Message from the Director

The new academic year has gotten off to a very encouraging start. For the first time, the Learning Resource Center and the Curriculum Lab are open all hours of library operation. In response to increased student demand, eight new research workstations were added to the reference area. Thanks in large part to the University Library Committee and other strong faculty support, the library materials budget was funded to accommodate inflation and to continue steady growth toward meeting the American Library Association’s most recent quantitative standards.

On the personnel front we’ve been authorized to fill two of the librarian vacancies, and the searches have begun. The Collection Development Librarian will be responsible for coordinating the selection, acquisition and deacquisition of library materials. He or she will work with the library and classroom faculty to develop the book, journal and media collections, acquiring appropriate traditional and electronic format materials to support the university curriculum. The Distance Learning Coordinator will provide leadership, direction, planning, and assessment for creative and effective library support of the University’s distance education program. We hope to have both positions filled before the spring semester.

The library staff have been working with architects for more than two years on detailed plans for the library addition and renovation. A twelve-member task force was established a year ago to recommend strategies to handle collections during Phase I of the library construction project, with the primary goal of minimizing the impact of this phase on our student and faculty population. Chaired by Shirley Cavanagh, the task force included Merle Bunco, Paul Holmer, Tim Klassen, Tom McCormack, Mary Migliaro, Clara Ogbaa, Beth Paris, Alba Reynaga, Winnie Shyam, Katherine Swenson, and Ali Zamouri.

Initial estimates indicated that we would lose space for approximately 100,000 volumes and 135 study seats when a construction wall cuts off the two large wings of the lower level and first floor of the existing building. Thanks to the ideas generated by the task force, and the extraordinary efforts of many library staff, we have accelerated a shift to electronic journals and found ways of reconfiguring spaces within the building to accommodate all collections and seating.

With continued support from the administration, we expect to be fully prepared to provide library services and resources during Phase I of the construction project.

Susan E. Cirillo

Finding Journals just got Easier!

Most folks may not realize that we have access to more than 18,000 titles if we take into account Buley’s print and online journal collection, as well as the many titles we receive through our various full-text databases. However, accessing those titles, especially knowing which databases to search, has long been a very cumbersome task.

Now thanks to the library’s new Journal Locator that task has just become much easier. The journal locator can be accessed from Buley’s homepage, at the bottom of the main services list and can be used both on and off campus.

The locator allows you to search by journal title, as well as to browse an alphabetical list of titles. You can even generate lists of titles by subject.

Each journal entry includes a link to either the journal’s homepage or to the database(s) in which the online content resides. How you access the actual articles varies from database to database. In Ebsco databases, for instance, you are taken to a journal homepage from which you can link down to the actual articles. For Lexis/Nexis full text, the journal locator takes you to a search screen with the title of the source pre-entered. You simply have to specify key words from the title of the article you are looking for.

The locator also includes the range of years for which full text content is available, links to publisher-supplied tables of contents, and links to Consuls for our print journals.

To generate a subject list of journals select Search TDNet, choose your subject, and go to level 2 or 3 if necessary.

Over the next few months we will be fine tuning the locator. Please email klassen1 if you are having any trouble with locating or accessing content.

Tim Klassen
The ground floor support staff is generally invisible but their efforts would be sorely missed if they were not in place each day.

Library technical assistant Peggy Weiler and library clerk Karen Shea keep track of the comings and goings of over 3,000 serials titles. The Buley Library serials come in paper, microfilm and on-line formats and each issue of each journal needs to be accounted for and made accessible to university library users. The full time staff and student workers do this through the library-specific database management program that is a component of the CONSULS system. Although we live in an electronic age there is still a lot of “hands-on” work to do in the area of serials management. Paper copies are physically processed to be sent to the shelves; electronic issues are checked for seamless accessibility through the catalog. Shelf space is at a premium and strategic shifts are almost always in process.

Access to titles the library subscribes to changes literally every week as journals are transformed from paper into electronic publications. The staff is constantly challenged to keep up with evolving serials formats. In addition to the support staff, the lone periodicals librarian remaining after the spring 2003 state retirement incentive is Ed Hoyer. He spends many hours reconciling the access provided to journals through the catalog with the titles the library is privileged to use through reciprocal agreements and “package deals” for on-line journals.

 Except for their hours providing service at the information desk, the work of the ground floor serials department staff is virtually invisible. Yet the daily routine of check-in records, shelving, binding and shifting vitally enhances Buley Library service.

Cindy Schofield-Bodt

Spotlight: Serials aren’t just for Breakfast

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Cindy Schofield-Bodt

Buley Library - It’s a Moving Experience

Most Southern faculty have heard the news about the library’s new addition but probably cannot envision a new, state-of-the-art library. After all, the groundbreaking ceremony has not even happened and the construction crew isn’t here yet. For the Access Services staff, however, the library building program has already started. The new library requires planning and more planning. This summer we spent time evaluating circulation statistics, counting the number of stacks and seats in the library, and shifting parts of our circulating collection.

Why are we shifting sections of our circulating collection so soon? Once the construction begins for Phase One of the building project, the workers will immediately put up solid walls on the library’s ground and first floors. These walls will separate our present library from the new addition. When these changes occur, Buley Library will lose both library seating and stack space in the circulating collection. Our daunting, but not impossible, task will require a lot of advanced planning.

Over the summer several areas of the collection were shifted. We moved the oversize collection to the ground floor, adjacent to the periodicals room. On the first floor we shifted the “HC – N” sections to create space for the construction wall. We also have shifted the Juvenile Collection on the ground floor to accommodate, once again, the construction wall. All library signage has been updated, and we’re confident that you’ll find the books easily. But if you don’t, please ask for assistance at the Circulation Desk.

We will continue to move various sections of the circulating collection during the academic year. All faculty can be assured that library services and collection accessibility will be subject to the least possible disruption!

Shirley Cavanagh

Circulation Student Assistants, Sharon and Chris shift the Oversize Collection
Growing the Collection: from Request to Shelf

A large part of what goes on in Buley Library isn’t visible to the library user. Last year over 11,000 new titles were added to the collection—each title receiving love and attention at several points along its way in the journey to the “new book” shelves.

Book and other material orders are generated in a number of ways. Ultimately, the librarians have responsibility for developing the library collections at each of the CSU libraries but classroom faculty members, students and other library users can all have an influence over how the collection grows. Southern’s library faculty have a number of ways that they solicit input from the university community for titles that will support the needs of the university program.

Each academic department has been assigned a librarian liaison subject specialist. This librarian works with the department faculty to choose resources that will enhance the faculty’s teaching and enable focused research in related subject areas. While collection development is an important focus of the liaison relationship, librarians assigned to a department also make every effort to be available for bibliographic instruction and individualized research guidance for faculty and students working in their subject areas.

The Collection Development Committee, made up of the subject specialists and other librarians, meets regularly to discuss general collection development issues and specific funding requests. This committee also makes recommendations to the director regarding information formats including electronic resources and the delicate balance between academic journals, multi-media materials and the monograph collection. The librarians strive to develop a collection that is balanced in terms of both subject matter and material format with an ever-changing budget situation, an evolving technological world and a developing academic focus.

The importance of a dedicated “behind the scenes” staff of paraprofessionals and student support cannot be overstated. The new budget each summer means a flurry of activity as the fall gets underway to order titles that were requested after the previous year’s budget was exhausted and at simultaneously get the orders processed for the current semester needs. A few weeks after the ordering begins the cataloging staff become inundated with new books to be processed and shelved “yesterday.”

The whole process of choosing the materials that make the collection, getting the resources in the building and making them accessible through the catalog is an endeavor of huge proportion made up of intricate details performed by a great team of library staff and university faculty.

Librarian liaisons and their subject areas are listed below. Contact the liaisons to request titles to be purchased for the library. For general questions about collection development issues contact Cindy.

Cindy Schofield-Bodt

Library Subscribes to Ebsco Business Source Premiere and acquires five sets of Elsevier Journal Backfiles

- Business Source Premier, designed specifically for business schools and libraries, provides nearly 3,600 full text scholarly publications, including nearly 1,050 peer-reviewed journals. In addition to the full text, this database provides indexing and abstracts nearly 4,400 journals. This database offers information in nearly every area of business including management, economics, finance, accounting, international business, and more.
- Elsevier journal backfiles are subject oriented collections of Elsevier owned journals that provide permanent access to complete runs of journals up to 1994. Journals acquired were:

  Social Sciences (96 titles)
  Business, Management & Accounting (59)
  Organic Chemistry (8)
  Psychology (42)
  Economics, Econometrics & Finance (59)

For more information on these resources please contact your Librarian Liaison.

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VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1
Three Librarians Retire

Three Buley librarians decided to take advantage of the state incentive and retire this last June. Joan B. Ricardo, Micromedia Librarian, and Merle A. Bunco, Serials Librarian, have both worked at the library since 1969, while Information Librarian Nancy S. Via’s tenure began in 1966. Their connection to the school involves more than years, however. All are alumni of Southern and involved themselves extensively in university activities over three decades. Their time at SCSU has seen remarkable changes to both the college and the profession and we wish to thank them for good spirit on what has not always been a smooth journey. For a century of effort, well done!

Paul Holmer

Longer Hours for Learning Resource Center and Curriculum Lab

We have good news for Education majors and movie buffs alike! The Learning Resources Center and Curriculum Lab has new expanded hours and is now open the same days and hours as the rest of Buley Library.

The Center is located on the third floor of Buley Library and contains resources for education majors, faculty, and student teachers. The collection focuses on all kinds of K-12 curriculum resources, including textbooks, educational games, and software. Students can also create teaching materials for the classroom using the Center’s equipment for the production of slides and transparencies, as well as the ever popular laminating machine. The Center is also home to LRC’s growing collection of educational videos and feature films on video and DVD. The hours are the same as the rest of Buley Library: Monday-Thursday 8-11, Friday 8-4:30, Saturday 9-5, and Sunday 1-9.

The desire to break free of the two-dimensional static page is very old. At least since the thirteenth century book producers were experimenting with moveable page elements. For centuries, however, these were academic efforts and sought to illustrate ideas. Yet the two-dimensionality was not challenged: the dynamic was in stasis.

In the nineteenth century publishers began to appeal to juvenile audience with peephole and stand-up elements. These augmented perspective to give a sense of depth. Although ingenious, however, they still adhered to the two-dimensional constraint of the book.

The modern three-dimensional pop-up dates from the inter-war era with Britain’s S. Lewis Giraud and Blue Ribbon Publishing in the United States, and further refined in the 1950’s with a remarkable series of books by Arta of Czechoslovakia.

The real flowering of the pop-up, however, came in the 1960’s in the United States. Here it was part of an overarching assault on the limits of textual formats. It was hoped that the book would address the sensual as well as the intellectual. With this, traditional folios became kits including recordings and art objects.

By and large, such efforts were doomed by the weight of their complexity, but the pop-up format seemed to offer a more realistic compromise. Such books were genuinely three-dimensional, and many were dynamic. Best of all they provided a medium for the blending of dreams and reality, the perfect vehicle for the expression of surrealism.

Today the best pop-up books in the world are produced in the United States on subjects ranging from children’s stories to adult phobias. Everything from toy trains to sexuality. If you have time stop at the exhibition cases in Buley Library to view a few of the pop-up books from Special Collections.

Paul Holmer

EXCEPTIONS
Thanksgiving Holiday
November 26 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
November 27-29 Closed
November 30 Regular Schedule Resumes

http://www.library.southernct.edu/