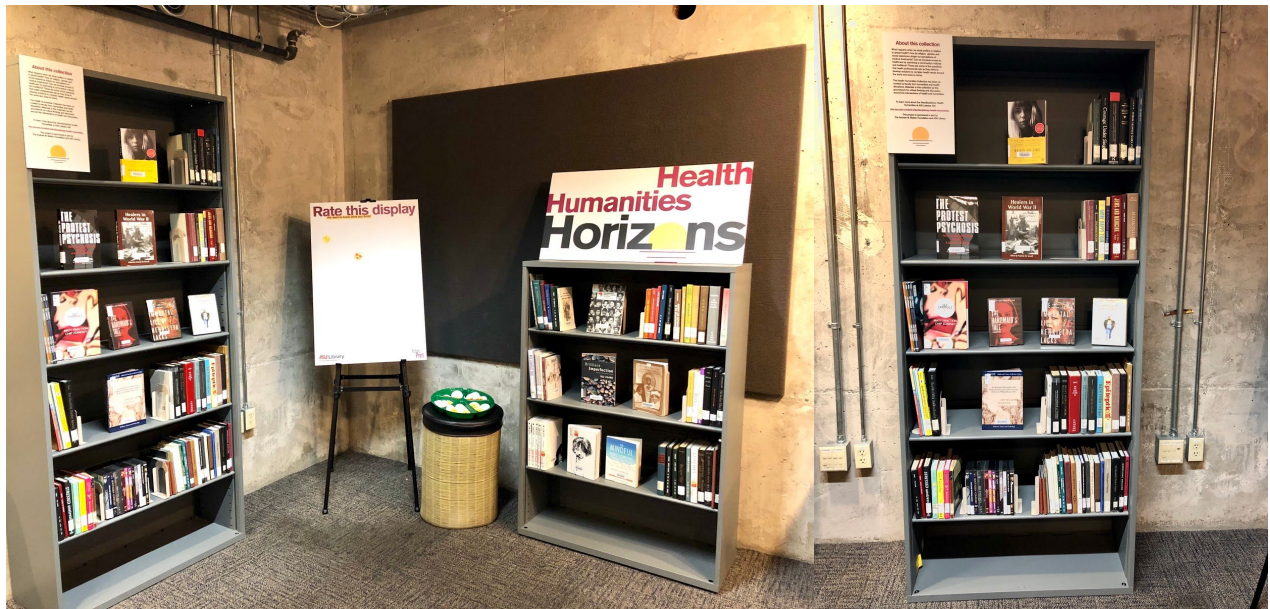


The Future of Print Report: Health Humanities Horizons

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Photos of the book display at the Downtown Phoenix Campus Library Vault Room.

About the Future of Print

ASU Library was awarded a \$381K grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to experiment with different ways in which libraries present print materials to the public. We know that information is more digitally accessible than ever before. As students turn to what is quick and convenient for them, ASU Library is exploring how to present our print materials in ways that remain engaging and relevant to the twenty-first century user. Through a series of book displays, The Future of Print team hopes to gain a sense for how students perceive print collections, how they use the library, and what it takes to engage them in physical books. For more information on our projects, visit

<https://lib.asu.edu/futureprint>

Research Question

The Future of Print team was interested to learn how students responded to works selected in cooperation with faculty, and whether this selection process would increase their engagement with our print collections.

Philosophy

Co-curation encourages a bilateral relationship for faculty and the Library. First, faculty participation instills a sense of ownership for library collections. In cooperation with the Library, faculty can create opportunities outside of the classroom for their students to continue learning from materials not included in their course curricula. Additionally, the Library has the opportunity to demonstrate the value that it can have for teaching, as well as welcome new perspectives on materials students are likely to engage with. Partnering directly with academic departments has the potential to increase the visibility and usefulness of our resources.

We chose ASU faculty as partners for this display, because we were interested to learn how students would engage with print books chosen by their professors, staff, and administrators. We wanted to utilize the acquired knowledge that ASU faculty have concerning the research needs and interests of their students. More specifically, we purposefully selected faculty from the Interdisciplinary Health Humanities program because of the relationships that Janice Hermer, the Health Sciences liaison at ASU Library, has worked hard to develop. It was her initial connection with the interim director for the Institute of Humanities Research, that made her aware of the [new certificate program](#). She then shared the opportunity to collaborate with this program with our project team.

Full Selection Methodology

Janice sent out a personalized [email](#) to twelve faculty members from the colleges related to Health Sciences and Humanities. These faculty members provided their own recommendations as well as suggested additional individuals to reach out to for recommendations. Initial participants represented nine academic colleges or departments:

- The Institute of Humanities Research
- The School of International Letters and Cultures
- The Office of the University Provost

- The Department of English
- The College of Health Solutions
- The School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies
- The College of Nursing and Health Innovation
- The School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies
- The School of Social Transformation

Janice described the project and requested recommendations. Faculty submitted a total of 98 items and 16 subject areas. They recommended music albums, films, and TV series, along with book titles. I researched these subject areas and added additional items to a [Google spreadsheet](#). Finally, Janice reviewed this list and added 39 more items to fill in subject area gaps. Several of these items were not able to be included in the display for various reasons (i.e. checked out, missing, or otherwise unavailable). Books not owned by ASU Library were ordered as new books. The completed list totaled 141 items.

These books, DVDs, and CDs covered topics related to the health sciences and humanities disciplines. They showed the benefits of examining health issues through a humanities lens. For example, there were books describing how different cultures experienced disease, how religion influenced medical practices, and the role that gender played in the history of medicine. The contents made connections from pop culture, identity, and even historical events to issues in health. Students were invited to use these resources to critically think about our healthcare system.

Faculty Event

We invited ASU faculty from the health and humanities disciplines to the Downtown Phoenix Campus Library. Jesse Lopez, Student Success Librarian, and Kevin Pardon, a liaison librarian at the Downtown Phoenix Campus, helped us in the planning and facilitation of this event. We wanted to ask faculty how they interact with print collections and how we can support their classroom or research ventures. Shari Laster, the Future of Print project coordinator, sent out an email to the library staff who would be attending, outlining what we hoped to learn from the faculty. Along with an email from the library to all faculty members in related colleges, Janice also sent a [personalized email invitation](#) to those who contributed to the collection. [Thirteen posters](#) were put up the day of the event at the Downtown Phoenix Campus.

Ultimately, two faculty members attended this event as well as Jesse, Kevin, Shari, Janice, and myself. We were able to have conversations that helped us understand potential co-curation strategies and future collaborations. I have put together [an analysis](#) of these discussions, including a few recommendations for our future projects.

Assessment Mechanisms

Emoji Assessment Board

We invited students to rate the display by sticking an emoji sticker on a board that represents how they feel about the collection. We chose this form of assessment, because we thought it would be both fun and easy for students to participate. We interpreted the stickers based on a likert scale to gauge levels of interest:

☹️ 1 - Individual has a low level of engagement. They may dislike not being able to read the spine of the book. They may also dislike poetry.

😐 2 - Individual is indifferent to the display. They might not like the display or care that it is there. This emoji could mean that

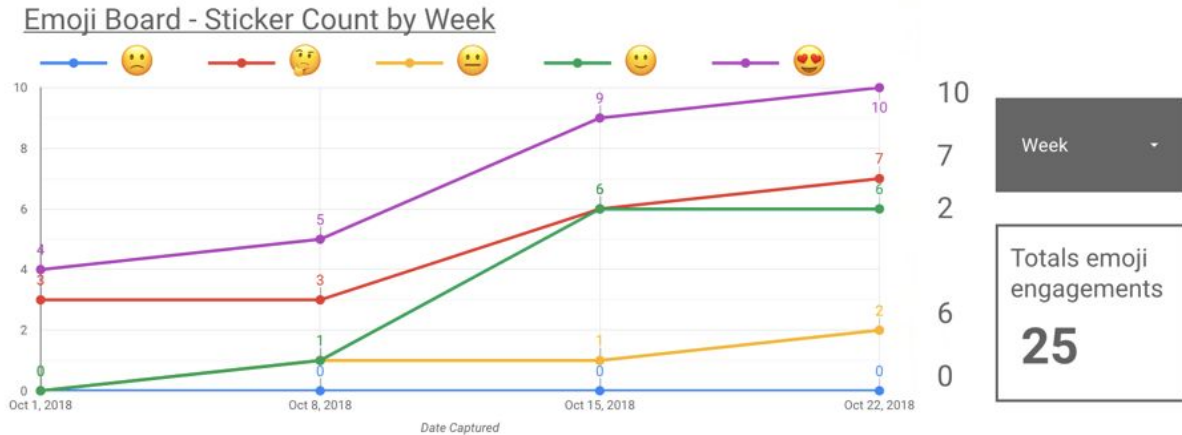
😞 3 - Individual is engaged to the point of thinking about contents of display. We interpret this as the display being either confusing or thought-provoking. It could cause students to think about the purpose of libraries and book collections.

😊 4 - Individual is engaged and likes the display.

😍 5 - Individual is very engaged with display and likely to check out future library collections.

The Downtown Phoenix Campus Library staff sent us [weekly photos](#) of the emoji assessment board so that we could study the change over time. Tammy Dang, responsible for the data analysis of our projects, created a data visualization to represent the varying levels of student engagement. There were a total of [64 emojis](#) placed on the board over the month of October, 28 of which 10 were heart-eyes and none of which were sad faces.

10 Compelling Ideas - Health Humanities Numbers



Checkout Data Highlights				
# Items Loaned	# Years Since Last Loan	Loans Increased from Previous Months By	Collection Users	Material Type
11	2.05	80%	40% Undergraduate and Honors 60% Faculty and Staff	64% Books (loaned by Students & Fac/Staff) 36% Audiovisuals (loaned by Faculty/Staff)

Emoji engagement plotted line chart with annotations below.

Circulation

Out of the 141 items featured in this display, 10 items were checked out:

- *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures* by Anne Fadiman (book)
 - Checked out twice
- *Internal Medicine: A Doctor's Stories* by Terry Holt (book)
- *Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling with Cure* by Eli Clare (book)
- *The Knick* (DVD)
- *Nursing America: One Year Behind the Nursing Stations of An Inner-City Hospital* by Sandy Balfour (book)

- *Why We Revolt: A Patient Revolution for Careful and Kind Care* by Victor M. Montori (book)
- *Cancer Vixen: A True Story* by Marisa Acocella Marchetto (graphic novel)
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot (book)
- *Southern Comfort* (DVD)
- *Pedestrian Verse* by Frightened Rabbit (music album)

The items listed above consist of both new materials purchased for this collection and materials that already belonged to ASU Library. The last time any of these 11 items circulated was two years ago; this means that the books were checked out because we chose to feature them.

Reflection

Successes

- Working with faculty on this project raised their awareness of library projects and our print initiatives. It also led to conversations about possible future partnerships.
- We began to test a strategy to include liaisons in our curation processes by leveraging the relationships that they have with ASU faculty. This is something that we can learn from as we consider our collections for our larger library renovation project.
- Using Google Sheets, I was able to develop an initial workflow for tracking books that were selected for this project coming from multiple branch library locations.
- With the help of Dan Rogers, Collections Operations Manager, and Laila Farhood, Learning and Student Success Specialist at the Downtown Phoenix Campus Library, we were able to test using a temporary batch move workflow.
- The staff at the Downtown Phoenix Campus Library were responsible for maintaining the display, managing check-outs, and working with me to transport the items between libraries. They were also great at communicating the results of our emoji assessment on a weekly basis.

Challenges

- For future co-curated projects, it would be best to outline criteria to share with faculty, library staff, or even students that are participating in this process. Faculty and students should include, at a minimum, data points such as title and author. If we are collaborating with other library staff, however, we can require barcodes or even library location. It would also include deadlines to ensure that the items are retrieved in time.
- Laila Farhood, the Learning and Student Success Specialist, served as our point-person for this project. We had all of the books sent to the Downtown Phoenix Campus Library, and we planned to check in the books all at once, to change the location code to 'In Exhibit.' This method proved to be time-consuming, because the items had been checked out to my personal account after they were processed into the collection. Each item had to be checked in one-by-one to discharge it from my account before being checked into the exhibit.
- Initially, we wanted to ask faculty write "blurbs" describing why they are recommending a particular title. We only received a response from one professor which led us to discount the idea for this display.
- In the future, I will need to ensure that our timeline is communicated to all involved. Our Communications unit was balancing multiple projects and, as such, there was some confusion when our display was being launched. Our signage ended up having to be rush ordered. Although we were able to meet our deadline, strengthening our communications would reduce stress in the future.
- Despite our efforts to outreach to faculty and the positive responses provided by email, we would have liked to have interacted with more faculty members at the event. We will continue to consider new approaches to engage in conversation.

Discussion

The Health Humanities Horizons collection successfully highlighted the new [Health Humanities certificate](#) at Arizona State University. The faculty involved were encouraged by the library's partnership as well as our interest in their initiatives and research. Through this project, we were able to communicate to faculty the roles that they can take in our collection development processes. Although scheduling conflicts and other factors led to a low attendance rate for the event, the few conversations that

we did have and the email participation taught us that faculty are eager to participate in library projects such as co-curation.

Partnering with a library liaison connected to the College of Health Solutions was pivotal to the success of this project. We not only learned how to co-curate collections with those outside of our project team, but we were rewarded with many enthusiastic faculty responses as a result of her relationships. In the future, we will consider new strategies for our liaisons to collaborate with faculty to enhance the Library's collections.

Finally, this project introduced new workflows, interesting content, and the opportunity to work with staff outside of our core project team. All staff involved responded to each new challenge efficiently and quickly to create an educational experience for ASU students and faculty.

Press

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[ASU Events](#)

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Partnerships

College of Health Solutions

Institute for Humanities Research

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

School of International Letters and Cultures

Office of the University Provost

New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

College of Nursing and Health Innovation

School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies

School of Social Transformation

Appendix

Resources Mentioned:

- [Book List](#)
- [Email to Faculty](#)
- [Email invitation to Faculty Contributors](#)
- [Event Analysis](#)
- [Emoji Weekly Count](#)
- [Event Posters](#)
- [Weekly Photos](#)