


Spring 2017

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Santa Clara University Library

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INFORM, ENGAGE, INSPIRE

THE SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



SPRING/SUMMER 2017

DEAR FRIENDS,

How can you tell if a story is **fake news** or contains "alternative facts"? SCU librarians have teamed up with faculty to offer workshops and integrate analysis and evaluation into courses. In this issue of @SCU_Library, you'll read how the Library's Head of Instruction & Assessment worked with a core English class to create a guide for the public about fake news, media bias, and editorial perspective.

I believe everyone should have access to the research and scholarship conducted by faculty as a matter of social justice. This is why SCU promotes Open Access, a movement to make faculty research and publications available to everyone for free. The Library participates in open access through **Scholar Commons**, our online institutional repository. We also partner with organizations that advocate for open access and publish open access articles and books.

Because of your interest and support, we are able to develop forward-thinking initiatives like these. We were thrilled this year when our efforts to innovate and transform were recognized with a prestigious national award. Thank you for all you do to support SCU and the University Library.



JENNIFER NUTEFALL
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES AWARD

SCU Library recognized as the top university library in the country!

The Excellence in Academic Libraries Award is given each year by the Association of College and Research Libraries, and recognizes the staff of academic libraries for programs that deliver exemplary services and resources to further their institution's educational mission.

The selection committee was impressed with the SCU Library's intentional, user-centered, and data-driven approach to services, collections, and spaces.

University Librarian Jennifer Nutefall commented:

Having our transformation recognized through this award by ACRL is deeply meaningful. It is through our amazing staff that we truly live the Library's vision to be a

vibrant and vital center for learning, inspiring both intellectual pursuits and community engagement.

The University Library continues to pursue opportunities to implement dynamic services and collections that support evolving student and faculty needs. We are grateful for the support of our donors and friends, who make all of this possible.

Learn about the Library's transformation:

tinyurl.com/SCULibraryAward

STANDING UP FOR OPEN ACCESS

This year, the Library has made great strides in supporting open access to scholarly information on campus. In contrast to the traditional model of publishing academic research in expensive journals and books, the **Open Access** model makes articles and books freely available online.

Open Access integrates with SCU's mission of social justice because it allows all scholars access to high-quality research, regardless of institutional affiliation. We are proud to stand with the American Library Association and Association of College and Research Libraries by including Open Access as part of our strategic plan.

We help SCU scholars share their research globally through **Scholar Commons**, the university's institutional repository. We provide a permanent online home for research by SCU affiliates. Anyone can find articles in Scholar Commons through a Google search and download them for free. Since 2015, documents uploaded by SCU scholars have been viewed over 150,000 times by users in 213 countries.

This is an effective way for faculty, staff, and students to share their research with a broad audience. For example, University Library Circulation Supervisor Abraham Negash's research paper, "The Origin and Development of Tigrinya Language Publications", has been downloaded over 1,400 times. As a result of this visibility, a book publisher has offered to publish Negash's further research, and he has been invited to give talks on the Tigrinya language.

We are just beginning to realize the potential of Scholar Commons to amplify the reach of important research conducted at SCU, and to equalize access to scholarly information across the world.

Check out Scholar Commons:

scholarcommons.scu.edu



Librarian Nicole Branch worked with students to create a fact-checking infographic and online guide

TACKLING "ALTERNATIVE FACTS"

American society has been deluged over the past year by false news accounts, media partisanship, alternative facts, and social media-induced echo chambers. Academic institutions, corporations, media outlets themselves, and everyday citizens have grappled with how these issues impact everything from interpersonal relationships to the functioning of our democracy.

Recent research studies underscore these challenges. The Stanford Graduate School of Education found that most students from middle school through college don't know when news is fake and have trouble determining fact from fiction. These challenges are not limited to students. In a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center in December 2016, a majority of Americans said that fake news has caused a great deal of confusion for them about the basic facts of current events. Though largely cast in the frame of our current political climate, the susceptibility for falling for, spreading, or even creating fake or biased news cuts across age groups and partisan lines.

For SCU librarians, who provide hundreds of in-class workshops each year on topics related to information and research, fake news has arisen as a tangible access point to address these issues. How do we talk to students about authority of sources in this era of information and misinformation overload? How do we enhance the way we teach students to think critically in order to separate facts from alternative facts? How does this change how we approach the teaching of information literacy and critical thinking?

SCU librarians have developed a number of workshops to emphasize critical information skills. Librarian Leanna Goodwater partnered with first year composition and advanced writing classes to test an interactive exercise

(Continued on next page)

where students assessed the journalistic quality of articles related to course topics. Librarian Shannon Kealey developed an exercise to emphasize the analysis of authority and objectivity for science-based information, and integrated this with a number of biology, public health, and environmental sciences courses.

This approach was also piloted as an integrated part of a full-quarter course. English Professor Tricia Serviss and librarian Nicole Branch redesigned a first-year writing course to focus on information analysis and evaluation. The course included exercises to examine confirmation bias, partisan media bias, fact checking, and critical analysis of scholarly sources. Students created their own fact-checking guide and then applied these skills to a culminating research assignment.

Student feedback illustrates the impact of this work, particularly by imparting an increased awareness of personal bias and how that bias impacts media consumption. One student reflected "my personal, individual background heavily influences how I receive information." Another student shared that they "learned to be more skeptical not only of articles but also myself as I try to monitor how my own bias may influence the way I conduct research."

View the online fact-checking guide developed by students:

tinyurl.com/SCUfactcheck

RECENTLY @ THE LIBRARY...



WE REDESIGNED A COMPUTER INSTRUCTION LAB TO INSPIRE TEAM COLLABORATION



WE HONORED EXEMPLARY SCU COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH BRONCOS READ POSTERS IN THE LIBRARY



WE CELEBRATED FACULTY AUTHORS AND EDITORS AT THE ANNUAL NEW PUBLICATIONS RECEPTION

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