

# CHECK IT OUT

## WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

### From the University Librarian:

Library user opinion from our major constituencies, the faculty and students, has always been an important source of information for the library in formulating plans to develop and improve collections and services to meet the changing needs of the University curriculum, and the research interests of faculty and students. The librarians, in 1997, conducted an extensive survey of faculty to help understand what they considered to be the library's greatest strengths and weaknesses. We have worked hard since the 1997 faculty survey to study and to implement a wide variety of the suggestions that were offered. Check It Out was started in 1998 as a communications vehicle in response to faculty interest in being informed, in a timely manner, about changes that were taking place in the library.

In order to follow up on the 1997 data, we surveyed, in Spring 2002, all faculty who had been appointed since 1997. All other faculty were surveyed again in September 2002. The results of both studies strongly indicate that the library successfully meets the perceived needs of Wesleyan professors. Approximately 87 percent of Wesleyan faculty access library resources on a daily basis either from their office computers, or from an off-campus location. Almost 92 percent report satisfaction with our monographic collections, and 87 percent believe that the library acquires new monographs in their fields both quickly and efficiently. Wesleyan University Library now offers about 110 electronic indexes and databases; 86 percent of faculty respondents to the 2002 survey report satisfaction with the

breadth and depth of these important research tools. One of the most interesting facts to emerge from the most recent survey is that despite the fact that our collection of journals has, in fact, more than doubled in the past five years, 22 percent of faculty express dissatisfaction with the number of journals available to them. Our membership in the NorthEast Research Libraries Consortium, discussed in detail in another article in this issue, should help to address some of the aspects of this important concern, but we also need to find ways to address the issue of faculty dissatisfaction with our print journal collection.

A growing number of Wesleyan faculty express interest in having librarians provide classroom instruction to their students in the efficient use of library resources. 52 percent of our faculty report having integrated this kind of instruction to their classes, while an ever increasing number of professors actively encourage their students to take advantage of the library's very successful program of Personal Research Sessions. The feasibility of a one credit course in research methodology taught by librarians is also an idea that is gaining faculty support.

Library services have clearly undergone radical changes since 1997, and the pace of change and improvement is unlikely to slow in the next five years. Many faculty comments in the 2002 library survey offered a wide variety of ideas, and these suggestions will receive careful consideration by the librarians for possible implementation. I would like to thank all 116 faculty members who took the time to respond to the survey, and to help us to focus our planning for the future.

Robert Adams

### Chinese Christian Schools and Colleges— The American Context

The Wesleyan University Archives is participating in a project to explore the interaction between the Christian colleges in China and American liberal arts colleges between 1900 and 1950. In this period, numerous institutions of higher education were founded in China by American missionaries. The founders of the Chinese Christian colleges used their own alma maters as models for the new institutions. The American liberal arts colleges were also influenced by these ventures as missionary alumni brought back news of their travels in China and raised funds to support the Chinese colleges.

Our project is funded by the Luce Foundation. Ellen Widmer, professor of Asian languages and literatures, is its director, assisted by Suzy Taraba, University archivist and head of Special Collections and Martha Lund Smalley, research services

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### Feature Articles

**Library Buys Access to  
1530 New Journal  
Titles**

**Mellon Grant for  
Information Literacy—  
Opening Conference**

**Wesleyan University  
Library Self-Study**



## Mellon Grant for Information Literacy—Opening Conference

The last issue of Check It Out announced that Wesleyan Library and ITS along with our counterparts at Trinity and Connecticut Colleges had received a Mellon Foundation grant to integrate information literacy (the ability to locate, evaluate, and use information resources and technologies) into the curriculum. Our approach to information literacy involves two questions: What do the academic departments want their majors to know about research methodology, and analytical methods before they declare their major? What should their majors know about sources and research and analytical and presentation methods before they graduate?

The goal of this initiative is to create programs that will help to educate students in this area.

By the time this issue of Check It Out has been distributed, we will have already had an opening conference to begin work on the information literacy initiative. We have invited a few guest speakers to help us get started. Mary Reichel, university librarian at Appalachian State University and 2001–2002 president of the Association of College and Research Libraries, will introduce and explain the concept of information literacy and how it relates to higher education. Bill Scott (psychology) and Julie Gustafson (library) from College of Wooster (one of the Five Colleges of Ohio which received a similar Mellon grant a few years ago) have agreed to discuss specifics of actual implementation of these ideas within the context of their collaborative work at Wooster. The schedule provides time for small group working sessions to begin discussing how to apply these ideas at the CTW institutions.

The Mellon Grant provides funding and support for projects for three years, so if you missed the opening conference there is still time to become involved with this program. If you would like to hear about the conference, or if you are interested in exploring ways to integrate information literacy training into one of your classes, cluster of courses, or major program, please call Kendall Hobbs at extension 3962 or send e-mail to khobbs@wesleyan.edu

**Kendall Hobbs, Instruction Librarian**



## New Databases at Wesleyan

### American Chemical Society Journals

Wesleyan has recently subscribed to the full-text of the 35 journals published or distributed by the American Chemical Society, and in addition has purchased access to the full archives of these journals some of which go back to 1878. The researcher has the capability to search terms contained in the author, title, abstract, or the full text. A variety of search options include the ability to locate a specific article by its Digital Object Identifier (DOI) or to limit the search either to a specific journal or to a subject-defined subset of the journals. The chronological range of journals is divided into three parts:

ASAP articles, the most current, appear on the Internet before the print volumes are published.

Current + four years includes articles from the current and previous four years' issues. Archives are defined as anything older than four years. Our subscription allows us to search any combination of these segments. Wesleyan users may also sign up for "ASAP Alerts" or "TOC Alerts" services. These features send e-mail

notification of either individual articles, or the entire table of contents of a selected journal issue as soon as they are available online.

### RIPM/RISM

Wesleyan has long offered music researchers access to the online abstracts of the Repertoire International de Litterature Musicale (RILM). These important music indexes are now supplemented by two new databases—the Repertoire International de la Presse Musicale (RIPM) and the Repertoire International des Sources Musicales (RISM). While RILM has citations and abstracts retrospective to 1967 from the music literature in journals, dissertations, conference proceedings, and books, RIPM offers a historical index to music literature published during the 19th century published in European and American journals and newspapers. The RIPM project, when complete will consist of 200 volumes of printed citations that took over 20 years to complete, targeting 65 journals in a variety of European languages. So far 150 of these volumes have appeared, and Wesleyan's online subscription provides access to the entire range of citations in these volumes.

The RISM Project involves the documentation of musical manuscripts in collections around the world, ranging as far afield as Uruguay and New

Zealand. While the print catalogs consist of several series and include manuscripts back to the earliest musical notations, online availability is limited to Series A/II: Music Manuscripts after 1600. Catalog entries, in addition to full composer and title, include such information as instrumentation, the holding library, and several measures of music notation to identify the beginning of each work. This notation appears as a graphic, but it is rendered by the "Plain & Easy Code," a text-based system for coding music notation. Familiarity with this system allows one to search for manuscripts that match specific musical elements.

Since we subscribe to all three of these musical "R's" (RILM, RIPM, RISM) through the NISC Biblioline Service, they can be searched either separately or concurrently. When changing from one database to another, the searcher may preserve the search terms, so they don't need to be re-entered for each database. Expert Search mode allows the researcher to combine the results of previous searches. NISC Biblioline has not yet enabled linkage of these databases to the Wesleyan's SFX module, a software program that allows users to quickly determined local access to the cited article, or to send an Interlibrary Loan request if necessary. NISC Biblioline, however, promises to make the SFX feature operative in the near future

**Alec McClane, Music Librarian**

## Wesleyan University Library Self-Study

Most everyone at Wesleyan who is concerned with library issues is now aware that 2002–2003 will be the beginning of a time of major change and transition for the library. Robert Adams, University librarian since 1979, will retire at the end of the present academic year. To facilitate the work of the Search Committee for a new University Librarian, chaired by Judith Brown, vice-president for academic affairs, the library staff undertook an extensive Self-Study of library operations during summer 2002. The purpose of the Self-Study is to serve as an evaluation and assessment of all service and administrative functions of the library system. Each library staff member, professional librarians as well as support staff, completed an extensive questionnaire adapted from the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Standards for College Libraries, 2000 Edition. Like the Faculty Library Survey, discussed elsewhere in this issue of Check It Out, library staff members were asked to offer their candid opinions and comments about each of the specific issues presented in the Self-Study questionnaire.

In October, a visiting committee consisting of the library directors of Dartmouth College, University of Virginia, and Williams College visited Wesleyan to meet with our librarians, IT staff, and the Search Committee to make recommendations to the Office of Academic Affairs about major concerns that need to be addressed by the library in the future. Much of the visiting committee's recommendations were made based on the Library Self-Study, the Faculty Library Surveys, and their discussions with these groups. The visiting committee composed of highly respected college and university librarians have, we believe, provided important focus to the Search Committee to enable it to identify the best candidates to carry forward the Wesleyan University Library's established traditions of service and innovation.

Copies of the Library Self-Study together with the most recent Faculty Library Survey is available in the Main Office of Olin Library and in the University Archives for anyone who is interested in how the faculty and the library staff perceive our strengths and weaknesses during this time of administrative change.

**Alan J. Nathanson, Bibliographer/Reference Librarian**

## Wesleyan's Peer Group Libraries—Statistical Comparisons

As part of the library self-study, we selected a peer group of college and university libraries for a statistical comparison. The comparative categories were taken from the Association of College and Research Libraries Standards for College Libraries. The Peer group is comprised of the following 19 colleges and universities: Amherst, Bates, Bowdoin, Brandeis, Brown, Carleton, Claremont Colleges, Connecticut College, Dartmouth, Middlebury, Mount Holyoke, Oberlin, Smith, Swarthmore, Trinity, Tufts, Wellesley, Wesleyan, and Williams. All comparisons are for the fiscal year 2000–2001.

When comparing the ratio of the number of volumes in the library to combined student and faculty FTE, Wesleyan ranked ninth of 19 schools, with Bowdoin ranking first. When looking at just the actual number of volumes Wesleyan ranked sixth, with Brown ranked first. Comparing the ratio of new volumes added per combined FTE, Wesleyan was ranked eighth of 19, with Swarthmore holding first place. In total volumes added, Wesleyan was fourth, with the Claremont Colleges in first. Comparing the size of the library's total budget per FTE, Wesleyan was ranked sixth, with Swarthmore ranked first. In terms of total library budget, Wesleyan was ranked seventh, with Brown ranked first.

Wesleyan ranked fourth of 19 when comparing percent of the total library budget that is spent for the purchase of materials, with Tufts in first place. Comparing the percent of the library budget spent on electronic resources Wesleyan ranked first of the 19 schools. In size of the combined FTE to library staff, Wesleyan ranked 16th out of 19, with Dartmouth have the highest FTE to staff ratio. In overall staff size, Wesleyan was ranked 11th, with Brown having the largest library of the 19 peer institutions.

**Steve Bischof, Science Librarian**



## Library Buys Access to 1530 New Journal Titles

The cost of electronic journal subscriptions has put very heavy pressure on even the largest university library's acquisitions budget. To accommodate the flood of new electronic journals, many academic libraries have joined together to make subscription costs more affordable. One successful strategy for cost control is the purchasing consortium, essentially a library buying club. A purchasing consortium is a self-selected group of libraries that join together to negotiate the best possible pricing arrangement with electronic publishers and other vendors. Wesleyan University is an affiliate member of the NorthEast Research Libraries Consortium known as NERL. NERL is composed of 21 full member academic research libraries such as Yale, Harvard, and MIT, and 40 affiliate libraries including Duke, Williams, and Amherst. Wesleyan recently signed enhanced purchasing options through NERL with Blackwell Publishing, Oxford University Press, Wiley InterScience, and Kluwer, all major players in the electronic publishing market. Our new contracts provide that if we maintain our current level of journal subscriptions with each publisher, in addition to a nominal NERL coordinated access fees with each publisher, the four publishers will provide Wesleyan with online access to **all** of their journal titles. For the price of the 212 journal titles to which we currently subscribe, and the access fees, Wesleyan will have electronic access to an additional 1,530 journal titles beginning in January 2003. Online access to these journal titles will include each publisher's complete online backfile. This means that Wesleyan users will have full-text access to many of these journals retrospective to 1997. The Library Faculty Survey of 2002 indicated to us that many professors have the perception that the library does not subscribe to enough journal titles. The NERL package should be a major step in filling the gaps in our journal collections. A complete alphabetical listing of the NERL titles is available at <http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/nj/php3>

**Helen M. Aiello, Serials Librarian**

Visit the Wesleyan University Library at <http://www.wesleyan.edu/library>.

## Honors Briefings

Olin Library's reference librarians have offered, for many years, a series of workshops for seniors who are beginning their research for Honors theses and senior essays. The first round of these sessions is offered in mid-September, with a follow-up series of sessions offered in late October. More than 20 workshop sessions are offered each fall term. Preregistration is not required, and students are free to choose their preferred day and hour from the many times scheduled. Typically, a total of 60 to 80 seniors participate in the series.

These one-hour sessions cover a wide variety of library services with a brief introduction to some of our indexes and databases, but emphasize interlibrary loan procedures and policies. Wesleyan students are heavy users of materials owned outside the CTW holdings when they begin their thesis or essay research. The research briefings cover such topics as available reference services, establishing or updating an ILLiad account, advice about search strategy in individual databases, evaluation of sources, and introduction to selected reference tools. The librarian offers suggestions to the students about the use of Interlibrary Loan borrowing and return policies, letters of introduction to other

libraries if needed, and other issues about borrowing materials from other libraries. Students have commented that these sessions have been very helpful to them at the time when they are just beginning to work on their research projects.

Since the typical one-hour briefing is fairly general in nature, participants are strongly encouraged to make an appointment with a reference librarian who is a subject specialist in their field for a Personal Research Session (PRS). A Personal Research Session is especially useful for students who want to learn where and how to search for primary and secondary sources on their research topic. The Honors briefings instructors have also promoted the use of EndNote software as an efficient tool for building and managing substantial bibliographies for thesis research. EndNote also works with Microsoft Word enabling the quick and easy formatting of citations for the bibliography and footnotes of the Honors thesis or research paper. Seniors who have missed this year's regular series of group sessions are urged to make an appointment for a Personal Research Session that may cover the briefing information in addition to specialized topics related to their individual research.

**Ed Rubacha, Reference Librarian**

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librarian and curator of the Day Missions Collection at the Yale University Divinity School Library. In addition to Wesleyan, 10 other liberal arts colleges, all of which have historical ties to the Chinese Christian colleges, are participating.

At each school, grant-funded students or staff members are searching archival holdings for information about these relations. The results of the research are being shared at <http://www.library.yale.edu/div/colleges/>, a Web site designed and administered by Martha Smalley. It includes both secondary information about each school's involvement with one or more of the Chinese Christian colleges and schools and scanned primary documents. Among the types of documentary evidence being contributed is articles about the Chinese Christian colleges in American liberal arts colleges' student

newspapers. Each school is also contributing an overview of their historical involvement with the Chinese Christian colleges and brief biographies of alumni who taught at the schools.

In late September, Wesleyan was the host of a two-day conference for the archivists or faculty supervisors of the projects at each of the 11 participating colleges. Four student assistants who worked on the project also participated. Representatives from each school presented brief talks about their school's relationship to the Chinese Christian colleges and the archival materials that had been located so far. Several guest speakers, including Patricia Hill, professor of American Studies, provided background on the role of missionaries in 19th-century America, on the Chinese educational system of that time, and on other projects to document missionaries to China.

A special highlight of the conference was the participation of Liping Zhang, the archivist of the former West China Union University, originally founded by Joseph Beech, Wesleyan class of 1899. A second conference, with a scholarly focus, is being planned for the fall of 2003.

**Suzu Taraba, Head of Special Collections and University Archivist**

## Reference Now - Live Help!

Wesleyan's interactive reference service called Reference Now—LiveHelp! was first offered in October 2001. The twinkling blue icon is visible on almost all Wesleyan University Library web pages. During the first year of LiveHelp! library users have been able to ask reference and research questions electronically in a chat room environment. Since this new service was introduced we have answered about 1,000 questions online. Remember, you can get real time reference and research assistance wherever you happen to be located, provided that you have an Internet connection. This experimental program was funded by the Davis Foundation and it has now expanded to include Connecticut College, Smith College, Vassar College, and Wellesley College. Live Help! is available from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m., Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 4 p.m. to midnight on Sunday.



## 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

