Coming Soon to the University Library!

If you have recently visited the University Library, you can’t help but notice that something is gone! Original with the building was a black marble-topped public service counter that occupied major floor space just north of the Library’s main public elevators. Although the service counter had not been functional for many years, only recently could it be removed.

With its removal and some additional remodeling that will occur this spring semester, the Library will be creating its own “Connection” Lounge. Here students, faculty, and staff will be able to connect to the news, popular reading, and information resources for research and study. They will also be able to connect to the Campus wireless network, the wired network, as well as electricity. Comfortable lounge seating and some café tables and chairs will encourage our users to bring in a cup of coffee or tea and relax as they work on courses, access the latest news, or read a good book.

To encourage these activities, the area will be lined with bookshelves featuring the latest non-fiction and fiction works to be supplied to us by the Cleveland Public Library. The Library will also display its own new book acquisitions and other current information sources. Continuous news will be available (captions only) on a large screen TV in the area. —Glenda Thornton, Director

What You Can Do to Save OhioLINK Funding

Did you know that some of the OhioLINK and library resources you currently use are being eliminated and others may no longer be available in the future? In addition, there will be no new funds to purchase new content OhioLINK users need and want to support their research.

Because of the decline in State support of higher education, beginning in 2005, OhioLINK will be reducing the number of active titles received from Blackwell Publishing and Springer (formerly Springer-Verlag and Kluwer Publishing). For Blackwell, this constitutes 144 of 573 active titles and for Springer this constitutes 346 of 1056 active titles. These are the least used titles of these two publishers across the OhioLINK community and reflect all academic disciplines. These discontinued titles represent 4% of the annual downloads from active subscriptions. If the financial picture does not improve, 2006 will likely see further cancellations from Elsevier Science, Wiley, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, and Emerald.

To read about the entire situation and find out what you can do to help, visit the OhioLINK home page at www.ohiolink.edu and click on the icon “Help Save Your Library Resources: Support OhioLINK Funding!” or go directly to www.ohiolink.edu/supportohiolink/.

Library Video Available for Faculty Use and Recruitment

The University Library is pleased to announce the availability of a DVD highlighting the resources and services available from both the University Library and Instructional Media Services (IMS). This video is available upon request for any faculty member who would like to have an update on CSU library and media services. Additionally, as faculty recruitment season draws near, departments might also want to consider sending potential new faculty members a copy of this DVD. For many faculty members, the quality, resources, and services of a university’s main library are a major consideration when selecting an employer. Let us help! If you would like a copy, please contact Glenda Thornton at 216.687.2475 or g.thornton@csuohio.edu.

Join the Friends

The University Library recently sent out our annual “Join the Friends” brochure, so if you haven’t yet renewed your membership please consider joining today. The Friends of the University Library support the Library in its efforts to provide outstanding library services to the campus. In particular, in the past few years, Friends memberships and proceeds from the continuous book sale have allowed the Friends to sponsor talks, seminars, luncheons, and awards, including the Annual Scholars and Artists Reception. These events have directly benefited faculty members, students, and staff. Your generous support allows the University Library to provide these special events for you and also helps us support your work!

For more information about the Friends of the Library visit http://html.ulib.csuohio.edu/friends.
Course Development Small Grants for Integration of Information Literacy

The Cleveland State University Library invites applications for the Information Literacy Small Grants Program. Grants of $1,000 will be awarded to full time faculty for course development to integrate information literacy instruction into teaching and assignments.

Information literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information. With the increasing prevalence of online information, students demonstrate difficulty in ferreting out materials suitable for their course assignments and research papers. The small grants are intended to assist faculty in updating their courses and assignments to reflect current changes in information retrieval and use, with the goal of strengthening students’ ability to locate, evaluate, understand, and effectively use information resources.

An informational session for interested applicants will be held February 24. Grant applications for the development of courses for fall 2005 are due on March 31, 2005.

An Information Literacy Review Panel, composed of faculty and library administrators, will review the proposals. The grants will be awarded by April 30, 2005. For further information contact: George Lupone, Associate Director, University Library, g.lupone@csuohio.edu, phone: 216.687.2475, fax: 216.687.9380, or consult the web site for the grant program: http://www.ulib.csuohio.edu/faculty/grantann.shtml.


—George Lupone

New Patron-Initiated Requests Service

Students at the East and West Centers can request library materials online and have them delivered to the suburban location of their choice. The Library’s new Patron-Initiated Requests service lets CSU faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, and staff select a book in the library’s online catalog, Scholar, and request it just by clicking a button. Library staff will then retrieve the book from the shelves and ship it to the researcher’s designated pickup location in Westlake or Solon. Staff at the East and West Centers will handle distribution of library items, and will arrange for return delivery of materials to the library. Most books in the library’s extensive collection are available through this new service, although some limited-circulation materials are exempt. —David Lodwick

New Home for University Archives Coming Soon

While most folks on campus are aware that CSU is celebrating its fortieth year, many are not aware that CSU has historical links back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries through its predecessor schools, The Cleveland-Marshall Law School and Fenn College. The records of these schools, as well as those of CSU, are preserved in the University Archives, which is presently located in the Special Collections Area on the Library’s 3rd floor. Early this spring semester, construction is scheduled to begin on a new home for the University Archives on the north side of the third floor.

The Archives’ new home is designed to do more than just provide expanded storage of the University’s permanent records. We want the Archives to be a place that our alumni enjoy visiting when they are on campus. For the first time the Archives will include an area that will allow for the permanent display of the oil painting portraits of prominent people in the school’s history like Sereno Peck Fenn and the Fenn College Presidents. There will also be an area for mounting displays of historic photographs and memorabilia commemorating the history of Fenn College and the early development of CSU that both the alumni and our students will enjoy. A grand opening of the new University Archives is scheduled during Alumni week in June. —Bill Becker

Would You Like to Offer a Course Via Interactive Video But Don’t Know How?

If you’ve been thinking about using Interactive Video technology to offer a course at the East Center or West Center or another location, consider signing up for Dr. William Beasley’s IVDL faculty training series that will be offered this spring. Each session consists of six weekly one-hour sessions, including substantial hands-on activity. The first series will start at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, January 31 and the second will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 24.

Like to talk to another faculty member who has experienced these sessions? Some recent participants include Ron Abate (Education), Pong Chu (Engineering), and Moana Jarvis (IS&T staff).

Not quite ready to commit? Send us your name and we’ll put you on a notification list for additional events designed for current and prospective IVDL instructors. The Library will host a luncheon meeting once each semester to acquaint IVDL users with upgrades in the distance learning rooms and new technologies that become available. These sessions will also give faculty members an opportunity to share tips and learn from each other. If you would like to be placed on this notification list, just call Barbara Florjancic at 216.875.9734 or email her at b.florjancic@csuohio.edu.
The November launch by Google, the largest Internet search engine, of its new service designed to provide citations or the full text of scholarly literature, Google Scholar, has naturally raised questions about how it performs compared to the use of the databases the library provides for research. To find out, a group of librarians did a series of searches to test this new product and compared the results with those obtained from library databases. This article discusses these findings.

First it needs to be said that Google Scholar is a great step forward for academic research from the basic Google search engine that is limited to searching free sites on the open Internet. Google Scholar does have access to citations or the full text of some academic journals, peer-reviewed papers, books, theses, technical reports, preprints, and government documents from a broad array of research areas. Google Scholar also includes records from WorldCat that provides convenient access to library catalog records in searches. With this vast array of resources available, Google Scholar is indeed a convenient way to find a quick list of hits for basic searches. These results lists are typically multi-disciplinary and do include the full text of articles in academic journals. A very useful feature is the inclusion of all the citations in their database that have cited the requested article. Many of these will be full text and so an ever-expanding chain for finding related articles is established. With its one main search box, certainly many researchers will find that Google Scholar is exactly the simple-to-use answer to their research needs.

The test searching done by the CSU librarians did bring to light certain limitations with Google Scholar. Google Scholar cannot offer a comprehensive search of the scholarly literature, when that is required, in the same way Compendex covers engineering, American History & Life covers American history, Art Abstracts covers art, or ERIC covers education. Being a keyword search engine, Google Scholar does not provide the thesaurus of controlled vocabulary for subject searching or special searching features that these specialized databases do. For example, ERIC can limit education searches by specific grade level and many business indexes allow searching by product or industry codes. These features can improve and speed up in-depth research. In some cases the results lists for Google Scholar searches tend to turn up older citations and articles from many open access journals which typically are not the premier journals in an academic field.

It should be kept in mind that Google Scholar is still in the beta-testing stage and will no doubt continue to improve its range of scholarly material and its search features. Google’s recent announcement that it plans to digitize a wide-range of books from leading libraries shows its commitment to be in the forefront of providing access to scholarly information. All in all, it is well to remember that for a comprehensive search of academic literature, it is necessary to use the various specialized databases in the various disciplines. These are listed alphabetically and by subject on the Library’s home page <http://www.ulib.csuohio.edu/> and subject portals <http://www.ulib.csuohio.edu/portals/>. A final very important point: be sure to check Journal Finder <http://da2lr8hd7w.search.serialssolutions.com/>, the complete list of paper and e-journals to which the library has access, before buying access to material offered on Google Scholar. In many cases the library has already paid for these very same materials and provides free access to the full text of these journal articles. —Henry York

University Library Personnel News

Nathan Tharp was recently hired to work part-time on a temporary basis as a Technology Assistant in IMS. He was previously an Information Technology Consultant at California State University.

Two staff members who worked at the Library for many years have recently left the Library. Donna Stewart resigned from the Library in September and relocated to California to pursue other career paths after more than twenty years of dedicated service. She is most noted for her most recent role as the Library’s web designer and graphic artist and also for her collaboration with Special Collections on the Cleveland Memory Project, home of local history on the web.

Ruth Letwin retired after working in various capacities during her more than thirty year
Looking for E-Books?

If you would like to find e-books to consult or read online, take a look at the Electronic Books page at http://www.ulib.csuohio.edu/vrd/ebooks.shtml on the Library’s website. It features five major collections of full text e-books:

- Books 24x7 - business and technology books from IS&T
- Digital Library Connection - thousands of fiction and non-fiction titles from Cleveland Public Library
- Electronic Reference Books - dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference tools from OhioLINK
- Netlibrary - current academic books from OhioLINK
- Safari Tech Books Online - technical books and manuals from OhioLINK

The website page gives specific instruction for logging in and checking out these e-books.

In the second section, the e-book page provides links to seven sites that focus on providing the full text of a broad range of older books. These typically include the standard titles of American and British literature.

In addition to these collections, the Library provides access to many individual books, technical reports and government documents through the SCHOLAR online catalog at http://scholar.csuohio.edu/. —Henry York

Looking for Digital Videos?

If you are looking for Digital Videos for viewing or classroom use, a major source is the OhioLINK's Digital Video Collection <http://dmc.ohiolink.edu>. The Collection contains more than 1,000 videos from such distributors as Films for the Humanities & Sciences, PRS, and Annenberg. The OhioLINK page gives instructions for downloading and viewing the videos.

For information about additional digital videos available at CSU, consult the Library’s SCHOLAR catalog at http://scholar.csuohio.edu/ or contact Multimedia Services at 216.687.9337.

—Henry York