Special Collections at the University Library

When the University Library decided to make the history of Cleveland and northeast Ohio the focus of Special Collections, there were two goals in mind. The first was to create a significant asset for the study and teaching of the cultural heritage of this region. The second goal was to establish a resource that would generate positive recognition in the community and globally via the Internet. Special Collections has laid the foundation for achieving these goals by acquiring significant collections of archival materials and photographs. The Cleveland Press Collection, the Cleveland Union Terminal Collections, the Watson Bridge Collection and the Montage films began this process. Recent acquisitions include the Steamer Mather collection of operational documents from 1925 to 1984 with over 400 photographs, the Sacred Landmarks of Cleveland archival collection with photographs by the late Cleveland State University Geology professor, Thomas L. Lewis, and the scores and paper of composer and late CSU professor, Bain Murray.

The advent of the Internet provided Special Collections with the opportunity to create the Cleveland Digital Library (CDL). Its purpose is to put original texts and images about local history on the World Wide Web. Here users can find the text of entire articles and books pertaining to Cleveland history such as Louis B. Selter’s autobiography The Years Were Good, and Sara Ruth Watson’s Bridges of Metropolitan Cleveland. The CDL also contains a growing number of original pages based on the various

BUILDING THE SCHOLARLY COLLECTION: YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW

When the University Librarian at Berkeley says, “Berkeley can no longer collect everything, but it must continue to provide everything” it is clear that the world of libraries, as academe once knew it, is gone forever (ESP, p. 10). Or, as Bart Harloe and John Budd wrote, “economic forces and technological advances have combined together to create a new environment, one where access to collective scholarly resources that no one library could ever afford supersedes the historic quest for the great comprehensive collection” (p. 83). As a result, academic libraries of all sizes are finding themselves more alike than ever before, particularly as they develop new methods of meeting the scholarly, research, and informational needs of their institutions in lieu of creating great comprehensive collections.

So what has changed and how are libraries responding? Clearly the most dramatic change is the development of electronic information and the advent of the World Wide Web to access it. Even though a recent study of 240 members of the science community found that 68 percent of them prefer paper (ESP, p. 6), the move to scholarly electronic information is accelerating. According to James Neal, University Librarian at John Hopkins, the advantages of electronic texts include: accessibility (ability to access at any time or from any place), searchability (ability to approach information in new ways), researchability (ability to ask new questions), and interdisciplinarity (ability to search across a variety of discipline literatures), (ESP, p. 3). Another major advantage for libraries is the ability to collectively purchase and share electronic resources.

Libraries have long joined together to share print resources. In the electronic world, a new kind of cooperation has emerged based upon sharing the cost of virtual materials, which may not be owned by the purchaser, usually a consortium of libraries such as OhioLINK. Some electronic journal publishers have embraced this concept of cooperative collection development by making their electronic titles available only to consortia and only in package deals. These package deals may include all of a publishers output or may be offered in sub-groupings, which include both popular titles along with less popular titles. In both cases, these packages will including some titles which may be of little or no interest to some of the participating consortial institutions, yet they cannot cancel these titles and must contribute to their purchase to get desired items. Thus, while the library gains from greatly expanded access to scholarly information, it loses some of the traditional control it had over the collection it was building. Additionally, the needs to preserve fair use, to

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Professor Emeritus Donates Eight Volume Victorian Bibliography

Dr. Chester Topp, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, has given the University Library presentation copies of the first four volumes of his projected eight volume bibliography of Victorian yellowbacks and paperbacks, the budget-priced versions of books published in Great Britain from roughly 1849 to 1905. Yellowback editions were bound by covering fiberboard with a glazed paper printed in color with an illustration taken from the text. The paper was usually yellow. The paper editions were bound in paper wrappers and were either illustrated in colors on the cover or simply lettered.

Volume I covers the titles issued by George Routledge; volume II those issued by Ward & Lock; volume III those issued by John C. Hotten, Chatto & Windus, and Chapman & Hall; and volume IV those issued by Frederick Warne & Co. and Sampson Low & Co. Each volume also contains about 32 colored plates of books in Dr. Topp’s collection. These volumes are in Special Collections where they are now on display. Dr. Topp’s collections contains about 1,700 yellowbacks and about 1,900 nineteenth century American and British paperbacks. Since retiring in 1978, Dr. Topp has spent full time on his research that began as a hobby before his retirement. He is also currently compiling a bibliography of the works of Anthony Trollope, based on his large collection of that author’s titles.

Dr. Topp continues to do a large portion of his research on the yellowbacks at the Cleveland State University Library. Dr. Topp has also spent a significant amount of time using the resources at the Freiberger Library at Case Western and the Cleveland Public Library as well as the New York Public Library, the British Museum, the Library of Congress, and the Firestone Library at Princeton.

Information Week at the University Library

For most new students, beginning the Fall semester at Cleveland State can be hectic, confusing, and frustrating. Even the most experienced of returning undergraduates and graduate students can get caught up in the rat race of the first week of classes. At such times, students often breathe a sigh of relief when they see a friendly face that offers helpful information, a campus map, and a free pen.

During the first week of classes, University Library staff volunteered to help students at the Library Information Table. Our librarian, Alice Reviere Smith, coordinated the effort by soliciting pamphlets from various campus departments such as Student Life, Parking, IS&T PC Labs, Registrar, Campus Security, as well as the Library. Alice set up a great Information Table full of free literature, pens, keychains, and candy. The Library web site “What’s New” gave additional information about library hours and announced the free walk-in library instruction sessions held weekly on Tuesday and Wednesday, as well as advertising the week of free, one-hour workshops on how to use the Internet for library research.

— Pam Eyerdam

Reference Services

Technology has touched many aspects of how we do research, conduct business, communicate, and shop. In the past, library reference consisted of looking up information through printed indexes, almanacs, bibliographies or encyclopedias. Recently, reference work has changed dramatically with the advent of electronic journals, online databases, and web sites. There is a wealth of information online, but the key to academic research is evaluating the information with a critical mind.

The Library’s reference librarians guide students through the overwhelming sea of electronic information. Their job is to evaluate web sites in constructing the Library’s Electronic Reference Desk and Subject Trees as a guide to the University curriculum. The web sites listed will focus on departmental programs and courses.

The Reference area is located at the west end of the first floor in Rhodes Tower. Reference service is available in person and by phone, (216) 687-5300 during open library hours. Research consultation can be requested through the Library’s web page: http://www.ulib.csuohio.edu/forms/consult.html. Reference librarians and staff will assist in helping students learn research techniques and becoming familiar with resources available electronically and in print. The materials and services of Reference still consist of printed materials as well as PCs that can access electronic information.

Faculty can contact reference librarians for further assistance with their research, set up library instruction for classes, or learn more about the electronic sources available to them.

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— Pam Eyerdam
Moving Copyright Into the Digital Era

Placing copies of materials such as articles, chapters from books, and class notes on reserve in the library has been a typical practice for many professors. As we move into the new millennium, the Library is striving to make as many of these materials as possible available to students and professors over the Internet. Along with all of the advantages this offers to our students, it also brings up the complicated and confusing issue of copyright.

The Copyright Act of 1976 (Title 17, U.S. Code) along with various amendments, covers copying and other copyrighted materials for library reserve under Section 107, Fair Use. It allows libraries and archives to make photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted works available for research, scholarship, or private study. Any use other than these would constitute an infringement of copyright.

As the World Wide Web became popular and its potential for users to easily copy and distribute intellectual property was recognized, it became necessary for the federal government to address the issue of digital information in the context of copyright. On October 28, 1998, President Clinton signed the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). An amendment to Title 17, the DMCA establishes specifications for using materials in electronic format.

The DMCA allows libraries to reproduce copyrighted items in electronic format as long as the item contains a disclaimer stating that it is protected by copyright, is not otherwise distributed in that format, and it is not made available to the public outside of the library. Students at Cleveland State University who want to access the Electronic Course Reserve (ECR) system must read a copy of the Fair Use Guidelines. Students can use the system in the Library or, if they dial in from off-campus, they are verified to ascertain their affiliation with the University.

Although these laws exist and continue to be amended, copyright and fair use still remain sketchy in regard to libraries and electronic course reserves. The American Library Association (ALA) has issued guidelines for libraries to follow and to help in dealing with copyright issues. Further legislation and case law will continue to clarify intellectual property rights and fair use of copyrighted materials.

— Tracy Kemp

Adaptive Technology Lab Dedication

Cleveland State University students and staff with disabilities are encouraged to take advantage of the Library’s new Adaptive Technology Lab in RT 226. The recently opened lab provides adaptive software that allows hands free word processing and mouse control using Dragon Naturally Speaking and Dragon Dictate. Other software includes JAWS, which reads the screen, ZoomText, which enlarges the screen, and Ruby Open Book, which reads aloud scanned text through the use of voice synthesizers. The lab also provides Braille printers and adaptive hardware to allow users with various disabilities to work on the computers. Six computers are available and prioritized for students with registered disabilities through the Office of Handicapped Services.

The lab’s successful opening was largely as a result of the efforts of Glenn Goodman, a faculty member from the Occupational Therapy department. Mr. Goodman has spent several years lobbying to better meet the needs of disabled students in regard to computer technology. His effort, combined with the efforts of Information Services and Technology, the Office of Handicapped Services, and the University Library, led to the opening of the lab this fall.

Staffing the lab is the responsibility of the Office of Handicapped Services and the University Library. Preston White, Coordinator of Current Periodicals, manages the lab’s student staff and helps maintain the equipment and software with the Library’s Systems division. “I am very pleased with the lab’s development,” says Mr. White. “As the semester progresses, word is getting out and we are getting more and more use. The staff is getting more experience in aiding users with the software.”

Plans for the lab may include expanded hours, if needed, and its use as a teaching facility for the Occupational Therapy department. Currently, the lab is open Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Saturday: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Those wanting more information should contact Preston White at (216) 687-2491 or Mike Zuccaro at (216) 687-2015.

Building the Scholarly Collection

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provide for archival preservation, and to utilize new information about usage of electronic materials are of major interest and concern. As OhioLINK’s Electronic Journal Center expands access to scholarly electronic materials, these issues will undoubtedly begin to affect how Cleveland State University Library purchases and manages its collection. It is becoming clear that traditional methods of allocating funds and selecting resources will need modification in the future and will be among the many challenges we face.

REFERENCES


Glenda Thornton,
Director, University Library
Special Collections at the University Library

resources in the collections. "Yesterday's Lakewood" contains a collection of over 1,000 scanned images about Lakewood, Ohio, most from the Press Collection. "Cleveland's First Infrastructure" explores the history of the Ohio & Erie Canal from George Washington to Alfred Kelley. Creation of this site was supported by a grant from the Cleveland Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The response to these efforts has been remarkable. During the last year, hits on the Special Collections web site have average over 50,000 a month with nearly 90 percent of these coming from off-campus users. The Sun newspapers have featured the CDL site several times. An article on January 23, 1997 praised its “great collection of early photos of the Cleveland Union Terminal” that was “nicely and scholarly done, a must-see for the person who likes history.” The Plain Dealer on December 28, 1998 highlighted the Cleveland Digital Library as a work in progress that will eventually provide an entire digital history of Cleveland based on its “impressive collections.” The site was featured in the July, 1998 issue of the Cleveland Neighborhood Development Council newsletter. A number of local historical groups such as the Akron, Cleveland & Youngstown Railroad Historical Society, and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Historical Society have featured displays or presentations at their annual meetings.

The Internet Public Library has recently recognized the Cleveland Digital Library by including it on its “Great Libraries on the Web” list <http://www.ipl.org/cgi-bin/svcs/greatlibs.out.pl?ty=academic>.

This widening recognition is very encouraging as Special Collections celebrates the opening of the new Special Collections room, another vital step in our effort to become a significant resource for the preservation and study of the historical heritage of the greater Cleveland area.

— Henry York