

# BOOKMARKS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Fall 2000

Volume 11, No. 1

## THE FIRST WORD

by Sue Burkholder, Library Director

WHEN I RETURNED to the SOU Library after two years of being away, I was nearly overwhelmed by the changes I found. In addition to the expected staff changes, there are also a number of physical changes in the building. The Electronic Classroom (EC) that opened last fall is not only admired across campus, but it is also heavily scheduled for library research and specialized instruction classes. After over thirty years in the building, the Government Publications Department has moved into a decent-sized office space on the third floor. We also expanded the Special Collections room at the order of the fire marshal, who found our previous space in violation of the fire code. In the process of expanding this space, we eliminated the last group study room in the library.

Not so surprising are the many changes in our electronic information resources—new databases and modifications to even our old familiar stand-bys. For the first time, the library is experimenting with making electronic books available to all of you. With more electronic information comes the need for additional electronic workstations, so this summer we increased the number of computers in our classroom.

As I perused the library this summer, I became aware of the urgent need for more and improved spaces to serve students and faculty. I am pleased to be able to tell you that we are making substantial progress in our plans for an expanded library. This summer, a campuswide planning committee worked with a Portland firm, Opsi Architecture, to develop a conceptual plan for renovations and a substantial addition to the current building.

The following individuals spent many, many hours this summer serving on the Library Addition Planning Committee: campus members Curt Bacon, Judith Ginsburg, Lynn Kirms, Kevin Talbert, and Bruce Moats; SOU Foundation representative Robert Kendrick; and librarians Mary Jane Cedar Face, Deborah Hollens, and Teresa Montgomery. We expect a final planning document from the architect this fall. Over the upcoming academic year, we will be sharing their ideas with student and faculty groups across campus as we work with the Oregon University System and our local legislators to secure funding for this essential project. Many thanks to these hardworking folks; the library owes you a debt of gratitude.

## ORBIS ADDS THREE NEW LIBRARIES

THREE NEW academic libraries—Marylhurst University, Pacific University, and Seattle Pacific University—have joined the Orbis consortium. Marylhurst offers a bibliographic database of 72,000 titles, Pacific offers 110,000, and Seattle Pacific offers 140,000 titles—all of which will be added to the Orbis union catalog later this year. With this 7 percent increase in holdings, the total consortium collection will exceed 8 million books, sound recordings, films, and videos.

Orbis licenses digital resources such as electronic journals, commercial databases, and reference tools for more than 100 libraries in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. Orbis sponsors conferences and workshops on such topics as academic copyright issues and scholarly publishing. The consortium is also pursuing initiatives in materials preservation, government documents, and article lending.

Orbis borrowing continues to expand at a rate of 30 percent a year, with more than 75,000 loans completed last year. Patrons can access academic libraries over 500 miles away by visiting this “virtual library” online from their library, office, or home. Orbis provides daily courier service for libraries in the region, currently serving 170 libraries through thirty-three courier stops.

## LIBRARY INSTRUCTION IN FULL SWING

THE ELECTRONIC CLASSROOM (EC) on the first floor of the University Library is humming with library instruction sessions. In these hands-on classes, librarians teach students to use specialized research databases and to locate and critically evaluate information. All teaching faculty are encouraged to arrange subject-specific instruction for their classes. For more information about the library’s instruction program, contact Sheila O’Hare, library instruction coordinator, at 541-552-6810 or [ohares@sou.edu](mailto:ohares@sou.edu).

## SEQUOIA GALLERY

THE SEQUOIA GALLERY, located on the first floor of the SOU Library, features exhibitions of student artwork. Be sure to stop by and enjoy these ever-changing displays!

## LIBRARY NEWS

**NEW JOURNAL ARTICLE ALERTING SERVICE**

A NEW table-of-contents service, UnCover Reveal, is available to faculty, replacing the print table-of-contents service that was discontinued on August 31, 2000. An automated alerting service that delivers tables of contents from new issues of specified journals directly to your email, UnCover Reveal scans its entire database weekly for citations of new articles and books on topics of your choice. For information, contact Kathy Hoxmeier, periodicals technician, at 552-6844 or hoxmeier@sou.edu.

**EBSCO DATABASES CHOSEN FOR STATEWIDE LICENSE**

THE OREGON Statewide Database Licensing Group (OSDLG) has selected EBSCO as the new vendor to replace the heavily used Galenet databases (Expanded Academic Index, Health Reference Center, Business ASAP, and General Business File). All public, academic, and K-12 libraries in Oregon are included in the proposal from EBSCO, which offers a comprehensive suite of databases. OSDLG negotiations with EBSCO have resulted in remarkable cost savings and access to more extensive databases. The following are included in SOU's suite of EBSCO databases:

*Academic Search Elite* provides full text for over 1,250 journals covering the social sciences, humanities, general science, multicultural studies, education, and other fields.

*Business Source Elite* provides full text of over 960 journals covering business, management, economics, finance, banking, accounting, and much more.

*Encyclopedia of Animals* offers image links and in-depth information on a variety of topics relating to animals, including the nature and habitat of familiar animals.

*ERIC* provides citation and abstract information for over 750 educational journals and related documents from the Educational Resource Information Center (ERIC), as well as educational symposium report literature dating back to 1967.

*Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia* features over 25,000 informative segments from the *Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia*. This database is updated annually.

*Health Source Plus* provides the full texts of nearly 270 health periodicals, more than 1,000 health pamphlets, and 23 health reference books.

*Newspaper Source* provides selected full text articles from 143 U.S. and international newspapers.

*TopicSearch* contains selected articles on contemporary issues from magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, popular biographies, book reviews, and public opinion polls.

DIGITAL NATION: STILL  
DIGITAL BOOKS MAY

BY GARY CHAPMAN

IT HAS SLOWLY dawned on me recently, with a feeling of pleasure and gratitude, that we may be in the midst of a new Golden Age of literature. At the same time, the disconnect between the creativity and quality in contemporary writing and the content to be found on the Internet could not be more profound. Will electronic books bridge this gap?

The quality of literature today is better than I can remember, with the works of young writers such as Michael Cunningham, Zadie Smith, Dave Eggers, Arundhati Roy, Ha Jin, Jhumpa Lahiri, Sherman Alexie, and Andre Dubus III, as well as older, more established writers, including Sue Miller, Tim O'Brien, Jane Smiley, and Russell Banks.

But these writers are essentially invisible in cyberspace, except on the Web sites where customers can purchase their books. For now, good literature and the Internet appear light-years apart.

Many people feel—and I have been one of them—that good writing and books are inseparable. Digital technologies seem well-suited for pure information and small packages of cleverness, but the longer and more pleasurable forms of storytelling and narrative seem to require the familiar, old-fashioned book.

"So far, the Internet seems to be largely amplifying the worst features of television's preoccupation with sex and violence, semiliterate chatter, shortened attention spans and near-total subservience to commercial marketing," said Librarian of Congress James Billington in a speech before the National Press Club on April 14, 2000.

"There is a difference between turning pages and scrolling down," he said. "There is something about a book that should inspire a certain presumption of reverence."

Like many people, I cherish my books, even though I own far more than I have room to store and I probably haven't looked at the majority of them since I bought them. The idea of an electronic book, with its presumption not of reverence but of impermanence and pure functionality, seems alien and vaguely unsettling.

The publishing industry, on the other hand, seems to disagree. Lately there's been a stampede to get into position for an anticipated new market for electronic books. Random House, Simon & Schuster, and Time Warner Books all announced deals with Microsoft a few weeks ago.

*Esquire* magazine has released its latest issue in a digital format that can be read on e-books such as the Rocketbook or Softbook, or on Palm Pilots or Pocket PCs. Some people are even reading

*"There is a difference between turning pages and scrolling down. There is something about a book that should inspire a certain presumption of reverence."*

## HARD TO DIGEST, BUT MAY HAVE A FUTURE

LOS ANGELES TIMES

novels on their Palm Pilots, downloaded from Peanut Press. The recent BookExpo America convention in Chicago featured more than sixty digital book vendors, triple the number last year. Everyone in the publishing industry woke up when mega-author Stephen King sold about half a million online copies, at \$2.50 each, of his thirty-three-page short story "Riding the Bullet" within forty-eight hours in March.

Still, the industry has a long way to go to perfect the technology for electronic books. Screen legibility, the biggest complaint until recently, has improved and is no longer a serious obstacle for reading text on a screen. But e-books still need a power source, they need better and faster ways to download online material, and they should be more versatile—so you don't have to carry

both an e-book and a laptop. The material available for e-books needs to expand dramatically.

Writers have tended to be skeptical of electronic books, but that may be changing.

"Writers tend to be Luddites," said Steve Wasserman, book review editor of *The Times*. He noted how Gore Vidal still writes his novels in longhand, on legal pads, and then has those pages transcribed. Vidal still believes that the tactile feel of a pen in hand is important to the creative process, the way many readers think

that the feel of a book and its pages are essential to the appreciation of writing. But Wasserman believes that e-books may expand the choices for readers.

"Books aren't going to go away," he said. "Just as radio continued to exist after TV appeared, books will be with us even after we're all used to e-books. But the role of books may change."

Michael Silverblatt, host of the "Bookworm" program on Santa Monica's KCRW radio, said, "Reading is a kind of daily meditation, almost a spiritual ritual. To the extent that electronic books allow us to keep this quality of reading, this kind of meditation, then they'll be very useful."

Lawrence Wright, an author and staff writer for the *New Yorker* magazine, said, "I'm interested in finding new ways to write. I'm very interested in the interactive capabilities of digital media and how we can use those capabilities to do interesting new things in writing." He added that one great benefit of e-books to writers is that they can help keep books in print.

E-books thus seem inevitable. Like MP3 in music, they will shake the publishing industry, change the craft of writing, transform the role and character of paper books, and open up new opportunities and problems for talented writers.

### MORE NEW DATABASES

IN ADDITION to the EBSCO databases, the University Library is pleased to announce two new databases that were implemented this summer.

*Music Index Online* indexes selections from more than 640 international music periodicals covering every aspect of the classical and popular music world. Includes book reviews, record reviews, first performances, and obituaries.

*EDRS ERIC Documents Online* contains full-text images of ERIC documents since January 1993 and over 1 million citations from 1966 to the present. The ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS) is the document delivery component of the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC), a nationwide information network sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. EDRS ERIC is the world's largest index to journal articles and documents in education.

### INSIDE THE LIBRARY: FOCUS ON SHEILA O'HARE

THE LIBRARY'S new instruction and distance education coordinator, Sheila O'Hare serves as the subject librarian for the departments of International Studies, Nursing, Political Science, and Psychology. Sheila brings a broad educational background to the position, including an MA in history from the University of California, San Diego; a JD from California Western School of Law; and an MLIS from the University of Texas at Austin.

Although she practiced law in California and Texas and served as a legal counsel and senior librarian-specialist (Law-Criminal Justice) for the State of California, Sheila was drawn to the idea of working in an academic environment. Before accepting her current position, she was a reference librarian at California State University, Monterey Bay. Sheila appreciates the variety of people, viewpoints, and resources available in an academic library.

Since she enjoys theatre, music, and art, Sheila is especially excited about living in Ashland. She is applying her interest in travel, nineteenth-century photography, and historical research to her book on nineteenth-century history.

### NEW BOOKS IN PRINT INTERFACE

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY has purchased access to the new Bowker Web interface to *Books in Print*. The interface, which offers easy searching of current books and videos, provides publisher information and relevant bibliographic data. Like other databases, *Books in Print* is available on the campus network and from off campus for students and faculty.

# BOOKMARKS

## FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY 2000–2001 LIBRARY LECTURE SLATE

THE FRIENDS of the University Library are pleased to invite the public to this free series of entertaining lectures. Lectures will be held in Stevenson Union at 7:30 p.m. Call 552-6835 for more information.

### OCTOBER 26, 2000

Jeff LaLande: The Jackson County Rebellion: How Southern Oregon Politics Got Its Mean Streak

### DECEMBER 7, 2000

Kathleen Worley: Virginia Woolf: The Work of Art\*

### JANUARY 11, 2001

Lawson Inada, Miles Inada, and Vincent Wixon: Legends from Camp: Three Views of the Japanese Internment Years

### JANUARY 25, 2001

Terence O'Donnell: The Indian Wars of Oregon: A Tragedy in Five Acts\*

### MARCH 1, 2001

Dori Appel and Carolyn Myers: Mixed Company: A Variety of Experiences of Writers for Theater

### MAY 4, 2001

Annual Benefit Dinner: Ken Goddard, Novelist and Forensic Scientist,  
Keynote Speaker for Annual Benefit Dinner

\*Sponsored in part by the Oregon Council for the Humanities.

*The SOU Friends of the Library is a membership organization established in 1975. The Friends are committed to improving the University Library collections and sponsoring the Library Lecture Series on a variety of interesting and timely topics. Member benefits include library checkout privileges; participation in a series of evening talks; the opportunity to associate with fellow bibliophiles; and the satisfaction of supporting the University Library. Call 541-552-6848 for information about upcoming events or becoming a Friends member.*

Southern Oregon University is committed to providing equal opportunity in its recruitment, admissions, educational programs, activities, and employment without discrimination on the basis of age, disability, national origin, race, color, marital status, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. Inquiries may be directed to: Associate Provost, 1250 Siskiyou Boulevard, Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR 97520, or via phone at 541-552-6114.

*Bookmarks*, formerly titled *Connections*, is published by the Southern Oregon University Library, 1250 Siskiyou Boulevard, Ashland, OR 97520. Editor: Mary Jane Cedar Face, Collection Development/Social Sciences Librarian. Associate Editor: Lisa Haley, Cataloging Librarian. Contributors to this issue of *Bookmarks* include Sue Burkholder, Mary Jane Cedar Face, Gary Chapman, and Lisa Haley. *Bookmarks* is available from the University Library's Web site at [www.sou.edu/library/newsletter](http://www.sou.edu/library/newsletter).

Southern Oregon University Library  
1250 Siskiyou Boulevard  
Ashland, Oregon 97520  
email: [library@sou.edu](mailto:library@sou.edu)  
[www.sou.edu/library](http://www.sou.edu/library)

*Sue Burkholder, Director*  
541-552-6833

*Circulation Services*  
541-552-6860

*Reference Services*  
541-552-6442

*Government Documents*  
541-552-6851

*Other Departments*  
541-552-6441



SOUTHERN  
OREGON  
UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY  
1250 SISKIYOU BOULEVARD  
ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

NONPROFIT  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SOUTHERN OREGON  
UNIVERSITY