Review of Library Resources and Information Literacy

Proposed new course: **Perfa 61: World Theatre Experience**

The Performing Arts allocation for Library resources is shared between music, dance, and theater and also includes support for the LEAP program. The Library works collaboratively with the Department Chair and/or designated library liaison to develop and maintain an appropriate collection of monographs, serials, media, and electronic resources in support of the four tracts of the Performing Arts curriculum: Music, Dance, Theatre - Performance and Theatre Studies, and Theatre - Technical Theatre and Design. [Library Review, November 2012]

I’ve had the pleasure of working with Professor Davis and his students twice previously, in 2008 and 2010, when this course was in experimental phase. As the name implies, the scope of the class is broad, requiring research in the various performance traditions from Asia, Africa, and South America, and has also included Ireland, India, and Martinique as well as western traditions. It can cover topics such as ancient Greek Theatre to contemporary life in Bali. The Final Research assignment, which has evolved to a podcast, is 25% of the grade, and requires independent research on a performance tradition from the student’s nation or family origin. This presentation/podcast may include images and media.

Because the scope of the class is so wide and varied, depending on the students’ cultural background and interests, it has been challenging to have in our Library collection sufficient resources to meet the research requirements. I have had similar challenges in the complimentary PA courses such as Perfa 014, World Music and Dance (2007), and Perfa 160 (Asian Dance). However, with the ongoing evolution of the curriculum to become more diverse and inclusive of other cultures, continuing to shape our library collection to include these resources is a goal we all share. I appreciate the partnerships with PA faculty who keep me apprised of their course content and reading lists and make recommendations to me regarding books, journals, and media that will enhance their teaching and students’ learning.

**The Collection.** The Library’s ability to support student research in the subject area of World Theatre has improved over recent years with the collaboration of PA faculty who offer these courses and who have made recommendations about books and media in support of these classes. With the addition of several key reference works, eBooks, journal titles, and selected DVD collections, we are making progress in this area.

Examples of useful Subject Headings to browse for books and media in our Library:

- Theater—Encyclopedias
- Performing arts—South Africa
- Rites and Ceremonies—South Africa
- Theater—South Africa
- Butō -- History.
- Music—Indonesia
- Music—Indonesia—Bali (Province)
- Gamelan music
- Wilde, Oscar, 1854-1900 [for example]
1. **Reference Books and EReference.** The Library owns some of the key reference handbooks and encyclopedias in the field. These include:

   *World Literature and Its Times, V. 5, Gale, 2002.*
   *Dictionary of Traditional South-East Asian Theatre, Oxford, 1994*
   *Cambridge Guide to Asian Theatre, Cambridge, 1993*
   *Encyclopedia of Asian Theatre, V. 1-2, Greenwood, 2007*
   *The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music. 1998. [includes Disc CD86]*
   *Drama Criticism, V.1- , Gale.*
   *The world encyclopedia of contemporary theatre. Volume 5, Asia/Pacific [electronic resource], Routledge, 1998.*

2. **Databases**

   The Library subscribes to at least two major online databases that will support the research needs of this class, *International Bibliography of Theatre and Dance and Anthropology Plus.* However, we also subscribe to several multidisciplinary and scholarly databases that may also provide support for the research needs of students in this class. They include the following:

   *Naxos Music Library*
   *MLA International Bibliography*
   *Dance Video Online*
   *Project Muse*
   *MLA*
   *JSTOR*
   *Academic OneFile*

3. **Media**

   In addition to our CD Collection the *Naxos Music Library* database offers a selection of CDs and DVDs on world dance and music, including the *JVC video anthology of world music and dance, 10 discs (2005)* and *The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music (1998)* that may meet some of the needs of the students in this course.

4. **Periodicals**

   The following is a sampling of the periodicals in our collection that may support research in this class:

   - *Asian Theatre Journal*
   - *TDR: The Drama Review*
   - *Dance Research Journal*
In addition to the journals listed above, there are currently an additional 110 Drama, 41 Dance, and 10 Ethnomusicology titles listed in our aggregated databases under the heading “Music, Dance, Drama and Film.”

**Library Instruction / Information Literacy**

Professor Davis has brought his class to the Library for a formal research session when the course was offered previously and because of the research requirement and final project, I would strongly encourage that a library session with the librarian subject specialist be included in the syllabus for this class.

**Recommendations**

I welcome the ongoing collaboration between Theatre faculty to review the class syllabus, consult on the final research project, and review and refine the reading list. This will help to develop and shape the Library’s print and media collection so that the necessary resources will be available to support student research and the learning outcomes for this course.

Respectfully submitted,

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