BOOKMARKS

FRIENDS CORNER
SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY FRIENDS OF HANNON LIBRARY

AS OF AUGUST 1, 2007, Friends’ memberships numbered 334, compared to 211 at this time last year. That 58 percent increase is partly attributable to the closing of county libraries. As of July 1, 2007, the membership fee to join Friends of Hannon Library (FHL) is $45. This is the first increase in nearly ten years and will enable the Friends to better support their mission.

At the Annual Meeting on May 17, four new board members were elected to fill vacancies during the 2007–2008 academic year: Joyce Epstein, Mary Maher, Herman Schmeling, and Suzanne Warner. At this time, the roster of the Board of the Friends of Hannon Library for 2007–2008 includes these new members, as well as returning members Michael Ainsworth, Judy Frank, Kay Krumen, Dennis Schroedl, and Patty Winton.

The Friends Board developed a brief application form for individuals interested in serving on the board. Information about the Friends of Hannon Library and its board is available online at www.sou.edu/library/friends.

In June, the Friends of Hannon Library received confirmation from the Oregon Cultural Trust that the organization will be added to the listing of nonprofit cultural organizations eligible for the Oregon tax credit.

The Friends of Hannon Library Lecture Series for 2007–2008 will feature the following:

October 18, 2007
Bill Rauch, OAP Artistic Director. “As Boundless as the Sea: Shakespeare’s Influence in My Life”

November 15, 2007

January 17, 2008
William Stafford Poetry Event with Readings by Local Poets

March 6, 2008
Susan Reid, Community Leader. “Pear Packing: A Season of Women’s Work”

The SOU Friends of Hannon Library is a membership organization that was established in 1975. The Friends are committed to improving the Hannon Library collections and supporting the Library Lecture Series on a variety of interesting and timely topics.

Member benefits include library discount privileges, participation in a series of events and talks, the opportunity to assist with bibliophile activities, and the satisfaction of supporting Hannon Library. Call 541-552-6850 for more information about upcoming events or to become a Friends member.

BOOKMARKS is published by the Luna and Dixie Hannon Library.

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Friends of Hannon Library

BookMarks is available from Hannon Library’s Web site at www.sou.edu/library/bookmarks.

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SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY
LENN AND DIXIE HANNON LIBRARY
1250 SISKIYOU BOULEVARD
ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

FELLOWSHIP: Southern Oregon University is committed to providing a healthy and safe educational environment. The Southern Oregon University Affirmative Action Plan is designed to ensure that the University is fully committed to access, educational programs, activities, and employment without discrimination on the basis of age, disability, national origin, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, political belief, marital status, or veteran status. The University also prohibits other forms of retaliation.


Enforcement of Affirmative Action Policy and Equal Employment Opportunity is the responsibility of the Director of Equal Employment, 1250 Siskiyou Boulevard, Ashland, OR 97520.

Library Services to the Community

A Response to County Library Closures

Until the recent closure of the public libraries, county residents benefited from access to an excellent public library system and the availability of an academic library in their community. Hannon Library at Southern Oregon University is aware of and understands the plight of county residents since the closure of the Jackson County Library System.

Hannon Library has always welcomed community patrons to use its collections of books, journals, newspapers, and video recordings within the building. Adults may join the Friends of Hannon Library for a $45 annual membership fee that entitles a user to a library card, which enables them to check out books. Friends also receive a subscription to Hannon Library’s newsletter BookMarks and mailings that announce events. There is limited short-term parking at seven locations near the library.

As an academic library, Hannon Library’s primary mission is to support the teaching, learning, and research needs of Southern Oregon University students and faculty. The result is a very different collection from that of a public library. Hannon Library purchases primarily nonfiction academic press titles to support the courses taught at the University. For example, SOU does not have home economics or horticulture programs; consequently, the library doesn’t purchase cookbooks, and any cookbooks in the collection are older titles received as gifts many years ago. Botany titles are purchased to support biology courses. As for fiction, the few titles purchased are by highly regarded authors or those who have won awards such as the Booker Prize or Nobel prizes. Hannon Library owns many literary classics, including novels, plays, and poetry. Gifts of fiction titles are welcome and often added to the collection.

Hannon Library’s collections are particularly strong in music, visual arts, Native American studies, local history, and the southern Oregon bioregion. As the depository library for federal and Oregon state government publications for the Southern Congressional district, the library has a wealth of information provided by the government for its citizens.

For more information, please call 541-552-6853 or visit www.sou.edu/library.

FALL 2007 EVENTS

October 9
Siskiyou Views: Frank Lang, SOU Professor Emeritus. “Frank Lang Follows Darwin’s Footsteps in Today’s Patagonia.” Meese Meeting Room (LIB 305), 7 p.m. Free

October 18

November 8
Music in the Library: Pat Daly. Jack Schuman, Stephen Bacon, and guests. “Ethnic Instruments from the Schuman Collection: Demonstration and Lecture.” Meese Meeting Room (LIB 305), 4 p.m. Free

November 15

Additional programming for fall will be announced. Call 541-552-6853 for information.
HANNOCK GALLERY EXHIBITS FOR FALL

WE HAVE A LIFETIME

of exciting new exhibits in the Hannon Library Gallery this fall. Harriet Rex Smith’s show Eclipses will run through mid-October. Harriet is a longtime Ashland area resident and artist. She explores a variety of themes in her representational watercolor and acrylic paintings.

Our second fall show will be the computer-generated designs of Nancy Baer, a former Hannon Library staff member. The title of her show is Back Yard at “B” Streee.

From late November through January, we will be showing the work of another Southern Oregon University staff member, Daniel Verner. Dan, a multi-talented musician and visual artist, will be exhibiting paintings from his series The Call.

NEW LIBRARY NEWS

DOING RESEARCH from home or your dorm?

From Hannon Library’s home page, you can click on the link “Ask a Librarian,” and you will find three ways to ask for assistance from your remote location: Call 541-552-6442 during reference hours to talk to an SOU librarian; email your question, and it will be answered by an SOU librarian (usually by the next business day); or chat virtually with a reference librarian.

Hannon Library now participates in L-net, a collaborative online reference service. L-net allows for 24/7 online chat with librarians from twenty-eight libraries around Oregon. SOU librarians participate by providing reference service a few hours every week, which allows us to offer this service 24/7 to our students and faculty. Response time is usually less than a minute. Reference librarians have databases and other resources nearby and can work with you to ensure that you get the information you need. For more information about the L-net service, call Connie Anderson-Coohn at 541-552-6820 or email anderson@soc.edu.

NEW AND ENHANCED E-RESOURCES!

JSTOR Arts and Sciences Collection I

THIS SUMMER, the library purchased JSTOR Arts and Sciences Collection I, which provides archival, full-text access to 119 core journals in fifteen disciplines dating from the first issue, some as far back as the 1660s. Researchers can retrieve high-resolution, scanned images of copyrighted pages as they were originally designed, printed, and illustrated. There are also additional multidisciplinary and subject-specific JSTOR collections we hope to add in the future.

Naxos Music Library

This new resource provides streaming audio files of 240,000 music tracks from multiple genres, ranging from classical to jazz to opera. Around 500 titles are added monthly, and 7,000 composers are represented. Naxos Music Library also provides opera synopses, artist and composer biographies, definitions of music terms, and comprehensive liner notes. Users can browse alphabetically by genre and composer or search by artist or composer name, work, genre, country, period, instrument, label, and year of composition or a combination of these criteria.

Academic Search Complete

Over the summer, the Hannon Library upgraded from Elsevier’s Academic Search Premier to Academic Search Complete (ASC). This large multidisciplinary database provides full-text articles from more than 5,300 journals, including more than 4,400 that are peer-reviewed. It also contains citations and abstracts for an additional 9,900 journals. ASC has nearly 900 more full-text journal titles (growing to more than 1,500) than were previously available in Academic Search Premiere.

Antigl Interface Change

Another change over the summer was the move of Anthropological Literature from the Eureka interface to OCLC WorldCat. Anthropological Literature is a bibliographic index to articles and essays on anthropology and archeology in nearly 9,000 journals and is maintained by Totalet Library at Harvard University. User-friendly access via OCLC’s WorldCat interface makes it easier for researchers to do searches by author, subject, or keyword and to easily find an article online or in print. Patrons may also request an article by interlibrary loan, if necessary.

SOUTHERN OREGON DIGITAL HISTORY COLLECTION UPDATE

Hannon Library’s online Southern Oregon History Collection continues to grow, thanks to a continuation of the Oregon State Library. Two generations of oral histories of Douglas County elders (1938 and 1978–79) are now available through the Southern Oregon Historical Collection. The Douglas County Library System has joined Hannon Library Ruminscence of Southern Oregon Pioneers, a collection of 128 narratives from the 1930 oral histories, for digitizing. Another 100 oral history interview transcriptions are on loan from the Levida Bakken Research Library of the Douglas County Museum of History and Natural History. Both are currently being digitized and added to the Southern Oregon Digital Archives.

Earlier this year, we added a careful selection of documents and maps from the Historical Records Collection of the Rogue River National Forest. These files contain rich accounts of the early work of forest rangers and the administration of national forests from about 1910 to the 1970s. Additional resources (maps, documents, oral histories, books) representing Douglas, Coon, and Curry Counties and the Rogue River National Forest are currently being digitized. We also hope to include a small collection of materials about the Ashland Chautauqua, which will be on loan from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. To view this collection, visit www.sou.edu and click “Search” in the History frame.

LIBRARIES AT THE CUTTING EDGE

BY PAMELA SNELSON

IF THE CLASSROOM IS THE FIRST STEP IN THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE, THE LIBRARY IS THE NEXT AND GREAT LIBRARIES CONTINUE TO BE A KEY TO A GREAT EDUCATION.

THE TRENDIEST MEETING PLACE on many college campuses these days feature a coffee bar, wireless Internet zones, free entertainment and special programs, modern lounge areas, and meeting rooms. And free access to books. Lots of books.

This educational social hub is the campus library, which is beginning to look more like an Internet café than the academic library you remember from your college days.

Far from fading away in the Age of Google, which has begun digitizing millions of books from university and other libraries—and despite the almost universal availability of vast online resources—circuit and visits to college and research libraries are on the rise. Campus libraries now answer more than seventy-two million reference questions each year—almost twice the attendance at college football games.

In other words, this is not the beginning of the end for campus libraries but the dawn of an exciting new age.

STATEGIES FOR TODAY—AND TOMORROW

A quick look at two familiar Web sites will demonstrate that academic libraries now play a vital role in how students and faculty find and gather information via the Web, as well as in the stacks. Both Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland offer a full range of online library services, from catalogs (formally known as “card catalogs”) to research help to DRUM—the Digital Repository at Maryland, which provides a permanent online address for computer files and eliminates the need to attach them to email messages. The Julia Rogers Library at Goncher College subscribes to services that provide students with access to more than 22,000 online titles, while Baltimore City Community College’s library gives students technology support and online access to research materials.

The volume of information available on the Web has led some students to believe that if a resource can’t be found online, it doesn’t exist. This mistaken idea, coupled with concerns about the reliability of information on the Web and the potential for plagiarism from online sources, has led faculty and librarians to team up to teach information literacy skills.

Nationwide, higher education institutions have developed information literacy instruction to help students understand how to find and evaluate information online and in print—giving them more bang for their tuition buck! Many colleges and universities even provide “personal tutors,” so students can work with librarians one on one or with a group project team to brush up on the best databases for a particular class or assignment.

Technology training helps students succeed in class but also prepares them for future careers. Information literacy is critical to a competitive work force, and information-literate people know how to find accurate, useful information that will help them through family, medical, or job crises.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

College and research librarians are partners with professors in educating students, offering new perspectives, developing curricula, and facilitating research projects, as well as leading the library world in digitization efforts and online reference. Our nation’s college and research libraries are constantly finding new ways to better serve students, faculty, and staff—online and in person. More than 90 percent of college students now visit the online library from home. Yet use of the nation’s physical academic libraries and their collections grew from more than 880 million library visits in 2002 to more than a billion in 2004, according to the most recent data from the National Center on Education Statistics—an increase of over 14 percent. Circulation of library materials in the same period was up by 6 percent, to more than 200 million items.

In short, if the classroom is the first step in the learning experience, the library is the next. And great libraries continue to be a key to a great education.

This slightly abridged article first appeared in the March 29, 2007, issue of Inside Higher Ed and is reprinted with the generous permission of the author and publisher. Pamela Snelson is president of the Association of College and Research Libraries and is college librarian at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

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