We’re celebrating the Osher Map Library’s Twentieth Anniversary!

October 16, 2014 marks the beginning of a year-long celebration for the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education with the opening of The Art of the Hand Drawn Map exhibition (October 16, 2014 to February 2015). The Library will offer one special event each month so please check out OML’s website, oshermaps.org

In April 2014, OML received a $260,000 conservation grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for its project to conserve a number of its rare globes, titled Thinking Globally: Restoring Past Perspectives on the World.

The globes will first undergo conservation treatment, then digitization in 3-D animation that will allow this new format to be integrated into all levels of education and scholarship, from elementary students to post-doctoral students.

We expect the first seven globes to be available online by late winter and welcome your comments after you’ve had a chance to zoom and rotate these digitized globes.

To learn more, please contact the Osher Map Library at oml@usm.maine.edu or 780-4850, or visit us in person at 314 Forest Avenue in Portland on the corner of Bedford Street.

The image above is from a 1759 German surveying manual which will be featured in the exhibition The Art of the Hand Drawn Map, www.oshermaps.org/exhibitions/hand-drawn-map. For the complete work see www.oshermaps.org/map/44151.
Dear Crabby,

I am so annoyed! I went to the library yesterday to get sources for my paper about the effects of procrastination on student achievement, and there was hardly anything. How am I supposed to finish this paper by tomorrow if I can’t find books and articles? My roommate, who’s in the same class, got a ton of sources! She said she even got articles from other libraries—great for her, but I’m not going to drive all over the state photocopying things!

Fed Up in Freeport

Dear Fed Up,

The key to success is to start your paper early and ask the librarians for help before running out of time. Your roommate would have had time to go back and search for missing information after her paper started to take shape, and she could request items from other libraries, if she needed to. Remember, Rome wasn’t built in a day, and a decent research paper isn’t either—though if you need sources from Interlibrary Loan our RapidILL service does take only twenty-four hours! I promise, you’ll have better luck next time if you start earlier!

Crabby

Jerry Brotton’s *A History of the World in Twelve Maps* is an excellent book that can take the novice to the expert through the history of not only the world, but of cartography and geography in 12 wonderfully selected maps. The book balances all of these delicate histories with the context of each culture represented. The maps are: Ptolemy’s Geography, World Maps by Al-Idrisi’s, Waldseemuller, Mercator, Kangnido, Ribeiro, the Hereford Mappamundi, Blaeu’s *Atlas Maior*, The Cassini map of France, and chapters on Halford Mackinder, the Peter’s projection, and Google Earth.

These maps cover a time frame from 150 CE to 2012, and a geographical area spanning Europe, across the Anatolian peninsula, through the Middle East and ending in Japan. Non-Western material represented in this book sets it apart from other popular cartographic histories, and provides a rich comparison with more well known artifacts. The text also does a great job synthesizing critical cartographic thought from the last 50 years, analyzing the prejudices of the maps and the reasons (imperial and otherwise) that they were created. The book also touches on the under-represented but important legacy of 19th century Geographical Societies and their impact on the current state of geographic thought and practice.

Brotton begins with some of the oldest and foundational geographic and cartographic elements, but finishes with an eye towards the future with GIS and Google Earth. The spaces in between offer a rich but concise history of the world told through 12 beautiful and important world maps.

*Reviewed by Ian Fowler, Cartographic Reference and Digital Projects Librarian*

**Book Review**

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USM Artifacts on Display at Alumni Reunion

Special Collections lent materials from the University Archives for display and the enjoyment of alumni attending the 2014 Alumni Educators Reunion held on August 22nd on USM’s Gorham Campus. Nearly 100 alumni attended the event and all predecessor institutions were represented - Gorham Normal School, Gorham State Teachers College, Gorham State College and the University of Maine, Portland-Gorham. Among the items provided were megaphones, a Gorham State Teachers College sports blazer and athletic jacket, a dormitory bell and a tablecloth signed and decorated by the Gorham Normal School students who graduated in the 1920s and postcards sent by students to family and friends at home about their experiences at the University. The library also provided facsimile copies of student newspapers and diplomas. The display elicited great conversations and stories among the guests and was appreciated by all in attendance. For more information please contact USM Special Collections University Archives at 780-4275.

Photograph courtesy of University Advancement

The New CTEL Vault Recording Studio for Faculty

Located in the Learning Commons on the 2nd floor of Glickman Library, "The Vault" serves as a small media production studio for faculty. It is called "The Vault" because the room originally served as the bank vault for the bakery that was located in the present-day Glickman building.

The room has excellent acoustics and contains a computer workstation equipped with basic media production tools and software for faculty to record and edit digital projects. These include screencasts, whiteboard video lectures, podcasts, or Khan Academy-style instructional videos.

The Vault is now designated exclusively for faculty use. Students can access recording equipment through Instructional Technology & Media Services (780-4280/780-5356). CTEL has assumed the responsibility for scheduling and supporting faculty who wish to use the vault. Faculty who wish to schedule an appointment can contact Pieter Tryzelaar (ptryzelaar@usm.maine.edu) or Rucha Modak (rmodak@usm.maine.edu).

Vault hardware includes: 27” iMac, Wacom Intuos Pro Tablet, Document Camera, Professional Softbox Lighting Kit, Blue/Green screen curtain, Radio-quality microphone, tripod-mounted HD video camcorder, USB HD Webcam, and a mobile whiteboard stand. Software available: Camtasia Screencast-O-Matic, Audacity, GarageBand, iMovie, Photo, and more!
From the Learning Commons

- The Chemistry Department will continue its partnership with the Learning Commons to offer Chemistry 113 tutoring, and to use faculty rooms A and B on the 2nd floor of Glickman to accommodate large groups of students.

- For the creation of online videos and tutorials, we now have a tablet that interfaces nicely with Ink2Go, an annotation program allowing for Khan Academy-style presentations.

- We have approximately 20 new tutors starting this fall in a multitude of subject areas. There are some additions to the training program based upon tutor feedback. One new aspect of the training will be a peer discussion session, facilitated each week by an experienced tutor. This will provide both new and returning tutors with the opportunity to come together to discuss tutoring sessions, review best practices, and deepen their understanding of the tutoring process. A second training enhancement will be the introduction of StrengthsFinder, which supports a USM initiative funded by a Title III grant. StrengthsFinder is based upon positive psychology, and is used in a wide array of industries. Tutors will learn how to apply their top five strengths in their work at the Learning Commons.

- The Learning Commons invites new and returning students to use our tutoring and other services in Gorham, LAC, and Portland. For more information contact Paul Dexter at 780-5577 or pdexter@usm.maine.edu