Medicine
- c.) Library and Information Science
- d.) Rare Book Librarianship

Interests:

- a.) Collection Development Theory and Practice
- b.) Development of Mormon theology and the experiences of Latter-day Saints

- c.) Helping students develop a healthy curiosity about history and think critically about culture
- d.) User and Reference experiences

Weaknesses:

- a.) Easily distracted by new projects and opportunities to work with faculty, at the expense of existing projects
- b.) Absent-minded unless consistently working towards goal
- c.) Sometimes writes poorly-worded emails when face-to-face communication would be better
- d.) My general health is poor

I have many opportunities to get involved with a number of different organizations. My main priority, however, is to acquire materials related to my collecting area and work with my colleagues to incorporate Special Collections materials into teaching curriculum and research.

Note that department resources needed are highlighted green.

Professional Goals

I. *Professional Goals: Citizenship*

- Committee opportunities
 - Goal: Contribute to a library-associated professional organization on a national level by helping with the organization of a conference and by serving as an officer of such an organization in the next five years.
 - Plan: Apply for a position in service of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the American Library Association.
 - When possible, communicate face-to-face, at conferences. Make meeting people in person a priority
 - Focus on being part of the conference planning committee, which I'm already a member of; avoid distraction from other options, unless they present a better opportunity
 - Find weekly opportunities to contribute to the RBMS listserv
 - Funding for trips to ALA-RBMS conferences needed, \$2000 annually
- University and library service
 - Goal: Work collaboratively with a library Exhibits subcommittee to create a permanent or semi-permanent exhibit about the Book of Mormon in the library within 5 years
 - Plan: Carefully advise and provide useful information to the members of the subcommittee so that a strong, factually accurate, faith-promoting, and inspiring Book of Mormon exhibit can be justified and make it through each level of the administration
 - Work with a donor to secure a first edition Book of Mormon for this purpose

- Attend meetings and provide guidance on curatorial issues
- Goal: Serve on a committee with responsibilities related to some issue or problem related to campus, or even a hiring committee, on at least three occasions over the next five years, in addition to normal committee responsibilities that are part of my job
- Plan: Make my interest in serving on any library or university-level committee or hiring committee known.
 - Consistently ask my department leaders for advice and suggestions and if they know of any need for service

II. *Professional Goals: Librarianship:*

- Collection Development/Collection Management
 - Donors
 - Goal: Make contact with 25 potential donors each year
 - Plan: Meet regularly with individuals who contact BYU offering to donate various materials, and expand my circle of friends, colleagues, and associates to include more potential donors
 - Include donors in planned exhibits
 - Keep a database of donors, and contact them regularly
 - Follow-up with thank-you letters; access to department mailing and stationary
 - Booksellers
 - Goal: Make contact with 30 booksellers each year
 - Plan: Keep in touch with a large network of individuals who I have purchased from by sending occasional email queries and orders
 - \$30,000-50,000 in budget per year would be very helpful in this endeavor
 - Inter-library relationships
 - Goal: Work cooperatively with Acquisitions and Cataloging
 - Plan: Ensure that existing policies and procedures are followed
 - Also see that policies are revised as technology changes and the needs of the department shift
- Conservation/Preservation
 - Goal: Identify 15-20 items for conservation each year
 - Plan: Identify, well before the quarterly meeting, which items I need to take to conservation by becoming familiar with my collection
 - Actively participate in the Conservation Diagnostic meeting each time it occurs.
 - Keep track of items in conservation lab
 - Stabilize newspapers in Special Collections

- Will require significant resources and time from Conservation, Digital Projects, and Collection Management, and roughly \$2,000-3,000 in funding for boxes and repairs
- Faculty Liaison/Promotion
 - Goal: Develop teaching faculty relationships so that they are comfortable bringing classes into Special Collections
 - Plan: Develop relationships through conference attendance and consistent efforts to publish high-quality work, as well as other forms of outreach.
 - Work with faculty in the Religion Department on video and book project related to REL C 225 (Foundations of the Restoration)
 - Goal: Promote information Literacy
 - Plan: Take part in 15 teaching sessions each year. Bring Gerrit Van Dyk and other subject librarians into the sessions so that students can become more familiar with the information sources they can access in the library
- Reference/Research
 - Goal: Respond to patron requests within 24 hours
 - Plan: Actively check my email and phone messages several times each day
- Technology/Digital Projects
 - Goal: Initiate 1-2 digital projects based in the printed Mormon and Western Americana collections
 - Plan: Identify significant items of Mormon or Western Americana that are not yet digitized; also cull a monthly list of publications accessed by researchers, students, and faculty, and digitize resources that are out of copyright
 - Resources required: Support of digitization services and continued support for Internet Archive or a similar web archive

III. Professional Goals: Scholarship

- Publications
 - Goal: Publish an article on Mormonism and eugenics in 2016
 - Plan: Write for an hour each day until complete
 - Draft an outline of what goes into the paper so I know when I'm finished
 - Work on it consistently until finished.
 - Goal: Have a book on *A Book of Commandments...* prepared for publication by 2018
 - Plan: Work collaboratively with John Murphy throughout 2017 to acquire the information needed to publish 1-2 articles related to the history of each copy of the Book of Commandments
 - Funding for research will be needed from the library in 2017

- Goal: Working with Religion Department faculty, prepare a collection of essays related to Rel-C 225, Foundations of the Restoration (to be completed before the midpoint of 2017, barring delays)
- Plan: Provide timely feedback on essays submitted by authors
 - Work on appendices related to sources at BYU and at other institutions
 - Work on an appendix related to reliable secondary sources
 - Resources needed: Time to work on this project, 3-5% annually
- Creative works
 - Exhibits
 - Goal: Provide students with a strong visual connection to sacred documents and historical material
 - Plan: Design exhibits related to the Doctrine & Covenants and the Foundations of the Restoration to be shown semi-annually
 - Religion 225 videos
 - Goal: In conjunction with colleagues in the Department of Religious Education, develop a series of 12 teaser videos that will prepare students for what they will be studying in class each week of the semester
 - Plan: Continue working on this project with my colleagues. Provide timely feedback on scripts as they are prepared, and assist in creating them as needed. Provide access to documents to camera and production crews as needed. Help the essay portion, which is the main source for the scripts, come together efficiently.
 - Funding for this project has been provided by the library, to the amount of \$10,000
 - However, the funds were allocated for last year, and need to remain allocated until we are finished with essays and scripts
 - May need to house videos and finished book on library website in Scholar Archive.

Professional Development Project

One of my key responsibilities is to work with rare booksellers to acquire texts that shed light on Mormon and Western American history. In many cases, these books can be quite expensive.

Although I have a healthy budget allotted by my department for collection development, I can always find unique and interesting books that will help improve the library's Special Collections.

These books aren't cheap—any funding that can be provided from this grant would go towards buying a piece that furthers our understanding of Western American history, or that highlights an aspect of Latter-day Saint history. I hope to acquire an item related to the history of women in the West if possible—such items are extremely scarce, however, and usually cost quite a bit.

However, each purchase improves our relationship with rare book dealers, many of whom I will be working with for decades to come, hopefully!