Personal Narrative
Tierney (Tami) Morse McGill, Catalog Librarian, University of Wyoming

I am currently working as a Catalog Librarian in the Technical Services department of Coe Library. My duties include cataloging and classifying newly received titles in all languages and formats using standard cataloging tools, creating name authority records for Wyoming authors and corporate bodies; assisting with special cataloging projects; and serving on departmental committees and task forces. These activities all focus on making library materials available and accessible to the University of Wyoming community, and ensuring that the library itself is responsive to the needs of the University.

The past two years have seen several major transitions in the Libraries that have affected my work and created new professional opportunities. In November of 2007, I accepted an assignment as interim Electronic Resources Librarian. This gave me the chance to work with our Collection Development Office and gain experience in an area I hadn't worked in before. While in this position I coordinated with Reference, CDO, University departments and University Counsel to select and finalize subscriptions to electronic journals and databases. I also redesigned a large archive of email communications with vendors, using Google Mail as a storage and organizing platform. I have written a paper on the technical process and workflow improvements created by this project, which has been submitted to College and Research Libraries News.

In May of 2008 the Libraries reorganized subject liaison duties, and I took responsibility for working with the departments of Mathematics, Statistics, and Philosophy to improve the Libraries' collection in these areas. This involves working with the faculties of these departments to identify books, journals, and databases the Libraries should acquire to support their instruction and research activities. In FY09 we were able to build the collection significantly, due to a favorable budget climate, but in FY10 the climate has changed. I will be working with the departments now to prioritize purchases carefully to utilize our limited collections funding to the fullest.

Another major transition in the Libraries is the migration to a new library management system, Innovative Interfaces' Millennium product. This migration involved major data design work by Technical Services, and my background in database development and previous work with Innovative's system were major assets. I had had specialized training in data loading when I worked with this system before, and I have renewed my certification to do this work again. I am currently involved in creating customized load profiles, detailed systems-level specifications for batch loading data, which will allow us to make resources available to the UW community through our catalog quickly, efficiently, and with significant cost savings.

Despite all these changes, my primary work is still cataloging: creating data that enables our patrons to find the materials the Libraries have made available for them. I am creating data on several systems now: our new Millennium catalog, the Omeka digital resources platform, and, for the Undergraduate Research Day collection, the Colorado
Alliance of Research Libraries' Digital Repository. I still work primarily on maps in the Brinkerhoff Geology Library and the Hebard Collection (now a part of the new Emmett Chisum Special Collections – another transition.) I have trained both staff members at the Geology Library to copy catalog maps and continue to review their work. I am also cataloging UW's theses and dissertations, now all in electronic form, and I work with the thesis editor at the Office of the Registrar to track the theses from their submission to ProQuest to their inclusion in our library catalog.

In the area of scholarship, I gave a brief presentation on the GIS resources available at the county level in Wyoming and Colorado. This was a preliminary overview, and I hope to develop a more comprehensive online atlas documenting these resources.

My interest in the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records as it applies to maps continues. A new cataloging standard, Resource Description and Access, which is based on FRBR, is currently in development and testing, and will have major implications for data creation once it is released. I plan to explore these implications, particularly for cartographic materials, in an article for a peer reviewed journal.

In the areas of both scholarship and service, ALA MAGERT formed a Task Group to review procedures and make recommendations for treatment of locally digitized copies of maps in local and cooperative catalogs. I volunteered for this Task Group, and made a comprehensive review of relevant current cataloging rules for such maps, both using standard AACR2/LCRI/MARC cataloging and using Dublin Core. This year Mary Larsgaard, the chair of the Task Group, retired from her position as Director of the Map Library at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The Task Group is on hiatus while Mary completes her transition to retired life, but she intends to continue as its chair. I expect we will resume our work in 2010, and I hope to see our recommendations published in a scholarly venue upon completion.

Also in the area of service, in 2008 Tamsen Hert and I volunteered (under considerable, though friendly, pressure) to host the Fall 2009 meeting of the Western Association of Map Libraries. We selected Cody, Wyoming as the location, and spent a hectic year finalizing arrangements for speakers, accommodations, social events, and a field trip to Yellowstone National Park. The meeting took place Sept. 15-17, 2009, and was quite a success. I designed and managed an informational wiki for the meeting, which is still available at http://wamlfall2009.pbworks.com.

I also continue my service to the University as a Faculty Senator and a member of the EPSCoR Undergraduate Research Day Committee.

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