2012-2013 Letterpress Annual Report  
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SHOP USE:  

This academic year we held letterpress open studio hours on Monday 9-2pm, Tuesday/Thursday nights from 7:30-10pm and Wednesdays from 9-1pm. Our fall attendance was 192 visitors and our spring was 161 visitors. Often times advanced students would have permission to come use the shop outside of open studio hours.  

The shop had demonstrations for classes outside the open studio hours:  

September 20 – Presentation Design II, Architecture, Diane Fox  
October 5 – Writing Class, English, Amy Elias  
October 18 – Intermediate Printmaking, Art, Beauvais Lyons  
October 24 – Book & Papermaking, Art, Ashton Ludden  
November 12 – Independent Study on Restoration, English, Misty Anderson  
November 19 – English 363, English, Marilyn Kallet  
March 14 – Intermediate Printmaking, Art, Koichi Yamamoto  

This year we successfully promoted the Letterpress studio with posters, takeaways, and departmental emails outside of the Art and Architecture building and university. We had a large increase in the diversity of visitors from majors such as civil engineers, psychology, english, nutrition, architecture, kinesiology, nursing, communication studies, electrical engineering and of course, many from all studio arts. The continued to see an increase in couples learning letterpress as they designed and printed their own wedding invitations over several weeks.  

Fall 2012:  

Artist-in-Residence Patricia Treib printed and editioned her personal promotional artist book in the shop.  

Ashton Ludden used the letterpress shop for her AR 291 Book & Paper Arts class to have student create a “Type As Image” book with sewn-on-tapes binding. Hours were extended for this project.  

The UTK Letterpress held an Open House on November 18th and had a large turn out from both the university and the public. The Vandercook was setup with a linocut of Smokey and hand-set letters for visitors to print and take away.
Spring 2013:

The director of Hamilton Wood Type Museum Jim Moran, was brought by the VAC and presented a lecture at the UC Auditorium. Mr. Moran also held open demos in room 321 with some equipment used from the UTK Letterpress Shop including the LinoScrib Proofing Press as well as type and equipment brought by himself.

The UTK Letterpress applied to have a show at the 1010 Gallery yet its proposal was rejected. The proposal was an invitational to other letterpress shops around the southeast and further with distinguished letterpress printmakers.

Neil and Ashton completed a commissioned UT “Thank You” cards for Dottie to give as gifts for donors to the university. These included two different designs.

Neil and Carrie Staples’ AR 150 class did a letterpress project on “Oxymorons” and continued to work in the letterpress shop between February and March.

Neil and Ashton designed and printed UTK Letterpress business cards.

**TYPE:**

We have a large collection of the following fonts: Bodoni, Universe, Cheltenham, Craw Clarendon, Wedding Text, Romany, Spartan, Bodoni, Stymie, Bernhard, Franklin Gothic, Nubian, Gothic Condensed and more.

The shop has various incomplete sets of type of which the wood type is by far the most popular. Students frequently asked for type faces not available in the shop, to remedy this for the future we recommend future lab assistants are trained in giving tutorials for the creation of photopolymer plates available for purchase through the UTK printmaking. And this could be a possible designated date(s) for a scheduled demo for those who are interested in learning since the demos cannot be performed easily on the fly.

UTK Alumnus Bryan Baker has volunteered to help locate needed type to complete parts of the collection. His contact information is: bryanchristopherbaker@gmail.com

Several type cases were resorted along with line spacing and thins. We are in the process of adding new labels and a sample print to the type cases.

The leading cabinet has been replaced as “image block” storage to a leading storage, all of which should be corresponding with the line length designated to each drawer.

The image blocks have been re-designated to empty job cases, located on the bottom of cabinet 2. This makes finding the blocks easier.

The shop contains a wide selection of random image plates, dingbats, rules, linoleum cuts, and mechanical photogravure blocks that visitors may add to their compositions.

Neil re-designed the Type Slip Sheets and are very clear on all information needed for each student using the shop. We have, not officially (should be made official through Deb Shmerler and the Bursars office to work like the Media Pool) created a contract that students must put type away within 30 days or we send an email asking them to put their type away. If the student fails to do so, we put a $30 hold on their account. Each student agrees to this (verbally as of now) and provides their student ID number and email. The
official policy, which is recommended to be officially implemented for the next academic year, is below:

"UTK Letterpress Usage Policy

OVERVIEW

The UTK Letterpress Studio provides student access to equipment, space and resources to successfully create individual letterpress compositions. As a valuable educational resource, it is important that all users adhere to this policy.

QUALIFICATIONS

The UTK Letterpress Studio is open to any student, staff or faculty member at the University of Tennessee. Each new user is required to attend a demonstration before composing type for the first time. Demonstrations are given during open studio hours and consist of typesetting, the use of shop tools, how to operate both printing presses, and how to properly clean up.

USAGE

The UTK Letterpress provides presses; Vandercook, Challenger and Lin-O-Scribe, ink, drying racks, proofing paper and a variety of brayers. A selection of printing paper is provided for demos and small projects, those with large scale projects and specific paper needs are expected to provide their own paper.

Use of all equipment must be in accordance with established practices and observant of any specific use policies established by the UTK Letterpress.

Use of the letterpress shop must be supervised by one of the letterpress shop technicians or by the primary printshop technician. Unsupervised use must be authorized on a case-by-case basis by the printshop technician, or printmaking faculty.

The UTK Letterpress Studio is an academic resource, and is not available for commercial printing.

Each user is expected to keep their workspace, work and all materials in a neat manner. Compositions maybe left in the Letterpress studio for no longer than 30 days.

FEES

Use of the Letterpress Studio is free, with the following exception:

Users with lingering type will be notified via e-mail, and expected to schedule a time to properly put away type.

Users with type left out for more than 30 days will be assessed a fee of $30, and their UTK Letterpress Studio privileges will be revoked. Fees may be paid in the School of Art Office, by cash or check. Upon receipt, studio privileges will be restored.

CONTACT

Please feel free to contact the UTK Letterpress Studio with any questions at

UTKletterpress@gmail.com”

EQUIPMENT:
The studio continues to use rubber based inks as well as a small selection of oil based inks. The studio would benefit from purchasing new small brayers for hand inking and a new system for storing brayers safely. The addition of disposable gloves has encouraged health and safety standards and efficiency in the studio, as there is only one pair of communal gloves.

The studio could benefit from easily accessible paper storage on the shelves. The shop has tools for cutting leading and a miter cutter, and continues to hold a floor unit corner-rounder that is not in working order.

We have discovered a box of Mo Lebowitz letterpress that have been used for teaching aids, but the care for these prints could be formally preserved or considered for special collections.

We have also adopted the use of vegetable oil to lessen toxic use of lithotine.

**PRESSES:**

The Vandercook and Challenger have regularly received maintenance with use.

There are significant trip hazards with the outlets that stick out from the floor, which have been covered with stools this year. Access to the shop has now been freed through the new entry way, which allows easy access as well as easy discovery.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

(see above)