

# The Fine Print

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Murphy Library Resource Center, UW-La Crosse

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## Reaching Out to Our Community of Users

Rapid growth in the number of electronic resources, new full-text databases, and ever changing search software, increase the need for more individual consultation and group instruction when using library resources. The information requirements of remote users, those taking distance education classes or accessing library information from home and offices, are also presenting new challenges.

With these trends in mind, Murphy Library designed the position of Outreach Librarian, a new position which restores a librarian position which was lost in 1994/95. The Outreach Librarian will work closely with campus efforts to incorporate technology into the classroom. With the Instruction Librarian, the Outreach Librarian will promote to students information literacy, an understanding of the technology and various information avenues united with the critical evaluation of information content.

The Outreach Librarian also will be working to provide support for collaborative ventures pursued by the University, such as initiatives with community P-12 programs. The advent of a new Integrated Library System next summer as Murphy Library migrates from its current KeyNOTIS system will present new training demands, and this position

will provide the requisite assistance for remote users.

Part of the Outreach Librarian's position responsibility will be to build upon the accomplishments of Kathy Schmidt and other librarians who have developed the content and design of the library's web pages. These web pages are becoming increasingly more important as a central gateway to library information, leading not only to a host of electronic resources and an overview of library services, but also revealing the wealth of paper and microform text resources locally held in Murphy Library and community libraries.

Stefan Smith, a librarian for several years at the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh Forrest R. Polk Library, has been hired recently as Outreach Librarian. Stefan will begin his appointment at Murphy Library in late November. Our users will provide an important voice in helping to frame the types of outreach services and instruction offered by the Outreach Librarian in concert with other librarians. Faculty and students can contact Stefan at 5-8396 or visit him in his office, 112 Murphy Library.

*Anita Evans, Interim Library Director*

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## ***Adaptive Workstation Lets Students Hear Books***

Murphy Library now can serve its patrons with vision and learning disabilities far better. This summer the library purchased the equipment for an adaptive workstation. This workstation consists of a scanner, a personal computer, a voice synthesizer, and the brains of the workstation, Omni 1000 and Omni 3000 software. The Omni 1000 (for individuals with vision disabilities) and the Omni 3000 (for persons with learning disabilities) read scanned materials aloud. They come from Kurzweil Educational Systems, Inc. (KESI), the company founded by Raymond Kurzweil, inventor of the Kurzweil reading machine, the first product to effectively read scanned print aloud.

Omni software offers great flexibility to its users. Users of both kinds of software can choose from a dozen reading voices from the very low bass "John" to high-pitched, child-like "Patricia." They can vary word speed and volume, consult spoken word dictionaries, lists of synonyms, and hear words spelled aloud. Scanned material (textbooks, library books, journal articles, reserve assignments, syllabuses, and any other print material) can be saved on disk to read at a later session. Patrons with vision disabilities use a keypad to give commands to the Omni 1000. Users with learning disabilities (Disability Resource Services provides assistance to over a hundred of these individuals every semester) use a mouse to operate the Windows-based Omni 3000. The Omni 3000 has special features for users with learning disabilities; it simultaneously displays the text onscreen as it is read aloud. The user can see the word spoken highlighted in color and the surrounding phrase or sentence shown in a different color. This multisensory input of information enhances reading comprehension and speed.

The workstation was jointly funded by interest generated by the Murphy Library Endowment Fund and library building funds left over from the remodeling project. The Murphy Library Endowment Fund was established "to support and enhance the special needs of the library." It is used to fund items not covered by regular university budget support in these categories: collection development, equipment (such as the adaptive workstation), programming and development, and facility and environmental needs.

Murphy Library and Disability Resource Services are working closely together to see students are directed to the adaptive workstation and receive training in its use. DRS has similar but older equipment housed in their offices, 165 Murphy Library Resource Center. DRS and the library had an open house on October 29 and 30 to showcase DRS activities and the adaptive workstation.

The adaptive workstation is housed in Room 26, now called the Adaptive Technology Room, adjacent to the Documents Office. It is open all hours the library is open. There is a signup sheet available to reserve time on the workstation. Staff as well as students may use the equipment. If you would like to see it demonstrated, please stop by the Documents Office or call Sandy Sechrest at 785-8513. If you'd like a presentation for your class please call Nancy Steinhoff, Bibliographic Instruction Librarian, at 785-8395. Murphy Library staff are very excited about this new purchase that is already being used by a number of students. Other ways to improve our services for students with disabilities are being discussed.

***Sandy Sechrest***  
***Documents Librarian***

## ***Interactive Communication on Murphy Library's Web Page***

Murphy Library has created an additional communication format for the UW-L community - the interactive electronic form on the web page. This addition of electronic forms to the library's home page benefits students and faculty who wish to work from their homes, offices or other distant locations and use common library services. For several years Murphy Library has provided a web page at <http://www.uwlax.edu/MurphyLibrary.html>, which provides access to the online catalog, gives information about library services and departments, and links to online databases. Now the library's web page allows direct communication with library departments using interactive forms.

Interactive forms enable users to communicate in a standardized way to the right department within the library to handle the request. After typing information into boxes and clicking the "Send" button at the end of the form, the message is forwarded to the library via email. Library staff will then respond by email, regular mail, or telephone. The departments involved are Circulation Services, Interlibrary Loan, and Library Instruction. By going to *Circulation Services* under *Library Collections & Services*, students, faculty and staff can directly renew library materials or place holds on resources currently checked out. By going to *Interlibrary Loan Form* under *Library Collections & Services* the University community can ask Murphy Library to find resources at other libraries.

A new form found at *Library Instruction* under *Library Departments and Services* allows instructors or UW-L organizations to communicate directly with the Library Instruction Department. Use this form to request library tours or course-related library instruction for students or a group of colleagues. This form also allows instructors to schedule personal appointments to learn about the library or about particular electronic resources.

Interactive communication continues to expand. These various forms will soon be grouped together under a single link to electronic forms at the top of Murphy Library's Home Page. Among the current forms will be another electronic form -- a virtual suggestion box. You can share questions, suggestions, comments, or complaints with library staff and perhaps send a suggestion on other ways to communicate with Murphy Library.

*Nancy Steinhoff*  
*Library Instruction*

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## ***Library Renewals, Holds Available via Internet***

It is now possible to renew and place holds on library materials electronically via the Murphy Library web page (<http://www.uwlax.edu/MurphyLibrary.html>). Forms are located in the Circulation Services section under Library Collections and Services.

Only one renewal is allowed per item and we will notify borrowers via e-mail of the new due date. If the item has reached the renewal limit, we will notify borrowers via e-mail that the item must be returned by the original due date.

Holds may only be placed on books currently checked out. If the item is needed for course reserves, please contact the library at 785-8507. Circulation staff will contact the original borrower immediately. When the item has been returned, you will be notified that it is available for check-out.

*Liisa Sjoblom*  
*Circulation Librarian*

# STAFF NEWS

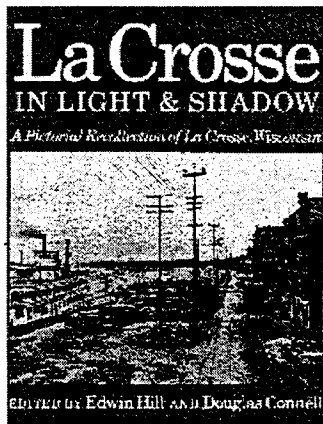
**NATE ANDERSON** assumed the Day Supervisor duties September 28 in Circulation Services. He replaces long-time library staff member **Moni McCarty** who moved to the Interlibrary Loan Office last June. Nate comes to UW-L after a varied library career in Madison.

**MONI MCCARTY** became the Interlibrary Loan Department Office Manager in June. She replaced **JEAN BONDE** who has enrolled in graduate school at UW-L.

**STEFAN SMITH** will begin as Outreach Librarian on November 17<sup>th</sup>. He formerly was the Electronic Access Coordinator at UW-Oshkosh Polk Library.

**DWAYNE WEBB** assumed the Early Morning Supervisor duties in Circulation Services last June. He replaced **SUE SPIKER** who now works at Viterbo College. Many will remember Dwayne from his service as a student employee and most recently as the LTE Weekend Supervisor last Spring.

**WILLIAM DOERING**, Integrated Systems Librarian, and **LIISA SJOBLUM**, Circulation Librarian, both recently received indefinite academic staff appointments.



*La Crosse in Light & Shadow* is available for \$40, plus \$3/book shipping and handling.

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the book for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **UW-La Crosse Foundation--Library** and mail with this form to: La Crosse History Book, UW-La Crosse Murphy Library, La Crosse, WI 54601

*Proceeds from the sale of the book go to the Murphy Library Endowment Fund.*

**THE FINE PRINT** is published Fall and Spring terms for UW-L faculty, staff, students, and friends of Murphy Library.

*Sandy Sechrest, Editor*  
*Kathy Schmidt, Layout*

*Anita Evans, Interim Director of Library Services*

*Randy Hoelzen, Department Chair*

