
The Fine Print

No. 15

Murphy Library Resource Center, UW-La Crosse

Spring 1995

Library Dedication Set

The building addition and remodeling project which began in October, 1993 is scheduled to be completed on May 18, 1995. All of the construction trades appear to be on schedule to complete their work. Final adjustment to the heating and ventilation system, touch-up painting and furniture installations will take place in June and July.

For your Fall calendar, mark Sunday, September 17th as the date for the formal dedication of the project. The dedication ceremonies will take place in the afternoon with a variety of events surrounding the ceremony.

Dale Montgomery, Director of Library and Media Services

WWW Workshops Offered

Several workshops will be offered on scholarly Internet resources using Netscape, a World Wide Web browser. The schedule is:

Sciences 4:00 PM Tues., May 2
Humanities 4:00 PM Wednes., May 3
Social Sciences 4:00 PM Thurs., May 4

Sessions will be held in Room 200, 2nd floor north. No pre-registration is required.

Assessing Bibliographic Instruction

Assessment has always been an informal part of library instruction. It was not until 1994, however, that our evaluation efforts were formalized for the first time with the establishment of an Assessment Committee consisting of the Director of Library and Media Services, the Bibliographic Instruction Librarian, and two other library department members. The Chair of the Library Department also serves on this committee as an ad hoc member. The Assessment Committee began by seeking the advice of Bill Cerbin, UW-L's Assessment Coordinator, as well as Bob Bilby of Sociology, and Dick Sullivan of English. With this assistance, the Assessment Committee formulated an assessment plan and student learning outcomes. A library skills inventory was developed along with a plan for administering it.

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The Assessment Committee chose to heed Dr. Cerbin's admonition to avoid making the mistake of attempting a project that would be too comprehensive to be managed with existing resources. In spite of our desire to test all English 110 students, the library opted to test only seven English 110 sections.

Assessment began with contacts with seven members of the English Department who agreed to allow pre- and post-testing of their English 110 students. The 25 question library skills inventory was administered early in the spring 1995 semester. Of the 154 students taking the test, 137 or 89% were freshmen.

Results of the pre-testing indicate that most ENG 110 students did well on basic questions about book and periodical arrangement, and putting Library of Congress call numbers in order. Questions which posed problems for these students were related to specific searching commands for the online catalog. Prior to bibliographic instruction, 60% of the students could identify the proper search command to find books by an author and surprisingly only 42% realized that when searching for a title, the initial article "the" should be eliminated.

Questions relating to interpreting the print version of Murphy Library's periodical holdings revealed an average 60% success rate while questions relating to interpreting Murphy Library's periodical holdings as they are listed in the online system rated a 31% success rate. Identification of citations was shown to be a problem. 64% were able to recognize a citation for a periodical article, while only 29% were able to distinguish a citation for a book from a citation for an article within a book. The terms "abstract" and "style manual" posed problems for ENG 110 students who had not received bibliographic instruction. Only 39% understood what a style manual is, and only 44% understood the meaning of the term "abstract."

Post-tests have not yet been completed by all of the

participating instructors. We cannot yet draw conclusions on specific successes or failures of our bibliographic instruction program.

Assessment, however, has already had an impact on bibliographic instruction. As a result of ideas expressed in our Assessment Committee meetings we have attempted new teaching strategies. In many sessions we have distributed a lecture outline to help focus student attention. Transparencies have been created to address the problem students have in distinguishing between book and periodical citations. We now make sure that we emphasize the definition of the term "abstract." We recognize that periodical holdings statements on EAGLE are confusing. We have incorporated this into our in-class worksheets and spend more time explaining them in the lecture.

Those instructors who graciously agreed to participate are Sharon Jessee, Genevieve O'Grady, Sharon Scholze, Donna Servais, Margie Sheppard, Haixia Wang, and Joan Yeatman. Pre-test results were shared with individual instructors as will post-test results.

We have learned a great deal from planning the assessment process and working more closely with faculty members in other departments. We hope that the testing will help the library do a better job of meeting student needs.

Cristine Prucha
Bibliographic Instruction Librarian

Trial Run for Courier Service

In January, the South Central Library Service (SCLS) began a one-year trial to provide courier service to libraries throughout much of Wisconsin. This service is being used extensively for public and academic interlibrary loans, with a very quick turnaround time in most cases.

The Area Research Center network is also finding

that the SCLS vans provide efficient delivery of requested transfers of archival and manuscript records for faculty and student use. Faculty members and others who need to borrow manuscript or public record collections from other campus ARCs or the State Historical Society of Wisconsin are encouraged to contact Ed Hill in Special Collections, at 785-8511.

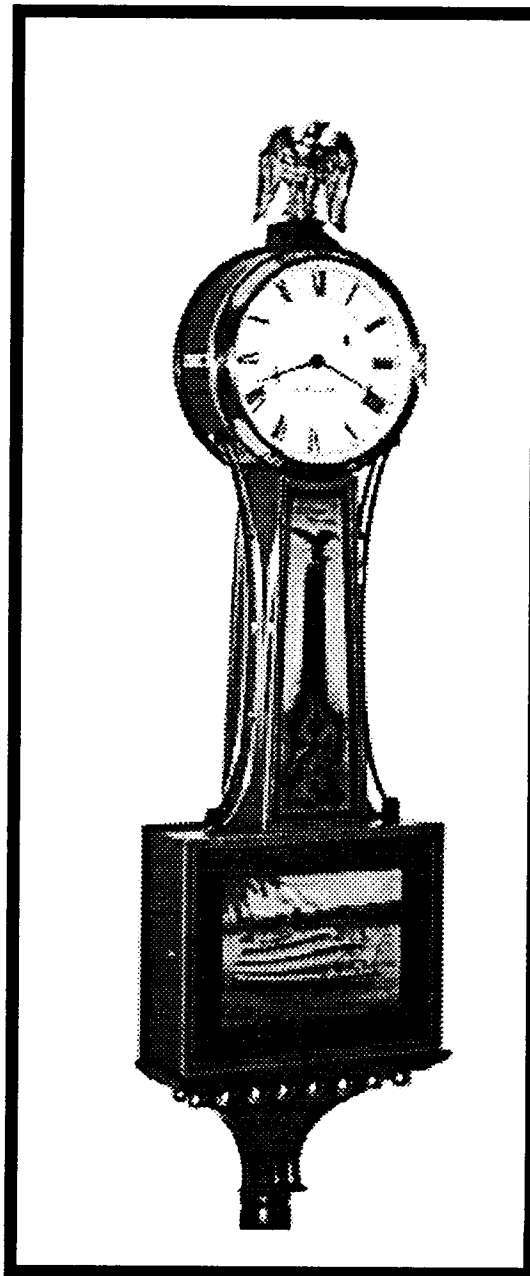
Clock Given to Special Collections

In March, a limited edition wall clock was given to the Special Collections department. Donated by Professor Emeritus George Gilkey and Special Collections Librarian Ed Hill, this handcrafted, banjo-style clock features a La Crosse waterfront scene on its case door. The clock, number 10 in a total production of 150, was ordered two years ago for the library. It was made and sold by the La Crosse Clock Company, and may be seen in the entry area of the Special Collections department.

FirstSearch Full-Text

Gary Stix's article, "The Speed of Write," appearing in the December 1994 issue of *Scientific American*, reviews the trend toward more scholarly electronic communication, and the emergence of electronic journals, simple textual to multimedia, over the last several years. What we are seeing now is a movement not only in the

direction of original electronic publications, but toward making more and more existing paper texts available in ASCII or full image. Numerous publishers are coming on board, and vendors of electronic indexes are positioning themselves to add full-text to their offerings. The advantages are clear: the convenience of immediate delivery and the flexibility of electronic text.



OCLC's FirstSearch, an electronic service featuring over 50 databases has begun to offer full-text electronic articles associated with some titles indexed in 7 files: *ArticleFirst*, *ABI/Inform*, *FastDoc*, *Business Dateline*, *Wilson Business Abstracts*, *Business Periodicals Index*, and *Periodicals Abstracts*. About one million serial articles are included. After conducting a search in any of these files, going through a few simple steps allows the user to determine if the full e-text is available and to display that text. The text may also be easily directed to an e-mail address. For the month of April, Murphy Library is conducting a pilot study of this service. For more information, inquire at the Reference Desk or call Anita Evans (8805).

*Anita Evans, Electronic Services Librarian/
Coordinator of Public Services*

Living in a Hard Hat Zone

While I was quietly working away last August, a small winged creature flew in one door of my office and out the other. It was a Saturday and the library was closed, so the building was very quiet and quite dark. It moved quickly and at first I thought I was dealing with a bird. We had observed small birds flitting about the new addition, but never inside the old building. Upon further investigation I discovered I was dealing with a bat as it swooped between book stacks. It had come in through one of many openings created by the demolition of the north wall of the building. It proved to be the first of the six or so removed in the months to follow--just one of the many surprises we have been coping with since construction began in October 1993.

Everyone expected noise, dust, and general confusion, but several times the levels of all three exceeded even our highest expectations. Personally, I believe the dust is really some sort of all-powerful magnetic compound. No matter how often an area is cleaned, the dust just simply returns. Maybe there is a homing device imbedded within each dust particle. We try to scrub it off tables and chairs, but it just will not go away. Some days, when the demolition work is in full swing, the dust will hang suspended in the air for hours. There might have been some respite if the air system had been on. That was shut off because the diesel fumes from heavy equipment began to choke people in their offices. What a dilemma--diesel or dust.

The noise is another matter, making simple conversation difficult at best. Often I have found myself answering a question, only to discover I was shouting at someone when the drilling ceased. We have contended with the low rumbles that shake the entire building, the whine of concrete saws, and the mind-numbing clank of the carpet scrapers. If you have never seen nor heard this done, it is something to behold. The machines are about the size of a rototiller and have a thick blade attached to the

front. Their purpose is to scrape off old carpet backing that refuses to let go of the concrete. The vibration of the blades against the concrete combined with un-muffled motors, made this the most annoying noise we have heard to date. I take that back. The absolute worse noise came from the giant jackhammers that took out the old main stair case. We even got complaints from the residence hall next door.

With all this noise you would think that students might complain. Yes, there have been some whiners, but for the most part everyone has taken the disruption in stride. Some days I am amazed to discover where people choose to study. They avoid the dust, but noisy areas are just as popular as those located far away from the irritating rat-a-tat-tat of the drill. I think they would have moved the day the old center staircase was torn out. The vibration was so bad that books literally jumped off the shelves into waiting arms. I guess that is one way to get items into circulation.

Little surprises await us daily. Access to the basement was cut off without our knowledge. The motion sensor lights in the new rest rooms refused to work. The NUC (National Union Catalog) book stacks fell over (if that isn't a metaphor for something). We found a family of mice living under the current periodicals. The stack mover worked (one bright spot)! The electrician pulled all the phone and electrical lines to the reference area. This last incident occurred just as we were preparing to reopen last January. We were adjusting the ever-shrinking reference area when someone noticed that the electrical outlets were now gaping holes. Through quick cooperation between library staff and campus maintenance we were able to find enough extension cords to bring reference back on-line.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel, though. In two months the noise, dust, toppling stacks, bats, and confusion will be but a dim memory. We will look back upon this time with fondness, remembering the camaraderie with which we

tackled this enormous project. OK, most of us will breathe a sigh of relief, and vow never to do this again. At least we can live with the knowledge that the end result will serve us well as we move into the 21st century.

Liisa Sjoblom, Circulation Librarian

Murphy Recognition Award

We are pleased to announce that the 1995 Murphy Recognition Award will be given to Kay Cimpl Wagner, Director of Library Services at Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse, and to the Lutheran Health System. Murphy Library has had a very close and productive working relationship with Lutheran Hospital's library, where the staff, services, and collections have been an invaluable asset to UW-La Crosse. Our faculty and students have enjoyed the use of the hospital's extensive journal collection. They have also received expert assistance in finding specialized information and materials not available on our campus.

This award will be given at a recognition program and reception on April 28, 1995, at 7PM in room 200 of Murphy Library. This event is open to the public and interested persons are invited to attend.

New CD-ROM Titles

Several databases have been added this Spring to the family of CD-ROM products offered by the library. The CD version replaces the paper for *America: History & Life* and *ABC POL SCI*. Ask at the Reference Desk about these titles. Also, *Human Relations Area Files* is now available on disc in Documents.

The Joy of Full-Text CD-ROMS

While the library has many useful CD-Roms, two products, *Ethnic NewsWatch* and *Business Dateline*, are especially useful because they offer the full text of all articles indexed. Library patrons like full text CDs because it's "one stop shopping." They can search for a topic, find articles on it, read them in full, and print or download them, all without leaving the workstation. Librarians also like full text CD-ROMs. We don't need to direct users where to find the newspapers and magazines containing these articles and on a more practical note these periodicals don't have to be ordered separately, checked in individually, claimed if not received, filed, refiled, etc.

Ethnic NewsWatch (ENW) is a unique compendium of ethnic and minority newspapers and magazines from the United States and Canada. It contains the full text of African-American, Arab/Middle Eastern, European/Eastern European, Hispanic, Jewish, and Native American newspapers. All articles are in English except for those in the Hispanic publications.

Patrons can do a quick keyword search and find articles on sports mascots with Indian names, Arab-American stereotypes, Jewish criticism of the film, *Schindler's List*, present-day Irish immigrants in Boston, diabetes among Native Americans, Nobel Peace Prize winner Guatemalan activist Rigoberta Menchu, interracial dating, and wartime internment of Japanese-Americans.

Searches can also be done by geographic location, subject, name, ethnic group, and specific publication. There is also a separate directory of publications which shows date established, ethnic group, frequency, circulation, and subscription data for each of the ninety-nine newspapers and magazines indexed. It is possible to search by type of article so searches can be limited to business

news, columns, editorials, obituaries, sports news, or reviews of books, plays, movies, music, etc. Users can find reviews of Wilma Mankiller's (chief of the Cherokee Nation) autobiography, or a Hmong play recently presented in Minneapolis. Searches can be made to compare editorial comment on an issue such as the Simpson trial across various groups. The initial subscription to *ENW* was purchased with a grant from the UW-L Foundation. Recently cataloging for the periodicals in *ENW* was added to Eagle, the online catalog. For example, users looking for *Asianweek* or the subject, "Afro-American newspapers," will be directed to *Ethnic NewsWatch*.

Business Dateline, our other full-text CD-ROM, is a popular collection of business stories from newspapers nationwide, including the *La Crosse Tribune* and other Wisconsin newspapers, and regional business magazines. It's a sister product to *ABI/Inform*, the well-known index to business journals. It is an excellent source of information for articles about smaller companies, which are often hard to research in standard business reference sources. It is especially useful to students going for job interviews. Recent successful searches covered the Colorado ski industry and Garfield's Restaurant.

In addition to *Ethnic NewsWatch* and *Business Dateline*, the library has a large number of full-text CD-ROMs containing government information in the Documents area. These include the 1990 *Census of Population* including special tabulations on the aging, ethnic and minority groups, and earnings; the *National Trade Data Bank*, offering a wealth of international marketing information from studies of the Ukrainian computer market to the addresses of Spanish wine dealers; and the *National Economic, Social, and Environmental Data Bank*, encompassing data on crime, education, pollution, health, the U.S. economy, and even information as detailed as ontime rates of domestic air flights.

Sandy Sechrest, Documents Librarian

The *Fine Print* is published fall and spring terms for faculty, staff, students, and friends of Murphy Library Resource Center.

Sandra Sechrest and Edwin Hill, Editors
Anita Evans, Technical Assistance

Dale Montgomery, Director of Library and Media Services

Anita Evans, Department Chair

Murphy Library Resource Center HOURS

SPRING 1995

Sunday	1:00 PM to midnight
Mon. - Wed.	7:45 AM to midnight
Thursday	7:45 AM to 11:00 PM
Friday	7:45 AM to 8:00 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM to 8:00 PM

End of Semester, May 11-16

May 11, Thurs.	7:45 AM to midnight
May 12, Fri.	7:45 AM to 8:00 PM
May 13, Sat.	10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
May 14, Sun.	1:00 PM to midnight
May 15, Mon.	7:45 to midnight
May 16, Tues.	7:45 to 7:00 PM

Intersession, May 17 - June 17

Mon. - Fri.	1:00 - 4:30 PM
Sat. - Sun.	Library Closed
May 29, Mon.	Library Closed