We’re #1 in Interlibrary Loan Lending!

By Carol Clemente

Binghamton University Libraries ranked #1 in overall interlibrary loan lending for fiscal year 2005-2006, according to Nylink*. Statistics indicate more than 500,000 items were supplied by Nylink libraries via the OCLC** interlibrary loan service. Although Southern Tier libraries represent only 6% of the membership, Binghamton University captured the top ranking based on the 20,392 items supplied to other libraries.

How did we process so many requests? We reviewed our processing operations when we began offering 24-hour library service Sunday through Thursday nights. We were able to train late-night and early-morning staff to process interlibrary loan requests, which effectively reduced the turnaround time to fulfill requests. With the addition of new evening staff, we are now able to retrieve, digitally scan, and prepare materials to be shipped 24 hours a day.

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<th>Rank</th>
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Libraries Implement New Visual Search Tool

By Angelique Jenks-Brown and Kate Bouman

Academe tends to focus on linguistic and logical/mathematical types of learning. But many people are visual learners. Visual search tools present large amounts of information in compact form and in several layers of detail. Search results are displayed according to easily discernible visual cues such as color, size, shape, and location, helping users decide what to examine and what to bypass. Patterns and connections between results become apparent.

We thought that a visual search tool would be particularly helpful for beginning researchers, freshmen and sophomores, who often don’t go past the first page of search results and miss important information about context and categorization. After exploring several options, we decided Grokker was the best fit for us. Grokker is a federated visual search tool that provides both text

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Top Lenders in NYLINK FY 2005-06*

*Top lenders in NYLINK FY 2005-2006, according to Nylink.

**OCLC is a global provider of library automation products and services.

Inside

Libraries Join Portico for Online Journal Preservation... Bartle Information Desk Gives Direction... Meebo Us in Real Time... More
The Binghamton University Libraries recently joined the journal publishing preservation initiative, Portico. Based in Princeton, NJ, and started in 2005, Portico provides for the preservation of and access to scholarly journal content. Should the Libraries be unable to access online journals in the future, Portico can be used as a backup source for scholarly articles.

The need for preservation of electronic journals in the Libraries is increasing, as there are more journals being “born digital” each year. Additional information from online journal articles not available in the print version, such as automated computer files, color graphics, and other interactive data, is also available with Portico.

Access to online journals can be affected by changes in publisher distribution agreements, cessation of publication, or any number of changes in the publishing industry. Participating in Portico will enable the Libraries to maintain access to journal content should the publisher be unable to provide web access and will preserve access to scholarly content for research and teaching at the University.

For the current list of publishers participating in Portico, see http://www.portico.org/about/part_publishers.html

For more information on Portico’s mission, see http://www.portico.org/about/

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Professor Sticca Donates Another Set of Rare Italian Volumes

By Jean Root Green

Sandro Sticca, Professor of French and Comparative Literature, has generously donated a valuable multi-volume set of Italian books to the Libraries. Basilica Cattedrale di Parma: Novecento Anni di Arte, Storia, Fede is a 2005 publication of Cariparma and Piacenza publishers in Parma. Delivered directly from Italy, the three-volume set is beautifully bound and contains hundreds of detailed plates and illustrations. Professor Sticca has given this gift in memory of his mother, Gentilina Sticca. Only eleven other academic libraries in the country own this set, including Notre Dame and Harvard.

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Bartle Information Desk Gives Direction

By Marti Klionsky

Do you remember what it was like when you first entered Bartle Library? Was it a feeling of bewilderment? Confusion?

New patrons now have a friendly face to greet them as they make their initial visit to Bartle Library with the installation last September of the new Information Desk, situated directly at the entrance. Several Bartle staff members volunteer to sit at the desk for a total of 30 hours each week.

The primary purpose of those who staff the desk is to guide the patrons to the appropriate service point in the library, such as the Reference/Information Commons Desk, the Reader Services/
Meet Julie Wang and Martha Kelehan

By Caryl Ward

Binghamton University Libraries recently welcomed two new faculty members. Julie Wang is Area Studies Librarian for Asian and Asian American Studies. Her undergraduate degree is from Beijing Normal University, where she studied Chinese Language and Literature. After her arrival in the U.S., she worked as a library assistant in several libraries while earning her Masters in Library Science, and most recently was a Technical Services Librarian at Ithaca College. Julie said, “This is an exciting position for me. The program now has a solid foundation of reference and core books, and I look forward to expanding our collections to include material that is unique to Binghamton and all SUNY libraries.”

Martha Kelehan is Area Studies Librarian for Africana, Latin American, and Caribbean Studies. Martha previously worked as an indexer for HAPI (Hispanic American Periodicals Index) and she recently began working on the web site redesign for SALALM (Seminar for the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials). Both organizations are well known and respected in the library community. Julie and Martha are available to meet with students, faculty and staff for research assistance in their respective subject areas.

Meebo Us in Real Time

By Erin Rushton

Library patrons have a new way of contacting the reference desk. In February 2007, the Libraries launched a Meebo Us chat service. The service allows patrons to chat in real time with a librarian using the Meebo chat box on the Ask a Librarian web page. Unlike with instant messaging, the Meebo Us chat service does not require an account. Patrons simply type their question into the text box and hit “send.”

The Meebo Us service is being piloted until the end of the spring semester. Other reference services (in-person, instant messaging, e-mail and phone) are also available. Patrons who use the Meebo Us service are encouraged to complete an online survey. The survey will help us better understand how this service can be used to answer patron questions.

Interested in “Meeboing” a Librarian? Visit the Ask a Librarian page to ask a question today at http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/webdocs/askalibrarian.html

Bartle Library Extends Weekend Hours

By Zach Dubord

This past February, Bartle Library extended its weekend hours on Friday and Saturday nights until midnight. The response to the new hours has been overwhelmingly positive, as many students are grateful to have a quiet place to study on evenings when other parts of campus tend to be noisy. In addition, Bartle Library continues to be fully functional during this time, allowing patrons to check out reserve and interlibrary loan materials, laptops, and other library holdings.

I was recently hired as Reader Services Coordinator. Part of my job is to keep the library open during these extended hours. It’s a great opportunity for library patrons, especially graduate students, to tie up loose ends or do a little extra research. Community borrowers also make frequent use of our later hours. Although it initially started off quietly, as the semester progressed, we saw headcount go from around 51 the first Friday night to over 200 by April 13th. By the end of the semester, even more patrons took advantage of the library’s extended hours.

Meebo Us

Simply type your question into the search box and hit enter. Please note, Meebo Us is a trial service.
Allan Rogg Donates Valuable Collection of Cinema Books

By John M. Meador, Jr. and Slava Mrozowski

Allan Rogg, a New York City resident, book collector and Library benefactor, has donated over 5,000 books devoted to all aspects of world cinema to our Libraries and promises to send another 1,000 titles by early summer. This past March, Mr. Rogg visited the Binghamton University campus to identify and sort the most rare and valuable of his gift volumes for our Special Collections department. He also retrieved some books from the open book stacks that needed to be moved into Special Collections for preservation and/or other treatment.

Asked why he chose us to house his extraordinary unique and valuable collection of cinema books, especially since he attended Cornell University and graduated from NYU, Mr. Rogg said, “Having spent more than twenty years chasing semi-rare books, I knew that Binghamton had strong holdings in my field, so when I visited the Libraries in December 2004 to see a book that no one else seemed to possess, I inquired about the possibility of donating books. The reception I encountered from the Libraries’ staff was both professional and welcoming. I immediately sensed that I had found a good home for my collection, where it would receive the best of care and be made available to those most able to benefit from this type of material. All that I have since learned about the history and mission not just of the Libraries but of the University as a whole leads me to conclude that I have allied myself with an institution of the highest current standing whose future promises even greater attainments.”

We are thrilled and honored to have attracted the interest, trust and support of such an expert bibliophile as Mr. Rogg and look forward to ongoing collaborations with him that will provide unique resources to our students and faculty.

What’s So Funny in the Libraries?

By Marcy Strong

In celebration of the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures’ March conference, What’s So Funny? Humor & Laughter in Literature and Film, the Libraries created an exhibit that highlights the diverse collection of library materials related to humor, satire, and cartoons. Selections from the Allan Rogg collection (which holds books relating to film-making, popular culture, directors, actors, and writers) are included.

This lively exhibit is located in three areas of the Libraries. The mezzanine level of Bartle showcases humor and wit in American and foreign films. The exhibit uses recent book acquisitions and examples from the growing collection of DVDs and videos. Humor in culture, gender and politics is also explored in selections from the Libraries’ circulating collection.

Special Collections is not to be missed, as materials related to political humor and satire and Italian wit and humor from the 16th through 19th centuries are on display. Other highlights include the Libraries’ extensive collection of R. Crumb art and selections from the works of local cartoonist Johnny Hart.

Finally, the Science Library has its own funny side with displays on healing and humor and the psychology of laughter. These exhibits explore humor as it relates to pain relief, immunity-enhancements and social bonding, using materials from the Libraries’ collection. Be sure to check out the display on the physics of superheroes, which demonstrates how superhero powers can be explained by physics.

What’s So Funny? Humor & Laughter in Literature and Film will run through the end of June.
Images From the Libraries’ Current Exhibit
Interlibrary Loan Lending
(Continued from page 1)
Jon Penn of Nylink stated that Binghamton University Libraries’ success is due to the “commitment to sharing, high quality of the library staff, and the depth of the Binghamton collection.”

*Nylink, based in Albany, NY, is a nonprofit membership organization comprised of more than 300 libraries and 2,000 affiliates throughout New York State and surrounding areas. Nylink provides training, support and consulting services to libraries. In addition, Nylink provides support for and access to OCLC services and facilitates a statewide ground delivery service for resource sharing.

**OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) is a nonprofit, membership, computer library service and research organization dedicated to providing access to the world’s information. More than 57,000 libraries around the world use OCLC services to locate, acquire, catalog, lend and preserve library materials. Using OCLC’s Online Union Catalog, WorldCat, Binghamton University faculty and students have access to 84 million bibliographic records.

Visual Search Tool
(Continued from page 1)
clustering and a visual map, offering users a choice of how they want to view their results. This tool provides a topical landscape of context. It helps users focus their research by organizing concepts and revealing connections between topics.

The Grokker Implementation Task Force consisted of two librarians, Kate Bouman and Angelique Jenks-Brown; an information technology specialist, Tom Tran; and two consulting librarians, Alesia McManus and Dave Vose. Sandy Card served as a consultant for cataloging issues. Many other library staff members contributed to the success of the project by testing the product and providing feedback.

The implementation was done collaboratively between Grokker and Binghamton University Libraries. We are the first Aleph site to use Grokker and only one of two universities in the country to have it.

Downtown Center to Include New Information Commons
By Bern Mulligan

In addition to the 11 new state-of-the-art classrooms that will be available when the University Downtown Center opens for courses this fall, there will also be a new state-of-the-art Information Commons with more than forty computer workstations for patron use. The Commons will also include four group study rooms, five individual study carrels, and an adaptive technology room.

According to Dave Vose, Information Commons Coordinator, “Reader services, including circulation, course reserves, and interlibrary loan, will be provided as well as reference service and laptop loan checkout. The Commons will be staffed by a combination of Libraries’ and Information Technology Services’ personnel.”

Though the emphasis for the site is the College of Community and Public Affairs (CCPA) and its courses, all three-hour courses scheduled before 3:30 p.m. will be held at the new center.

LibraryLinks is a publication of the Binghamton University Libraries and is produced and edited by the Libraries’ Public Relations Committee: Caryl Ward (chair), Nicki Chanecka, Jean Root Green, Kathryn Kowalczik, Slava Mrozowski and Bern Mulligan. Look for this newsletter and future issues at http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/librarylinks/.