The Artists’ Books Collection

While there is much debate about what constitutes an “artist’s book,” it is generally agreed that an artist’s book is a book created as an art work in itself. The artist/bookmaker may integrate every aspect of the creative process—often working as author, designer, illustrator, and bookbinder. All elements of the book are integrated, so that the content is imbedded within all parts of the book—binding, text, imagery, etc. The Artists’ Books Collection at Buley Library represents a wide range of approaches to the innovative structures, techniques, and expressive content manifested in contemporary artists’ books.

Artists’ books utilize many different forms and often draw from the rich history of the book. The traditional book types—such as the scroll, fold book, the venetian blind, and the codex—continue to inspire contemporary artists and book makers. Since the 1960’s, with the advent of the copy machine and more recently with the rapid escalation of computer technology, a new appreciation for the book as a physical, visual, and tactile form of communication continues to push the evolution of the book in new directions.

The ever-evolving physical book can be simultaneously hi-touch and hi-tech. Heather Weston’s Read, Past Tense, for example, utilizes red heat-sensitive inks for the pages of her codex. As the reader holds and touches the pages, the inks are activated and altered to reveal hidden texts between the print. Another recent acquisition, Tower of the Winds, is a contemporary artists’ book in the form of a scroll. The 25 foot long scroll unfolds to reveal the mysterious history of a marble tower, still standing in the Roman agora at Athens, and built as a monument to mythology. The history of the tower is revealed through the voices of early Romans, a 17th c. Turkish traveler, and modern scientists.

In addition to faculty and student viewers, the collection has also attracted the attention of local artists, art teachers, as well as SCSU alumni and collectors. Thanks to Sheila Creed, (photo, right) Connecticut

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Director’s Column

Season’s Greetings from Buley Library! We’re nearing the close of another semester and as I look back on the calendar year, it certainly has been an interesting one. The most disappointing part of the year was the shutting down of the construction/renovation of Old Buley last spring, which was mainly done due to budgetary issues. At this time, there is no specific time line as to its completion.

As the Director of Buley Library, I would like to convey the importance of having this construction completed and the hardship that is occurring as a result of not having access to Old Buley. The current library is the Library Addition. It is a beautifully furnished new building but it is not functionally appropriate for our services. The major service points (Circulation, Reserve, Interlibrary Loan and Reference) are very small, temporary locations that are hard to find (they are in the back on the first floor). These service points should be located near the entrance to the library. The Addition also lacks the much needed space for group study, an adequate library instruction classroom, and permanent library administrative office space. Book stacks occupy a majority of the space on Floors 1, 2, and 3. When Old Buley is completed, most of these issues should be resolved.

Throughout the literature this concept is reinforced time and time again: provide comfortable, inviting library facilities and the students will come. The Library Addition offers these things but with limited space. It is so pleasing to see the computers filled to capacity a majority of the time; the study tables and group study rooms being occupied almost all of the time; and students waiting in line for help at the Reference Desk. All of which are supported by a service oriented and knowledgeable faculty and staff. I know that Buley Library’s faculty and staff make a difference in the lives of our students, faculty and local citizens. Just think what we can do when Old Buley becomes the New Buley!

In addition, there has been another very important budget issue taking place with Governor Rell’s budget cuts this year. A number of databases were cut from the iCONN program and we are facing the possibility of more cuts later this year (if not sooner!). Buley lost access to the online versions of the Wall Street Journal and the Hartford Courant, but most notably affecting our students and faculty were the losses of Westlaw Campus Research and Lexus Nexus. After informing President Norton about the importance of these two databases for this campus, she spared the funding from her budget for the library to immediately pick them back up and continue the coverage. THANK YOU SO MUCH, President Norton. This is a very bright note to end the fall semester!

Happy Holidays!

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

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Art Education Association member, the word is getting out to art teachers across Connecticut. After a visit to the collection last year, she decided to organize a group of CAEA members to visit the collection. Michael Russo, a SCSU alumnus and collector of Artists’ Books, was one of several SCSU alumni who visited the event. “As an alumnus, art educator and a collector of artists’ books, I was very excited to see that the University is interested in collecting these important literary artworks...I hope the University will continue to collect additional pieces that illustrate different book structures, emerging artists’ political and aesthetic points of view, and books that are just truly beautiful, unique, or ingenious in design.” Educator Ann Sheffield shared her comments: “Thanks for hosting this bibliofeast for the eyes...We must include both futuristic ‘kindle’ texts and the artistic and ancient formats as vehicles of literacy.”

While the delays in construction plans for the library renovation have left exhibit space at a minimum, the books will continue to be displayed during open house events. These open viewings are announced on the library and university websites, and through e-mail. Students, faculty, and staff are also welcome to view the collection by appointment. To arrange a visit to the collection, contact Tina Re, Librarian, Arts and Special Collections: ret1@southernct.edu

Tina Re
Librarian, Arts and Special Collections

“...provide comfortable, inviting library facilities and the students will come.”

Annette Chittenden (left) and Sheila Creed (right) enjoy the Artists’ Books

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Farewells and Welcomes

Farewells

Edward Hoyer completed his tenure at Buley Library in June of 2009 after a 35 year career at Southern. He earned a computer science degree from UCONN in 1974, received his MLS from Southern in 1978 and returned to SCSU to complete a masters degree in instructional media and technology in 1981. Despite having studied in the fields of computers, technology and information, Ed never imagined how his work would change over the years. He started in the microfilm area and except for a brief stint as the Circulation Librarian, consistently provided reference and technical services support in various capacities in the Periodicals department. “It was incredible to witness the change from paper indices to cd-roms, to online indexes and ultimately to try to manage the world of “born digital” electronic journals,” Ed recently reminisced. He continued, “When I started, the only computer in the building was a huge mainframe in the basement—and the punch card data and reels of tape it processed had nothing to do with the library. I worked in libraries during an incredible time of transition.”

Peter Boppert has been the “go-to” guy on the third floor of Buley Library for many years. As the Director of the Learning Resource Center, Peter managed multi-media resources and the audio-visual equipment necessary to project or play the materials held by the library. Anyone preparing for a conference poster session knew that with Peter’s help their presentation would be in the running for an award. A proud Southern alum, Peter came to work at Southern in 1975 after teaching at the middle school level. In addition to his full time responsibilities in the library, Peter was an adjunct in the computer science and library science departments, and hopes to continue that rewarding work. An avid runner, Peter plans to spend his retirement in constant motion and is already looking for a new challenge. He is easing his way out of Southern by continuing to work part time—which gives those people still preparing media presentations just a little more time to consult with the best.

Ali Zamouri was one of Buley’s best-kept secrets. His early years at Buley were part time and during those years as an adjunct he also worked at Quinnipiac College. As the Curriculum Lab Librarian Ali worked to develop a collection of curriculum-related materials that student teachers and alumni practitioners could use in their classrooms to enhance their teaching and encourage learning. In addition, he built on a fine collection of non-fiction children’s materials and books. Ali was active in the CSU-wide Curriculum Library Group and was a member of the American Library Association, enthusiastically attending annual conferences, workshops and seminars. Ali is well known on campus and has been honored with emeritus status. His cheerful, positive outlook was appreciated by all and his frequent visits back to campus are welcomed.

Renee Rausch ended her career from Buley but had in fact worked as secretary and then administrative assistant in various offices across the campus during her 38 (and ¾) year SCSU career. Former Vice President for Academic Affairs and President Pro-tem Phil Smith recently recalled her propensity to work hard, but to laugh harder. Renee had a “students first” attitude and she brought her sense of service to her work as the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Buley Library. In retirement Renee has been adding to her own personal library by supporting library book sales all around the region. “I love looking for the library when I travel to towns I haven’t been to before. It helps me feel familiar—and if they are having a book sale that is a bonus!” Renee enjoys being able to call time her own in retirement.

Este Pope completed only a short stay at Buley but made an impact in the areas of technology and systems. Her proficiency in using on-line resources was a great help to Buley researchers. Este developed the library intranet giving librarians a new communication platform and enjoyed selecting resources for the library collection in the area of computer science.

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Welcomes:

Carol Skalko is a familiar face to late night library users as she has been an adjunct faculty librarian for three years and now joins Buley full time. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and received her MLS from Southern’s School of Information and Library Science. Carol also holds a diploma in Cabinet Making and Furniture Building – past experience includes the design and construction of theatre sets and museum exhibits. She comes to us from the University of New Haven library and prior to that was a librarian at Albertus Magnus College. As a member of the Information Services team, Carol will be found at the reference desk, teaching classes and preparing or updating research guides and other materials. She will be heavily involved in reference and instruction related to the First Year Experience (FYE) program.

Shirley D. Anderson, Secretary II, has worked at Southern for over six years serving previously in Human Resources and Geography/Urban Studies. She holds a BS from Springfield College; a Human Resources Certificate from e-Cornell University and an AD in Business Administration from Albertus Magnus College. Shirley is very interested in giving back to her community as evidenced by her college involvement in a prison-to-work transition program and her current service on the Diversity and Equity Leadership Council here at Southern. “I am very glad to be a part of the Library family and believe no matter what position I may hold; I will bring my human services experience and be a positive role model to those I come in contact with.”

Shirley has 2 children, three grandchildren and enjoys singing, cooking and gardening. When asked her philosophy she said “I love seeing things grow.”

Lisa Carlucci Thomas joins the Library’s Information Services faculty as a librarian, specifically for digital services and systems. Previously, Lisa was the Digital Collections Librarian at Yale University, working with their extensive ebook collection and supporting digital preservation projects and other digitization initiatives. She is a graduate of Albertus Magnus College and holds an MLIS from Syracuse University. Lisa was a selected participant in the class of 2009 ALA Emerging Leaders Program, and was sponsored by LITA. She is an active member of the American Library Association (ALA), and the affiliated Library & Information Technology Association (LITA) and Reference and User Services Association (RUSA). Lisa will provide leadership in the areas of digital services and systems; and exploring and recommending emerging technologies at Buley. She will also offer her expertise to the Southern community through reference and instruction activities and participate in collection development for Computer Science.

Cindy Schofield-Bodt
Head of Technical Services
New at the Library

We've had a lot of changes here at Buley, due to budget cuts, retirements, and general evolution of the library, so our featured resources this time are highlighting some of those changes.

Featured resource: Media Collection

One of the big changes was moving the audio/visual collection. Formerly, CD's and videos were housed in the Learning Resources Center (LRC) on the 3rd floor. With the retirements of both Peter Boppert (LRC Director) and Ali Zamouri (Curriculum Librarian), the LRC was left without full time staff. The temporary quarters on the 3rd floor also left a lot to be desired in terms of space and security.

So the CD's and the videos have been renamed the Media Collection and moved to the first floor right in front of the Circulation Desk. The Media Collection includes a large collection of music and spoken audio CD's, world films, feature films, and instructional and educational videos. Please come by and browse the collection, or look for the Media Collection under Location when searching CONSULS, the Library Catalog. See the box to the right for just a few of the new Media Titles.

As to the rest of the LRC, Peter Boppert has come back on a part time basis to handle services like lamination and poster production. With additional part time assistance, the office is open Monday 4pm-11pm, and Tuesday-Thursday from 8am-11pm. The Curriculum Lab is now the Curriculum Collection, and is housed on the 3rd floor in the open shelves. June Cheng, our Education Librarian, has taken over management of this collection.

Featured resource: EndNote Web

We have had a bibliographic citation manager, Refworks, for several years. We have now switched to EndNote Web, a very similar service. Bibliographic Citation Managers are programs and/or services that help scholars collect, organize, and format citations. Of most use for students and researchers doing long term projects, EndNote Web allows the importing of citations to articles, books, webpages, reports, etc., from many of our databases and our catalog. Once entered, citations can be organized in user-created categories, called Groups. Groups can be assignment or project based, topic based, or any other organization system the user desires. Citations can be in more than one group, so reusing citations on additional projects is easy. I often recommend setting up a Group for the topic under investigation, and then a second Group for the citations actually used in the paper or project. EndNote Web allows easy formatting in hundreds of citation styles, both the common academic styles like MLA and APA, and the journal specific styles used in professional publication. EndNote Web has a Microsoft Word plugin that allows creation of parenthetical citations and bibliography lists.

Signing up for EndNote Web can only be done from an “authorized” computer, either on campus or logged in through the Web of Science database. For more information and instructions, please see http://libguides.southernct.edu/endnoteweb. EndNote Web is part of the EndNote family of products, trademarked by Thomson Reuters.

Other changes in the Library Resources include reformatting our Subject and Research Guides in the LibGuides service. Also see the article on the Artist's Book Collection on page 1.

Rebecca Hedreen
Reference Librarian

New Media

Documentaries and Educational video:

Ethical Markets: Growing the Green Economy;
All about Forensic Science;
Building Green;
The Sugar Curtain;
Profit and Nothing but;
The Ideas of Chomsky;
Core Physics;
Nanotechnology: an Introduction;
Bach to the Future: an Interactive Music Experience

Comedy, including:

Death at a Funeral;
Hobson’s Choice;
Keeping Mum

World Films, including:

Vodka Lemon (Iraqi);
Kilometre Zero (Iraqi);
Edge of Heaven (German);
Warner Herzog Collection (German);
Bienvenue chez les Ch’tis (French);
L’Auberge Espagnole (French);
Les Visiteurs du soir (French);
Still Life (Chinese)

These are just a few of the titles added to the Media Collection in the last year.
Staff News

Rebecca Hedreen, Reference Librarian for the sciences and distance learning, attended an online conference from the Smithsonian Museum celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Apollo Moon Project. Sessions included historical and political context, primary resources and artifacts, and the educational and cultural importance of the project then and now. NASA and the Smithsonian have put many educational and primary source resources online, so the conference included a wonderful selection of great videos (such as JFK’s speeches), images, and documents. Rebecca plans to do a research guide on the space program, highlighting some of these resources and the Sputnik sighting on this campus.

Paul Holmer, Special Collections Librarian, attended the Thirteenth Annual Conference for New England Academic Librarians on October 9, 2009, at Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH: The focus of the conference was “Staff Development on a Shoestring.” Budget cuts have made it difficult to bring speakers to campus, but most institutions already have talent available in-house or locally. This conference focused on a variety of ways that staff development can continue even in times of financial stress.

This fall Winnie Shyam, Head of Reference, attended the New England Library Association Conference. The program included a wide range of topics: how to use humor in the workplace to cope with anxiety and to alleviate stress; ideas to renew and reinvent libraries; customer service at a time of cutbacks and economic hardship; the changing landscape of reference service; library as campus publisher preserving and providing access to the works of students and faculty; the future of Technical Services; using social web tools (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to reach out and transform our communities.

On November 20, Hing Wu, Kathy Swenson, and Jacqueline Toce, Cataloging Librarians, attended the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) program called “Crisis or Opportunity? Cataloging, Catalogers, RDA, and Change” at the Farmington Library. This program was about the status of the new cataloging rules called Resource Description and Access (RDA) and the challenges that technical services departments will face when implementing the new system in late 2010 or early 2011. The new cataloging standard is being implemented because the cataloging world has recognized that the old rules (AACR2) deal mostly with print materials. The new rules are more flexible and make it easier for catalogers to describe digital materials. The cataloging community has been anticipating the new standard for a number of years and Buley catalogers have attended programs at the ALA Annual Conference, the New England Library Annual Conference, and the Connecticut Library Association Annual Conference. They have also attended Webinars on RDA in preparation for the new rules.

Shirley Cavanagh, Head of Access Services, attended a workshop on Library Safety and Security at the Wallingford Public Library in October.

Tina Re, Arts and Special Collections Librarian, attended professional development workshops on paper conservation, special collections, and history of the book.

Winnie Shyam
Head of Reference Services

Buley Bulletin Staff includes:
Rebecca Hedreen, editor & Reference Librarian;
Christina Baum, Library Director,
Tina Re, Librarian, Arts and Special Collections
Winnie Shyam, Head of Reference,
Cindy Schofield-Bodt, Head of Technical Services,
Paul Holmer, Special Collections,
Lisa Carlucci Thomas, Librarian, and
Kathy Swenson, Cataloging Librarian.