



The Buley Bulletin

Message from Dr. Susan Cirillo

As I prepare to leave Southern to become Dean of the Library and Instructional & Learning Support at Salem State College, I've been reflecting on how far we've come since I arrived here nearly six years ago. When President Adanti urged me to accept this position, he acknowledged that the library had been seriously under-funded for many years but assured me that I would have his support in "creating a university library." Thanks to strong administrative and faculty support, and a dedicated library staff, the Hilton C. Buley Library has made remarkable progress in meeting that goal.

Collections. A significant increase in library materials funding enabled the Library to develop strong core collections, to respond to curricular changes and interdisciplinary needs, and to target critical collection weaknesses. The investment in electronic resources focused on accelerating the shift from print to electronic resources and expanding the scope of resources available from remote locations. The Library also devoted considerable resources to building core collections of media. We anticipate fully meeting the A-level American Library Association quantitative standards for college libraries by the end of this fiscal year.

Services. Consistent coverage of service points, establishment of a periodicals information desk on the lower level, and strengthening of interlibrary loan functions provided critical improvements in basic services. Instructional support ranging from library tours and orientations, to general and subject-specific instruction to classes, to upper-division research assistance has expanded considerably. Library hours were increased during holidays, winter sessions, and summer sessions.

Personnel. With a focus on building the library infrastructure, a reorganization plan created four library divisions: Access Services, Information Services, Technical Services, and Learning Resources. Functional specialties in special collections, library instruction, electronic resources, and distance learning were developed. A subject-specialist model in Information Services better meets the reference, instruction, and collection development needs of the academic community.

Facilities. The most significant administrative challenge at Southern has been managing and developing contemporary services, collections, and operations in a facility designed for the 1960s academic library. A major reorganization and refurbishment program included consolidating functional areas, upgrading office spaces, and expanding technology access. Improvements to public spaces brought new furnishings and signage, newly-designed services desks, addition of an electronic classroom for library instruction, and expansion of public access computers. These improvements resulted in a remarkable increase in student and faculty use of the facility. We have now completed the building program and design for a \$64 million addition/renovation more than doubling the size of the library facility, with construction expected to begin in January 2005.

Communications. The University Library Committee provided invaluable faculty input and support of library initiatives. Presentations to a broad range of faculty and student groups also provided constructive suggestions for improvements in library services and resources. The Library's web page, a primary communication tool and an increasingly important access point, has been continuously upgraded and expanded. This faculty newsletter and a new brochure describing library services and resources are just the first of many new communication initiatives.

The Hilton C. Buley Library stands at a critical juncture in its evolution. The infrastructure for an excellent university library has been established. The challenge now is to maintain current services and resources while continuing the momentum of the past six years. The focus must be on building university-level collections and services, strengthening partnerships with teaching faculty, advocating information literacy, and meeting the unique needs of graduate students and distance learners. That will only be possible with the continued support of administration and faculty.

Thank you for all your support and encouragement – none of the accomplishments of the past six years would have been possible without your help! Susan

REFERENCE BOOKS: FOR HERE OR TO GO

How would you like to relish a reference book from the comfort of your home? Whether you just want to find the definition of “e-book” or a complete overview of a topic, you can find the information quickly and easily using the library’s recently acquired ready reference collections, **Xreferplus** and **Oxford Reference Online**. Both of these contain an impressive array of reference books in electronic format that can be accessed 24/7 within and off-campus by unlimited, simultaneous users. They are easy to navigate and do not require any special device for accessing the full-text information.

Xreferplus provides access to over a hundred and sixty reference books covering a wide range of disciplines. The collection encompasses English-language and bilingual dictionaries, subject-specific and specialized dictionaries, encyclopedias, fact books, books of quotations, atlases, thesauri, images, and audio files from 36 reputed publishers including the Bloomsbury Publishing Group, Cambridge University Press, Columbia University Press, Elsevier Health Sciences, Elsevier Science and Technology, Faber and Faber, Grove, Harvard University Press, Harper Collins, Houghton Mifflin, Macmillan, Penguin, and Routledge among others. It also contains a vast collection of color images of paintings and other works of art from the Bridgeman Art Library Archive.

The advanced search capabilities include Boolean operators, truncation and wild card searching, phrase searching, and customized search options such as searching the full text or just headings.

Restricting the search to headings makes the search more focused; searching the full-text retrieves more records. Xrefer also

checks spellings. When unsure of the spelling of a word, simply enter your best guess into the search box and click on the 'Search' button. Xreferplus will then return words that are similar in spelling or sound to the word that is entered.

Xreferplus uses an exceptional system of cross-indexing called Xreferences to connect related entries to one another. It is possible to search across the entire Xreferplus collection or to search individual topics and titles.

The ability to search across numerous reference titles makes this a very powerful tool for finding authoritative, factual information quickly and easily.

"Xreferplus is a librarian's dream and a student's delight."— Dr. Anthony Hugh Thompson, Chair, CLIP Reference Awards 2003.

Oxford Reference Online (ORO) is a vast online library comprised of renowned reference works from Oxford University Press. The library subscribes to the Premium Collection which consists of over 120 reference books including the famous *Oxford Companion* series.

The collection consists of English language dictionaries and thesauri, bilingual dictionaries, and subject dictionaries spanning a whole range of disciplines. All disciplines are covered, including medicine, art and architecture, mythology, folklore, history, quotations, science, mathematics and much more. The Premium Collection is updated regularly with new titles, new editions, new entries, illustrations, websites and bibliographies.

It is possible to search the whole database or restrict your search to one or more subjects, or to

one or more individual books.

The following are some of the titles in the collection: *The Oxford Dictionary of Art*; *The Oxford Companion to the Body*; *The Concise Oxford Companion to Classical Literature*; *A Dictionary of Weights, Measures and Units*; *Dictionary of Quotations*; *A Dictionary of Geography*; *A Dictionary of Business*; *Food and Fitness: A Dictionary of Diet and Exercise*; *The Oxford Companion to United States History*; *The Oxford Guide to United States Supreme Court Decisions*; *The Oxford Companion to Twentieth Century Poetry in English*; *A Dictionary of World Mythology*; *The Oxford Companion to Music*; *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Mathematics*; *Dictionary of the Social Sciences*; *A Dictionary of Nursing and Dictionary of Psychology*.

Oxford Reference Online has been described in *Choice Reviews* as “an authoritative, efficient, one-stop shop for quick facts, definitions, and dates, (which) satisfies the great expectations raised by Oxford’s reputation in reference publishing...While it is true that these separate facts and definitions can be found by scouring the web, no reference site, free or fee based, draws them together so well.”

The best way to discover both of these reference collections is to see for yourself. We hope to have every title in these two collections cataloged in CONSULS in the near future but at present they can be accessed from the Online Databases link on the library’s home page.

-Winnie Shyam

NEW FACES AT BULEY

Buley Library's collection of resources has seen remarkable growth in size and quality in recent years. The effort to further grow and maintain the collection was strengthened last spring with the hiring of a Collection Development/Acquisitions Librarian.

Nancy Bobrek (below left) came on board to fill the long vacant position and is looking forward to working with the classroom and library faculty to continue developing an excellent resource collection that meets the needs of the university community. Nancy now chairs the Collection Development Committee and coordinates the department liaison program. In addition, she is negotiating her way through the world of academic publishers, library jobbers and subscription services to find the best material at the best prices. Nancy says, "One priority is to begin to assess the collection against established standards." Her initial reaction is that the library has a solid core to build on. "It is wonderful to be in a fiscally supportive environment and to work collaboratively with a library staff that is so committed to the collection development process."

Nancy comes to SCSU from

Pace University (Pleasantville, NY) and is continuing in her tenth year of teaching a library research class at Manhattanville College (Purchase, NY). Nancy is eager to move the collection forward, continuing some endeavors and initiating new strategies. She believes one key to her success will be a "multi-tasking" outlook and another is her "team player" approach to her work.

-Cindy Schofeld-Bodt

Access Services welcomes Crystal Little, the library's new office assistant. Crystal (below

right) arrived in May and will be working the Sunday through Thursday evening shift. Her primary responsibilities will involve managing and coordinating the new Electronic Reserves Service, as well as assisting in the supervision of our student workers.

Prior to joining Buley Library, Crystal worked for the Department of Revenue Services in Hartford where she provided tax assistance for Connecticut businesses. Crystal is the proud mother of three children who brings a lot of energy and enthusiasm to her job.



LIBRARY FACULTY RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

In addition to assisting students and faculty with research, many of the librarians at Buley Library are actively engaged in academic and creative activities of their own. Here are a few examples of what we have been up to.

•Lisa Bier's *American Indian and African American People, Communities, and Interactions: An Annotated Bibliography* was published by Praeger/Greenwood.

•Dr. Sue Clerc presented the paper "Wrestling with Reality" at the annual conference of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association in San Antonio, Texas. Also on the panel were three members of the SCSU Media Studies department.

•Tina Re's landscape paintings in oil and casein were selected for exhibition by the Washington Art Association. The one person show "Recent

Work," was held in the Landon Gallery in Washington Depot, CT.

•Winnie Shyam co-presented with Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Ellen Beatty a paper on "Best Practices for Faculty Mentoring" at the April 2004 International Mentoring Association Conference in Tampa, FL.

NEW: ONLINE RESERVES!

Access Services is now implementing an electronic reserves system. What is electronic reserves? E-res, as it's informally called, is an online reserve system that provides 24/7 access to full-text materials over the Internet. Faculty and students can access course material, such as journal articles, chapters of books, past tests, professors' web sites and syllabi, through the library's Web page. All material is ID/password protected, so only SCSU students and faculty can access course assignments. If you're concerned that we're abandoning the paper system, we can assure you that traditional Reserves will still be maintained at Buley.

We selected the Library Science Department for our pilot project because they have a strong, well-established distance education program. Many of their graduate students participate in online classes and need the convenience of off-site access to digitized material. Professor James Kusack agreed to be the first faculty member who would have his reserves scanned into PDF files and linked to the Con-suls Web page.

Also involved in the project are Crystal Little, Tim Klassen, Systems Librarian, and David McMahan, a part-time staff member. We gathered at the end of June ready to learn the digitization process. Tim helped us establish procedures and came to our rescue when assistance was needed.

After a while, the scanning process became easier and the learning curve wasn't quite as steep. At this point, many Library Science reserve articles can be accessed from the library's home page. We're now "scanning" along and are ready to digitize other reserve lists.

This fall we are expanding our Electronic Reserves service to include the History and Nursing Departments. We encourage the faculty in these three departments to participate and provide us with feedback. We also hope that you will encourage your students to use e-res when they're given class assignments. Faculty teaching in other departments should know that our goal is to provide electronic reserves for all faculty by spring 2005.

Embarking on a new library service always has its share of challenges. We're prepared to handle the copyright issues, the technical glitches, and the complicated process of moving to an electronic collection. The fall 2004 semester will be a trial period for us as we evaluate patron satisfaction and receive input from faculty and students.

Your library liaison will soon be contacting you with more details about E-res. We will also be sending out a mailing that explains the benefits of electronic reserves. So watch your campus mail for more informa-

tion! I invite faculty to set up an appointment for a brief demonstration by contacting me at 392-5768.

- Shirley Cavanaugh

NEW DATABASES!

- Accessible Archives: Historical African American and Civil War Newspapers
- American Civil War: Letters and Diaries
- American Film Scripts Online
- Asian American Drama
- Black Drama
- Black Thought and Culture
- British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries
- CQ Weekly
- Early Encounters in North America: People, Cultures, and the Environment
- Gerritsen Collection: Women's History Online
- International Political Science Abstracts (via EBSCO)
- LION: Literature Online
- North American Immigrant Letters, Diaries, and Oral Histories
- North American Women's Letters and Diaries

All databases are accessed from Buley's Online Databases page.

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