

Library Update

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

FALL 2000

The Science Library

by Gregg Sapp, Head of the Science Library



The Parents' Fountain and New Library Building

library users can read the latest, unbound issues of all science journals in a comfortable, lounge-like atmosphere. The adjacent stacks contain print indexes and abstracts. At the east side of the floor is the Electronic Information Commons, which contains over 40 Internet computer workstations with access to the library's full complement of networked databases and other online resources. There are also computers dedicated to specific applications, such as Science Citation Index and GIS (Geographical Information System). Microforms and audio-visual materials and the equipment to use these items are housed in the area behind the Electronic Information Commons. Assistance is available from the adjacent Reference Consulting

Office and, if needed, users can schedule individual consultations with subject specialists. Tours of the facility are available upon request. University at Albany faculty may also request subject or course-integrated instruction in specialized resources and research techniques.

Bound periodicals of older science journals are shelved on the second floor of the Science Library. A very popular feature on this floor is the group study rooms. There are ten rooms, which can be "checked out" at the Circulation Services Desk for two hours at a time. These rooms contain whiteboards, electrical outlets, and seating for six people. The entire science book collections are shelved in the open

Albany's new Science Library, which opened in October 1999, offers a wide range of services and resources for the University community. Occupying three floors and approximately 61,000 square feet, the Science Library offers ample space for group and individual study, new state-of-the-art electronic resources, and a staff dedicated to providing personal, high quality services. The Science Library, located in the New Library Building, is quickly becoming an important center for teaching and research at the University.

The main service areas are on the first level of the building. Here, staff deliver all borrowing, lending and user account maintenance services. To the right of the Circulation Desk is the Current Periodicals Room, where



The Science Library Circulation Desk

LIBRARY UPDATE is a semi-annual newsletter published to inform faculty about University Libraries' collections and services. Responses from readers are very welcome.

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Electronic Information Commons

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stacks on the Lower Level. In all, the total science collections amount to approximately half a million volumes. Throughout the building, on all floors, there is abundant study space, including tables and individual carrels – a total of over 500 seats for users. There are photocopiers on all three floors of the Science Library. The

storage facility in the basement of the Science Library also relieves congestion in the University and Dewey Graduate libraries. When full, the storage facility can hold 1.5 million volumes. To request an item in storage, inquire at the Circulation Desk or connect to the Web request form at <http://www.albany.edu/library/forms/>.

For all of its modern facilities, technical collections and high-tech digital resources, the Science Library is above all committed to providing the best possible services to all of its users. The staff look forward to working closely with the members of the entire community of the University at Albany.



Science Library Current Periodicals Reading Room

University Libraries Welcome New Head of Science Library

by Anna Radkowski-Lee, Library Personnel Officer



The University Libraries are pleased to welcome Gregg Sapp as Head of the Science Library. Gregg earned his MLS from the University of Washington; his M. Ed in Adult, Higher and Community Education from Montana State University; and his BA in liberal studies from Western Washington University.

He joined the University at Albany from University of Miami's Richter Library where he served as Head of Access Service. Prior to that he was the Electronic Information Coordinator at Montana State University's Renne Library. His 15 years in science librarianship have paralleled his research interests in science literacy and in library services in support of science literacy. Since 1990, Gregg has been the author for *Library Journal's* "Best Science and Technology Books for General Readers." He is an active member of the American Library Association; an elected officer of the Library Administration and Management Association's Systems and Services section; and, a member of the Science and Technology section of Association of College and Research Libraries. Gregg can be reached at (518) 437-3951 and gsapp@csc.albany.edu.

University



Libraries

Celebrating A New Milestone for Albany's Libraries

Albany's University Libraries have proclaimed the 2000–2001 academic year as the Two Millionth Volume Celebration Year. Dean and Director of Libraries, Meredith Butler, stated, "When we acquire the actual two millionth volume later this year, we will mark a significant milestone in the growth of the Libraries' collections. This milestone follows closely on the heels of the opening of the New Library Building and the successful conclusion of the library campaign, two extraordinary events in our history, and underscores the University's commitment to the growth and development of the Libraries. We have planned a year-long series of programs for our community as a way of giving something back to everyone who was so generous to us this past year."

Organized around the general theme of the history and future evolution of the book, a series of special programs, exhibits, lectures, film festivals, and conferences began in September and continue throughout the academic year. The year will culminate in a gala celebration of the acquisition of the two millionth volume in April 2001. We hope you will come and join in our Year of the Two Millionth Volume (Y2M) celebrations. An evolving list of our Y2M events can be found at this site: <http://www.albany.edu/library/y2m/>.

Renovations to Meet User Needs

by Brenda Hazard, Head, Media, Microforms, Periodicals, Reserves



Overcrowded periodical stacks

the collection, call numbers appear in a more logical ascending order. The periodicals that are most heavily used by undergraduates, psychology journals classified in the BF range, are directly behind the service desk, making it easier both to provide assistance and to maintain the stacks. Periodicals staff, including Francis Hartigan, Mark Shover, Paul Wick, and Karen Frank, along with several students



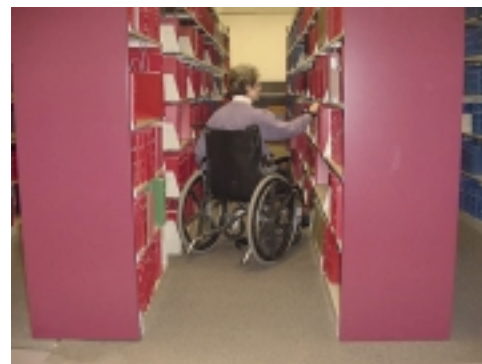
Current Periodicals Reading Room

worked diligently to accomplish this rearrangement with minimal disruption to users. Attractive group study tables accommodating two-four students have replaced tightly clustered individual carrels near the photocopier area. In early Spring 2000, there was a vacant space in the Periodicals Room prompting curious questions from users: Was it a dance floor? Was the tennis team resuming practice in the library basement? In April, the mystery ended when new compact shelving was erected for the microfilm collection. By the end of the Spring semester, the entire microforms collection and related equipment were moved to space conducive to research and study.

Other changes are planned to make the University Library a more comfortable and attractive facility. Special thanks go to Peter Recore-Migirditch and to the Office of Facilities Management and Physical Plant who worked together to help us realize our vision. Visit the lower level of the University Library soon to see for yourself!

Renovations of the Media, Microforms, Periodicals and Reserves Department are nearly complete in the University Library's lower level. Using space vacated by the move of the science collections and the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives to the New Library Building, literally millions of items were shifted to locations which are more comfortable, logical, and accessible to users.

The Periodicals Room experienced the greatest change. After the entire collection of science journals was moved, remaining shelving was dismantled and shifted in order to create wide aisles compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This eliminated unacceptable conditions such as 20"-wide dead-end aisles. Next, Periodicals staff reshelfed every volume in order to reverse the call number arrangement of the collection. Now, as a user walks from the service desk through



Periodical stacks are now ADA compliant

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The Current Periodicals Reading Room opened in August 2000. This new user facility is located in the former Special Collections and Archives Research Room across from the Reserve Desk. Furniture was purchased with funds from the successful Campaign for the Libraries. Now, faculty and students can read a current issue of a periodical or newspaper in a comfortable chair in a quiet room which features natural sunlight. All current issues are shelved in call number order and will remain in the Current Periodicals Reading Room until they are scheduled for binding. Newspapers will also be shelved in this attractive space. Contiguous space has been retrofitted to provide convenient photocopier access.

Another new resource is expanded media playback facilities

for the Interactive Media Center. Twenty new workstations are arranged in clusters of four around five columns, with task-oriented furniture available for video and audio playback. Approximately 500 titles from the IMC's audio CD collection were moved to open shelving to allow browsing. Thousands of analog video and audio recordings will be moved to open, browsable shelves during 2000-01. Some of the new workstations hold adaptive technology to serve users with disabilities in integrated, comfortable, and accessible space.

Helen Quirini, Labor Activist

by Brian Keough, Curator of Manuscripts

On July 14, 2000 Helen Quirini was in Washington, D.C. with the Coalition for Retirement Security to report on new legislative proposals aimed at retirees from General Electric (GE), Bell Atlantic, IBM and other top U.S. corporations. As co-chair of General Electric Retirees for Justice, she is working to secure cost of living allowances for pensions that, in many cases, provide retirees with their biggest source of income. This is nothing new for Quirini, who has been fighting for moral justice for over 55 years. Whether it is for labor unions, women, families, human rights, seniors or retirees, Quirini fights for issues vital to working families. Quirini's work at GE and lifelong commitment to social activism have been meticulously documented in her personal papers which were recently deposited in the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives. Her papers contain minutes, pamphlets, photographs, union newspapers, grievance files, clippings, and other manuscript



Quirini, center back, with Local 301 baseball team

material documenting unions, women and work, social welfare organizations, health care, and senior citizen rights. The Quirini Papers supplement the Grenander Department's extensive Labor History and Archives of Public Affairs and Policy Collections.

Helen Quirini started at the General Electric plant in Schenectady, New York on April 1, 1941. As the United States entered WWII, more women found jobs in factories, and Quirini was dissatisfied with the unequal treatment of women. Against the wishes of her father, she eventually joined Local 301 of the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America (UE) and advocated equal pay and treatment for women. She later became a Shop Steward and served on the Local 301 Executive Board leading the postwar struggle against gender discrimination in the workplace.¹

While working at GE, Quirini often heard of the difficulties many women, often single parents, faced in the workplace and at home. During the 1950s and 1960s, she did volunteer work in Schenectady focusing her attention on the difficulties of working families. One of her proudest achievements was her work with Georgetta Dix, who founded the Refreshing Springs Day Care, a non-profit child care center in Schenectady. She also organized counseling groups and social activities for women at the Schenectady YWCA and served on its Board of Directors. During the 1970s, Quirini volunteered with United Way of Schenectady County helping to secure funding for local social welfare organizations and, working with other statewide groups, examining health issues and child care. She also served as a member of the Schenectady County Human Rights Commission. In 1977 Quirini was the recipient of the prestigious Patroon Award given to community service volunteers in Schenectady. Her extensive volunteer activities were undertaken while maintaining a full-time job in the GE factory. Quirini retired on April 1, 1980 after 39 years working at General Electric, not counting time out for strikes. But that only ended her work at GE.

During the last twenty years, Quirini has devoted her life full-time to being a community activist. Quirini likes to say that she is married to social activism, devoting countless hours to work with health care, child care, and senior citizen advocacy groups, addressing the City Council in Schenectady, and speaking before thousands at annual GE stockholders meetings. Recently, Quirini has been fighting for retirees of GE to receive periodic cost of living adjustments to their pensions. Many people who worked for most of their lives at the same job are now living below the poverty level because GE and other corporations refuse to grant pensioners cost of living allowances. At the 1999 stockholders meeting in Cleveland, Quirini asked GE Chairman Jack Welch to do what is morally right and stipulate permanent cost of living allowances from the pension surplus. She knows a thing or two about moral justice, she's been fighting for it for close to sixty years. For more information about the Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, visit our Web site at <http://www.albany.edu/library/divs/speccoll/>.



¹ Kannenberg, Lisa. "The Impact of the Cold War on Women's Trade Union Activism: The UE Experience." *Labor History*, Spring/Summer 93, Vol. 34, Issue 2-3, p. 309-323; "Helen Quirini and General Electric: A Personal Memoir of WWII." Edited by Professor Gerald Zahavi, University at Albany, SUNY, History Department. (<http://www.albany.edu/history/histmedia/Hq.html>).

Digital Library Developments

ADVANCE To Your Desktop

Have you ever had a citation to a journal article, searched the online catalog for the journal title, found we owned the journal, but wished you didn't have to copy the call number, go to the library, and actually find the journal in order to read the article? Have you ever serendipitously discovered a title in the catalog and wished you could scan the table of contents for relevancy without going to the shelves? Now for a small, but growing number of these instances, the ADVANCEWeb catalog will provide a solution.

This year, the Cataloging Department provided hotlinks for all 260 plus titles in the scholarly journal collections Project Muse and in JSTOR. For example, a search for the title *American Quarterly* will retrieve a standard periodical cataloging record with an additional twist: a note regarding "Electronic resources," complete with a link, in this case to both JSTOR and Project Muse. A click on the JSTOR link will bring you to the full backfile; a click on the Project Muse link will bring you to current issues. You can find all the titles in both these collections by searching Project Muse or JSTOR as authors.

For some years now, the US Government has been providing document titles in both paper and online. The records we receive from our cataloging vendor incorporate the online link in the cataloging record. For instance, searching *Congressional Record Daily Edition* will retrieve a record with a hot link to the online version. No more finding the paper copy! Just click from the cataloging record and "you are there!"

For an increasing number of monographs, the Library is obtaining licensing rights to connect to the full text online. A good example of this is *Social Patterns in Pre-classic Mesoamerica*, a 336 page book. There is an "Electronic Resource" link in the catalog which connects directly to the full text housed at the Dumbarton Oaks Web site. Instead of checking out the book to see if this is what you really want, you can just click on the link in the cataloging record and scan the contents (or, in fact, read it online).

A truly exciting development is linking cataloging records for archives and manuscripts to the finding aids (and eventually to digitized "versions") for the collections. Our M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives holds the official records of the Civil Service Employees Association, Local 1000, AFSCME. Searching the catalog shows this fact, and clicking on the hotlink to the finding aid will give the researcher fuller information about the content of the collection, without physically going to the department first.

The Cataloging Department is working to expand links to electronic resources, so that the ADVANCE system will become not only a record of our holdings, but also a connection directly to the material. The Web catalog is becoming your link for delivery of materials to your desktop!

"New Goodies" on the Libraries' Web Site

The Libraries' Web site, <http://www.albany.edu/library/>, continues to undergo a rapid expansion of its offerings of library services and resources. Here are some recent highlights.

Research databases: The number of electronic resources purchased by the Libraries has grown significantly in the past year. These resources include indexes, databases, and scores of full text journals. Most are available on the Web, and may be accessed by an unlimited number of users both on and off campus. From the main screen of the site, choose "Ejournals," and "Indexes & Databases."

Proxy server: The proxy server offers affiliated users access to our electronic resources from off campus. Many members of the University community are discovering the convenience of conducting research from home. Recently, we switched to new proxy software called EZProxy. With EZProxy, users are no longer required to configure their Web browser. Instead, they only have to supply a userid and password after selecting a library resource. As a result, off campus access to library resources is much easier.

Subject resources: Albany Bibliographers have created new subject-specific collections of Internet resources. New pages this year include Art, History, Sociology and Women's Studies. Choose "Research a Subject" from the main screen of the site to view our offerings.

Reference pages: Our "Reference Collection," available from the main screen, offers new pages on Consumer Information, Local & Regional Information, and Genealogy. These join the more than thirty pages that comprise this portion of the Web site.

Digital Library Developments

Electronic Reserves Meets the Needs of Faculty and Students

In 1999–2000, the Libraries offered new digital processing and scanning services for faculty using the electronic reserves system, ERes. The system received 40,000 hits during the academic year as students accessed journal articles, homework assignments and solutions, lecture notes, and Web links, and used the bulletin board and chat room functions. This remarkable activity was generated during the pilot testing when fewer than 100 courses had course material available. Use is expected to increase significantly when the Libraries migrate all paper reserve material to ERes starting in Fall 2000. Library staff are investigating methods of adding dynamic lists which indicate course materials which are only available at the Reserve desk as well as adding links pointing students to course-related resources available through the Libraries' Web site.

Faculty who tried digital processing services rave about the “anytime, anyplace” access which ERes afforded to their students and the high quality of scanned text. Many faculty use their privileges to add and delete files to their electronic reserve course page through file transfer functions; posting lecture notes in Word format or Power-Point presentations immediately after class is convenient and eliminates the need to submit paper copies to Reserve staff and wait for processing. A number of faculty incorporate the ERes bulletin board function which allows discussion on lecture topics or readings to continue outside of class time. Faculty remark favorably on the system's ease of use and minimal time involved with course management. On surveys, students unequivocally stated their preference for electronic reserves over traditional reserve services where access is limited by library hours. As one student stated on their survey, “I wish all faculty used ERes!”

For more information on electronic reserves, go to the Reserve Services Web page at www.albany.edu/library/divs/reserves/.



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