This report details shop usage throughout the year, as well as an inventory and assessment of shop equipment.

- Shop Use
- Events
- Type
- Equipment
- Presses

SHOP USE
University of Tennessee-Knoxville students gained access and exposure to the Letterpress shop through means including through weekly supervised Open Shop hours, independent study in conjunction with Art or other majors, demonstrations as part of classes, letterpress assignments incorporated into other printmaking courses, and other events.

I. Open Shop Hours
This academic year Letterpress open studio hours were held Monday 5-10pm, Wednesday 4-8pm, and Friday 12-6pm in the Fall and Monday/Tuesday 7-9pm, Wednesday/Thursday 10-2pm, and Friday 10-12pm in the spring. Our fall attendance was 90 visitors and our spring was 77 visitors.

This number only accounts for students who chose to utilize the sign-in sheets as the front door and does not include the advance and intermediate students who were given permission to use the letterpress shop outside of open studio hours or students attending demonstrations.

II. Independent Study
In the fall, two undergraduate Independent Study (ART 493) students, both majoring in English with an emphasis in poetry, consistently utilized the Letterpress facilities throughout the semester. Both of these students were able to apply the skills gained in the shop to acceptance in graduate programs this fall with full assistantships.

III. Shop Demonstrations and Letterpress in the Classroom
Shop demonstrations were offered to the following classes outside of open studio hours:

- September 19th – AIGA, Design, Stephanie Bullock
- September 19th - 18th Century Literature, English, Misty Anderson
- October 10th – ARTA 361 Intermediate Print Workshop, Art, Beauvais Lyons
In February there were requests for demonstrations from Deborah Shmerler’s Sophomore Design and Althea Murphy-Price’s Intermediate Printmaking class that unfortunately, due to scheduling difficulties, did not take place.

Letterpress Assignments:
In the fall, Beauvais Lyons’ Intermediate Printmaking class was asked to incorporate Letterpress into one of their projects. Students brought in work that had been made through a variety of different processes, such as etching and relief. Type was then set and registered to the prints.

In the spring, Jen Scheuer used the Letterpress Shop for her ART 291 Book Arts and Papermaking course. Students were asked to print a two-page spread, front and back, that paired an image with text. The pages printed by the class were compiled into books containing work from every student in the class. While the Challenge press was out of commission, the students learned to use the tabletop proofing press. This assignment was to typeset and print personal business cards.

IV. Letterpress Archive
We’ve also started to collect prints made in the studio, in our attempts to start a letterpress archive. In the future, we would like to add 2-3 prints from every piece made in the studio.

EVENTS

October 21st – Halloween Mask Printing
BJ Alumbaugh instructed students on making simple masks utilizing drawings translated into laser cut woodblocks. These prints were later used as promotional giveaways over the week of Halloween.

November 7th – Handbills for Visiting Artist Wayne White Event
In conjunction with visiting artist Wayne White’s Homecoming parade float workshop we printed handbills to be given away during the event. Wayne White is an American artist, art director, illustrator, and puppeteer who has worked on projects including Pee Wee’s Playhouse and Smashing Pumpkin’s music video “Tonight, Tonight.”

November 16th – MFA Open House
The MFA Open House was an event for the University of Tennessee Master of Fine Art candidates to share their artwork with the community of Knoxville and surrounding regions. In conjunction with the event, the Vandercook press was set for holiday card printing. There were also various diagrams and forms set up around the room as examples while students worked in the room to demonstrate setting type.

November 16th – Printing Christmas Cards for Print Sale
BJ Alumbaugh designed six different holiday card variations that were printed and sold at the Print Club fall sale November 18th, 19th, and 20th.

February 3rd – Printing Valentine’s for Print Sale
Keely Snook and BJ Alumbaugh designed and printed 300 Valentine’s Day cards from twelve original designs using both type from the letterpress shop and hand carved linoleum cut blocks. These cards were sold at the Print Clubs Spring sale on February 5th, 6th, and 7th.

March 15th – @UTK_Letterpress Instagram Account Created
To help spread the word and utilize social media, we created an Instagram account to share photos and videos of prints on press, student instruction, and typography photos. Using this tool, we can directly tag and respond to others within the letterpress community. By following other presses and relief printing artists, we can also stay current with happenings in letterpress.

March 31st – Gifts for Southeast University in Nanjing, China
This spring, we also had the privilege of creating commemorative prints featuring a linoleum block image of the Smokey mascot to give to dignitaries on campus from Southeast University in Nanjing, China. SEU is UT’s partner institution for the Confucius Institute that was officially opened in April of 2013. These prints were presented to SEU by the chancellor on behalf of UT.

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. 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.

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.

BJ has designed a pica measurement sheet exact to point and pica sizes that students can use to check against when returning type to the proper drawer.

We’ve done a fair amount of organization to drawers containing miscellaneous lead pieces. Wood rules have been consolidated and re-designated to their own drawer. Lead border systems have also been consolidated and put out on display to be readily accessible to composers using the shop. We’ve also made a home for
spacing pieces to live in. The cabinet containing all Bodoni typefaces has been stocked with spacing for each point size, and it is now the main place to locate spacing pieces. Keely also printed examples of paper and ink color combinations to display what is offered in the shop. These examples are now on display in front of the paper racks.

EQUIPMENT

The studio continues to use rubber based inks as well as a small selection of oil based inks. 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. While we have benefited from the new paper cutter that was donated this winter, we feel it would be helpful to have a few small cutting mats and extra x-acto knives.

There are significant trip hazards with the outlets that stick out from the floor, which need to be addressed.

The shop would benefit greatly from a purchase of more reglets to be sawed and distributed throughout the cabinet’s size range (10p-50p).

PRESSES

The Vandercook and Challenge have regularly received maintenance with use. The Challenge press recently suffered damage rendering it unusable until further repair. Jessie, the shop technician, has contacted Hot Metal Services to investigate damage at their earliest convenience. Until then, it will remain out of commission.