

Volume 2, Issue 2

Spring Semester 2004



BULEY LIBRARY, SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

The Buley Bulletin

Message from the Director

As the year begins, we are making steady progress in building collections, strengthening staff and services, and preparing for major construction. In response to student requests, library hours were expanded during the wintersession, Presidents Day weekend, and Easter weekend. Summer A and Summer B session hours will be extended to 10:00pm Monday through Thursday, and include Saturdays. We are also working with Academic Computing to develop and implement plans for checking out laptop computers for use within the library building.

We continue to explore electronic alternatives for print journals, with the dual goal of releasing space for continued conservative growth of print collections and expanding access to online full-text materials. Our subscriptions to online data-

bases have grown to provide access to over 18,000 full-text journal titles – from little more than 2,800 print titles just a few years ago.

Searches for two library faculty positions, Collection Development Librarian and Distance Learning Coordinator, are nearing completion. We also hope to initiate a new search for Clara Ogbaa's position of Instruction Coordinator within the next few weeks. An Access Services paraprofessional vacancy should be filled soon, enabling us to finally implement plans for electronic reserves.

During the fall semester, and particularly during the wintersession, staff and student assistants worked diligently to shift over 500,000 volumes to clear the lower level and first floor wings scheduled for demolition when construction begins. Ap-

proximately 30,000 low-use volumes have been moved to temporary storage to accommodate growing high-use circulating book collections during the Phase I construction period. With the anticipated construction start date of August 2004, we expect to meet our goal of minimizing the impact of this phase on our student and faculty population.

We persist in managing effectively within limited resources, focusing our efforts on long-term strategies and key initiatives that will enable us to continue to provide a high level of service to the academic community.

Susan E. Cirillo
Library Director

Refworks: Writing Papers just got Easier!

Buley Library now has **RefWorks**, a bibliographic management tool that allows you to build your own online collection of citations and abstracts from:

- The library's online databases,
- Word documents and text files
- Web searches,
- Other bibliographic management tools like EndNote or ProCite
- It's also possible to export a bibliography to your article, paper, or syllabus in any style format you choose (APA, MLA, ASA, ACS, Chicago and a multitude of others

- Organize your list of references into separate folders for separate projects
- Edit the records with your own notes
- Share a list of references with colleagues or students
- Insert parenthetical references while writing and automatically generate a bibliography including the references (with Write-N-Cite)
- Access your account from off campus with Buley's group code.

A handout of directions is included in this newsletter, and Refworks provides easy-to-follow tutorials online.

Set up your RefWorks account by clicking on the RefWorks link on the Buley Library Home Page (<http://www.library.southernct.edu>) or by going directly to the RefWorks site at <http://www.refworks.com/refworks>. If you're off-campus, contact the reference desk (392-5732) for the Group Code.

Sue Clerc

Spotlight: On the Social Front

Lisa Bier and Alba Reynaga have much in common – they both began working full-time in Buley Library in the summer of 2001, they share an office, they are pleasant and social-minded, and they are both Social Science Librarians.

Before joining the staff of Buley Library, Lisa Bier worked at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center where she provided reference assistance to tribal members, researchers, and the general public. She also moonlighted at the Hartford Public Library for a year and staffed their virtual reference station fielding questions from all over the globe. As a member of Buley Library's Reference and Instruction team, Lisa liaises with faculty and students in Anthropology, Political Science, Social Work, and Sociology. She juggles all of her responsibilities - providing general and specialized reference services, selecting appropriate materials in different formats for

the collection in those subject areas, preparing instructional materials in print and on the web, and teaching classes and individuals how to find and evaluate information with energy and efficiency.

Lisa is a dedicated professional constantly pushing towards new goals. Last year Lisa wrote a book chapter entitled *Advocacy for Libraries*, published by Scarecrow Press. She has compiled a bibliography on African-American and Native American interactions which will be published by Greenwood Press this spring.

Service with a smile is Alba's motto. She radiates warmth and vitality, greeting every patron at the Reference Desk with a cheerful disposition. Customer service takes on a new definition as she literally bends over backwards to help patrons. Alba has over 20 years experience and has worked as a librarian in public librar-

ies, engineering and community college libraries.

Alba currently serves as the library conduit to the departments of Geography, History, and Psychology in addition to her other duties as reference librarian. During her off-desk hours, she oversees the library's collection in her subject areas, diligently selecting appropriate materials in light of curricular and research needs. She also develops and provides general and course-related instruction as well as specialized educational sessions as needed.

So reserve a few moments to enter the library and check out your primary sources in the social sciences. Their call numbers are x25131 (Lisa) and x25134 (Alba); their location is Room 108.

Winnie Shyam

WHAT ABOUT ELECTRONIC BOOKS?

What do librarians and New England weather forecasters have in common? Neither one is very good at predicting the future. At a 1999 national collection development conference speakers representing libraries, publishers, and book distributors were getting the assembled audience very excited about ebooks. Very soon, they predicted, everybody would be focused on text scrolling across small light emitting screens as they commuted, cuddled under the sheets, and sunned on the beach. Libraries would be lending electronic readers and text files and the common person would have a whole library of best sellers and classic literature to carry around in place of the "oh so sixties" paperback novel.

It's 2004. What happened? Where is the ebook? The truth is that though we are not taking them to bed with us or reading them on the train, the ebook has arrived at Buley Library—sort of. It is not the shape that we thought it would be. A search of CONSULS limited to "ebook" will turn up hundreds of entries. These are true electronic books—some of them reprints of titles from the public domain (the Gutenberg project has been digitizing books since 1971), many of

them government documents that are now issued electronically instead of bound by the superintendent of documents. A core group of titles are available to all the CONSULS libraries while others can only be accessed by patrons of the purchasing library. What patrons don't see at the CSU libraries are the predicted handheld readers that can be loaded with text files and checked out for the week like a book.

These hand held gizmos (Rocket Book and Gemstar seemed the most promising) have not taken off as expected for a number of reasons. Maybe, the industry has not yet found the right balance between screen size (needs to be large enough for some uninterrupted reading before "clicking" for more content) and portability (if it's larger than a Penguin paperback then it is too big). And probably, the price is too high for the "average joe" (A reader needs to be cheap enough that the user can afford to lose it—under \$100.00). And possibly, there is a generation gap. As the preschoolers who grew up with children's classics scrolling across their computers get old enough to be consuming the current best sellers the industry may have a

more comfortable electronic book audience.

High level encryption schemes also limit any infectious use of the ebook devices. Content is generally linked to one reading device, which limits sharing, and for libraries that means two matching items (the reader and the text) need to be available before one ebook title can circulate

In the meantime, while there is some movement afoot to sell ebook content to PDA owners, most of the ebooks that libraries see are text files that can be read on computers but not transported easily on the subway. These books are often published simultaneously as traditional books but made available electronically in an enhanced state. The book may have point and click glossary capabilities, highlighting functions, dictionaries and links to commentary about the content. The books are especially useful as reference tools—a book about music may have audio excerpts of symphony and rock and roll performances, an anatomy title may show an animated diagram of blood flow. But even these enhancements have not convinced the reading public that ebooks are here to stay.

For now, Buley Librarians are making electronic books available through the CONSULS system. Hundreds of books can be read on-line, down loaded or printed. Current use seems to be in the area of reference works or titles that are read in sections or chapters rather than

“cover to cover.” Maybe someday a Southern student will check out a hand held reader that has been loaded with the contents of eight books that in hard format would strain the straps of any backpack. This librarian will not make such a prediction.

Cindy Schofield-Bodt

E-Journals—Where are we headed?

It's not an overstatement to declare that a revolution has occurred in the world of academic journals over the past seven years. The revolution is not complete, but at last, we are seeing the emergence of an electronic model for using academic journals that is highly integrated and efficient. It will be cross platform in both your computer choice as well as across the many different vendors and formats we librarians buy our data from/in.

We have already implemented the first three of the five “tools” that will make up this new system, and are currently researching demonstrations and evaluating the last two pieces. These components are

1. **Electronic journals** are obtained in many ways. They can be bought as single subscriptions through our subscription jobber, as full text in subscribed to electronic indexes, through library consortiums and through publisher bundling package. These often include backfiles for newly purchased journals that Buley has never before owned. We have bought significant backfiles from the worlds largest academic journal publisher in management, business, chemistry, social sciences, and psychology (478 titles from their beginnings to 1994, many millions of pages, at least 80% of which are new to our collection). We have been able to buy databases like BioOne which carries 60 plus society published biology publications for less than the price that paid for 17 of these titles in print. The crown jewel of the academic journal world is the American library cooperative JSTOR which contains 427 full runs of many of the most important academic journals in a wide variety of disciplines (History, Political Science, Ecology, and Music to name just a very few. Many more packages such as these could be listed.

2. **Indexes and Abstracts** the first part of this system to hit the electronic age in the form of CD-ROMS, were a vast improvement over paper indexes. Only those of us

who are old enough to remember pawing through what seemed like infinite volumes of Biological Abstracts, PAIS, ERIC, Medline, Readers Guide, or most frightening of all, Chemical Abstracts, can appreciate what a true revolution these were for both librarians and the library user.

3. The most recent addition to the pantheon of journal tools has been the “**Journal Locator**”, which we introduced to Southern in September 2003. In its first four months it received 6,600 searches, more than any of our databases excepting Consuls. The journal locator provides quick access to the 18,000+ serials that the library has access to through our many varieties of subscriptions. It even includes links to the Consuls record for the journals we only get in print.

4. The next tool to come at Buley will be An “**Open URL Link resolver**”. Sounds kind of scary, but it's actually the tool we have all been waiting for. It will allow us to make the connection from the index citation directly to the full text article you want. For example you have searched PsychInfo and found the citation you want. There will be a link (standardized across our many databases) for you to press that will then take you directly to the full-text of the article you want (provided the library has access, otherwise you will get a link to a pre-populated Interlibrary Loan form, and someday soon that ILL will arrive in your email as an electronic file, rather than in the mail as a photocopy).

5. And finally we have the most recent, and most exciting arrival on the scene, the “**federated (meta) search engine**”. This tool allows you to search and choose which of our almost 100 databases you want to search at one time. You can pick only a few, or you can pick all of them. The search returns a list of how many hits were found in each database and displays the results from the specific databases. As

it becomes more refined, we believe that the serendipity that many have complained is lacking in the electronic world will return. Imagine if you are searching on King Lear and you get a couple of hits from such diverse sources as the art or history database as well as the English literature database. The federated search engine is very much in its infancy but the demonstrations of the different technologies that we have seen look very positive and exciting.

That's not to say that we haven't had to make compromises. At Buley, due to the space issues we have had to substitute electronic for print without the comfortable adjustment period some might have desired. Libraries are also entering a whole new world where they no longer fully own the physical object, just the access rights to the content, or in some cases we rent the access right to the content. Though this may seem a disadvantage it does impose on the publisher the obligation to keep up with document formats as technology changes. Anyone remember gzip? Acrobat is now the standard but only a fool would bet it will be the standard in ten years. I'd rather leave it up to the publisher to update the data.

With backfiles so readily available it is now much easier for us to quickly build collections for the exact needs of faculty. So what's to come? I think once we at Buley have implemented the five elements of the system then things are going to settle down for awhile with mostly incremental change and enhancements of the products.

Tim Klassen

Buley Briefs

Texas Bound

Clara Ogbaa, Instruction Coordinator, has accepted the position of Head of Reference and Instruction at Texas State University, San Marcos. Clara came to SCSU in 1992 as Adjunct Librarian and joined the full-time library staff in 1998. Under her able leadership, the library instruction program has grown by leaps and bounds. She was instrumental in implementing and developing the information literacy program at SCSU and has been very persuasive about making it a part of the higher education agenda. Clara will surely be missed by all the students she guided and mentored, the faculty who turned to her for reference and instructional support, and by all her colleagues in the library. We wish her the very best in her new adventure!

Winnie Shyam

A LUCKY FIND IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Buley Library got lucky this fall in Special Collections. Internationally-known binding authority Sue Allen was looking over our examples of 1830's books with paper labels when we discovered one even earlier: Cornelius R. Duffie's *Eight Sermons Addressed to Children on the Duty of Obedience to Parents and the Lord's Prayer* (New York: T. & J. Swords, 1829).

The book is bound in whole cloth and is thus two years earlier than the generally accepted date for the American appearance of this technique. Until now the conventionally accepted "first" has been James K. Paulding's *The Dutchman's Fireside* (New York: J. & J.

Harper, 1831) in the *Family Library* series. This was a professional product with printed borders and vignettes on highly calendared fine tan material. In appearance these closely approximated contemporary paper covers.

Duffie's *Sermons* however lacked such finished quality and the binder used a coarser and slightly irregular purple or brown cloth. These covers are without embellishment and on appearance one might easily place the book in the early 1830's if it were not the absence of line borders on the spine label.

The introduction of cloth bindings was an important step in the development of mass-market book publishing. Made possible by machine weaving it provided a durable and inexpensive way to bind books for a mass audience. In the hands of ingenious artisans, stamped and colored cloth would prove to be an attractive sales device in the eras before the book jacket. Duffie's *Sermons* is just one of the many choice books held in the Carolyn Sherwin Bailey Collection of Juvenile Literature in Special Collections at Buley Library.

Paul Holmer

Where did those Books Go?

Buley Library is using a secured area on the ground floor to house over 21,000 books from the circulating collection and 2,100 reference books. Books were selected for closed storage based on the following criteria: circulation use statistics, publication date, and ownership by another CSU library. Books that met these requirements were pulled and sent to Technical Ser-

vices for location changes. Our Con-suls database will now say "Closed Stacks" for circulating books " and "Reference Closed Stacks" for reference books in storage.

Access Services staff will retrieve books from these closed stack collections. Faculty can request this material by filling out a brief form at the Circulation Desk. The circulation staff will retrieve books twice a day, Monday through Friday, and will hold the books at Circulation for 10 days. The circulating policies for these two collections will remain the same. Faculty can check out circulating books for an entire semester, with the option to renew for an additional semester. Reference books cannot be checked out and must remain in the library. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Circulation Desk staff at 392-5756 for assistance.

Shirley Cavanagh

New Electronic Resources

All of the following resources can be found on the library "Online Databases" page:

- CQ Researcher
- New York Times Historical Archive
- Pre-CINAHL
- PsycARTICLES
- Regional Business News

One Year Trials:

- American Humanities Index
- Communication and Mass Media Complete

<http://www.library.southernct.edu/>
