

Loftus helped bring traveling exhibit to I.D. Weeks Library

Through the end of the year, visitors to USD's I.D. Weeks Library will be able to get an up-close look at one of the darkest eras of modern history.

of the library's second floor will be home to "Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race," a traveling exhibit from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The exhibit explains how Nazi leaders used science to legitimize persecution, murder

and genocide.

"It's about eugenics, experimentation and ethical considerations," explained Danielle Loftus, technology/fine arts librarian.

The exhibit is located past the main stairway on the west side of the library. It consists panels which display a combination of photographs, videos, posters, documents and other printed material.

"I really respect the way they present these images," Loftus said. "It's for all levels of people. (But) because of the subject matter, you might not want to bring your five-year-old, because some of the videos and some of the images might be a little disturbing."

“But anybody of any level can understand the information,” she said.

The photograph captures a person from behind, standing in a museum or gallery. The person has curly hair and is wearing a dark jacket and a backpack. They are looking at a large wall display featuring historical Nazi propaganda posters. The posters include:

- Neues Volk 1938:** A poster showing a man and a woman, with the text "Neues Volk 1938" and "85 April". Below the image is the text "Kaiserin des Rassenpolitischen Amtes der NSDAP".
- Volk im Gefahre:** A poster showing a silhouette of a person holding a scale, with the text "Volk im Gefahre".
- Ten Commandments for Choosing a Mate (excerpts):** A poster listing ten commandments for choosing a mate, such as "Remember that you are a German", "Everything you are is part of your own world", "Remember that you are a German", "Remember that you are a German", "Remember that you are a German", "Remember that you are a German", "Remember that you are a German", "Remember that you are a German", "Remember that you are a German", "Remember that you are a German".

The person's backpack has a small logo on it. The background shows a bookshelf with books.

Spotlight On

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Loftus added that while some of the content is intense, it doesn't "hit the viewer over the head."

“Deadly Medicine” came to USD as a result

of an application filled out by Loftus, and is one of several traveling exhibits from the Holocaust museum.

“This is the one that I thought would be interesting for our population,” she said.

The exhibit arrived at USD on Friday, Oct. 19, from its previous location at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans.

“It was in a big trailer, and it took us about two hours to unload,” Loftus said.

The trailer was filled with approximately 70 containers that contained the various components of the exhibit – all of which took about 12 to 16 hours to install.

"It's very wonderful the way they've invested in beautiful materials to install these things," Loftus said. "I'm really impressed with the Holocaust museum's curriculum tools that they have on their Web

A USD student walks through “Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race,” a traveling exhibit from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum that will be on display on the second floor of the I.D. Weeks Library through Jan. 6, 2013.
(Travis Gulbrandson/Vermillion Plain Talk)

site, too. . .

“We didn’t have to do anything from scratch,” she said. “They are very well-researched, and they’ve very supportive of all levels of interest.”

“Deadly Medicine” already has attracted a fair amount of interest since it was put on display Oct. 25.

“One of the staff members that works in the archives has come down to photograph this in the past couple of days, and every time that we’re down here we see people walking around,” she said.

A number of area schools and other groups have made plans to visit, as well.

"We've got lots and lots of interest," Loftus said.

For more information about “Deadly Medicine,” visit http://blogs.usd.edu/library/entry/university_libraries_to_host_u.

A black silhouette of a horse and rider, with the horse rearing up on its hind legs and the rider leaning forward. The silhouette is positioned in the center of the advertisement, between the name 'CHRIS' and 'RICHARDS'.

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