Scan it! Save it! Print it! Mail it!

At the Reference Desk on the first floor of Buley Library is a new piece of equipment. A scanner, attached to a kiosk style computer, is already getting lots of use and praise. Faculty are using it to scan articles to post in their electronic course sites. Students are using it to save money and paper by saving or emailing files, and to scan images and documents for assignments such as creating brochures and posters. The library is using it to scan odd sized materials (like newspaper clippings) for course e-reserves.

The scanner is named a “book scanner” for the special lip that allows tightly bound books to be more easily scanned. But you can scan just about anything on it. The software turns a computer into a kiosk with a touch screen, and leads you through the scanning process step by step. You can choose to save the file to a USB drive, email the file to yourself, or print it (standard university printing fees and policies for B&W double-sided printing apply.) You can choose to scan in color, black & white, grayscale, and in several resolutions. Color printing is not currently available, but files can be scanned in color, saved or emailed, and printed elsewhere. The “smart” software automatically crops the resulting images to the edges of the paper, and will even straighten misaligned pages.

Text documents can be scanned and converted to Word documents or searchable PDF files. The character recognition is excellent, though prone to the same sort of errors of all such automatic scans: ‘rn’ sometimes turns into ‘m’, etc., especially on older, faded documents or odd typefonts. It’s already saved several people tedious retyping of papers from lost or corrupted computer files.

Alumni and community patrons will appreciate the scan to USB and email features. USB drives can be purchased at the university bookstore (and at any computer or office supply store). Any email address can be used, though long documents may have to be scanned in sections to be emailed.

Rebecca Hedreen, Reference Librarian
**Director’s Column**

Towards the end of last semester I met with the Student Government President Ben McNamee and a couple of other students about the possibility of extending the library hours by two hours on Sunday nights. I told them that it just isn’t that easy. There would have to be library reference adjuncts and a student library employee to staff the public desks plus a security guard (hired by Campus Police) to be at the desk by the front door. In addition, there is a money factor to pay for these employees to work at a time when budgets are being cut. I told the students that I would do the best that I could. Shirley Cavanagh, Head of Access Services found the personnel to work the Circulation desk; Winnie Shyam, Head of Reference, arranged for the adjuncts to work the Reference Desk; Chief Dooley paid for the security guard; and the Provost, Dr. Selase Williams, came up with the funding for the library personnel. This was truly a collaborative effort and has proven to be a successful one!

The first Sunday with the additional two hours (9-11 pm) was March 6, 2011. It started slowly the first two weeks, with an average of 13 students coming into the library between 9:00 and 11:00 pm and with an average of 14 items checked out of the library between those two hours. However, after Spring Break, the number of students in the library between 9:00 and 11:00 greatly increased: March 27—54 students; April 3—105 students; April 17—81 students; and April 24—115 students. I am so pleased with the student turnout that we will continue with these additional Sunday hours during the fall semester.

Another item that Buley Library is very proud of is its continuing participation in the Freshman Year Experience (FYE) Common Read. Library representatives were on the committee that selected the book this year, “The Other Wes Moore,” by Wes Moore. Carol Skalko, Interim Instruction Librarian, played a pivotal role on the committee. This book was chosen from over 36 title suggestions. The goal of the program is to create a common reading experience for incoming freshmen that will serve as a unifying, intellectual experience for the entire class. The Library is purchasing 1350 copies of the selected book so that every freshman will have one. They will be distributed at the New Student Orientation in June and they will be expected to have read the book by the time they return for Welcome Week in September. Students will participate in book discussions and other programs throughout the semester. Buley Library is a proud sponsor of this program.

Christina D. Baum, Ed.D.
Director of Library Services
Hilton C. Buley Library

**Snapshot Day**

How do you take a picture of every library in the state, all at the same time? Statistics!! The Connecticut Library Association, Connecticut Library Consortium and the Connecticut State Library sponsored the second annual Connecticut Library Snapshot Day on April 13. It was a day when every library was asked to count, count, and count again. They were to count people who came to the library, reference questions asked, library cards issued, website visits made, programs and classes offered, books circulated, computers used. While staff counted all the activity in Connecticut libraries, patrons were asked to respond to a short survey that focused on the question “why is the library important to you?” At Buley, the answer was overwhelmingly because the library provides a “quiet place to study.”

The data from across the state, providing a “snapshot” of all participating Connecticut libraries, is available at http://snapshotctlib.wordpress.com/about. Photos of the day can be viewed at http://www.flickr.com/photos/ctlibrariessnapshot2010. Connecticut Libraries are clearly valued, and Buley Library is reflected as an important part of the SCSU student experience.

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Buley’s Secret is Out…

Buley Library’s secret library service has finally been uncovered. Many faculty, students, and citizens of the 3rd Congressional district of Connecticut may not realize that our library is a selective Federal Depository Library. For more than 40 years, since 1968, our library has received free federal government documents from the U.S. Government Printing Office. In return, we quietly have provided access and reference assistance to this vital program.

What exactly is a Federal Depository Library? The Federal Depository Library system was established in 1813 to collect, preserve and assist users with locating information from the federal government. Currently there are over 1,200 Federal Depository Libraries in the United States that serve as the link between the Government and its citizens. The Connecticut State Library in Hartford acts as the state’s Regional Depository Library and receives everything published by the U.S. government.

Most Federal Depositories are located in academic libraries, but there are some large public and special libraries that participate in the Depository Library program. These libraries select materials, both in print and non-print formats, and are legally required to provide the public access to federal materials. You will know that the library is a depository when you see the eagle logo attached to the front door of the building.

Connecticut may be a small state, but we are well represented with 28 selective Federal Depository Libraries ready to serve the public. In the New Haven area alone, Southern Connecticut State University, the University of New Haven, and Yale University provide valuable federal resources to all residents. When you add the other 3 Connecticut State University libraries and the Connecticut State Library to the mix, your access to government resources is impressive.

When you think of government documents, you normally think of statistics, tax forms and multi-volume tomes that only the most dedicated researcher would ever want to use. But government documents can be more exciting than a spy novel and you may even find yourself reading late into the night. Are you interested in UFOs and the mystery of Roswell? Read ‘The Roswell Report: Case Closed’ written by James McAndrew from the Air Force to get the real facts about UFOs. Are you determined to understand the failure of our banks and mortgage lenders? Delve into the economic crisis by reading ‘The Financial Crisis: Inquiry Report’ and discover how close the U.S. came to bankruptcy.

Now that I have you interested in government documents, your next important step is to find the material. Buley Library’s CONSULS catalog is the first place to begin your search for government publications. Our online catalog will connect you to federal publications held by any of the 4 CSU libraries and the Connecticut State Library. You can search by title, author, keyword, federal agency or use the advanced search for additional options. Most of the material in CONSULS does circulate but may need to be requested through our library’s intralibrary loan service. Contact the Circulation Desk for more information about this service.

Other libraries may house their documents in separate areas and use the SuDocs Classification System (agency-based) to organize materials. As always, reference assistance is available in person or online if you have questions.

Want even more government documents? Try the National Academies Press and read online!

http://www.nap.edu/
In the past, documents were issued only in two formats: print or microfiche. Exciting changes have occurred in the last several years and a new digital environment has transformed the depository library program. Significant amounts of material are now published electronically and provide immediate access to library patrons.

Documents are easy to locate at Buley because everything is catalogued and integrated into the library’s collections. Most documents can be checked out but some material may be kept in other collections, such as Reference or Periodicals. This material must be used in the library but can be photocopied or scanned in the library. The library has 2 photocopiers and a documents scanner that makes scanning, saving to a USB port, and sharing an easy process.

Once the material is found then you’re almost finished with your library transaction. Like all circulating material, your next and final stop is the Circulation Desk located on the first floor of Buley. Your University ID is needed in order to check out all library materials. (Alumni can also get a card to check out items.) Government Documents can circulate for a semester for faculty and 28 days for students. If you need to renew any library materials, you can do so by going to the “Log into Your Library Record” link and following the directions. You can also contact the Circulation Desk by phone or in-person, and we will renew your items.

Buley Library has a wealth of government documents to share and is ready to publicize the resources of our depository library. We’re ready to meet our public – now that you know about us.

Shirley Cavanagh, Access Services Librarian

Staff News

In November, Technical Services librarians Hing Wu, Kathy Swenson, and Jackie Toce helped to organize the Fall Program for the Connecticut Library Association Technical Services Section that featured Judith Kuhagen from the Library of Congress presenting on RDA (Resource Description and Access), the new cataloging standard that will replace AACR2.

Hing Wu wrote an article “RDA Essentials,” based on her participation in the above. It is available in the February 2011 electronic issue of CLA Today: http://www.clatoday.org/?p=518

Others in Technical Services have been busy as well. Jackie Toce and Cindy Schofield have an article coming soon in Technical Services Quarterly, “Technical Services Outreach Strategies for Academic Libraries.”

The ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego this January saw a good representation of staff including Chris Baum, Jackie Toce, Cindy Schofield and Lisa Carlucci Thomas, as well as David Feinmark, our new Collection Development Librarian. David reported that he attended several sessions on patron-driven acquisitions, the changing world of collection development, open-access journal publishing, and the latest in journals pricing trends.

Paul Holmer, Special Collections Librarian
Don’t let the title of this column fool you, print books won’t be disappearing anytime soon! However, SCSU students, faculty, and staff are finding that e-books are becoming more than simply a collection of popular novels that they could download on their Kindles. They are becoming increasingly important to student and faculty success in teaching, research, and learning. E-books at Buley Library may be one of the best kept secrets on campus. Although the academic e-book market is somewhat different than that of the consumer market the same basic principles holds true. Buley Library’s mission is to support our own consumers (students, faculty, and staff) and connect them to the information that they require in the format that they can best use. As the Southern community’s information needs have changed, so have our methods of information resource delivery. In keeping with this, we have been acquiring a larger and more varied collection of e-books over the last several years. Similar to our e-journals and online databases, you can access our collection of e-books from within Buley Library, from your dorm room or faculty office or, in fact, from anywhere you have internet access to the Library’s catalog.

E-books are showing the most consistent area for growth in many academic libraries. In keeping with Buley Library’s user-focus we attempt to acquire perpetual access to e-books that are of high academic quality and that will cover the broad spectrum of subjects taught at the University. If you are a computer science student or a techie, we have over 150 different e-books in your field of interest from Safari Books Online. If you are a nursing or public health student, we have e-books from R2 Digital Library. In addition, regardless of your major or area of subject interest, we can also supply online access to several hundred reference titles from such well respected publishers as Oxford University Press, Sage Publications, and Congressional Quarterly. Some examples of recent additions to our reference e-book offerings are the Encyclopedia of Geography, the Encyclopedia of Perception, the Multimedia Encyclopedia of Women in Today’s World, the Encyclopedia of Journalism and dozens more. We will have an e-book to fit almost any of your needs.

Both librarians and e-book publishers understand that ease of use, ability to notate, and ability to print are also areas of prime concern for many users and that e-book technology needs to keep pace with changing user needs (i.e. mobile devices). The importance of the twin needs of “subject breadth” and “usability” have been emphasized in various published opinion surveys of both faculty and students and Buley Library is constantly trying to satisfy both needs within the framework of the academic e-book market.

David Feinmark, Collection Development Librarian
The Numbers

373 people answered Buley’s survey

Top 3 reasons for coming to the library:
• Quiet place to study: 308
• Use a computer: 268
• Do research: 242

51 students met with librarians,
77 needed to use reserve material
18 came to the library for help with a job search

Comments

“[The library is] safe place to study and do research. All the resources from people, to computer labs, to tables help provide me with tools to achieve the best grades at school.” --Shannon

“Because the library encourages critical thinking and analysis and without it we would all be sheep.” --Bridget

“[When I] need assistance with the databases I always can find a librarian to help me.” (Anonymous)

“It’s a quiet place to work and study but I wish it was open longer.” --Makada

“…[T]here are never enough group study rooms.”

“[M]any group study rooms are empty but we’re not allowed to use them.” (Anonymous)

“Without the library getting a full and complete education is impossible.”
--Harley

Cindy Schofield,
Head of Technical Services
Photos by Cindy Schofield and Jackie Toce

Buley Bulletin Staff includes:

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