

CHECK IT OUT

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

As the library rapidly adjusts services and collections to take advantages of new opportunities available, I believe the library would benefit from increased faculty participation in our decision making processes. Several means of achieving this participation in an effective manner have been considered, and we now have a workable plan in place.

For many years the departments in Division III have selected a departmental library representative to meet once or twice a semester with the Head Science Librarian, and occasionally with me, to discuss the Science Library program. The Science Library Committee, through the years, has provided important guidance that has kept our library programs in step with changing departmental needs. The Educational Policy Committee recently approved our request to establish two similar new library committees. One will be composed of representatives from interested departments in Division I, and the other will be made up of representatives from Division II departments. I hope that many departments, especially those that rely heavily upon library services, will participate in the divisional library committee program. These advisory committees will become a primary channel for dialogue between the faculty and the library.

Robert Adams, University Librarian

The Leonard Baskin Collection and the Middletown Collections

Doris Sherrow and Shari Swanson, Olin Library's database enhancement staff, have just completed work on two collections, the Baskin Collection of Victorian Bindings and the Middletown Collection. Full catalog records for these collections now appear in the CTW catalog. Both collections are housed in Special Collections & Archives, where they are available for use during regular reading room hours (M-F 1:30-5 during the academic year, M-Th 1:30-5 during the summer, and by appointment).

The Baskin Collection of Victorian Bindings was given to Wesleyan by Leonard Baskin in 1974. Baskin, a longtime friend of the Wesleyan library, was a prominent artist and printer perhaps best known as the proprietor of the Gehenna Press in Northampton, Mass. Baskin collected in many areas. In assembling the Victorian bindings collection, two collecting parameters were at work: first, the attractiveness of the binding, and second, the inexpensive cost of the book. Baskin found most of the more than 160 books in the collection at yard or estate sales and flea markets, and he claimed that he spent no more than \$10.00 per book. (Of course many of these books would cost far more in the stock of a knowledgeable dealer today.) Although Leonard Baskin bought the books for their bindings, most of them have far more interesting contents. The

collection is rich in 19th-century Americana, especially books meant for women. Nearly a third of the books are gift books, or literary anthologies designed to be given as gifts. Gift books originated in England in 1823, and were particularly popular in the United States from the late 1820s to 1860. Many well-known authors, including Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, Lydia Sigourney, and Harriet Beecher Stowe, published in gift book editions. Other types of books found in the Baskin Collection include autograph albums and Sunday school tracts for children.

The Middletown Collection includes both books about Middletown and its environs and books published in Middletown. Books published in Middletown by the Wesleyan University Press are part of the archives of the Press. Although many titles in this collection had been added to the CTW catalog in the 1990s, hundreds of items were not listed online. Not surprisingly, the Middletown Collection is heavily used by researchers, many of them local citizens, working on a wide range of topics. The variety of materials found in the Middletown Collection is astonishing. Several editions of Noah Webster's textbooks were published in Middletown in the early 1800s. Among the gems of the collection is the 1838 Bible annotated by Julia and Abby Smith, the Glastonbury sisters who prepared a new translation of the Bible into English published in 1876. Later materials include pamphlets issued in honor of anniversaries of many of Middletown's churches, businesses, and organizations, as well as Wesleyan theses on local topics.

Suzy Taraba, University Archivist & Head of Special Collections

Feature Articles

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Preservation of Library collections

If you are a user of the Library's collections, you have probably had the experience of taking a book off the shelf only to discover that the binding is tattered, stained with mold, or the paper is darkened and crumbled with age, or the pages have been defaced by highlighting and handwritten comments. Approximately half of Wesleyan's circulating collection is in need of some sort of repair. Each book exhibits its own history of use and, sometimes, of abuse.

The library collections contain a wide variety of books, in every type of binding, from unique one-of-a-kind hand bindings to mass produced bindings made by mechanized processes. A large number of our books have been rebound or badly repaired over the years. Research libraries own cumulative collections; materials are not withdrawn when worn or damaged, or because the rate of use appears to have declined. Rather than zealously sheltering materials from users, libraries make every effort to maximize use—creating detailed descriptive records, providing a wide range of reference services, even shipping items around the world for interlibrary loan on demand.

Books, much like buildings, do not age well without regular maintenance. A Preservation Services department was established in Olin Library in 1999 with a commitment to maintain our collections, to ensure their availability to users, and to make items available in different formats when the originals are no longer useful because of severe deterioration of paper or bindings. Wesleyan University Library's preservation program represents a departure from tradition library practice. Conservation treatment was once reserved for library treasures, but we also direct our preservation efforts to the general collections. By so doing, we improve library service to our faculty and students. Our goal is to increase the chances that when someone wants a book it will, in fact, be available on the shelves in usable condition.

We have trained students to work as book repair technicians. Each year 30 to 40 students apply for the 3 or 4 technical assistant positions that are available. Johanna Russ '03 said that she "... loves working here. It is endlessly fascinating and extremely rewarding to be able to help preserve something as invaluable as books." Wesley Look '02 believes that "working at Preservation Services has opened my mind to seeing that the physical object itself is, not only an ingenious orchestration of mechanics, plaited together with precision and ingenuity, but that it is a vessel of meaning and essence, filled with the thought, emotions and physical energy of the craftsman." Saori Imaizumi '04 said that she "... did not know that many papers made in Japan are used in making and repairing books. As a Japanese, I glanced at one part of a great Japanese traditional art craft. I also have started to handle books more carefully than before."

When we repair materials from our circulating collections we make them more durable so they can withstand heavier use and more frequent handling. The repair technicians must

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The Music Library and the Worldwide Web—The current state of online audio

Since the fall semester of 1999, Wesleyan has been delivering online listening reserves to classes in music and other departments. At a recent meeting of the Music Library Association the results of an informal survey of music libraries were presented, and it appears that many other schools around the country are either starting up or have been conducting similar programs. Although there have been technological and legal problems encountered by all, there has been great similarity in the way these problems have been addressed.

The problems addressed in this survey fall into the categories of staffing, technology, and copyright. For the first of these, it has been found that most libraries were able to launch projects in online audio reserves with very few added resources: they have minimal startup funding, could use existing staffing, and with some added equipment they had the ability to do the conversion from sound recordings to online audio files within the library itself. Wesleyan is similar in this respect, as most of the work is done by students on a Macintosh G3 in the Scores & Recordings Collection of Olin Library. Like most other institutions, however, Wesleyan is also dependent on a server maintained by ITS in order to host the sound files. The general consensus is that such projects are not prohibitively complex or expensive.

The problems of technology are primarily issues of bandwidth and sound fidelity. Good quality audio recordings simply take up more media space and Internet bandwidth than mediocre ones. In order to enable music to stream reliably, it is necessary to either compromise on sound quality or optimize data transmissions for only the fastest connections to the Internet. Since all faculty members surveyed for the project placed a high priority on sound quality, listening reserves at Wesleyan have been designed for on-campus transmission only. According to the results of the survey, 2/3 of the libraries stream at a bit-rate of 96 kbps (kilobits per second) or better, a necessity for CD-quality audio, while about half of the libraries transmit at 132 kbps or better. Around 3/4 of the institutions used RealNetworks technology to stream their audio files. Wesleyan uses a server running Quicktime software, and streams at a rate of 128 kbps.

All libraries polled showed serious concern over the possibility of copyright violations arising from putting commercial sound recordings online. While the law is fairly clear on the illegality of making an additional copy of a recording to circulate, there is a tendency to believe that simply streaming it from the Internet (as opposed to making it available as a Napster-style download) from a protected site is an acceptable means of delivering it to classes. There is no widespread agreement on this issue, however, even among librarians who want to offer this service to classes. Indiana University's Variations Project, for several years, has made recordings from the Music Library available online, but this

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Electronic Reserves in Olin Library

During the fall of 1998 a pilot project allowed professors of a government and an English course to provide their reserve readings to students on the Internet where the readings could be read on the computer screen, or conveniently printed. Because of the success of this project, the electronic option was expanded to 20 courses for the fall 1999. Faculty had to be turned away during the first year as the service was so well received. During the fall 2001 semester this popular service grew to over 1200 readings for 67 courses: 55 at Olin, 4 at the Science Library, 3 at the Psychology Library, 1 at the Art Library, and 4 at the Music Library. A sociology course and several music courses used the combined reserve staff services from Olin to process readings, and the Music Library staff to process sound files.

At first, online readings were listed among the hardcopy readings for a course in the CTW catalog. Since the fall semester of 1999, Doctuk's ERes software provides easy access to course electronic readings from any networked computer on campus. The configuration that manages the online readings also provides security and usage statistics for these readings. Because of the level of security required, online readings are accessible from off campus computers only if the user's Web browser is configured to connect to the Wesleyan proxy server.

Available equipment, software, source, length of reading, page and character size of the original are some of the characteristics that are evaluated to determine how a reading is prepared for online access. Some processing methods will appeal to students who like to read the material online, while some methods will result in fewer pages for quicker printing.

The benefits of not having missing pages, not having to wait for readings to be returned to the desk, and full access to readings on a 24 hour basis are appealing to everyone. If you, as a

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NEW AND IMPROVED DATABASES

Libraries to Implement SFX Resource Linking

SFX is an exciting new database linking product that increases the ease and efficiency of searching online databases and indexes. SFX is a "context-sensitive reference linking solution" that allows users to click on an article record in a database, and display a list of options available for that article, which may include the online full-text version of that article, among other resources. As we are writing this article, Wesleyan University Library is in the process of installing an SFX server.

SFX extracts metadata from a given bibliographic citation from a "SFX-aware" database such as Web of Science, matches the citation to our collections, and then links it directly to the contents or alternative services. For example, if the citation points to our online journal, you will see a link that will take you directly to the particular article. If the citation points to our print collections, you will be able to click on a link that takes you to the CTW Catalog where you will discover if we have that particular issue of the journal. If the citation points to materials that is not within our print or digital collection, you will be able to click on a link that will pass the citation information directly to ILLIAD, through which, you can initiate a Interlibrary loan request.

For this software to work, the database needs to be able to create an openURL, and the target needs to be able to accept one. Most, but not all, abstracting and indexing databases, will work with SFX. However, for the databases and digital resources that do work with openURL, you will no longer need to figure out if we have access to the articles. In case you do need to request the article from another library, we will, at least, be able to save you the trouble of typing the citations. Please, look for this new linking feature in

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our indexes and databases as we begin to configure them throughout the coming year.

New Collection of full text journals: PsychArticles

Wesleyan has purchased access to a new collection of full-text journals, from the American Psychological Association called PsychArticles. This collection is an online database containing more than 26,000 searchable articles from 49 peer reviewed journals published by APA and allied organizations from 1988 to the present. Links to the full-text articles are available directly within PsycInfo. Articles from 1985 to 1987 will be available later in 2002 and each year the APA hopes to add more coverage.

For a complete list of journals covered visit the APA at <http://www.apa.org/psycarticles/covlist.html>.

Readers Guide Retrospective

The printed version of *Readers Guide to Periodical Literature* has indexed articles published in a variety of general interest magazines since 1890. *Readers Guide* has also been available, back to 1983, in an electronic version which, in addition to citations to articles listed by subject, also includes brief abstracts describing the content of the articles. Since the mid-1990s the electronic version has also included the full-text of articles from an every increasing number of journals and magazines.

Readers Guide Retrospective now provides online access to the contents of pre-1983 *Readers Guide* printed volumes, offering a valuable resource for accessing older published materials. The Retrospective database now covers articles published between 1963 and 1982. By fall, 2002 everything back to 1890 will be included in this database. Instead of having to search each year separately in individual printed volumes, you can do one search online to find older articles in this valuable index.

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Preservation (Continued)

have a thorough understanding of the engineering of books. When a book is opened, it should open smoothly and stay open for easy reading without pages breaking or the spine cracking. We use established conservation and repair techniques that not only contribute to the shelf life of the item, but also do not detract from its aesthetic quality. It is our belief that most users will respect the physical book, and handle it more carefully if it is beautifully presented and works well structurally. The students engaged in these treatments are crucial to helping us fulfill the library mission to provide efficient access to information.

Music Library (Continued)

was designed to be available only from selected terminals in the library itself, partly as an alternative to having students handle the recordings.

While none of the libraries polled in the recent survey sought copyright clearance for online reserve listening, they all made efforts to restrict listening to on-campus sites and protect the files with an authentication system that allowed only class members, or only members of the campus community, to listen. Wesleyan is in the mainstream in protecting copyright, in that reserve listening is made available only within the campus network, and the sound file links are available from ERes, the library's electronic reserves server, where access to class listening and reading lists requires a password. The great majority of libraries offering online reserves only use recordings already owned by the library, or make an effort to buy them soon after they make them available online. Virtually all libraries stream the sound files, instead of making them available as downloads. The advantage of streaming audio files is that no digital format is saved on the client computer, which could then be distributed illegally.

While Napster did not really launch the current revolution in the delivery of music to consumers, it created enough of a controversy on the public scene to affect the entire music world. Music Libraries, some of which began such projects long before Napster became a household word, are now in the position of being required to provide for students what they might just as easily obtain elsewhere, although often with much poorer sound quality and reliability.



Instructors wishing their students to listen to particular performances and recordings of works need something to compete with Audiogalaxy, for instance, where a search for a Bach Cello Suite might deliver almost any version or arrangement of it, providing minimal documentation as to which performance it might be. Academic libraries should provide a much more reliable and accurately documented service to its students and faculty.

– Alec McLane, Music Librarian

New and Improved (Continued)

Since the printed version of *Readers Guide* includes only citations to articles, and the electronic version with its abstracts and some full-text began only in 1983, *Readers Guide Retrospective* lists only subject headings along with the citations to articles, with no abstracts or full text. An effective way to search the database is to start with keyword searches covering words in titles, subject headings, or author names. When you find some useful articles, use the hypertext subject headings assigned to those articles to quickly locate other articles on the subject.

Electronic Reserves (Continued)

professor, are interested, or your students ask about having reserve material online, please contact the reserve staff of the library who normally process your reserve material. Electronic reserve is clearly here to stay, and it is likely to grow considerably in the future.

Dot Samson, Library Assistant,
Olin Reserve

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



Olin Memorial Library: (860) 685-2660
Reference and Research: (860) 685-3873
Circulation Office: (860) 685-3877
Reserve Office: (860) 685-3852
Interlibrary Loan Office: (860) 685-3876
Library Office: (860) 685-3844
Acquisition Office: (860) 685-3834
Cataloging Office: (860) 685-3476
Serials Office: (860) 685-3888
Art Library: (860) 685-3327
Psychology Library: (860) 685-2770
Science Library: (860) 685-2860
Scores and Recordings: (860) 685-3898
Special Collections and Archives: (860) 685-3864
World Music Archives: (860) 685-3826