

BOOKMARKS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Winter 2002

Volume 12, No. 2

THE FIRST WORD

by Sue Burkholder, Director

WHAT IS A LIBRARY? We have been wrestling with this question as we go deeper into planning our Library Enhancement Project. A highly controversial article in the November 16 issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, "The Deserted Library," implies that as more information becomes available electronically, the need for brick-and-mortar libraries will decrease. Bill Gosling of the University of Michigan addresses this question on page 2.

I see libraries as the embodiment of past, present, and future. They encompass and preserve—in a wide variety of formats—our human memory, knowledge, science, and past experience. But they are not just repositories of books and old newspapers and journals, as Nicholson Baker seems to imply in his writings, including *Double-Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper* (Random House, 2001). Libraries do have an obligation to preserve knowledge, but they are much, much more than mere warehouses.

As places in the present, libraries are the embodiment of a community of scholars, and academic libraries have a special mission to foster the discourse and discovery at the heart of education. In the vision of Eileen de los Reyes (Harvard University), academic libraries should strive to be "pockets of hope" within our institutions, providing "physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and political communities where participants engage in reflection and action."

The library is part of the academic community responsible for the intellectual growth of the thousands of students coming through our doors. In creating thoughtful citizens who can find, select, and critically evaluate information, we are creating a source of hope for our future.

I would like our new library to be described by all these words: stimulating, noisy, active, helpful, study place, beautiful, collections, supportive, challenging, intellectual, expansive, the unknown, people, thinking place, refuge, comfortable, uncomfortable, quiet, reflective, inviting, vital—and the core of the University. This is the library we should seek to build for SOU.

ARCHITECTS SELECTED FOR THE LIBRARY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

SRG PARTNERSHIP OF PORTLAND has been selected as the architectural firm for the Southern Oregon University library enhancement project. SRG Partnership was chosen over four other highly qualified architectural firms following a careful review process by the Campus Library Design and Enhancement Committee and the University administration. University representatives were impressed by SRG's experience, creative approach, and demonstrated ability to listen and work with user groups to develop innovative designs.

SRG brings a wealth of experience to the project, having designed academic and library buildings throughout Oregon, Washington, California, and Idaho. The architects have worked on projects at several campuses in the Oregon University System, including the Valley Library at Oregon State University, the Lillis Building Complex and Grayson Hall at the University of Oregon, and the Digital Media Arts Center at Portland State University.

SRG Partnership will encourage collaboration in the library enhancement design process, and they have planned a series of on-site workshops with SOU representatives, the design team, and consultants. The first all-day sessions took place in December.

Philip D. Leighton, expert in academic library buildings and author of *Planning Academic and Research Library Buildings* (American Library Association, 2000) has agreed to serve as special consultant on the project. The SRG architects assigned to the University Library are Principal Architect Laura Hill and Associate Principals Skip Stanaway and Kent Duffy.

The \$20-million capital construction project is being financed by \$15 million in state bonds, and the University has launched a campaign to raise the remaining \$5 million.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY PROGRAM TO FEATURE NICOLE TOUSSAINT AND DIXIE WORTHINGTON

THE CHANGING COMPLEXION OF OREGON

January 24, 2002, at 7: 30 p.m.

Stevenson Union, Room 330

Cosponsored by the Oregon Council for the Humanities, this program will explore trends in Oregon's population. Although people of color currently compose only 10.5 percent of Oregon's population, this figure is expected to double in the next generation. Representing Oregon Uniting, Toussaint and Worthington are working to advance racial reconciliation, understanding, and justice in Oregon. Their discussion will center on ways in which Oregonians may achieve a better understanding of our state's racial and ethnic composition.

LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY ACQUIRES DOUGLAS D. MARTIN COLLECTION

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY has acquired the Douglas D. Martin Collection of Native American and Western Americana books. This collection comes to the University through the efforts of Dr. Martin's wife, Jane Martin, and OUS Chancellor Joe Cox, who was a friend and colleague of Dr. Martin.

Douglas Dale Martin Sr. (1943–2000) was a professor of history at Towson State University in Maryland and a longtime member of the Western History Association. Martin's research focus was on Native American and white relations. The *Guide to Western Native American History* is among his numerous published works.

This donation strengthens the University's already robust collections in Native American studies and Western Americana. Users will be able to identify items in this collection through the library catalog and gift plates in the books.

The new collection contains books published between 1887 and 1999, including older U.S. and Canadian government publications. Publishers include university presses known for their focus on Native American studies and unique small presses recognized for their reprints and facsimiles of seminal works.

NEW DATABASES

The University Library has added four new electronic databases to assist researchers. They are available on the library Web page. For more information, stop by the library or contact the Reference Department at 552-6442.

Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI) is an index of worldwide information about Central and South America, Mexico, the Caribbean, the United States–Mexico border region, and Hispanics in the United States. HAPI Online contains complete bibliographic citations to articles, book reviews, documents, original literary works, and other materials appearing in more than 400 key social sciences and humanities journals published throughout the world since 1970.

CQ Researcher is the full-text, online version of an award-winning index that explores a single "hot" issue in the news each week. Topics range from social and teen issues to environment, health, education, and science and technology. There are forty-four reports produced each year. This database includes reports from 1991 to the present.

Literature Resource Center provides access to the full text of several Gale literary reference series. Users can access biographies, bibliographies, and critical

TO GO OR NOT TO GO? LIBRARY AS PLACE

WILL WE OUTGROW OUR NEED FOR REAL LIBRARIES AND REAL BOOKS? NOT VERY SOON...

BY WILLIAM A. GOSLING

THE WAY THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING:

- ▲ Libraries introduce new electronic resources.
- ▲ Users need librarians' help to learn how to use them.
- ▲ Users demand service hours that meet their needs.
- ▲ Libraries keep longer hours to provide access.

Call it a sacred calf: the relatively recent assumption—based on the hype that swirls around wondrous technological advances—that we will soon not need books or libraries. Part of the hype is to predict the end of some of our established institutions—museums, universities, and libraries—as “place,” no longer needed because of online delivery systems. Their content and functions, it is projected, will be transferred to the Internet or other communication systems. As with many other commercial and societal interactions, you will no longer need to leave your home or office to access information and educational courses, view art, or hear concerts.

Such prognostications make a major assumption—namely, that because it is convenient to access materials online, societal use patterns will adopt these technologies to replace the traditional institutions of learning and information access. Yet recent conversations among library professionals, as well as admissions statistics and related data, suggest that just the opposite is occurring. Although many people are using Internet resources for a variety of purposes, the service institution as place remains an important and expanding element of the information delivery chain.

CAVEAT LECTOR

It is a widely held assumption that because a lot of information is available online, all information is available online. This is, of course, inaccurate: Only a fraction of past and new knowledge is available online, and much of that is not peer-reviewed or substantiated in any other manner. This creates a reader-beware environment.

It is easy to say, “I found what I needed on the Web,” but one might miss significant information if the Web was the sole source. More than 7,000 electronic journals are now published, but tens of thousands more continue to be published around the world only in paper format. Over time, more of these titles will migrate to online versions, but print copies will continue to be sold as well. Although thousands of monographic titles have been converted to machine-readable form in a variety of digital conversion projects, the number available online in relation to the number of printed books that have been published throughout history is very small. Of new books being published, few are being issued in electronic format, although over time we will see a significant shift in these publishing patterns. For most new publications, readers still must rely on bookstores (local or online), journal subscriptions—or the local library.

Librarians are experiencing a renewed demand for help in using electronic tools from both students and faculty. Rather than producing a self-sufficient community, for many users the flood of online resources and systems has created a series of barriers, the removal of which is being addressed through instructional classes or one-on-one customized instruction sessions offered by librarians.

WHO NEEDS LIBRARIANS—OR BOOKS?

In a related area, for several years research libraries reported declining reference service requests. This may have been due in part to the nature of Internet resources in the early days, when relatively few information options existed and search results were easily managed by the requestor.

Today, with the millions of Web sites that generate responses to a search, users are turning to the library information desk staff for help in finding and evaluating responses from these sources, as well as guidance in finding print materials. At the University of Michigan (UM) Library's main information desk, the walk-up traffic in November 1999 was 20 percent greater than in the same month in 1998, a reversal from the preceding several years, and the trend continued into the year 2000. The staff also noted that the questions being asked were increasingly sophisticated. Requests for reference support through email and Web systems have also greatly expanded the overall reference traffic. All this means that the library as a place to get help finding or evaluating information resources is becoming more, not less, useful.

That the library still thrives as place is also evidenced by the number of enlarged or new library buildings being constructed, the increasing number of branches for public libraries, and the number of academic institutions building new library buildings and storage facilities. Most academic libraries offer electronic materials on a 24/7 basis, but students are demanding longer hours to have a place to go to study. Colleagues at university libraries from Seattle to Boston to Liverpool have all reported that students want more computer workstations to access online resources—and more books on the shelves. What's more, they are demanding service hours that better meet their needs, and some institutions are providing 24/7 access

throughout much of the year. Experience has shown that if access is offered, students will take advantage of the space and resources provided.

BRICKS AND MORTAR HERE TO STAY

Our educational institutions are also offering courses online, and some are predicting that the brick-and-mortar institutions we know will soon disappear. Although distance-education programs are reaching under-served segments of the population, the demand for space in our colleges and universities is increasing, with many institutions experiencing record application pools that exceed enrollment targets. The academic institution as place continues to have strong appeal for those pursuing an education.

These trends suggest that there will continue to be demand for quality institutions that provide an environment for learning and for gaining access to information. Libraries, museums, and universities will continue to provide a place where patrons can learn, interact with others, and receive help sifting through the information of the ages. Trends in publishing in print, demand for on-site education programs, and access to library collections and services, including reference help, all speak to these places as important spaces within our society. Technological changes will make our organizations and resources more complex, shifting the focus of some of our services, but the need for the service providers will endure. The library as place will continue to be essential for the user community into the foreseeable future.

Libraries will continue to provide a place where patrons can learn, interact with others, and receive help sifting through the information of the ages.

► analyses of authors from every age and literary discipline. *Literature Resource Center* covers more than 120,000 novelists, poets, essayists, journalists, and other writers, with in-depth coverage of 2,500 of the most studied authors.

Alternative Press Index indexes 290 alternative, radical, and left periodicals and newspapers that report and analyze cultural, political, economic, and social change. Produced quarterly by the Alternative Press Institute, this index catalogs material from 1991 to the present.

INSIDE THE LIBRARY:

FOCUS ON KATHY HOXMEIER

For most of us, searching for that journal article on microfilm is akin to walking home from school through freezing temperatures and four-foot-high snow banks. But for Kathy Hoxmeier, the periodicals coordinator at the University Library, working with microfilm and microfiche is just another day at the beach.

Kathy has been with the library for seventeen years. She spent the first eleven years in Circulation, handling billings and reserves. She became the periodicals coordinator six years ago when the collection moved to a central location on the second floor of the library. Prior to joining the University Library staff, she worked for the Jackson County Library System for four years.

Outside of the library, Kathy remains busy with two high school sons. Both are involved in sports, so there is always a game here, a practice there. You may find Kathy at a local garage sale or flea market, adding to her collection of vintage 1940s pottery. She also loves gardening and travel.

Kathy believes public service is the most important aspect of the library. While she catalogs and processes periodicals, she is always available at the Periodicals Service Desk to help users. The balance between the technical part of her position and the public service aspect makes her work stimulating, and she enjoys advising people about how to use the resources in her department.

The SOU Library is unique in that it has a public service area in the Periodicals Department. Most libraries rely solely on Reference or Circulation to help students. Kathy's concept of public service centers on teaching individuals how to find periodicals or use the microfilm and other resources. Providing the public service that helps make our institution unique, Kathy is an invaluable member of the University Library staff.



FRIENDS CORNER

The Southern Oregon University Friends of the Library membership now exceeds 200. Judi Drais, Arlene Kramer, Susan Reid, and Bryan St. Germaine have joined the 2001-02 Board of the Friends of the Library. Continuing board members include Anne Decker (president), Mary Brubaker, Judy Frank, Jeff LaLande, and Patty Wixon.

LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES

The Friends of the University Library Board is presenting an exciting series of evening lectures in 2001-02. On December 6, 2001, accomplished actors Jonathan Farwell and Deb Note-Farwell drew from their rich experiences to present a fascinating lecture on "Acting: the Why and How, Then and Now." The upcoming programs are cosponsored by the Oregon Council for the Humanities. All lectures are free and open to the public. They will be held in Stevenson Union (Room 330) at 7:30 p.m.

- ▲ On January 24, 2002, Nicole Toussaint and Dixie Worthington will present "The Changing Complexion of Oregon" (see page 1).
- ▲ On March 7, 2002, Paul Pitzer will explain "Why the Grand Coulee Dam Could Not Be Built Today."

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FRIENDS ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER

The Annual Benefit Dinner will take place on May 10, 2002, in the Stevenson Union Rogue River Room. The event will feature well-known cartographer Stuart Allan of Raven Maps as the keynote speaker. Allen is also coauthor of the new *Atlas of Oregon* (University of Oregon, 2001), which has received rave reviews. Please call 552-6835 for more information.



The SOU Friends of the Library is a membership organization that was 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 541-552-6835 for information about upcoming events or to become a Friends member.

BookMarks is published by the Southern Oregon University Library.

Editor: Mary Jane Cedar Face, Collection Development/Social Sciences Librarian

Associate Editor: Dale Vidmar, Instruction Librarian

Contributors to this issue of *BookMarks* include Sue Burkholder, Mary Jane Cedar Face, and Dale Vidmar.

BookMarks is available from the University Library's home page at www.sou.edu/library/newsletter

Southern Oregon University Library
1250 Siskiyou Boulevard
Ashland, Oregon 97520

email: library@sou.edu

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

Affirmative Action Statement: 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. Affirmative Action Officer: 541-552-6114, 1250 Siskiyou Boulevard, Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR 97520. Campus information: 541-552-7672.



SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY

1250 SISKIYOU BOULEVARD

ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

SOUTHERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY