New Carpet Coming Soon!

New carpet will soon be installed on the first three floors of the Library. The first and second floors will be carpeted this summer with the third following in the winter. At the same time, parts of the collection will be rearranged to open up attractive study areas.

Electronic Course Reserve

As the University Library becomes more technologically oriented, we are working to move the course reserve operations in the same direction. Starting in Fall 2000, we intend to make all paper copies of reserve items available on Electronic Course Reserve (ECR). We will also propose limiting the number of copies of materials placed on regular reserve to one per item.

There are many advantages to placing reserve materials on Electronic Course Reserve both for faculty and students. ECR allows students to read or print their reserve materials any time of the day or night from any computer with Internet access. It provides unlimited copies and ensures that pages will not be missing. Furthermore, ECR articles are often of better quality than the originals and scanning eliminates overdue and fines. Statistics detailing how many times each item was accessed can also be provided to faculty upon request.

Electronic Course Reserve continues to grow in popularity, both with faculty and the students. This spring we have had the highest numbers to date of people accessing the materials, number of items available, number of courses, and the number of professors using the service. As more people become familiar with ECR and its advantages, the numbers are expected to continue growing.

— Tracy Kemp

SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING IN CRISIS— What Faculty Can Do To Help

The serials cancellation project that the Cleveland State campus is currently completing is additional evidence that scholarly publishing is in crisis, at least from the perspective of libraries trying to provide their constituents with needed information. The chart to the left shows how this crisis has affected the nation’s largest and wealthiest research libraries, which purchased 7% fewer journals at a price that has increased 175% during the twelve-year period illustrated. The situation with monographic publishing is even more dramatic as these same libraries are purchasing 25% fewer monographs, although in comparison, book prices have increased only 66% over the same period. Essentially, research libraries are sacrificing their book collections in order to buy fewer and fewer journals. The situation here at Cleveland State University Library differs little from that of the libraries belonging to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). The major difference is that these large libraries have, on average, acquisitions budgets five times or more greater than libraries similar to that of Cleveland State University.

Librarians have been publicizing this crisis for many years now. However, we need more faculty members to become involved to help shape a scholarly communication system that meets faculty needs and which can be sustained by the library community. The following suggestions come from the Office of Scholarly Communication, Association of Research Libraries. Visit their website at <http://www.arl.org/scomm/> for more suggestions on how faculty can help create a sustainable system of scholarly communication.

- Encourage your professional society to explore alternatives to contracting or selling publications to a commercial publisher.
- Encourage your society to maintain reasonable prices, and faculty and user friendly access terms.
- Examine the pricing, copyright, and licensing agreements of any commercially published journal you contribute to as an author, reviewer, or editor.
- Consider using your influence by refusing to review for expensive journals; by refusing to serve on editorial boards of such publications; by supporting the library’s cancellation of expensive, low-use titles; and by encouraging colleagues to do the same.
- Submit papers to SPARC-supported journals in your discipline, serve on SPARC editorial boards, and/or agree to review papers for SPARC titles.

SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition, is an alliance of libraries that is encouraging expanded competition in scholarly publishing. Through membership, SPARC libraries can guarantee a subscription base and market new products to potential subscribers. Thus SPARC seeks partnerships with publishers to develop high-quality, economical alternatives to existing high-price publications. SPARC has been endorsed by leading academic organizations such as the Association of American Universities (AAU), Big 12 Provisors, and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC). The SPARC home page can be found at <http://arl.cni.org/sparc/>.

— Glenda Thornton
Director, University Library
Lafayette Collection Essay Competition

The Library, together with various community groups and other universities, is sponsoring a competition to recognize students who gain an understanding of the Marquis de Lafayette’s life and times through the use of the Lafayette Microfilm Collection. University and high school students can compete for cash awards by submitting essays in English or in French. Donors have specified that students at Cleveland State University and John Carroll University will be eligible to receive additional prizes. The competition will take place during the 2000/2001 academic year.

The Lafayette Papers are a valuable source of information on both French and American history of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Documents are either in French or English. The subjects covered include Lafayette's involvement in the American Revolution as well as the French revolutions of 1789 and 1830, his imprisonment in Prussian and Austrian jails from 1792 to 1797, and his dealings with French and American political figures and leaders of national liberation movements in other countries. Significant and frequent correspondents in Lafayette's papers include American presidents from George Washington through Martin Van Buren. Other notable characters from this period include Simon Bolivar, James Fenimore Cooper, Charles James Fox, Louis XVIII, Napoleon I, Thomas Paine, Natalie Lafayette Perier, Madame de Stael, Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Perigord, Charles Gravier, comte de Vergennes, and Martha Washington.

The Lafayette Collection Essay Competition Committee is assisting in the preparations for the competition. In addition to Cleveland State University faculty and staff, the Committee is composed of representatives from the Maison Française de Cleveland, Sons of the American Revolution, Friends of the Cleveland State University Library, John Carroll University, and Case Western Reserve University.

The cash prizes are provided by John Horton, Ben Shouse, Al Oberst, Friends of the Cleveland State University Library, and Maison Française de Cleveland. The Committee is seeking additional donors.

— George Lupone

General Electric Global Lighting Information Center and the Library

The Periodical Collection at GE contains journals dating back to 1908.

General Electric Global Lighting Information Center (GLIC) is part of the Global Product Data Management (GPDM). As the 21st century progresses, the GLIC will continue to impact, and meet the needs of, GE Lighting’s e-business and global information users.
In July 1999, William Barrow became the first Special Collections Librarian at Cleveland State University. This appointment closely coincided with the opening last fall of the new Special Collections Room on the third floor of the Library. Both these events signify the Library's decision to emphasize Special Collections with its focus on the history and culture of the local Cleveland and the northeast Ohio region. Since this decision came also at a time when libraries were becoming increasingly involved in providing electronic access to information, there has been a strong commitment to developing the Cleveland Digital Library web site <http://web.ulib.csuohio.edu/SpecColl/col>, which provides text and photos on many topics of interest including such sites as the Sacred Landmarks of Cleveland, the Cleveland Union Terminal, and the Ohio and Erie Canal.

Fortunately for the Library, Bill combines an interest in history with expertise in computer applications such as digitization and the creation of web pages.

Bill is a native of the Cleveland area with his BA and MA in history from this University. His master's in Library Science is from Kent State. This connection has been particularly useful and Bill has acquired a continuing stream of Library School practicum students to work on projects in Special Collections. Along the way, Bill was Executive Director of the Humane Society of Tucson and served on the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission. Currently he is on the board of directors of the Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society and chairs NOBS's special interest group on map history, his area of specialty. Under Bill’s leadership, Special Collections has already made significant strides in its goal of becoming a major research resource for the study of the heritage of the greater Cleveland area.

— Henry York

Terminal Tower Core Project Exhibit Held in Library

“Sifting the Sands of Time: Building the Terminal Tower Reveals Cleveland's Past” is the title of a new Earth Day exhibit which opened April 17th, in the University Library's Special Collections room. The exhibit is sponsored by the University's Center for Environmental Science, Technology and Policy (CESTP), under Mark Tumino and Elizabeth Cline. Suzanne Adams, an Art History graduate student, did the design work.

The exhibit grew out of a chance remark by Mike Tevesz, CSU Geology Professor, who said he was interested in core samples and wound up with a donation from Tower City of the samples drilled in the 1920s, as part of the construction of the Cleveland Union Terminal complex on Public Square. Dr. Tevesz assembled a multi-institutional team of scientists who have embarked on a campaign to unlock the secrets of Cleveland’s geological past that these samples represent.

The CESTP exhibit profiles this work and the historical engineering challenges that necessitated the samples. On display are actual core samples, jars of sand, dirt and clay, and the long “snake coffins” containing entire columns, as well as the linen drawings depicting the composition of the cores and their drilling sites. The exhibit shows the various stages of the Terminal Tower's construction through photographs from the C.U.T. Collection, with text by Al Esser, of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Techniques for sifting the sands of time have changed since the 1920s. Today the scientific team is using the Ohio Supercomputer to analyze the samples. CSU Chemistry Professor, David Ball, and graduate student, Kristine Bradley, have developed colorful charts and maps of the computer's work for the exhibit.

Finally, the exhibit shows some innovative ways historical and scientific data can be integrated into a “Virtual Cleveland” online 3D environment for educational and recreational uses.

The exhibit is open through the summer, in Special Collections, on the third floor of the University Library. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays.— Bill Barrow

Vendamat Cards Being Phased Out

With the implementation of the Viking Card, the Library has been phasing out the old Vendamat Card system. The last phase is to discontinue the Departmental Copy cards, where departments would purchase prepaid Vendamat Cards.

Effective immediately, the Library will no longer issue these cards. In order to allow those with the old Vendamat cards to redeem their value, the Library will maintain one Vendamat Card copier on both the first and fourth floors through the summer semester.

To replace this service, the Library is installing a new copier that will allow faculty or graduate assistants to enter a departmental code that will by-pass the Viking Card system. Those wishing to use this service will need a by-pass key available at the Current Periodicals desk on the 4th floor. Departments will be billed for their copies each month. As always, Departmental Copying will continue to make copies for faculty. The new machine is only for those who wish to do their own copying.

Departmental account numbers should be used as access codes, but any number may be used. Those who have concerns about the number are encouraged to create a new number. Each department will be responsible for keeping this number restricted to authorized users.

— Preston White

If you have any questions about the new Departmental Copy Card system, contact Preston White, Periodicals Coordinator, at (216) 687-2491 or e-mail at p.white@csuohio.edu.
Irishtown Bend and Mall A Artifacts Donated

The University Library has acquired several unusual additions to its collections over the past several years. It is now the proud owner of many boxes of artifacts originally collected from archeological digs in the downtown area under the aegis of the Museum of Natural History. When the Museum decided it could no longer house these semi-processed collections, it asked the University if it wanted to have them. After considerable discussion, the Library acquired two large collections: Irishtown Bend and Mall A.

The first site was on the westside area just across the Columbus Street bridge in the Flats. It concentrated on several house lots owned at first by Irish immigrants and later by Hungarian immigrants. Among the rather mundane 19th century artifacts were quite a few which defined the lifestyle of residents from 1850 through the 1910s. The Mall A collection was the result of a dig required by the federal government when a new structure, in this case an underground parking garage, would destroy the archeological record forever. Artifacts here represent the urban life of one of the oldest portions of the downtown Cleveland area, especially from working class houses to the residence of one of Cleveland’s most important early residents, Alfred Kelley, father of the Ohio and Erie Canal.

The Library is also in the process of acquiring artifacts from the Gateway dig—done before construction on Jacobs Field and Gund area started. With these three collections, the Library has added many pieces of Cleveland’s history for use by researchers in the years to come. Be aware that the collections are not readily accessible but that the Library will make every effort to make the collection available to faculty if needed for research purposes.

— Bob Wheeler

For more information about the donated artifacts, contact Bob Wheeler, Director, University Center for Teaching and Learning at (216) 687-5502 or e-mail at r.wheeler@csuohio.edu.