**TDL Spotlight: Journal of Texas Women Writers**

Katherine Anne Porter isn’t the only female writer from Texas worthy of scholarly study, but you’d hardly know it by looking at the available outlets for scholarship on Texas women writers. According to Dr. Linda Kornasky, professor of English at Angelo State University, accomplished authors and thinkers like Gloria Anzaldúa, Sandra Cisneros, and Dorothy Scarborough don’t have a scholarly home – they are often not considered southern writers or writers of the Southwest – and, as a result, they sometimes get left out of the discussion.

Kornasky is hoping to give these writers, and others even less established, the home they deserve in the **Journal of Texas Women Writers**, an online scholarly journal created with the electronic journal platform offered by the Texas Digital Library.

The JoTWW, with Kornasky serving as managing editor, published its inaugural issue in February. The biannual journal uses Open Journal Systems (OJS) software, an open-source journal management and publishing system that is offered by the TDL. OJS supports every aspect of publishing a peer-reviewed scholarly journal, including online submission and management of content, indexing, and e-mail notification and commenting capabilities for reviewers. It also lets journals offer their content on an open-access basis to readers.

Kornasky decided to use the TDL’s journal system after seeking advice from her librarian about how to get started. The librarian told her that Angelo State was a member of the Texas Digital Library consortium, giving her access to all the faculty communications tools – including Open Journals Systems – that the TDL offers. A TDL electronic journal using OJS was a perfect fit for the JoTWW in other ways as well: “I didn’t want to be slowed down by financing,” Kornasky said, “and I wanted something that people could access without buying subscriptions.”

Kornasky then assembled an editorial team, which includes two of her colleagues at Angelo State (Dr. Gabriela Serrano and Dr. Lana Marlow), as well as author and creative writing professor Dr. Laura Butler of Sul Ross State University and Dr. Christina Ashby-Martin, history professor at Texas Tech University. She also enlisted Dr. Sylvia Grider, a retired anthropology scholar from Texas A&M University, as an advisory editor.

With the help of Texas Digital Library staff, including Scott Phillips at Texas A&M, Kornasky set up the OJS software and got to work. “At first I was a little nervous about the technical aspects of it, but then I decided to jump right in,” she said. “And like any other computer program, it became easy to use once I got the hang of it.”

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**Texas Digital Library**
http://www.tdl.org

The Texas Digital Library is a multi-university consortium providing the digital infrastructure to support a fully online scholarly community for institutions of higher education in Texas and to promote the widespread availability of their enormous intellectual capital.
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The inaugural issue of the JoTWW includes scholarly articles on the works of Graciela Limón and Sandra Cisneros, as well as original fiction, creative non-fiction, and poetry by contemporary Texas women writers. Kornasky plans to continue with this hybrid model – part literary criticism, part original work – in future issues, though it was not part of her initial plan. “I had intended originally for it to be a scholarly journal – just publishing literary criticism about a group of writers who are not represented in other journals,” she said. “But I changed my approach, thinking it would be nice to broaden our content to include current Texas women writers.”

And she’s glad she did. “I’ve had very good responses [to the inaugural issue] and am so glad I decided to open it up to creative writing.” In the future, Kornasky would like to publish some special issues of the journal, including issues on Katherine Anne Porter, Dorothy Scarboough, and Gloria Anzaldúa.

“I’m excited about the journal,” she concluded, “and amazed at how much support I’ve gotten from potential readers and submitters.”

For more information about electronic, peer-reviewed journals from the Texas Digital Library, please visit the TDL Web site at [http://www.tdl.org](http://www.tdl.org).

Mark your calendars for TCDL 2009

The third annual Texas Conference on Digital Libraries is set to take place May 27-28 at the University of Texas at Austin. The conference, which is sponsored by the Texas Digital Library, continues its exploration of topics related to the creation and promotion of digital libraries at Texas institutions of higher learning. Conference sessions will take place in the Applied Computation Engineering & Sciences (A.C.E.S.) Building.

The Program Committee for TCDL 2009, chaired by Dr. Mark Phillips of the University of North Texas, is seeking presentations reflecting this year’s theme: Linking Digital Libraries and Users. Abstracts should be submitted to Dr. Phillips at [Mark.Phillips@unt.edu](mailto:Mark.Phillips@unt.edu) by no later than April 6.

One day prior to the main conference session, on May 26, the TDL is hosting the first annual TCDL Developers Forum, a technical seminar providing a structured environment for sharing ideas, projects, and technologies of interest to developers of digital libraries, systems, and applications.

For more information about the conference and the TCDL Developers Forum, please visit the TDL Web site at [http://www.tdl.org/tcdl](http://www.tdl.org/tcdl), or contact TDL Program Coordinator Ryan Steans at rsteans@austin.utexas.edu.
TDL Training Opportunities Still Available

TDL training sessions are underway! The Texas Digital Library held its first training sessions of Spring 2009 in March, but there are still opportunities for TDL training. Upcoming sessions, on April 15-16 and May 13, include courses at all experience levels on the use of the digital repository platform DSpace and on Vireo, TDL’s electronic thesis and dissertation submission system. Other classes cover scholarly communication services offered by the TDL, such as open-access journals, scholarly blogs, and research wikis.

Staff from all TDL member institutions are invited to enroll in the sessions, which are held on the Baylor University campus. For course descriptions and information about registration, see the TDL training page at http://www.tdl.org/training, or contact TDL Program Coordinator Ryan Steans at rsteans@austin.utexas.edu.

Texas A&M University hosts symposium on future of scholarly publishing

In February, members and staff of the Texas Digital Library attended a symposium at Texas A&M University on The Changing Landscape of Scholarly Communication in the Digital Age. The conference, held February 11-13 at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center, focused on the challenges and opportunities posed by emerging technologies in scholarly communications.

The symposium featured some of the most distinguished minds in the country in fields related to digital scholarly communications, including Michael Jon Jensen, Director of Strategic Web Communications at the National Academies Press, who spoke about “the nature of authority in the era of content democracy and abundance,” and David Shulenburger, Vice President for Academic Affairs at the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, who challenged universities to make their faculty research widely available through open-access institutional repositories.

TDL Program Coordinator Ryan Steans, who attended the symposium, was encouraged and challenged by the message he heard there. “The symposium reinforced for me the importance of the TDL’s work in facilitating these changes in scholarly communication,” Steans said. “It’s very encouraging to see the academic community embrace these new technologies.”

TDL co-director John Leggett, also the Associate Dean for Digital Initiatives at Texas A&M, introduced Stuart Shieber, the Director of Scholarly Communications at Harvard University, who presented on Harvard’s recently implemented policy requiring its Arts and Sciences faculty to deposit published research in an open-access digital repository. Leggett noted the presence of many in the audience from TDL member institutions, saying that “the

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messages we’re getting here on this campus need to be pushed back out.” He said that while TAMU and the TDL have been building the technical infrastructure necessary to support the use of digital communications technologies, Texas A&M and other institutions across the state need to “get our conversation going about the policies that are necessary” to encourage faculty use of these technologies.

Several common themes emerged from the symposium. Among them were:

♦ The need to address shrinking access to scholarly materials (caused in part by sky-rocketing journal costs) by using emerging digital technologies like e-journals, digital repositories, and blogs;
♦ The importance of preserving the unique nature and authority of scholarly work and the process of peer review;
♦ The need to develop sustainable business models and nurture the institutional will to realize the potential of digital scholarly communication technologies; and
♦ The need for university tenure committees to revise policies in ways that recognize work in these new media.

Other presenters at the symposium included Clifford Lynch, Director of the Coalition for Networked Information; Donald J. Waters, Program Officer for Scholarly Communications at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Michael Keller, Stanford University Librarian and Publisher of the Stanford University Press; and Georgia Harper, Scholarly Communications Advisor for the University of Texas at Austin Libraries.

The symposium was organized by the Texas A&M Office of the Provost, the Texas A&M University Press, Texas A&M University Libraries, and the Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research. Information about the symposium, including streaming videos of all presentations, is available at the conference Web site at http://futureofpublishing.tamu.edu.

For more information about the Texas Digital Library, please visit our Web site at http://www.tdl.org, or contact the TDL program coordinator at info@tdl.org.

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