

THE FINE PRINT

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Murphy Library

September, 1983

All You Ever Wanted To Know About The Library

Statistics have been viewed with suspicion ever since the first skeptic revealed that "truth" that "statistics do not lie, but users of statistics do". Such a caveat, however, has not stopped administrators from using statistics and data to prove a point. Library administrators are not different when times call for the publication of information.

The sharing of data represents an effort to be accountable for work performed. The information also depicts the outcome of many activities conducted by others. Examples of typical library statistics are listed below:

Acquisitions for 1978 - 1983

| Year | Book titles Added | Book Expenditures | Periodical Subscriptions | Periodical Expenditures |
|---------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1978-79 | 7,780 | \$154,453 | 2,560 | \$114,775 |
| 1979-80 | 8,691 | 172,838 | 2,471 | \$134,832 |
| 1980-81 | 7,107 | 172,157 | 2,022 | 119,292 |
| 1981-82 | 8,013 | 178,901 | 1,932 | 132,694 |
| 1982-83 | 5,586 | 156,399 | 1,903 | 144,158 |

| Year | Turnstile Count | Circulation Totals |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1978-79 | 545,741 | 135,079 |
| 1979-80 | 628,635 | 138,939 |
| 1980-81 | 668,323 | 138,254 |
| 1981-82 | 671,651 | 147,145 |
| 1982-83 | 671,914 | 139,901 |

Like shadows on the wall the facts and figures exhibit only the main features. The details can only be seen in the light of in-depth study. The obvious decline in titles added and periodical subscriptions are directly related to the expenditures of available money. With enrollments leveling off, building use and circulation have stabilized.

What the figures cannot reveal are the efforts put forth by the faculty, academic staff, classified employees and student workers. Daily activities and routines are performed by library personnel to provide the services requested by the faculty and students. For a more detailed report of library activities call 8505 and ask for a copy of the 1982-83 Annual Report.

New Faculty/Academic Staff Borrowing Privileges Announced

After careful review and discussions with the faculty library committee, the library administration has directed the circulation department to initiate new loan policies for faculty and academic staff.

With over 3,000 titles checked out by faculty and academic staff, each semester renewal requests were sent out with little or no response. In addition to causing repeated clerical work, the large number of unreturned books (some out since 1967) have not appeared on library shelves for use by the browsing patron. The new policy extends a one semester loan period to faculty and academic staff, with one renewal allowed. Library materials must be returned after two semesters for check-in and reshelving. Books in circulation prior to the fall semester will be regarded as renewed items, and will be due at the end of the fall semester. Persons not returning materials will be denied borrowing privileges until their record is clear.

Copies of the new policy were distributed during the first week of the semester. Contact the director of instructional services for additional information (8506).

Library Committee Membership

The Faculty Senate Library Committee members for 1983-84 are Frank Barmore, Gary Coorough, Sam Ghanty, Clyde Greve, Robert Harrison, George Huppert, Stanley Rolnich, Chien-Shen Shih, Ed Hill, Richard Pein (alternate), James Sobota (alternate), and Kenneth Maly (alternate).

The Steamboat Project Receives Funds

The Steamboat Project in the special collections department recently received two additional grants totaling \$6,000. The La Crosse Foundation, which has supported the project for several years, provided \$1,000, and the J. Mack Gamble Fund of the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen sent a check for \$5,000. These grants bring the total outside funding for the project to \$20,500 since 1981.

The project collects and records photographs and data for inland river steamboating and river life. Copy prints are made by UW-L's photo services unit, and the processing of information is provided by the staff and student assistants in the special collections rooms.

Local citizen Ralph DuPae donates his time and skills in locating the original photographs and providing for their safe transfer to La Crosse. Cooperation by private and public agencies, and by many individuals, has led to the discovery of vastly more photographs than anyone anticipated. Both acquisition and use have grown steadily, as have sales of prints and commercial rights. A considerable number of heretofore unknown photographs has turned up as a result of this effort, and some aspects of steamboating history are being rewritten, based on new information received here.

The project will continue as resources permit. After ten years of collection and organization efforts, the number of potential donors and sources remains high.

New Funding for Library Materials and Services

As a part of the 1983-85 biennial budget each campus received special allocations for instructional lab equipment, related supplies, library books, periodicals and interlibrary loan services. Murphy Library received a \$71,000 allocation for the first year and \$25,000 for the second year.

The money was budgeted to assist the library in rebuilding the collection and services which had been underfunded over the last three years. During that time period Murphy Library cancelled several hundred serial titles, stopped bindery shipments, and reduced book acquisitions.

The library will be asking departments to evaluate their journal subscriptions and needs during the fall semester. Bindery shipments have resumed and approximately \$10,000 will be used to reduce the backlog. The interlibrary loan department has initiated subscriptions for journals that have been heavily used. Departments will also be asked to consider book order requests that have not been processed in the past. An on-line data base searching service is also being considered.

Since the money was allocated to eliminate problems caused by budget shortfalls, the library is cautiously reviewing these "new" expenditures. The funds are not continuing appropriations nor are they considered to be substitutes for the regular library budget. Departments will be asked to participate in the selection of new materials.

Popular Fiction Paperback Titles Added to Collection

For the first time, popular paperback books have been added to the Murphy Library collection. Over a hundred fiction titles were purchased from the fines account to encourage general leisure reading by Murphy patrons. Library staff members contributed 92 titles as gifts to augment the collection.

The books are shelved in metal racks near the library entrance. While the titles have call numbers, they have not been fully cataloged and entered into the data base of library holdings. Use has been heavy during the summer and new titles will be added during the coming year.

WISCAT Comes to Murphy Library

Resource sharing is a common theme of library meetings and discussions held within the library setting. One of the most recent efforts in this area has been the publication and distribution of WISCAT, a 1.4 million title microfiche catalog.

Processed by Brodart, Inc., the same company that produces the Murphy Library COM catalog, WISCAT features holdings from 137 Wisconsin libraries. The catalog was produced from the cataloging records stored in the Online Cataloging Library Center in Ohio. Duplicate entries have been eliminated and the catalog contains both books and audio-visual materials.

The first edition of WISCAT is located in the bibliographic section of Murphy Library adjacent to the main library office. As a State Union catalog, WISCAT represents 4.4 million library holdings. It is divided into two sections: author/title and subject. This catalog provides many libraries with the opportunity to know what other libraries own, which in turn will increase inter-library sharing.

Cooperative Purchase Guidelines Approved by WCWC Libraries

As the costs of individual book titles increase yearly, libraries have become more conscious of the need to share resources. While inter-library loan functions to share single items, expensive sets are not generally shared through inter-library loan process. The concept of cooperatively purchasing expensive sets is banded not only on cost sharing but on loaning materials to those who cooperate in the purchase.

During the 1982-83 year the acquisition librarians from La Crosse, Stout, Eau Claire and River Falls met several times to draw up guidelines and procedures for cooperative buying of expensive monographic collections. The guidelines describe the procedures for initiating a cooperative purchase, where the materials will be permanently located and how two or more institutions would proceed to use the materials. For persons wishing to acquire expensive monographic sets that may be useful to other libraries, they should contact Karin Sandvik in the library (8397).

LIBRARY HOURS Include Midnight Closings for Fall 83-84

Once again the library will retain its extended hours to midnight on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays through the Fall Semester.

Regular hours are listed below.

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sundays | 1:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. |
| Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday | 7:45 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. |
| Thursday & Friday | 7:45 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. |

COM Catalog Available for Departments

The library receives quarterly, an updated copy of the computer on microfiche (COM) catalog. These new copies are added to the microfiche readers on the catalog tables. The COM catalog contains 24 author/title fiche for 1981-82 and 8 author/title fiche for January through June 1983.

Complete sets are available for departments who wish to have the COM holdings in their department offices. Contact Charles Marx (8402) to receive a set.



Murphy Library
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
