Greetings to the Binghamton Academic Community and our Library Friends! Spring is finally arriving in Binghamton and so is our first-ever electronic Library Newsletter. Your librarians are busy making many changes, enhancing services and adding resources, but hitherto lacked a cost-effective means of sharing our news. This Newsletter will begin appearing two or three times each academic year to serve as your window into library operations. As always, I would be pleased to hear from you about any library-related topic.

From the Director

Binghamton University is preparing to join a national movement to create collaborative learning facilities (see http://www.dartmouth.edu/~collab/). Planning is underway to relocate the South POD from the Engineering Building and merge it with Bartle Library Reference Services to create an Information Commons. This collaborative endeavor between Library and Computing Services staff will provide students a holistic computing experience with appropriate assistance identifying, locating, retrieving and manipulating information resources. It is anticipated that resources will be in place to support student activities ranging from simple e-mail to the preparation of digital dissertations.

One aspect of the Information Commons will be an inviting and ergonomic working environment. Furniture from Herman Miller is currently being tested in the Bartle Library Reference Area.

By John M. Meador, Jr.

Herman Miller furniture is currently being installed in the Bartle Library Reference Area

Information Commons
Prototype Comes to Bartle

By John M. Meador, Jr.

The State University of New York is partially subsidizing a recently negotiated multi-campus agreement with Elsevier for a five-year license to their ScienceDirect online journal package. ScienceDirect provides journal content from Elsevier, Pergamon, Harcourt, and Academic Press in the sciences, medicine, and engineering, business and economics, the social sciences, education, and the arts and humanities.

As of January 1, 2005, full-text electronic journal coverage is available from 1995 to the present for 1836 titles (nearly all journals in ScienceDirect). According to this new agreement, SUNY Libraries will receive all journal issues in electronic form (PDF and HTML formats) in lieu of print issues.

A brochure with search tips is available in the Libraries. Contact your library liaison or subject librarian for more details about accessing ScienceDirect from your office or off campus and to learn how to use its personalized alert services to keep abreast of new journal content.

SUNY Central is also providing financial support for other new digital products including ARTstor, a database of approximately 300,000 art images encompassing architecture, painting, sculpture, photography, decorative arts and material

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Libraries Link to ScienceDirect and ARTstor

By Beth Brown & Alesia McManus

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Meet Susan Currie, New Associate Director for Public Services

By Caryl Ward

Susan Currie joined the Libraries in January 2005 as Associate Director for Public Services. The Associate Director provides administrative oversight for Public Services in the areas of circulation and reserve services, collection development and management, interlibrary loan and document delivery, information literacy, reference and electronic services, library systems and the Library Annex at Conklin.

I recently spoke with Susan about her background, professional interests and plans for the coming months.

CW: You came to us after more than 20 years at Cornell University Libraries. Where are you from originally, and where did you go to school?

Susan: My hometown is Jackson, Mississippi. I received a B.A. in English from Belhaven College and completed 30 hours toward my MA in English Literature from The University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi. I received my Masters of Library Science from SUNY Buffalo.

CW: What are your professional interests?

Susan: In particular, I find the possibility of developing and implementing a new and improved public services program in the Binghamton University Libraries exciting and intriguing. I am interested in applications of new technologies in Libraries: blending print services with electronic resources, offering outreach to teaching faculty.

CW: Can you give some specific examples for our faculty?

Susan: A good example is work that is being done by a Library task force investigating the possibilities of using Blackboard. The Libraries can help faculty use Blackboard to offer a suite of services for customized course instruction. We can help with required readings listings, links to electronic reserves and other electronic resources the Libraries subscribe to, like e-journals and e-books.

CW: What are you working on now?

Susan: During my first semester here, I am learning about the Libraries and the University. We [the Public Services Council] are reviewing all current public services policies and procedures, including hours, loan policies, and outreach services such as Information Literacy. In the short term, we are looking at how we can improve some of our traditional, basic services.

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Librarians Are Blogging

By Erin Rushton

If you’ve been to the Science Library web page recently, you may have noticed something new: a blog. The Libraries launched two blogs in January 2005; one is an updated version of “Library News and Features” and is accessible via the Libraries’ home page. The Science Library Blog is collaboratively maintained and updated by reference librarians Beth Brown, Alesia McManus and Erin Rushton.

The librarians typically use the blog to keep students and faculty updated about library news, including recent book acquisitions, changes to journal subscriptions and new electronic resources. The librarians also use the blog to highlight science news stories and developments in scholarly research.

Students and faculty can use an RSS feed to subscribe to the latest blog postings. By subscribing to the blog via a website such as Bloglines, individuals have the regularly updated content delivered to their RSS readers or aggregators. This saves the individual time from having to check for new information themselves.

To subscribe to the Science Library blog, go to http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/mt/science/ and click on the orange XML button to get the URL for the RSS feed. For more information on subscribing to feeds using an RSS reader or news aggregator, see http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/mt/feeds.html.

You can also subscribe to “Library News and Features” at http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/mt/librarynews/.

As members of one of the first departments on campus to blog, librarians are excited to share their experiences with the campus community. If you want to find out more about blogging (or are still confused about what a blog is) please contact Erin Rushton at erushton@binghamton.edu or 777-2706.
The Libraries recently acquired state-of-the-art technology to play vinyl records optically at the highest audiophile standards. The Japanese-made ELP LT-1XA Laser Turntable plays grooved analog discs using laser beams instead of the conventional tone arm/stylus technology. The Laser Turntable “transmits” the sound stored in the vinyl as opposed to an old-style tone/arm cartridge that “transcribes” the sound. The laser doesn’t alter the properties of the sound in any way, unlike conventional replays or even re-mastered CDs of older analog recordings. It also plays cracked or warped records with ease. Deep scratches still register as a click, but seldom will the sound skip. In fact, older worn records can sound better, since the laser will read above or below the point of contact at which a stylus may have caused damage.

The turntable has the capacity to play 7 to 12 inch diameter discs, and the RMP can be varied from 30-90 rpm to take into account “early” discs recorded at non-standard speeds. Moreover, the aim of the lasers can be adjusted to compensate for record damage and variable groove widths.

The fact that there is no direct physical contact between groove and turntable means that there is virtually no chance of damaging an audio document during playback. Discs too fragile for replay on a conventional turntable can now be played safely and surrogate copies created and customized. This is an important consideration for preserving the many rare instrumental, opera, and spoken word recordings in Special Collections’ 75,000-item Frances Conole Archives of Recorded Sound. The Laser Turntable would allow faculty members to use this world-class archival resource to create specific audio “programs” for their classes, music studios, or lecture presentations. For now at least, until audio can be retrieved by direct scanning of the disc, the laser turntable offers the best playback technology currently available.

Keep Current with E-Mail Alerts from Journal Websites

By Abigail Bordeaux

Did you know you can have journal tables of contents delivered directly to your inbox? Many electronic journal websites and some abstracting and indexing services offer this feature, along with the ability to save searches and receive alerts when there are new search results.

The largest of these services may be IngentaConnect, which includes content from over 29,000 publications. Thanks to support from SUNY Central, it’s possible to set up an unlimited number of alerts at the IngentaConnect site. You may set up alerts for some of the 500+ journals to which the Libraries subscribe, or you may set up alerts for thousands of other titles and then request an interlibrary loan for material that interests you.

In addition to IngentaConnect, the following library resources are among those offering table of contents and/or search alerts:

- BioOne
- IEEE Xplore
- Oxford University Press
- PsycINFO
- ScienceDirect
- Sociological Abstracts

To access these and other electronic resources, please visit http://library.binghamton.edu and follow the link to “Databases and Journal Indexes.”
We’re pleased to announce that the Libraries have rejoined RLG (Research Libraries Group) as of April 1, 2005. After a hiatus of about two years, we rejoined because of a significantly lowered cost of membership as well as a desire to resume reciprocal agreements with over 150 research libraries, archives, museums and other cultural memory institutions for our faculty and students.

RLG supports researchers and learners worldwide by expanding access to research materials held in libraries, archives and museums and by facilitating resource sharing among member institutions. Through SHARES, its state-of-the-art interlending and document supply program, library materials, including traditionally non-circulating items, are shared among RLG partners in an expedited and cost-effective manner. In addition (and of particular interest to many of our faculty members), this partnership also includes on-site access privileges across member institutions (including Cornell, Columbia, and NYU).

The RLG web-accessible databases contain a wealth of information and resources: traditional library materials, including books, journals, music, and maps; indexes to archival collections; art and rare book auction catalogs; even digital images of works of art and cultural artifacts.

To learn more about RLG, visit their web site at http://www.rlg.org.

Archives House Civil War Era Diaries on Women’s Rights

Margaret Woodruff Leyden of Rochester, NY was one of the women who registered to vote with Susan B. Anthony on November 1, 1872. She was also one of the women who voted with Ms. Anthony on November 5, 1872. Within the Civil War Manuscripts Archives in the Binghamton University Libraries, there is a collection of fifty-one diaries spanning forty-nine years from 1860 to 1908 which relate directly to Margaret Leyden. They are part of the Maurice Leyden Collection. These diaries may prove useful in research into Women’s Rights: Maurice Leyden mentions the 1872 vote and Susan B. Anthony’s subsequent trial in his 1872 and 1873 diaries. There is also potential for other research within this collection.

Honor with Books

The Libraries’ Honor with Books program was one of the best-kept secrets around—until recently when the program was given a new look and focus.

The Honor with Books program allows donors to celebrate special occasions and honor special people through the donation of books. For each $60 gift to Honor with Books, a book in a subject area of the donor’s choice will be purchased. A bookplate bearing the name of the person being honored is placed in each book, and a letter of acknowledgment is sent to the family or friend being recognized.

“We can also help the donor by suggesting a subject area,” said John Meador, Director of the Libraries. “These donations help us replace worn or damaged books, so our suggestions are based on what we need for our collection. We currently have about 1.8 million volumes, and we’re working toward 2 million. This program can help.”

“Buying print material is very expensive,” said Meador. “This program enables us to help meet the ever-increasing demands we have -- not to keep pace -- but to excel and add to our collection.” Since the reintroduction of Honor with Books, the University Libraries have seen a 444% increase in gifts to the program.

You may make a gift by calling Laurie Miller, Director of Development, University Libraries at (607) 777-4774. Or go to: http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/webdocs/honor.html for additional information and a printable donation form.

The opportunity to strengthen our collections while honoring someone special is a unique way to provide a gift that keeps on giving, both to the honoree and future Binghamton University students.
Meet Susan Currie

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For example, we are considering combining Reserves and Circulation for “one stop shopping.” We are also investigating the possibility of having 24 hour service Sundays – Thursdays.

CW: What are your short-term goals for the upcoming year?

Susan: I’d like to begin offering electronic desktop delivery. For example, if someone would like an article from a journal that is in the Library Annex at Conklin, we would scan the article and deliver it electronically to the requestor.

CW: What are your impressions of Binghamton University and its Libraries?

Susan: These are exciting times for libraries and the Binghamton University Libraries are poised to make great changes. I have been impressed with the librarians, the public services staff, and what they are doing with technology.

I have been and continue to be impressed with the vision and direction set by John Meador, the Library Director, as well as the renowned academics of Binghamton University.

CW: Would you like to share some personal information about yourself? What are your interests?

Susan: I’m a transplanted Southerner who loves snow! I like to snowshoe, and read (of course.) I am an avid gardener also. And I am a people person—I really like Public Services. I enjoy meeting faculty and students, hearing about their research and work, getting their feedback about the library and how we can improve services. I really want people to visit me to tell me how we’re doing!

CW: Any other comments?

Susan: We want the Binghamton University Libraries to be the place to be on campus for collaboration, research and study. We want to make using Binghamton’s Libraries easy, transparent, and, yes, fun.

Google & Libraries

By John Meador, Jr.

In December 2004 Google, Inc. announced that it is working with the libraries of Harvard, Stanford, the University of Michigan, the University of Oxford and the New York Public Library to digitize library books and make them searchable online. Last week I attended the first joint presentation by representatives of these institutions seeking to clarify the extent of this project. Although bound by non-disclosure agreements, representatives of the “Google 5” acknowledged each had negotiated independently with Google and were unaware of the others’ participation until the press release. None of these institutions will receive monetary compensation from Google, only copies of the digital images and OCR files to achieve “preservation reformatting.” Also, it is believed that keyword searching of the scanned texts via Google Search will provide deeper access and discovery within each library’s owned content.

Harvard and The New York Public Library are beginning “pilot” projects with Google by allowing digitization of very few books, all of which are pre-1923 and therefore out of copyright protection. Oxford University’s Bodleian Library is permitting any number of pre-1920 books to be digitized. Stanford expects to begin digitizing books next fall. The University of Michigan began production in fall 2004 with no copyright constraints on its 8 million volumes except that special collections materials are excluded from the project.

It is anticipated that a Google Search retrieving copyrighted books will display only three lines of text to stay within fair use guidelines of the Copyright Law. This limitation will increase local and interlibrary loan pressure on existing print libraries owning copies of these titles. In this context, Google must be viewed as creating a means of complementing existing library catalogs to aid scholars in discovering new value among existing library collections.
By Caryl Ward

How can undergraduates sharpen the research skills that are so critical to their academic and professional careers? Science librarians are working with teaching faculty members in various departments, including Engineering, Nursing, and Chemistry, to ensure that their students know how to access databases, online journals and other resources that the Libraries offer.

Specialized instruction now reaches all Watson School freshmen. Sharon Fellows of the Engineering Design Division reports on the program’s success: “This year, students are learning how to do Reviews of Literature Research in areas of leading edge science and engineering research. This collaboration has extended to The National Science Foundation that has provided material describing real life, state-of-the-art current research. The Science Librarians have been instrumental in developing sections of the curriculum along with the faculty in the Engineering Design Division. The collaboration has been successful; the faculty in the Engineering Design Division feel the project collaboration is a tremendous success.”

Nursing students have always been enthusiastic about the Science Library, visiting in person and utilizing the many online resources available for the health sciences. This semester, Science Reference Librarian and Nursing Bibliographer Erin Rushton offered classes specifically tailored for SON and was delighted to hear from several students who later wanted individual instruction.

Associate Professor Wayne Jones comments on the advantages of working directly with Science Librarians, “The Science Library is an integral part of science education at Binghamton. By team teaching Chem 592 and MTLS 592 with Beth Brown from the Science Library, we actually model the behavior we want from students, where the Library is an integral part of the education and research enterprise.”

Expanding this program is a goal of Alesia McManus, Head of the Science Library, who encourages faculty members to contact her at amcmanus@binghamton.edu to set up customized instruction classes.

Librarians Showcase Technology at Campus Expo

By Bern Mulligan

Recently the Libraries participated in the “Synervations Expo,” a breakout event held in conjunction with “Destination Discovery ’05.” The expo was designed “to highlight interactive and thought-provoking multimedia displays, working prototypes, and demonstrations or presentations of new technologies, innovative applications and processes, or new materials.” Using laptop computers, Alesia McManus demonstrated RSS and blogs, Erin Rushton demonstrated our reference chat service, Dave Vose demonstrated information visualization software, and Xiuying Zou demonstrated a method for typing non-English languages with a standard keyboard, which permits multilingual searching by our diverse student body.

ScienceDirect & ARTstor

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To access ScienceDirect and ARTstor, go to the Libraries’ web page for Databases and Journal Indexes, http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/databases/dyndb.php.