

BOOKMARKS

FRIENDS CORNER

The Friends of the Library continue to purchase materials for the University Library. The Friends have committed to spend up to \$3,300 during 2003–2004 to purchase newly published books relating to Shakespeare and his era that will be added to the Margery Bailey Renaissance Collection. The Friends are also purchasing the eight-volume Encyclopedia of Education (Gale, 2003). With campuswide budget reductions also impacting the Library, the Friends' contributions are very much appreciated.

The Friends are exploring ways to increase membership and bring people into the Library to utilize its many resources. This month, the Friends are sending letters to educators in the Jackson County Education Service District (ESD), informing them of the many services that the Library provides to teachers.

The 2003–2004 Library Lecture Series, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, is well underway and already a success. On October 9, 2003, Sharon Heisel, award-winning author of young adult and juvenile literature, presented the first program in the series. In her entertaining lecture, "How a Book Happens: Writing about the Chinese Experience in Gold Rush Jacksonville," Heisel discussed her latest book, *Precious Gold, Precious Jade* (Holiday House, 2000) and her experiences in writing and publishing books for young adults. On November 20, 2003, Nathan Douthit presented "A Historian's Uncertain Encounters: Researching and Writing About the Rogue River Indian War of 1855–56." Douthit is the author of *Uncertain Encounters: Indians and Whites at Peace and War in Southern Oregon, 1820s–1860s* (OSU Press, 2002), which examines relations between Native Americans and whites in southern Oregon over a fifty-year period, from the fur trade era to the Rogue River War and its aftermath.

The Friends plan two more programs in the 2003–2004 Library Lecture Series. All are free and open to the public. They will be held in Stevenson Union 330 at 7:30 p.m.

▲ **February 12, 2004. Wesley Bishop.** "From Book to TV Screen: A Precarious Trail"

▲ **March 11, 2004. Sandra Scofield.** "Memoir as the Rediscovery or Construction of Identity"

The Friends of the Library Annual Benefit Dinner is planned for May 14, 2004. Doug Erickson from Lewis and Clark University will provide the keynote address, "Lewis and Clark's Traveling Library and Beyond: 200-Year Publication History of the Corps of Discovery."

For more information about the SOU Friends of the Library, call 552-6835 or visit the Friends' Web site: www.sou.edu/library/friends.

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.

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

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BOOKMARKS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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THE FIRST WORD

by Sue Burkholder, Director

IN RECENT TIMES, the University Library has received a combination of good news and bad news. Our budget has generated some bad news recently, with significant reductions for materials and services, as well as the loss of two staff positions. You will read some further bad news in this issue, in the discussion of database changes and loss of several valuable databases. Despite these losses, the library will continue to maximize support for the University's programs. To achieve this, we have tried to shelter, as much as possible, the portion of our budget devoted to electronic information.

I'd like to balance some of the grim budget news with reminders of the positive news. First, we have been able to provide increasing numbers of electronic full-text journals in recent years. We offer about 12,000 titles (though the exact number varies with database changes), which students and faculty can access from their offices, dorms, and homes. We are pleased to continue to offer this access to text and citations.

A second piece of good news is the transformation of the Orbis Union catalog into the Summit catalog. Over the summer, the merger that created the new Orbis Cascade Alliance doubled the size of the Summit catalog, providing access to some 22 million items. Students and other users have responded by borrowing even more books from other libraries. During the first half of fall term, SOU's Summit borrowing was up nearly 20 percent from last year, with most of these items arriving within two to three days of request.

Also worth mentioning is our Southern Oregon Digital Archives (SODA) project, which celebrates its first two-and-a-half years with nearly 1,300 items digitized, available, and searchable. This Web project seeks out, preserves, and makes available publications relating to the southern Oregon bioregion and regional Native American tribes, and it has become a model for libraries across the nation.



BUILDING UPDATE: THE TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES

BY KEN WILCOX, PROJECT ENGINEER FOR EMERICK CONSTRUCTION

WORK ON THE LIBRARY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT continued over winter break. The shape and size of the emerging building are clearly visible. New reading bays with windows and the reading room on the west side of the Library should open on the first floor during January, complete with new furnishings, including comfortable chairs.

In mid-January, the removal of any existing exterior skin and windows will bring the jackhammer back to the jobsite. During this time, there may be some disruptions in the south parking lot adjacent to the Library due to crane and forklift activity.

In the coming months, exterior wall framing and brickwork will continue around the north side of the library and will progress to the back wall. Inside the new Library addition, crews will be busy with ductwork, piping, and wiring, as well as framing interior walls. We all can look forward to May, when this major addition is set for completion.

Once the addition is completed, work will turn to renovating the third floor. The final step, the renovation of the second floor, should begin in October 2004, with project completion scheduled for February 2005.

Emerick Construction Company would like to thank all students and staff for their continued patience throughout this major construction project. We continue to work closely with the University staff to foresee and minimize future inconveniences. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at sou@emerick.com.



On February 12, 2004, Wesley Bishop will present the third lecture of the 2003–2004 Library Lecture Series, *From Book to TV Screen: A Precarious Trail*.

Bishop has written many successful made-for-TV dramas. He will read passages from his scripts and show video clips of scenes from his movies. Bishop's recent television screenplays include *The Christmas Shoes*, starring Rob Lowe, which debuted on CBS on December 1, 2002, and *On Thin Ice*, with Diane Keaton, which premiered on November 3, 2003, on Lifetime.



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LIBRARY NEWS

SOUTHERN OREGON DIGITAL ARCHIVES GARNERS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

THE SODA PROJECT has become a model for libraries around the country that are hoping to establish digital full-text collections to better preserve and provide access to local materials. SODA also exemplifies a successful collaboration between government agencies and academic libraries. Deb Hollens, Teresa Montgomery, and Jim Rible presented the project to an audience of 180 at the Federal Depository Library Conference, a major meeting of government documents librarians in Washington, D.C., on October 20, 2003. The following day, Hollens and Montgomery met with Judith Russell, U. S. Superintendent of Documents, about the possibility of establishing a partnership between the University Library and the Government Printing Office (GPO) as an extension of the SODA project.

With a recent enhancement to the Southern Oregon Digital Archives, users can now browse title and author lists of the nearly 1,200 full-text documents in the Bioregion Collection, as well as the First Nations Collection. The project's federal grant funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services officially ended on December 31, 2003; however, the library plans to continue adding newly received materials to this important database. To explore the digital archives, connect to <http://soda.sou.edu>.

DATABASE CHANGES

TIMES ARE TIGHT for everybody, and database vendors, like libraries, look for ways to become more cost-effective. For many years, the University Library has provided access to online indexes by paying per search. In December, H.W. Wilson, a major publisher of such print and online indexes as Social Sciences Index and Humanities Index, has stopped providing per-search access to libraries.

In the past, the University Library was able to provide access to twelve Wilson databases because we only had to pay a nominal fee for each search. For example, if a database had 200 searches during a year at \$.67 a search, we only had to pay \$134 instead of the \$1,000–\$2,000 it might cost for an annual subscription.

H.W. Wilson has stopped per-search access and now requires institutions to pay for a subscription to each of their databases. Like other vendors, H.W. Wilson hopes to make more money if libraries subscribe to even just a handful of databases. The University Library has been faced with the difficult decision of choosing the few database subscriptions we can afford out of the dozen to which we have had access. We based our decisions on analysis of usage, cost, and subject coverage. While several of the H.W. Wilson databases are similar to other databases that we provide, there are databases that we simply are not able to replace.

The University Library no longer provides access to the *Social Sciences Index*, *General Science Index*, and *Humanities Index*, but similar coverage is provided in another database, *Academic Search Premier*. The content for *Applied Science and Technology Index* can be found in *Academic Search Premier* and *Business Source Premier*. We have begun paying annual subscriptions for three H.W. Wilson databases, *Biology and Agriculture Index*, *Art Index*, and *Library Literature*. These databases display the new H.W. Wilson interface. ▶

THE ENDURING VALUE OF LIBRARIES

BY ANNE VAN SICKLE, LIBRARY DIRECTOR, McMinnville Public Library

ON THE MORNING of September 12, 2001, I found a message on my desk from the librarian who had worked the reference desk the prior evening. "People just wanted to talk with me," she wrote. "I began to wonder whether I was really doing my job . . . and then I realized that one of the primary jobs of a public library is that of building community."

I could not agree more with her assessment of her "job," and I strongly suspect that people who staffed public service desks in all types of libraries on September 11, 2001, experienced the same reaction. People came to the library to talk, to wonder, to find both information and empathy. Libraries are welcoming. By providing trained staff and open access to information, they help us make sense of that which is beyond our experience. Most of all, libraries are "safe" places to ask questions because they reflect the twin freedoms of information and expression.

In the time since September 11, 2001, libraries across the nation have been reaffirming their role as central to the life of their communities. They have held focus groups and discussion groups, created programs to support the ability of people to care for themselves during an emergency, and developed gateways to useful information about the crisis. Some libraries expanded their hours; others kept their televisions and radios tuned to late-breaking news at public service desks.

Despite justifiable focus librarians place on being slightly ahead of the curve in the new worlds of information access opened by current technologies, there is more to libraries than information. Libraries offer the history of ideas, the gift of imagination, the comfort of stories that expand our vision and teach us to hope. Uniquely American in concept, the public library was designed to be a source of free education for an immigrant society and the cornerstone of the democratic process. Education is the key to an informed electorate. It is still the voters who hold the power to create and support our communities—local, national, and global.

The concept of lifelong learning is a key element in the development of an educated electorate. Lifelong learning begins with storytelling and an emphasis on reading readiness for preschoolers. It expands into formal education in schools, colleges, and universities; it finds expression in adults browsing the stacks of public libraries; and it is represented by legislators who make better decisions about pending bills based on information provided by state libraries. The idea that "it's all on the Internet" is no substitute for the skill

of professional librarians in compiling and providing authority for information, and then classifying it to provide easy access to library users.

Information, education, vision, imagination, and ideas are all great concepts and valid components of a library. Each of these concepts supports the role of the library in the building of community. But there is another, equally valid and long-term role for libraries. When I was in graduate school, there was a young woman in my cataloging class who had dropped out of school to "find herself" by spending a year on the crew of a Turkish sailing ship. As someone who loves stories in whatever form, I was enchanted by her spirit of adventure.

But I remember her most for something she said in class one day when the rest of us were stumbling through the more archaic and convoluted principles of the classification system.

"I used to sit on the deck of my ship at night," she mused. "I would look at the moon and the stars, and I found myself thinking of the enormity of what librarians do. We classify, organize, and make available the entire world of ideas and information, what has been known and all that ever will be known. The more I thought about it, the more I realized that I could imagine no more a romantic career for myself." She thought for a moment and added, "So, OF COURSE, I came back to library school."

In our pragmatic world, words like "romance," "mystique," and "myth" are often viewed through the eyes of skepticism. We see ourselves as practical, focused, and technologically astute professionals, and we work diligently to diffuse the stereotype of the "idealistic librarian" many of us have tried to outlive. Most of us spend so much time justifying our purpose and mission to our governing boards and commissions that we tend to validate our libraries numerically: reference questions answered, circulation statistics provided, programs offered.

But there is romance in the historical support by libraries for First Amendment freedoms. There is mystique in the unique place libraries have earned in their role as community builders. There is even a mythic quality to the prevailing idea that libraries are somehow "good"—right up there with motherhood and apple pie. As we expand our offerings and create new opportunities for our users, we would do well to remember that while the tools we use change, our enduring value lies in our ability to serve and sustain our communities, to continue to provide safe places for discussion and inquiry, and to connect people to ideas that expand their imagination and vision in ways that may, ultimately, facilitate a better world.

"Libraries offer the history of ideas, the gift of imagination, the comfort of stories that expand our vision and teach us to hope."

The complete text of this abridged article appeared in the Spring 2002 issue of the OLA Quarterly (8:1). Permission to reprint was generously granted by the author and publisher.

▶ The following H.W. Wilson databases are no longer available as of December 17, 2003:

Essay and General Literature Index
Book Review Digest
Index to Legal Periodicals
Readers' Guide Abstracts
Wilson Business Abstracts

When database vendors seek to optimize profits, inevitably it is students and faculty who are disadvantaged. Online databases provide ease of use and increased access to the full text of articles. As financial outlooks improve, libraries like ours may be able to expand database offerings.

COMPUTER LAB OPEN

The Information Technology Center (ITC) is open for business on the third floor of the Library. The ITC, which will move to its final home in the Library's new wing later this year, is available for student use when it is not in use for library instruction.

INSIDE THE LIBRARY:

FOCUS ON GRADUATE ASSISTANTS JULES FILIPSKI AND VERNA MASSEY

JULES FILIPSKI is a graduate assistant in Reference. She is currently enrolled in the Master's in Environmental Education program at Southern. Jules' interpersonal and research skills complement her desire to assist students. She has a true love of the natural environment that is evident in her past work as a natural landscaper, environmental educator, and botany research assistant. She has worked in such diverse capacities as program director at an after-school program for children, instructional support specialist in a learning resource center, and consignment booth manager at the Lane County Farmer's Market. Originally from Buffalo, New York, Jules was drawn to the Pacific Northwest and moved to Eugene about ten years ago. She loves canoeing, kayaking, bicycling, and hiking.

Verna Massey is a graduate assistant in Circulation. Originally from Santa Barbara, California, Verna has a passion for living in beautiful places. She completed her undergraduate work at Humboldt State University and moved to Ashland in January 2003 to enroll in the Master's in Applied Psychology program. Her varied work experiences include receptionist, student assistant at a child development lab, and rape crisis counselor. Verna hopes to become a college professor, which would allow her to blend her interpersonal and training skills with what she loves the most—people and the community of learning. Outside the Library and the University, Verna loves gardening and hiking in the southern Oregon region.

Jules and Verna are welcome additions to the Library team, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with them throughout the year.

