

CHECK IT OUT

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

From the University Librarian

The past year has been one of study and reassessment of our library collections and services. The librarians conducted two faculty opinion surveys and an extensive library self-study was undertaken to facilitate the work of the Search Committee for my successor as University Librarian. The library received intense study and assessment from the University Re-accreditation team in October 2002. The team gave particularly high marks to the library for both collections and services. The one area of weakness mentioned most often in the faculty surveys is the issue of journal access. Despite the fact that during the past two years the number of journals available to our students and faculty has increased substantially, many faculty members perceive the journal collection as limiting to their research. To further address this issue, I will request the Divisional Library Committee to review and discuss it. The following are comments offered by the University Re-accreditation team with regard to the quality of the libraries in general, with some specific thoughts about the question of journal subscriptions:

"The Library's collections are rich and deep and strong in areas of curricular emphasis at Wesleyan. Faculty members remark on the quality and quantity of the collections. In addition, the

Library has taken steps through the CTW consortium to assure access to even more. In addition to the Library's historic strengths as a print collection, which have continued as a priority right up to the present, the library has pursued an aggressive strategy to expand access to electronic journal titles and develop imaginative ways to help users find them. Members of the faculty express concerns about the number of journal titles to which they have access. This may be inevitable, given the strong research interests of the faculty and the level of undergraduate and graduate research. The Library staff recently has undertaken collection management and use studies which are providing extremely helpful information to guide planning regarding the balance between serials and monographs."

Other points about the library made by the University Re-accreditation report include these valuable comments:

- Financial support for the Library has been historically strong, with consistent increases in the library materials budget that have enabled Wesleyan to build collections in steady and consistent ways. The increases have been close enough to the inflation rate for scholarly publications so that the Library has been able to adapt the collections at the margin to meet new curricular initiatives.
- Care for the security and preservation of information resources is evident throughout the University. There is a small but effective preservation program in the Library. The persistent

problem of mold, attributed to ineffective humidity control in Olin Library, appears to be under control, and with improvements to HVAC systems, humidity control has been addressed. The investment of funds to solve the mold problem is noteworthy, as it addresses immediate concerns about the health and safety of library users and also addresses the long-term preservation needs of the collections.

- This will be a time of transition for the Library and the University with the departure of a University Librarian with more than two decades of service, and a vacancy at the position of Associate University Librarian. A leadership change will create many opportunities to reexamine services and priorities, starting from a very strong base.
- Space issues related to the library, particularly collection storage space, were a constant theme throughout the visit. The concerns are particularly critical in the small spaces that are expected to function as growing libraries, such as the Art Library. A full review of space needs in all of Wesleyan's libraries should be an early task for a new University Librarian, and the University should take steps to assure that library space needs are featured in campus master plans for space.

Robert Adams

Keep Those Books DRY!

On rainy or snowy days cardinal red plastic carry bags are available at all library circulation desks. If you are checking out library materials, please ask for one to keep library materials dry. When books get wet or even damp, mold can grow inside and if undetected, can eat away the paper.

Books are composed of a variety of materials: paper, cloth, leather, paste, and glue. Like all organic materials they are environmentally sensitive. They are vulnerable to conditions and changes in the environment in which they are kept. If books get wet, they need to be dried out as rapidly as possible to avoid further damage. Mold growth is likely if the temperature is over 70 degrees F and the relative humidity is over 60 percent for more than 48 hours. Mold is a microorganism that can be a health hazard, and some people have allergic reactions to it. Asthmatics are especially sensitive to its presence. Once paper has become moldy, it is very difficult to get rid of it completely. The best cure for mold is prevention! If you have questions about mold or how to dry out wet books, please contact Michaelle Biddle, x3875, or e-mail mbiddle@wesleyan.edu.

Michaelle Biddle, Librarian for Special Projects

Feature Articles

The Search for a New University Librarian

Voyager: The New CTW Online catalog

Electronic Delivery of Interlibrary Loan Articles

Voyager: The New CTW Online Library Catalogue

The CTW library consortium (Connecticut College, Trinity College, and Wesleyan University) has decided to replace SIRSI, our online catalog since 1995, with a new and much improved system. During the summer we will be installing Voyager produced by Endeavor Inc. Voyager offers a number of personal and technical improvements over our present system. Examples of personal improvements include persistent logins, which enables users to login only once and to order several books from the other libraries without having to login again for each individual request. Other new features include e-mail notification when the CTW libraries receive new materials. Library users will be able to set up a personal profile in which they may specify authors or subjects of interest to them. Each time one of the CTW libraries acquires new material matching the profile, the user will receive an e-mail notification. Voyager also has the ability to rank search recall by relevance in a manner similar to that offered by many Internet search engines. On the technical side, Voyager uses Oracle as its underlying database. This will allow us much greater flexibility in integrating the library system with other systems on campus. The new system will also permit the librarians to create specialty indexes that will make finding items such as videos or music much easier than at the present time. Other institutions that use Voyager include Yale, Princeton, and Cornell Universities as well as the University of Connecticut. The librarians will be expecting your questions about how to most efficiently take advantage of Voyager's many new features.

Steve Bischof, Science Librarian



MetaLib

Wesleyan University Library will soon implement a new online library tool called MetaLib. MetaLib allows simultaneous searching of multiple databases and/or library catalogs using a single interface.

The search interface of this tool allows users to select multiple databases to search simultaneously. Words or phrases may be searched in the full records of the selected databases or the search can be limited to common fields of the records across the selected databases, such as author, title, subject, or publication date fields. The Boolean operators (and, or, not) are used when more than one word or phrase is being searched. Results can be displayed as a summary of the number of hits found for each of the databases searched or as a consolidated list of results with an option to remove duplicates. Detailed records may be viewed in the format of the database from which they were taken. MetaLib and SFX, the electronic tool we use to search our print and electronic holdings, are fully compatible and compliment each other since they are both products of Ex Libris. MetaLib is compatible with SFX, the electronic tool used for searching Wesleyan's print and electronic holdings. This would be expected since Ex Libris, Inc. produces both tools.

There are several scenarios under which MetaLib should prove particularly valuable to our library users. The first, and most obvious, is that databases with complementary or overlapping subject coverage may now be searched simultaneously and de-duplicated results can be viewed. A biology student, for example, would be able to search AGRICOLA, Biosis Previews and MedLine simultaneously, or history student could simultaneously search *America: History and Life*, *Historical Abstracts* and the *CTW Catalog Time* will be saved by using a single interface to search multiple databases, thus obviating the need to manually remove duplicate records found in different databases. MetaLib's interface only allows searches using strategies that are common to almost all databases; the user might still need to search databases on an individual basis in order to take advantage of a particular database's unique search features.

MetaLib can also be used as a screening tool, even if you later plan to search the databases individually in order to take full advantage of their special search capabilities. A general search of potentially appropriate databases could be executed for the topic of interest. The results for each database could then be viewed, and those databases with the most matches could then be searched individually.

In order to make both screening and searching multiple databases easier, the librarians will group together all databases that are pertinent to a specific subject area. Users will then be able choose to search a preselected group of databases in their field of study. Of course, users will also have the option to compile their own grouping of databases.

Search for a New University Librarian —A Progress Report

The search is on for a new University Librarian, to succeed current Caleb T. Winchester University Librarian, Robert Adams, who will retire at the end of June 2003. Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost Judith Brown is chairing a search committee composed of librarians, faculty, administrators, and students. Members of the committee are Steve Bischof (Science Librarian), Suzy Taraba (Head of Special Collections and University Archivist), Bruce Masters (History; Chair of Educational Policy Committee, Fall semester), Ruth Striegel-Moore (Psychology; Chair of the Faculty), Khachig Tololyan (English; Educational Policy Committee, Fall semester), Dave Landsberg (Director of Human Resources and Risk Management), John Meerts (Vice President for Information Technology), Amy Austin (graduate student), and Karen Courtheoux '05. The search is being

conducted by Isaacson, Miller, a Boston-based firm specializing in recruiting for nonprofit organizations.

A strong pool of candidates has emerged. Details about individual candidates are strictly confidential, of course. Nevertheless, two typical models can be identified. One category of candidates currently holds library director positions at institutions smaller than, or in a rank below, Wesleyan. The other category is now at the associate or assistant university librarian level in large research libraries. Each of these types of candidates brings relevant experience and leadership to the table.

Short, preliminary interviews with top candidates will be conducted during the month of February. Full interviews with the most promising candidates will be held later in the spring. If all goes smoothly, the new Caleb T. Winchester University Librarian should be in place well before the start of the new academic year.

Suzy Taraba, University Archivist and Head of Special Collections

Electronic Delivery of Interlibrary Loan Articles

The Interlibrary Loan staff is pleased to announce Electronic Web Delivery, a new service that will allow selected articles that have been requested through Interlibrary Loan to be delivered electronically to your computer. In order to receive articles electronically, library users must select the electronic delivery option at the time they establish their ILLiad accounts. If you did not select this option, you may review your personal information in your account, and simply choose "yes" under the "Do you want Electronic Delivery When Possible (PDF file via web)." Please edit the options in your ILLiad account at <http://illiad.olin.wesleyan.edu/illiad/logon.html> if necessary. Once you have made this selection, Interlibrary Loan will automatically send your requests electronically when they are available. After you have received your requests as a PDF file, you may simply view the article, download, or print it. Here is how it works:

If your article is received through Ariel, a document delivery system available to users of the Internet, we convert it to Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), and the file is posted to the user's ILLiad account.

ILLiad sends an automated e-mail to the requestor as notification that the article is available in the requestor's account.

The requestor logs into ILLiad, and selects the **View/Download Electronically Delivered Articles** icon located beneath the **Review Requests** heading. Clicking the transaction number in the diagram shown below will display the full-text of an article that has been received electronically, and it will remain accessible to the requestor for 30 days from the posting date. The user may also delete the article prior to that time should it no longer be needed.



Almost everyone who has chosen electronic delivery has been delighted with the way the service functions. Articles are in the hands of the requestor at home or in an office literally within minutes of the time that the file has been received by the Interlibrary Loan Department. Delivery time of articles is significantly reduced since they will no longer be subject to the campus mail.

The Interlibrary Loan Department strongly encourages the use of electronic article delivery. We hope that library users will come to perceive electronic delivery as a better choice than paper delivery. Until that time, Interlibrary Loan staff will continue to provide a high level of both traditional and electronic means of delivery allowing the users themselves to make their own choice as to which one they prefer.

In order to use electronic delivery, the library user must have Adobe Acrobat installed on their computers. If you have any questions about the use of electronic deliver, please call Eunjoo Lee at x3454, the Interlibrary Loan Office at x3376, or e-mail us at ill@wesleyan.edu.

Eunjoo Lee,
Head of Access Services

New University Archives Collections

University Archives is the official repository for the records of all of Wesleyan's departments, offices, and administrative units. As a result, the staff of Special Collections & Archives maintains regular contact with a wide range of Wesleyan faculty and staff members. Throughout the year, we can be found all over campus and its buildings consulting on Wesleyan's records and assisting in the transfer of noncurrent records to the archives.

Only the originating office can determine which of their records are current and which are not; once documents fall into the latter category, we are happy to arrange for their transfer. It's a win-win situation for everybody involved: file, closet, and floor space gets freed up in campus offices, and the historical records of the University are supplemented, securely preserved, and made available for research on our side.

Once materials are transferred to the archives, they are logged in and inventoried at a preliminary level so we can determine the types of records contained in the transfer, their general subjects, and their date ranges. At this time, some duplicate items and University publications may be removed. Most collections at this point are immediately available for reference, use, and research. We also maintain a small number of collections (mostly central administrative records) that have access restrictions placed upon them by the originating office.

A complete list of collections housed in the archives is available on the SC&A website <http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/schome/schome.htm> under the link: "Collections Listing." We have, in addition, a growing number of archival finding aids available online. Finding aids provide in-depth information about the contents of a collection beyond what is contained in the preliminary inventory. They will often describe the collection down to the level of each individual folder.

Two recent and significant additions to our collections contain records relating to Wesleyan's graduate programs. The Graduate Liberal Studies Program Records, 1952–to date, and the Office of Graduate Student Services Records, 1945–to date, together comprehensively document Wesleyan's programs of graduate-level instruction from the end of the Second World War to the present. These collections record the beginnings and later flourishing of MA and PhD programs in the sciences and music and the Graduate Liberal Studies Program, which was the first of its kind in the country. In addition, the collections contain the original transcripts and files for all of Wesleyan's graduate students during this period (access to these of course is restricted by law).

Together totaling about 182 cubic feet (or the equivalent of 91 filing cabinet drawers), these collections contain early proposals for Wesleyan's new graduate programs, information about enrollment, curriculum, and student interest, and documents charting changes, expansions and reviews of the programs. The GLSP records also include a large number of photographs and scrapbooks that document classes, students, and activities sponsored by the program.

In addition to their historical value to Wesleyan, these collections are of research interest to University staff members, students working on research projects, and historians of higher education, not to mention their value to their originating departments. We welcome inquiries about University records that may be candidates for transfer to the archives, and are happy to advise individuals or departments about archival and preservation concerns. Please contact Suzy Taraba (x3375) or Jeffrey Makala (x3363) for more information.

Jeffrey Makala, Assistant University Archivist/Reference Librarian

Retrospective Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities

PCI Full-Text—Students often express disappointment that full-text databases frequently do not go back far enough for them to locate journal articles more than about 30 years old. They often need primary articles that may not be available in the library at all, and are frequently difficult to obtain from other libraries. **PCI Full-Text** is a major online periodical archive that provides easy access to the backfiles of scholarly journals in the humanities and social sciences published between 1770 and 1995. The underlying Periodicals Contents Index (PCI) contains bibliographical citations to approximately 13 million articles from that time period. The producers of PCI have now digitized the full-text of over 600,000 articles, enabling library users to search the index and to navigate seamlessly from the citation to the full-text of the article. Library users at Wesleyan now have the opportunity to search either the entire database, or to filter the search to retrieve only those articles available full-text. To further amplify PCI's ongoing program of digitizing the full-text of source articles, the database also provides direct links to the full-text holdings in **JSTOR**. As of early 2003, **PCI Full-Text** contains full-text articles from 228 complete journal runs, and it is not a static database; by the end of the year it will contain full-text access to articles in over 300 journals. When the project is completed, the database will contain approximately 15 million articles drawn from about 3,500 journals. **PCI** allows researchers access to a constantly

growing collection of the most widely respected journals in the humanities and social sciences. The database is international in scope with the inclusion of many foreign language titles. **PCI Full-Text** aims to digitize not only significant scholarly titles, but also journals of historical interest that began publication from the late 18th through the 19th centuries. PCI appeals to scholars with a wide range of interests since it includes many titles that are very difficult to obtain in printed format. The search engine permits searches by author, title keyword(s), and subject, and searches may be limited to a specific journal, language or range of publication years. Next time you are looking for contemporary literary criticism of, for example, the novels of Charles Dickens, contemporary reaction to *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, or late 19th-century reaction to the writings of Friedrich Nietzsche, **PCI Full-Text** should be the first place to begin research.

The New York Times (1851–1998)—Students frequently have research projects in which they need articles from *The New York Times* that were published prior to the time that they are available online from **Lexis-Nexis** or one of our other periodical databases. To find older newspaper articles, library users must consult the printed **New York Times Index**. Then they must laboriously write down citations to date, page numbers, and column numbers on which the desired articles are located, followed by a trip to the Microforms Room

to go through the tedious process of locating the correct film, threading it into a microform reader, and either reading the article on the reader or printing it out. The entire **New York Times** backfile (about 3,500,000 pages) is now available from the Wesleyan University Library back to its first issue in 1851, digitized and fully searchable through the ProQuest Historical Newspapers project. **The New York Times** historical archive reproduces each issue of the newspaper cover-to-cover—news articles, editorials, photos, graphics and advertisements. The researcher may enter terms (keywords, like “Gettysburg” or “Coolidge,” or Boolean operators such as “keyword (general electric) and doc type (display ad)” or “title (Lindbergh) and date (1927)” as ways to search the full file. The results list will supply bibliographic information, including date, page number, and author's name (when given). To see the text, precisely as it appears in the original, the users simply select the article, and the image is displayed. Users also have the option of either displaying the article by itself, or in full-page context. It is also possible to browse the database issue by issue, just as though it were a printed newspaper. With this new and innovative online resource, an American history student can now trace the beginning of the Civil War first-hand by reading the **The New York Times** account of the shelling of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. This article not only describes the event, but it provides fascinating details about the reactions of the onlookers who were witnessing a critical event in American history. Another student working on a project dealing with early 20th century anarchism and the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901 will be able to read contemporary accounts of that event, and the way it was reported at that time. With 152 years of news coverage online, **The New York Times** gives historical research a powerful sense of immediacy. For questions about the use of **PCI Full-Text**, or the **The New York Times** online, or any of Wesleyan University Library's indexes and databases, either call the Reference Department at x3873, or sign up for a Personal Research Session at <http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/assist.htm>.

Alan J. Nathanson, Bibliographer/Reference Librarian

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

