Library Use Shatters Attendance Records

By Jill Dixon

The national trend for gate counts and reference questions at academic libraries has been a steady and substantial decline from past years. Not so at Binghamton University Libraries! The Libraries are more popular than ever.

Bartle Library usage hit an all-time high in October 2007 — serving 186,580 people in one month — and experienced a 51% increase in reference questions from 17,010 in 2005 to 25,620 in 2007. During this spring semester, Bartle Library Information Commons (IC) computers recorded 70,000 log-ins between March 15 and April 15, 2008. Bartle Library IC averages 180,000 printed pages per week, which comprises 60% of all campus printing.

The Science Library reported a 46% gate count increase from 2006 to 2007. In addition, the newly-opened University Downtown Center Library has already expanded its hours to include weekends due to high patron demand.

We are committed to providing excellence in service to the University community. In the past several years, library resource and service enhancements have included the new Information Commons with computer, wireless and laptop service, “one-stop” service desks, enlarged print and online collections, local collections digitization projects, electronic reserves, six library news blogs, extended library hours, chat and text reference service, and several new search engine options — metaLINK, Encore and Grokker.

The Binghamton University Libraries will continue to seek new opportunities to fulfill its mission “through state of the art facilities and information technologies and through innovative programs and services that anticipate changes and trends in scholarship, publishing and education.”

University Downtown Center Library Opens

By Dave Vose

Since opening on August 20, 2007, the University Downtown Center Library Information Commons (IC) has been a vital part of the new UDC campus. The Downtown Library IC has thirty-six computer workstations that provide access to the Libraries’ vast array of electronic resources and a welcoming staff of librarians, professionals, and student assistants. Students in the College of Community and Public Affairs (CCPA) as well as non-CCPA students who live in the downtown area have found the Downtown Library IC to be a convenient and hospitable location for research and study.

In addition to the online content available from computer workstations and the wireless network available throughout the building, the Downtown Library IC has a small but growing monograph collection, a local and regional government documents collection, and a browsable print journal collection. The facility offers reference and research assistance, circulation services, course reserves, interlibrary loan, document delivery, and IT assistance.

(Continued on page 3)
Binghamton University Libraries Celebrate the Acquisition of Molly Peacock’s Papers

By John M. Meador, Jr. and Jean Root Green

Binghamton University (BU) Libraries are pleased to announce the acquisition of Molly Peacock’s papers and manuscripts. Ms. Peacock, an internationally recognized poet and Binghamton University alumnus (Harpur ’69), will have her sixth volume of poems, *The Second Blush*, published by W.W. Norton and Company in June 2008. Additionally, Ms. Peacock served as one of the creators of the Poetry in Motion program, past president of the Poetry Society of America, and author/performer of “The Shimmering Verge,” a one-woman show that she has performed at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., and Off-Broadway at Urban Stages in New York City. Please visit Molly’s web site (http://www.mollypeacock.org/) for additional biographical information.

A formal announcement of this significant acquisition occurred on February 6, 2008 during a gala gathering of BU Libraries supporters and Molly’s distinguished friends at The Penn Club of New York. The evening’s highlight occurred when Molly came to the podium and read “The Flaw,” a new poem from her forthcoming book.

Speaking at this celebration, Molly said, “My literary papers have found a home at Binghamton University Library, which is perfect. That’s where my papers were longing to be, since I found a home at Binghamton University for four years, between 1965 and 1969. And that was the time I found myself as a writer.”

John Meador, Director of University Libraries, expressed his gratitude to Molly and told the audience that as academic libraries embrace similar digital futures, it will be the unique papers and manuscripts comprising their respective Special Collections that ultimately distinguish one library from another. In this instance, Molly’s papers are particularly noteworthy for their completeness. She admitted that evening, “I have to confess to you that I have been saving my literary papers since the age of twelve. And when I got to Binghamton and realized I had an overweening ambition for a working class girl from Buffalo some day to be listed in the Table of Contents of the *Oxford Book of American Poetry*, it dawned on me that I had better start saving stuff. I saved my college notebooks from Binghamton and every draft of every poem I’ve written since then.”

Binghamton University Libraries are proud to be the stewards of Molly Peacock’s oeuvre and are appealing to others, particularly Binghamton University’s very creative alumni, to consider adding their collections of manuscripts and personal papers to a rapidly growing Special Collections. Our Libraries utilize the latest preservation techniques to protect primary research materials for future generations of students and scholars. Also, an in-house digitization lab is available to produce virtual library exhibitions that will publicize these collections to larger scholarly communities. Please contact Binghamton University Libraries to learn more about placing your papers among a growing number of distinguished collections or to financially support this ongoing collection preservation endeavor.

Downtown Center Library Opens

(Continued from page 1)

Twenty-four laptops are available for checkout. Printing (black/white and color), scanning, photocopying, an adaptive technology room, and five individual study carrels are also available. Adjacent to the Commons, four group study rooms with laptop-ready projection equipment and a twenty-one seat computer pod provide additional space for group and individual work.

The Downtown Library IC is staffed by a combination of Libraries’ and Information Technology Services’ personnel. Gate count averages over 500 people a day. Because of its popularity, additional weekend hours were added. It is now open Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5:00 p.m. Staff members are in the process of planning workshops to educate UDC campus users about the resources and tools available to them in the Downtown Library Information Commons.

Downtown Library Information Commons — a vital part of the UDC Campus. Photo by Jonathan Cohen.
Library Mourns Loss of Benefactor

By Georgia H. Vieira

Library benefactor, Benjamin Surovy, passed away on June 19, 2008. Before his passing, Surovy had decided to support his alma mater. He rolled funds from his IRA into the Benjamin Russell Surovy University Libraries Endowment, building on prior gifts, and has included the University in his estate plan. “I chose to support acquisitions for the libraries because the library became important to me while at Binghamton,” he said. “I did a lot of studying and research in the library and still use libraries to find general information.”

For more information about estate planning, please visit the Binghamton University Foundation website at http://giveto.binghamton.edu/.

Director of Libraries John M. Meador, Jr., thanks the late Benjamin Surovy for his donation to the Binghamton University Libraries (outside of the Benjamin Surovy Group Study Room).

Bartle Library Current Periodicals and Newspapers Relocated

By Ronnie Goldberg

The Bartle Library current periodical collection and the newspaper collection have been relocated to the Josiah T. Newcomb Reading Room.

The use of current periodicals and newspapers has changed dramatically in the last 5-10 years, with a measurable decrease in the use of print collections, significant increase in electronic access to journals and newspapers in many disciplines, and user preference for the 24/7 availability of the online version of titles. The result is that although BU Libraries currently have access to over 62,000 journals, there were far fewer paper issues in the Bartle mezzanine collection. Additionally, the second floor mezzanine was not included in earlier renovations and the functionality of this space had diminished. In response to student needs, planning for Phase 2 of the Information Commons is in progress. The mezzanine area will be incorporated and there will be additional computers, laptop workspace and group seating on the mezzanine.

Since it was renovated a short time ago, the Newcomb Reading Room provides a more functional and attractive space for the current periodicals. The convenience of the first floor location at the north end of the building is another benefit. Videos, DVDs and music CDs were also moved and are housed behind the Newcomb Reading Room Service Desk. Access to music CDs is enhanced, as paging is no longer necessary. Listening and viewing equipment is also available in the Newcomb Reading Room. Library staff who are familiar with collections and services have been assigned to the Newcomb Service Desk. Hours during the academic calendar are Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 12 midnight, Friday, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m., Saturday, 12 noon – 8 p.m., and Sunday, 12 noon – 12 midnight.

Planning for transfer of the microforms collections and equipment to the Newcomb Reading Room during Summer 2008 has begun. Patrons would benefit from the presence of staff to assist with these collections. Microforms are currently located on the third floor of Bartle Library and the nearest staff members are at the first floor Reader Services Desk. The third floor area would then be available for creation of much-needed group study space.
New International Studies and Special Collection Library Blogs

By Martha Kelehan and Jean Root Green

The International Studies Blog

With the University’s growing emphasis on internationalization, Area Studies librarians wanted to highlight some of the many exciting resources available at the Libraries for those interested in international languages and area studies. After some initial meetings to discuss scope, the Libraries’ International Studies Resources blog (http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/mt/international/) launched in November 2007. Recent posts have featured information about online access to declassified KGB documents, new library subscriptions such as the Chicano Database, and handy instructions on how to input Chinese characters on your computer.

Broadly interdisciplinary, the blog covers events and resources of interest to international language speakers or learners in any of the languages taught at Binghamton (Chinese, French, German, Russian, Spanish, etc.), as well as to area studies scholars in Africana, Asian and Asian American, and Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies.

The blog also seeks to bring attention to the strong publishing record of our faculty working in Area Studies disciplines. Did you know that Africana Studies Professor Isidore Okpewho recently guest edited an issue of Research in African Literatures (Fall 2007)? Or that Sociology/LACAS Professor Kelvin Santiago-Valles has a new article in Caribbean Studies?

We welcome your comments or suggestions for future posts. Please send any feedback on the International Stud-

(Continued on page 6)

Professor Donald Quataert Speaks on Ottoman History

By Jean Root Green

On February 19, “The Ottoman Empire and Why It’s Important in Today’s World” was the topic of a lecture given by BU History Professor Donald Quataert to a standing room only crowd in the Reinhardt Room of the Bartle Library. Dr. Quataert, an expert on the Ottoman Empire, spoke about this amazing empire that stretched across Europe, Asia and Africa and lasted for six centuries under the rule of a single dynasty. The Ottoman state was among the most successful experiments in political organization, offering its subjects toleration and formal acceptance of difference while steadily evolving in form and function.

Materials from Dr. Quataert’s personal collection of Ottoman artifacts were on display in the Libraries’ Special Collections during the Spring 2008 semester. These included stamps, coins, textiles, maps, and copperware. The exhibit also featured selected materials from Special Collections, including an 1844 map of the Ottoman Empire. A display of materials relating to Turkey and Turkish history and culture from our Libraries’ circulating collections was also on display on the Bartle Library mezzanine.

Dr. Quataert talks about the importance of the Ottoman Empire.

Ottoman Empire copper vessel. Photo by Jonathan Cohen.

Ottoman Empire postcards and copperware from Dr. Quataert’s personal collection on display in Special Collections. Photo by Jonathan Cohen.

(Continued on page 6)
Meet Jill Dixon, Subject Librarian for Engineering

By Caryl Ward

As a public relations and marketing specialist for sixteen years, Jill Dixon’s interest in engineering was sparked when she worked for the American Society of Civil Engineers and the National Building Museum. Following her completion of a Masters in Library Science last year, Jill was searching for a position in her new career that would incorporate engineering — and she found it here at Binghamton University.

Library patrons are benefiting from Jill’s past experience and her extensive knowledge of library resources. She believes in the importance of building working relationships with engineering students that last through their entire academic career. To that end, she is developing a research guide for first year students, providing one-on-one library instruction, and organizing information sessions outside of the library. Jill looks forward to working closely with the Thomas J. Watson School for Engineering & Applied Science faculty to strengthen the engineering research collection and enhance the instruction program to meet their current and future library needs.

Jill’s office is in the Science Library and she can be reached at jdixon@binghamton.edu.

New Library Blogs

(Continued from page 5)

ies Resources blog to Jean Root Green (jgreen@binghamton.edu), Martha Kelehan (mkelehan@binghamton.edu), Cheryl Spiese (cspiese@binghamton.edu), or Julie Wang (jwang@binghamton.edu).

The Special Collections Blog

The Special Collections blog (http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/mt/specialcoll/) was created to increase awareness of the resources and services offered by Binghamton University Special Collections and University Archives. It is hoped that the blog will provide yet another avenue for students, faculty and staff to learn about our holdings including rare books, manuscript collections and University Archives.

The blog will present information on new acquisitions such as the Daniel Dickinson letter dated July 1860 regarding the establishment of the Inebriate Asylum in Binghamton. It will also feature news about Special Collections exhibits, including the current “It’s a Grand Old Collection: Patriotic Selections from Special Collections,” as well as a “Cool Site of the Month,” to highlight a collection outside of Binghamton University.

The Special Collections blog will also feature other topics, including featured books, digitization projects, events, and preservation. We welcome your comments or suggestions for future posts. Please send any feedback on the Special Collections blog to Jean Root Green (jgreen@binghamton.edu).

For instructions on how to subscribe to any of the Libraries’ blogs — check out our RSS Feeds page (http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/webdocs/feeds.html).

Become a Fan: Join BU Libraries Facebook Community

By Zachary DuBord

This semester, the Binghamton University (BU) Libraries unveiled our very own institutional Facebook page. Now anyone with a profile on Facebook can become our “fan” and learn a little more about the libraries.

Inspired by the development of the UDC Facebook Group, the User Interface Steering Committee asked Alesia McManus, Head of Research, Information & Instructional Services, and Zach DuBord, UDC Reader Services Coordinator, to come up with a unique Facebook presence for the BU Libraries as a whole. With the assistance of Tom Tran, Library Systems Specialist, the Facebook Committee was able to integrate a number of library services into a Facebook profile and provide an additional access point for BU students and faculty.

Fans of the BU Libraries will find many library resources at their disposal. From the BU Facebook Page, students and faculty can search Encore and infoLINK, as well as WorldCat, JSTOR, and QuickSearch. Additionally, library fans can Meebo a librarian, post comments and questions, and keep up to date with library hours, events, and services. Even the library RSS feeds have been integrated into the BU Libraries Facebook page with Facebook’s SimplyRSS application.

The BU Libraries are in good company on Facebook, as many libraries are embracing Facebook as part of Library 2.0 and as a form of digital outreach. Other libraries on Facebook include The Harvard Law School Library, The NASA Glenn Technical Library, and SUNY Geneseo’s Milne Library.
Professor Luciano Pizziconi Presents Gifts to the Libraries

By Sandro Sticca and Jean Root Green

Professor Luciano Pizziconi visited the Binghamton area from Italy in October 2007. Professor Pizziconi, one of Italy’s leading poets, is the recipient of many international honors and awards, such as the International Prize Raoul Follereau and the Grand Prize Italy for Culture. He has worked with enthusiasm and dedication to establish close cultural ties between Italy and the United States, particularly with the cities of Vestal and Binghamton, and with Binghamton University, to which he has generously donated art volumes. During his visit to the United States, he was conferred an Honorary Citizenship by both the City of Binghamton and the Town of Vestal.

John M. Meador, Jr., and Binghamton University Libraries hosted a reception for Professor Pizziconi on October 11 in Special Collections in the Glenn G. Bartle Library. Distinguished guests included Dr. Sandro Sticca, Binghamton University Professor of French and Comparative Literature, Senator Thomas Libous, and Mayor Matthew Ryan. Binghamton University was presented an eight volume collection of Italian popular music and songs from the 1920s to modern times, titled La Canzone Italiana. The eight volume collection is accompanied by a four volume critical analysis and commentary. In addition, Professor Pizziconi sent four reproductions of original archaeological artifacts from the region of Abruzzo, now kept in the Museum of the city of Boiano, which includes a matrimonial fibula originating from central Italy and dated to the 9th-10th century B.C., and a small fictile head of a woman of Etruscan origin dated to the 6th century B.C. The gift also includes a bronze reproduction in two tablets of the Tavola Osca (Oscan Tablet), now kept in the London British Museum, which provides information on the language and religion of the Samnites, dated to the 3rd century B.C. These gifts were given in the hope that they would help to “further deepen the aspects of Italian culture and increase perspectives and friendship between Binghamton University and Athanòr.” Indeed, they are a wonderful addition to gifts already generously endowed upon Binghamton University Libraries in recent years.

Streaming Audio Music Offered Via Naxos Music Library

By Edward Shephard

Students and faculty now have access to a new streaming audio music resource through the Binghamton University Libraries. The Naxos Music Library is the most comprehensive collection of classical music available online. It includes the complete Naxos and Marco Polo catalogues of over 274,000 tracks, plus a growing number of other labels. The tracks in Naxos Music Library include Classical, Jazz, World, Folk and Chinese music. New releases (currently around 200 CDs per year) are continually added to ensure that the music library is always complete and up-to-date. While listening to the audio tracks, users can view notes on the works being played as well as biographical information on composers or artists.

Through a sophisticated online search engine, the user can select works by composer, artist, period, year of composition, instrument or genre. Playlists can also be easily created for educational use by professors. Several faculty in (Continued on page 9)
Professor Gillan Donates Papers, Books to the Libraries

By Bern Mulligan

Professor Maria Mazziotti Gillan, Director of the Creative Writing Program, recently donated her papers to the Binghamton University Libraries. Professor Gillan, a renowned poet, short story writer, and essayist, has been a member of the Binghamton University faculty since Fall 2001. Prior to that, she was the Director of the Poetry Center and the Cultural Affairs Department at Passaic County Community College in Paterson, New Jersey for twenty years.

Professor Gillan has written eleven books of poetry and co-edited four poetry and fiction anthologies with her daughter, Jennifer. She has both written poems in Italian and translated poems into Italian. Her poetry, stories, and essays have appeared in dozens of anthologies and numerous magazines and journals. Her papers include her personal journals from 1954 to 2007; nearly all of her published work; drafts of poems and stories from 1957 to the present; DVDs, CDs, and audio tapes of programs on which she was featured; forty years of correspondence with well-known poets, fiction writers, editors, and scholars; feature articles on her and reviews of her work; photographs of her with many of the most prominent poets of the last thirty years; and the Poetry Center and Cultural Affairs Department archives.

Much of Professor Gillan’s work deals with her Italian-American heritage. Her poetry collection, *Italian Women in Black Dresses*, has appeared in three editions. She has also been heavily involved in promoting multicultural writing in her classes and publishing multicultural writers in her anthologies.

Since 2002, Professor Gillan and the Creative Writing Department have held two annual contests, the Milton Kessler Poetry Book Award and the John Gardner Fiction Book Award. From the submitted entries to these contests, she has donated more than 100 poetry and fiction titles each year to the Libraries’ literature collection. She has also donated titles to the Broome County Public Library and the Elmira Correctional Facility Library.

Professor Gillan’s papers will be processed and cataloged, then housed in Special Collections on the second floor of the Bartle Library.

Bringing Our Collections to the World

By Jean Root Green and John M. Meador, Jr.

One measure of a library’s uniqueness is its collection of rare books, archives and manuscripts. To expand the reach of Binghamton University Libraries’ Special Collections, the Libraries recently purchased OCLC’s CONTENTdm Digital Collection Management Software. This software handles all media types and allows us to easily handle thousands of digital images. Standardized descriptive metadata allows patrons from around the world to easily search and retrieve the information they need.

The first project using CONTENTdm is the Edwin A. Link, Jr., Digital Archives, located at http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/special/linkhome.html. The digital archives currently consist of more than 160 photographs from the Link collections, including images of the local inventor, industrialist and pioneer, and photographs depicting aviation simulation, underwater archaeology and ocean engineering. The digital archive will be expanded to include materials from other collections.

Thanks to intensive collaborative work by Jean Green, Aynur DeRouen, Robin Hazen, Beth Kilmarx, Michal Figura, Marcy Strong and Mien Wong, a growing number of digitized Link materials are being stored and made available within OCLC’s CONTENTdm. This exciting digital initiative was shared with Marilyn C. Link on June 6, 2008.

Marilyn C. Link views a projection of the Edwin A. Link, Jr., Digital Archives Website.
Bartle Library Information Commons Gears Up for Phase II
by Dave Vose and Bern Mulligan

The Bartle Library Information Commons (IC), which opened March 19, 2006, will get a “makeover” this summer that will include an expanded footprint with more computers, printers, and scanners to accommodate increased student demand.

IC Phase I includes 170 computers, both PCs and Macs, with a vast array of application software and tools. Scanning, color printing, laptop loans, and space to collaborate and practice presentations are also available. The service desk is staffed by librarians and information technology consultants ready to answer questions that run the gamut from the very simple to the very complex.

IC Phase II will feature nearly three dozen additional computers on furniture designed for individual and group work, additional express workstations, new multimedia workstations, a walk-up computer bar, and consolidated printing islands to shorten the time students have to wait to print their documents. Additional computers and study space will also be available on the second floor mezzanine above the first floor commons.

This past spring, the American Library Association published a book entitled Transforming Library Service through Information Commons: Case Studies for the Digital Age, edited by D. Russell Bailey and Barbara G. Tierney, which includes a chapter on the Bartle Library IC. This case study highlights the planning process and collaboration between the University Libraries and Information Technology Services and the services, furniture, and facilities available in our IC.

In addition to the Bartle Library IC, there is an IC in the Science Library with 50 computers and one in the University Downtown Center (see article on page 1).

Naxos Music Library

(Continued from page 7)

the Music Department have already begun to use this feature for classroom instruction. This feature enables any number of students to access materials formerly available to only one user at a time on reserve. However, it is not possible to download or burn to CD any music on Naxos Music Library. Users can easily gain online access to the catalog number of the disc they need and purchase it at a local record store or order it through online retailers.

The Libraries’ subscription to Naxos Music Library is available to the entire campus and to off-campus users through the campus IP authentication system. Access to Naxos Music Library is through the metaLINK database list on the Libraries’ homepage.

RefWorks Offered as a Research Management Tool

By Jill Dixon

Having trouble keeping track of research citations? Want an easy way to share your bibliography?

Binghamton University Libraries now offer RefWorks — the online writing, research management, and collaboration tool. RefWorks is designed to help researchers gather, organize, store, and share information. Library patrons can easily import references from multiple sources to create their own personal research database. References can be automatically formatted into bibliographies and citations for quick insertion into research papers. A variety of citation format styles are available, including MLA, APA, and Chicago Manual of Style. Users can also share with other students, colleagues, and friends.

RefWorks saves time and can be accessed online anytime, anywhere. The program can also help manage RSS feeds by importing citations directly into an individual’s personal database.

It’s easy to get started — just sign up for an individual account via the Libraries’ website at http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/. RefWorks is available to BU students, faculty, and staff.
Student Research in the Age of Google: Teaching Students How to Effectively Manage Information

By Alesia McManus

In January, the Libraries’ Instructional Services Coordinating Committee offered a workshop to faculty and graduate students on information management skills for students. Competency in information management is defined as the ability to understand and use basic research techniques and to locate, evaluate, and synthesize information from a variety of sources. The goal is to infuse opportunities to learn these skills throughout the General Education program at the university.

Student Research in the Age of Google introduced faculty and teaching assistants to the concept of information management and participants shared approaches for teaching students how to access, evaluate and manage information resources. Library instructors explored ways to develop effective library research assignments and the value of partnering with librarians to teach students how to search for information, to critically evaluate what they find, and to cite their sources. Ideas included talking to librarians before assignments are created and adding library resources into Blackboard courses, which can be aided by adding the librarian as a course builder within Blackboard.

The thirty faculty and graduate students in attendance were pleased to have the opportunity to talk about these issues and to learn about library services and resources. They were interested to learn about new tools such as library web tutorials and encouraged librarians to reach out to faculty to help keep them up-to-date. Library instructors were Colleen Hailey, Martha Kelehan, Sarah Maximiek, and Alesia McManus. The workshop was sponsored by Sean McKitrick, Assistant Provost for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. More information about the Libraries’ instructional service offerings for faculty is available at http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/instruct/faculty.html.

Meet Edward Corrado, Head of Library Technology

By Caryl Ward

With research interests in social software and open source technology, Edward Corrado is committed to providing new ways to get information to people with different learning styles. He has been a leader in national and international library initiatives to advance open source software in libraries.

Edward comes from The College of New Jersey. As Systems Librarian, he was responsible for the implementation of new technology-related services in the library. He also worked on an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant-funded project to investigate the feasibility of a statewide open source library system and believes that open source applications fit in with the library mission to freely share information and knowledge.

Our Libraries will continue to move forward, with using new technologies to provide high-quality service to faculty, staff and students. “This is an exciting time for libraries,” Edward said. “There is more information in electronic format and Binghamton will continue to provide that information while not forgetting the core philosophy of the Libraries.”

He will be working with a systems vendor to develop a digital content management system to preserve scholarly information “born digital” on the BU campus.

As he settles in to his new job and new home, Edward has been pleased to discover many places in Broome County for hiking and fly fishing. Edward Corrado’s office is in the Bartle Library and he can be contacted at ecorrado@binghamton.edu.

Open Source Software is typically available free of charge. Users are allowed to run the program for any purpose and are allowed to give the programs to others at no charge. Along with the executable program, the source code is also freely available so that users can learn from the program and make modifications to improve the program. These improvements to the program can then be redistributed to others so that they may take advantage of the modifications as well.
in the Fall 2006 issue of LibraryLinks (see http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/librarylinks/). Our most recent addition is the Naxos Music Library, a database of over 250,000 music tracks, including the most comprehensive collection of classical music available online as well as a sampling of contemporary jazz, world music (including a specific collection of Chinese music), folk music, pop and rock.

**Special Collections** acquired significant additions to our Link archives; papers of poets Molly Peacock and Maria Mazziotti Gillan; a collection of Civil War Era Diaries on Women’s Rights; over 6,000 cinema books donated by bibliophile Allan Rogg; the locally significant Greta Lake Papers and the Broome County Nuclear Weapons Reduction Committee (BCNWRC)/Broome County Peace Action (BCPA) Papers; Binghamton General Hospital Papers; Broome County Medical Society Library and Records; Grace Burkholder Collection; John Copoulos Asian Print Collection; Dr. Frank Dyer Papers; Dr. Frank Gilroy Papers; Lois Root Collection of Popular Music; Papers of the Tri-Town Business and Professional Women (BPW); Wilson Memorial Hospital Papers; several sets of rare Italian volumes provided by Professor Sticca; and a rare collection of Italian books and records from Professor Luciano Pizziconi, one of Italy’s leading poets.

**Search Engines** replaced the card catalog long ago but until Google and Amazon appeared, local library search engines remained nondescript and limited in scope. BU Libraries have taken a leadership role within SUNY, and even the nation, by providing users with multiple search engines (metaLINK; Grokker; Encore) offering a variety of cutting-edge search options (federated; faceted) and choice of result displays (chronological; relevance; categorized; visualized). In the instance of Grokker (useful for those with visual learning styles), only Binghamton and Stanford Universities have implemented this tool. Also, we are the only SUNY institution to offer Encore as a search interface for our online catalog.

**Other Service Enhancements**

- Self-Checkout machines were installed in both the Bartle and Science libraries.
- Chat reference service is being provided using real-time “Meebo Us,” Instant Messaging, and text messages.
- Electronic Reserves were launched (available independently and/or imbedded into Blackboard).
- Laptop check-out is available in all three libraries.
- Revised and branded library web pages were created in response to usability studies.
- Our Library PR Committee coined and “branded” our library-wide services with the phrase: Binghamton University Libraries: Connect. Discover. Create.
- A Digital Initiatives unit was created to begin digitizing local collections (e.g., Link).
- We initiated semi-annual “Scholarly Research Fairs” for graduate students.
- Six library blogs have been launched by library staff. See http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/mt/index.html.

**Responses to these enhancements**

- According to national statistics reported at January’s meeting of the American Library Association by Dr. Rush Miller, U. of Pittsburgh Library Director, gate counts decreased 71% and reference questions decreased 84% from 1991 to 2005 among all academic libraries. Conversely, Bartle Library broke its all-time attendance record. Read about it on page one.
- BU Libraries were cited in Government Technology (April 2005) as one of only 107 academic libraries that are blogging.
- BU Libraries ranked #1 in overall interlibrary loan lending to other New York libraries in the Nylink network for fiscal year 2005-2006. Cornell was second!
- The student newspaper, *Pipe Dream*, graded BU Libraries with an “A” for service to students (May 11, 2005).
- BU Libraries received the Special Service Award from the South Central Regional Library Council in October 2006.
- Donations to our Honor with Books program increased from 23 ($920) in 2003-04 to 93 ($5,580) in 2006-07.
- BU Libraries won the Honorable Mention award at the American Library Association’s 2006 Best of Show competition for public relations material.
- In the spring of 2006, BU’s Office of Institutional Research and Planning invited undergraduates to participate in the Student Opinion Survey (SOS). The SOS is administered every three years and gathers data on students’ impressions of the university, academic environment and experiences, facilities, services, and college outcomes. Based upon responses to their Survey, Institutional Research staff concluded: “Students at BU are, on average, highly satisfied with library resources and library services.”

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Table 1a. Mean ratings of academic services and experiences in recent administrations of the SOS (5=Very Satisfied, 1=Very Dissatisfied)

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Table 2a. Mean ratings of student services and facilities in recent administrations of the SOS (5= Very Satisfied, 1 = Very Dissatisfied)
Greetings from the Director

John M. Meador, Jr.,
Director of University Libraries

This issue of LibraryLinks coincides with my fifth anniversary as Director of Libraries at Binghamton University (BU). It has been a dynamic five years focused upon transforming our library organization and services to facilitate rapid adoption of the new technologies emerging from a rapidly changing information environment. Fortunately, I have been aided and abetted in this endeavor not only by a superb existing staff that was ready for change, but also by thirteen new library faculty members who were enticed away from some of our nation’s best universities. My message has been simple: the “Premier Public University in the Northeast” demands a learner-centered library system providing a variety of customizable state-of-the-art approaches to information discovery and delivery that only can be provided by empowered individuals and collaborative teams working within an organizational culture of creativity. Thanks to the leadership, enthusiasm and willing experimentation of all our library staff, this goal is being realized. I am pleased to summarize many achievements of the past five years, followed by their documented results:

Library Physical Facilities were enhanced with new carpeting and improved lighting in the Bartle and Science Libraries. Service points were consolidated with a view toward providing “one-stop” service within a few steps of the main entrance. Additionally, all library facilities now support wireless networking and provide laptops for checkout.

- **Library Annex @ Conklin** (our storage facility of 350,000 volumes) is now open to the University community from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, and also is providing a “scan on demand” service that digitizes and delivers e-mail or fax copies of stored journal articles.

- **Downtown Center Library** opened on August 20, 2007, and had a gate count of 12,359 individuals entering this facility during the month of November 2007.

- **Information Commons** sites were created in the Bartle, Science and Downtown Center libraries. I introduced this concept of a computer-enhanced, collaborative research environment to our campus and partnered the Libraries with Computing Services to make it a reality.

- **Bernard F. Huppé Reading Room** in Special Collections was dedicated in October 2006 to provide scholars an appropriate environment for working with primary research materials. This room’s naming was supported by a significant endowment for our Special Collections.

**Bartle Library Hours** were increased yearly, without additional funding, by reassigning several vacated positions to overnight/weekend hours. During the fall and spring semesters, Bartle Library is now open Sundays from noon continuously until midnight on Fridays, and noon until midnight on Saturdays. (Incidentally, this permits overnight processing of interlibrary loan requests as well as book shelving.) Additionally, Bartle Library is kept open during the December holiday break to provide graduate students with access to their carrels and to support researchers working between semesters.

**Library Collections** continue to expand both in print and digital formats. Significant electronic databases have been made available in the past four years, including the full-text of over 2000 Elsevier journals from their ScienceDirect database; over 300,000 art images in ARTstor; digital facsimiles of all English language books printed before 1700 via Early English Books Online (EEBO); all available digitized journal backfiles available from JSTOR; over 300 full-text journals distributed by Project Muse; and many more as described (Continued on page 11)

Bartle Library Mezzanine Terrace

Students studying and using their wireless laptops on Bartle Library’s second floor mezzanine terrace.