

SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY

Blough- Weis Library Newsletter

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Library Featured at BOD Meeting

University Librarian Kathleen Gunning made a presentation to the S.U. Board of Directors at their February 12th, 2001 meeting. Ms. Gunning discussed highlights of the Library's activities over the past six years, and also provided an overview of issues affecting libraries nationally. While the core mission of the Library remains the same, *methods* for achieving stated goals have recently undergone significant change.

To oversimplify, a major focus is to acquire and organize information to support the curriculum, and to form strong cooperative bonds with other libraries. A second goal is to support faculty research. A third is to provide reference service and instruction to students to promote their research efforts. And lastly, to maintain and operate the library as a special place in the university environment.

Methods for accomplishing these goals have changed as the Library adapted to new ways of delivering services. The system of scholarly publication, communication and access has undergone tremendous change as technology has expanded to include more variety in collection formats and more rapid change in these formats.

To supplement core book, reference book and journal collections, students and faculty have had CD-ROM and online access to articles in thousands of scholarly journals for many years. Several vendors are now making electronic books available as well, where libraries can purchase "access" to an electronic collection, and fees are paid either for annual or perpetual access. Still another option is the use of "portable readers" equipped with the electronic text of certain titles.

In the Media Center, new formats for media materials continue to plague the Library as we move from Beta to VHS tapes, then migrate yet again to DVD. And LP recordings may become a thing of the past as we make the transition to music CDs. During the years of transition, the Library maintains several formats of each type of media material.

A moment of levity was provided when Ms. Gunning plunged a small book into a bowl of water, demonstrating the newest technology yet: Durabooks from Melcher Media. These little gems are completely waterproof, made from plastic fibers, plastic resins and inorganic fillers. Specially-developed glues are used in the binding, so you *can* take a book into the bath, into the pool, or to the beach!

In This Issue

<i>Library Featured at BOD Meeting...</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Art Exhibit in Library.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>New Librarian Appointed.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Update on Reference Services.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>E-Res Project Report.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>New Database Available.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Compact Shelving Project.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Please Remember.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Standing Orders Review.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>New Videos in Media Center.....</i>	<i>4</i>

Other recent developments that have improved Library service, particularly for students, are the ARIEL document delivery system and the E-Res electronic reserves program. Both were installed in the 2000-2001 academic year.

Still other library operations have undergone significant change as well. Looking back 10 years ago, just prior to the installation of the Innovative Interfaces automated system, the Library was using a manual book check-out system with date-due stamps to circulate books. Overdue notices were pulled, typed and mailed out. Of course, the card catalog was the centerpiece of the lobby area and cards were being added up through 1991. The physical units were not removed from the Library until 1994! In the Periodicals Department, the cardex file was used to manually check in journal issues. In Acquisitions, typed lists of book titles were attached to purchase orders and took weeks or even months to arrive in the Library.

Today, overdue notices are e-mailed automatically to campus users and printed by the system for Community Borrowers. WebCat in SIRSI can link to Internet web sites to expand the body of information that users have access to far beyond the Library walls. Using online book vendors to place orders for new books has significantly reduced the delivery time to 1-2 weeks (or less) for most items.

--Kathleen Gunning

ART EXHIBIT IN LIBRARY



The Library has mounted an exhibit of a selected group of paintings done by William (Bill) R. Hart. Mr. Hart uses acrylic paint on canvas to create very bright, colorful pieces. Another selection of black and white drawings is also on display. The exhibit will run until the end of April. Please stop by to view these unusual works.

NEW LIBRARIAN APPOINTED

The search for a new **Public Services Librarian** was concluded this month. Two well-qualified candidates were interviewed, and all input from faculty, staff and students who met the candidates was carefully considered. We are pleased to announce that **Chris Praul** has accepted the appointment as Public Services Librarian. Chris will be responsible for Circulation and Course Reserves Services, including Electronic Reserves. He will also provide reference assistance and make presentations to classes on Library research sources and searching techniques.

Chris graduated from Susquehanna in 1994 and obtained his Masters Degree in Library Science from Clarion University. He comes to us most recently from Washington and Jefferson College. Chris is expected to begin in early May; please stop in and welcome him to campus.

*We would like to thank the many faculty members and students who so generously gave of their time to meet and evaluate the candidates. Your input was extremely helpful! **Thank you all!!***

UPDATE ON REFERENCE SERVICES

Reference Librarian Kathy Dalton recently returned from a 4-day Syllabus Conference in Cincinnati where she attended a workshop on web tutorials and several sessions on *Blackboard.com*. Kathy has since reviewed the basics of Blackboard with the other librarians, highlighting various aspects of the online program.

Also, earlier this month Kathy experimented with a new approach to delivering reference service. She visited students living in Seibert Residence Hall at a time convenient for them (9:00 p.m. at night!), to conduct an instructional session for about 15-20 students. Rather than giving a formal presentation, she responded to individual research questions from the students. The visit garnered positive feedback from the students. So if you see librarians roaming around the campus at night...

E-RES PROJECT REPORT

The E-Res “Pilot Project” is in full swing with **12** faculty currently participating in the program, and electronic reserves available for **18** courses. To date, a total of 207 articles are on electronic reserves. Usage has been good; for the period Jan 15 – April 11, electronic reserve documents have been accessed over **3,000** times by students in the 18 courses. The E-Res system will also provide faculty with the number of times each article has been accessed. To obtain this data, please call Becky Wilson at x4321.

All faculty are invited to participate in the E-Res program during Fall semester. Students will be able to read items placed on course reserves from any computer connected to the Internet. Thus they have access to these materials 24/7, and even when they are home on break! Our Circulation Manager, Juli Boggs, has done a fantastic job of initiating and maintaining the program subsequent to its installation. Please call her at x4022 if you would like to participate. Visit the E-Res Web Page for information about the program: <http://www.susqu.edu/library/eres>

Dr. Ed Schwan has surveyed his students and gotten high marks for ease of access to required reading materials. Mostly students liked the fact that they “do not need to make a special trip to the Library”, and could “print articles on printer rather than paying for photocopy”. Other pluses were being able to “access readings at any time one wishes” and “to access reading off-campus”. Suggestions for improvement included scanning in a clean copy to facilitate reading the document and putting the articles in alphabetical order when the reading list is very long [this has been done].

Following an experiment by Dr. Jerry Habegger, we now know that documents in PDF format can be emailed to Juli and then saved directly on the E-Res Server – bypassing the scanning process altogether.

Thanks to Deans deAbruna, Brock and Winegar for the opportunity to present a demonstration of the E-Res esystem to faculty members during

their monthly School meeting. And special thanks

again to Juli and to all faculty participants who got this program off the ground!

--Becky Wilson

NEW DATABASE AVAILABLE

HOOVERS ONLINE, the Business Network, has been added to the Library’s Web Page. The **Development Office** has purchased an annual subscription to Hoovers Online, and has made it available to the campus community from any networked computer. The database can be accessed at <http://www.hoovers.com>, or from the Library’s Web Page using the “*Business & Economics*” subject category or the *Full List of Resources* under “*Library Resources*”.

With this subscription users enjoy the following:

Advanced Search (Search any combination of industry, location, annual sales, growth rate, company size, or fiscal year end)

Company Profiles (the full story on public, private, and worldwide companies)

In-depth Financials (View annual and historical financials as well as market data; download the numbers into Excel for easy charting, graphing, and analysis)

Comparison Data Definitions (view the financial performance of public companies as compared to the US market and their industry as a whole)

Full Lists of Officers (read about the people behind the companies and industries)

Full Lists of Competitors (access hand-picked lists of up to 10 competitors with links to their profiles)

Products/Services/Segment Data (find out about the categories and the brands that make the company)

Thanks to Alison Cook in the Development Office for making this database available!

COMPACT SHELVING PROJECT

A request for compact shelving for the Lower Level has been approved and an order placed with StorageTek, Inc. for Spacesaver Compact Shelving. Almost twice as many compact shelves (moveable) as standard shelving (fixed) will fit into a given space. This purchase will hold roughly 7-8 years of collection growth; at that time, a Library addition will become critical. The regular shelving on the 2nd floor is full, and the temporary shelving on the Lower Level currently holds about 2 years of collection growth. The installation of compact shelving will provide room for collection growth until 2007.

We have begun moving the lesser-used books from the former 24-hour area to temporary space as available. Removal of the fixed shelving and the carpeting will be done in May. Installation of the new shelving is scheduled for May - July.

Concurrently, oversize books and other sections of the circulating collections on the second floor will also have to be shifted. Some shelving will be dismantled and moved. While all this is occurring, some books may be difficult to locate but accessibility to items will be maintained as far as possible. Your patience over the summer will be greatly appreciated; ***please do not hesitate to seek assistance if you are having difficulty locating any books.***

PLEASE REMEMBER...

...to return all books and materials to the Library before leaving the campus in May. All items must be physically returned on an annual basis at the end of Spring semester. By now you should have received a notice listing books that are signed out to you. Items may be checked out again if they are still needed. It is essential that we be able to identify missing books so that we can replace them as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

STANDING ORDERS REVIEW

By now all departments affected by the **Standing Orders Review** have received a spreadsheet listing the title(s) being considered for cancellation due to low usage and space concerns. Some departments have already returned their spreadsheets and we would like to say "thanks" for being so prompt. The official due date is April 30. As soon as possible thereafter an email list of all titles being recommended for cancellation will be distributed to faculty for a final review, so that any necessary changes can occur before you leave campus for the summer.

As always, we are impressed with the care and conscientiousness that everyone is taking in attending to this (onerous) task, especially when you are all so very busy. ***Thank you for your wonderful assistance and cooperation with this project.***

NEW VIDEOS IN THE MEDIA CENTER

Baby Beauty Queens
Black Americans of Achievement. Video Collection II
Bonhoeffer, Agent of Grace
Chutney In Yuh Soca: A Multicultural Mix
Discovering Russian Folk Music
Face of Russia
Ley De Herodes
Live Nude Girls Unite!
Mariachi
Nosotros Los Pobres
Que Viva Mexico!
Rojo Amanecer
Those Who Love Me Can Take the Train (Ceux Qui M'aiment Prendront Le Train)
Titus