

CHECK IT OUT

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY Libraries



Feature Articles

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The Connecticut River Valley provides a difficult environment in which to control the growth of mold spores. When Olin was renovated in the mid-1980s, the need to control the level of humidity in the library clashed with the University's energy conservation priorities. The renovated and enlarged building provided no humidity control except in the Special Collections area. Consequently, it wasn't too long before mold spores began to be found in areas with poor air circulation.

During the 1990s, a number of steps were taken

to try to control the spread of mold. Finally, in October 1998, Landmark Facilities Group, acknowledged experts in HVAC systems for libraries and museums, was commissioned to undertake an investigation. Their report recommended that the University invest in a modified HVAC system that would provide appropriate humidity control.

Landmark Facilities Group's recommendations now have been accepted and implementation plans are being made. The recommended modifications to Olin's HVAC system can hopefully be completed

before the beginning of the next mold season. In the near future, contractors will begin work in the library. Unfortunately, the project will require a significant amount of demolition. There will be considerable noise and dust while the work is underway. The project will also require the relocation of books and, temporarily, some services. As more specific information becomes available, it will be posted in the library. At this point, we anticipate considerable disruption in the building during most of the second semester.



GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) AND SPATIAL DATA ANALYSIS

What is a GIS and what is it used for? A GIS (Geographical Information System) is a set of tools for storing and retrieving, transforming, analyzing, and displaying spatial data. What is spatial data and what are its components? Spatial data is defined as any data concerning a phenomenon that has a spatial distribution in two or three dimensions.

Basic examples of spatial data are points, lines, and polygons. A point may represent a city on a map of the United States, a line may represent a river or a highway on a map of Connecticut, and a polygon may represent a school district or a lake on a county map. The second part is the actual phenomenon or attribute assigned to these geographical definitions. This could be information like demographic data, land use data, or economic data. Rather than simply

creating one map from specific criteria, a GIS combines both mapping and data storage functions that allow the creation, manipulation, and analysis of spatial data.

The benefits of an automated system such as this include the ability to easily manipulate large data sets and to analyze them in graphic form without the labor-intensive manual processing that previous map analysis required. These data sets can be combined with imagery such as aerial photography, satellite imagery, or scanned images of older paper maps to create powerful multi-layered maps.

The library and ITS now offer consulting services in the use of GIS and spatial data. ITS has purchased a GIS system which is currently located in the Science Library. This computer has a number of software packages already installed and provides access to some spatial data sets. Easy to use software products

from Geolytics, CensusCD+Maps, and CensusCD+Blocks provide access to data from the decennial census data for 1990 and 1980. These products allow the researcher to produce maps based on any decennial census geography: state, county, metro areas, school district, voting district, tract, blockgroup, etc.

Other software includes AtlasGIS and ArcView both made by ESRI, the recognized leader in GIS software. AtlasGIS is easy to learn, and it comes with a street level database for geocoding addresses, that is finding the spatial coordinates of a street address. ArcView is the industry standard in the GIS world. ArcView has its own powerful scripting language that allows for the creation of custom interfaces. A wide variety of data

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sets in ArcView format are available on the Internet. MapInfo Pro is one of the most versatile GIS systems. It includes powerful modules that allow the construction of gridded surfaces and TINs (Triangulated Irregular Network). These surfaces can then be modeled and rendered in 3-D. MapInfo also has a module that also inputs from GPS tracking systems.

A wide variety of data is available on the Internet that can be analyzed and mapped using these GIS systems. U.S. government agencies provide access to spatial data on everything from agriculture to telecommunications. Some of the largest suppliers of data are the Census Bureau, U.S. Geological Survey, EPA, and NOAA. Examples of powerful maps that could be created using data from government agencies include combining income and housing data from the Census Bureau with crime data from the FBI; or combining aerial photography and land use data from the USGS with Superfund site information from the EPA. Most states and some cities maintain Web sites that allow the download of spatial data collected by various local agencies. Some international data is also available, but the quality and quantity vary considerably by country and region.

Geographical information systems provide a unique way to analyze and combine data that has a spatial element. It might be data you have collected yourself, or it could be a varied assortment of data that is available online or from other sources. Go to <http://gis.web.wesleyan.edu> if you would like more information about the possibilities of using GIS in your next project or research contact Steve Bischof (x3714) at the Science Library or Henk Meij (x4482) at ITS.

Services

Using Library Resources Off Campus

If you are feeling guilty about getting behind in your work during the Thanksgiving break, and would like to do some of your research from home, we are pleased to help you out. The CTW Catalogue, as well as most of our Indexes and Databases and electronic journals are easily accessible to you through the Wesleyan University proxy server.

Before you leave campus, make sure that your e-mail account is current and working properly. If you have Internet access at home, you can configure your Web browser to access our proxy server by following the simple instructions at <http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/proxy.htm> or by going to the Help button on the Indexes and Databases page.

Late Semester Interlibrary Loans

Time is running out! Papers are due, and the semester is winding down. Beat the rush—get those last-minute Interlibrary Loan requests in early! With our new ILLiad software, we have cut the time it takes to fill your ILL requests. To be on the safe side, though, it is still a good idea to allow us enough time to get those books and articles from other libraries especially during the busy holiday postal season. If you need assistance locating materials outside the Wesleyan University Library system, or if you need any other assistance in locating research materials, talk with a reference librarian or schedule a personal research session.



Free Coffee During Reading Week

Until we are able to find a way to offer a cafe in the library, we will continue our practice of offering free coffee and tea at night during the Reading Period. Look for the coffee cart in the Olin Library lobby during that time.

Personal Research Sessions

With the explosion of online resources and the proliferation of new technologies that are needed to conduct effective research, you might want a private research session to help you to navigate through our resources more efficiently.

Tell us about your research project, and set up an appointment to meet with a librarian for a Personal Research Session. A librarian who has background in your field will show you relevant reference works, online indexes, and Internet sites that will help you find the information you need. You can request a research session while visiting the Reference Desk in person, or through the library homepage by clicking the link Online Requests to Set up a Personal Research Session, or you can go directly to <http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/assist.htm>.

Software Assistance

Would you like to create a Web page, but you don't have a clue where to begin? Is your page almost done, but you can't figure out how to get your image map to be exactly perfect? Wondering how to get footnotes to work in your paper? Do you have questions, big or small, about Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, EndNote, or Claris Home Page?

Since there is a need on our campus for assistance and instruction on the use of software programs, the librarians are building on the

popularity of our Personal Research Sessions by offering a new Software Assistance Program. Now, in addition to helping you find books, articles, and other resources for your research, we can also help you organize and present the results of your research, whether in a paper, a presentation, or a Web page. To find out more about the Software Assistance Program, go directly to the Software Assistance sign-up page at <http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/softhelp.htm>, or go to the Library home page and look under Getting Help to find Software Assistance.

New Resources

NetLibrary

Wesleyan Library now subscribes to NetLibrary, a virtual library of online books. This service allows full-text access to the titles in its database. To access the collection, go to <http://www.netlibrary.com> or locate NetLibrary in **Indexes and Databases** on the library homepage. You can search for authors, titles, or topics. Or you may select the **PowerSearch** option for additional searching capabilities such as by subject heading or date of publication.

A NetLibrary search, by default, will find titles in the Wesleyan collection, which is defined as those titles we have selected to purchase for our online book collection. You may also decide to "Include public eBooks" in your search. This option permits access to a broader collection of NetLibrary titles including a lengthy list of books in the public domain, i.e., books which are no longer copyrighted.

After locating a title in which you are interested, you may either "preview" or "check out" the book. The "preview" option allows you to read the book online, if no one else is currently using it. NetLibrary's license allows only one reader at a time per title, so if someone else is currently using a book, you do not have access to it. The "check out" option allows you to reserve access to the book for your own use for an extended period of time. You will be required to create an account to check out a book by simply following the simple instructions to create an account. You do not need an account to use the "preview" feature.

There are now several hundred titles in the Wesleyan collection along with several thousand additional ones in the more general NetLibrary collection. New titles are added to the collection constantly.

Art Museum Image Consortium (AMICO) Library

The Art Museum Image Consortium (AMICO) Library is now available through the Library Catalog's **Indexes and Databases** page. AMICO contains over 65,000 high resolution images of works of art digitized and catalogued by AMICO members. AMICO is a nonprofit association of 32 institutions with collections of art. They collaborate to enable the educational use of museum multimedia. Among its members are the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Art Institute of Chicago, Asia Society Galleries, George Eastman House

THE HIGGINS-NULL COLLECTION OF PHONOGRAPH RECORDINGS

Olin Library received a donation of over 1,300 phonograph recordings from writer and composer Dick Higgins in 1997. The gift was arranged primarily through Mr. Higgins's sister, Elizabeth Null, and it was accompanied by generous funding from the John and Clara Higgins Foundation to support the cataloging of the collection. As CD players rapidly replace turntables in homes, record collections are frequently offered as gifts to libraries. This collection, however, is unique both in its scope and rarity. Dick Higgins, who died in 1998, was an internationally recognized writer, publisher, composer, and graphic designer. He was the founder and owner of Something Else Press, cofounder of the European artists' group Fluxus, and one of the earliest members of the "Happenings" movement in the United States. He studied with John Cage and made several visits to Wesleyan during the course of his career. His sister, Elizabeth Null, also has an association with Wesleyan through her collaboration on Folk Festivals. In her offer of the recordings to us, she said that Wesleyan University "has consistently promulgated an inclusive approach to music and its performance, breaking down the often insurmountable barriers between theory and practice, experience and analysis."

Items in the collection are already in demand. Library users have come to the Scores and Recordings Collection window looking for strange call numbers beginning with "HN." They are usually told that if they would be willing to wait a short time, we could pull it out of the box to let them hear it before it is fully processed and cataloged. About one-third of the records have now been permanently cataloged and are available on the shelves. The collection consists mostly of LP recordings with a small number of earlier 78s and 45s, and it accurately reflects Higgins's international travels and tastes. A cursory search indicates over 30 countries represented among the recordings, with between 45 and 50 percent of them not being held by any other library in the country. Especially noteworthy are his records of American folk music, particularly from New England and the Appalachians, and European folk music, particularly from Ireland and Scandinavia. Higgins also spent time in Turkey and brought back a number of recordings on European labels. Other parts of the world that are particularly well-represented include Africa, India, China, Japan, and Indonesia. The collection, in sum, closely matches the interests of Wesleyan's World Music program.



International Museum of Photography, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Whitney Museum of American Art.

The AMICO library is a worldwide database that presents works of art from the following areas: Europe, including ancient Greece and Rome, North America, including Meso-American art; Asia, including ancient Asia Minor; Africa, including ancient Egypt, South America; and Oceania. More than simply an image database, works in the AMICO Library are fully documented and may also include curatorial text about the item, detailed provenance information, multiple views of

the work itself, as well as other related multimedia.

AMICO is searchable by keyword, specific work of art, artist, culture, period or style, range of dates, subject, or institution. Search results may be saved in "notebooks" within the database. Images, as well as the cataloging data can also be downloaded.

Access to and use of the AMICO Library is, by terms of the license, exclusively for educational research and scholarship. Use for any commercial purpose is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN. Licensing details may be found at <http://www.amico.org/docs/AMICO.U.Short1.pdf>.

New Resources

Searching for Media Materials without Using the ITEMYPE

The CTW online catalog has always offered the possibility of narrowing a search to non-book items in the library, e.g., videos, musical scores, compact discs, etc. The capability of doing this for all the CTW libraries in a single search has recently become more complicated. While Wesleyan and Connecticut College libraries continue, through use of the **ITEMYPE** designation, to distinguish a book from a score, or a CD from an LP, the Trinity College library no longer uses this way of limiting your search by format.

If you want, for example, to find recordings of musical works with the title "Romeo and Juliet" that you could check out, you might try to avoid the many Shakespeare editions in book form by setting **ITEMYPE** to **CD-AUDIO** on the complex search screen. If you do this now, however, the results would lead you to believe that Trinity College did not have any such materials, since those items retrieved are all located at either **WU** and **CC**. Since Trinity has stopped using the itemtype **CD-AUDIO** for their CDs, it has become necessary to search by other means in order to find them there.

Most of the records for CDs have either "compact disc" or "sound disc digital" as keywords, offering an alternative way of finding what you are looking for. By resetting **ITEMYPE** to **ANY** and including the keywords "compact

disc" in the "words or phrase" box, the results produces several more matches—all items held at Trinity.

Most other non-book media offer similar ways of being searched, ways that are more flexible than the **ITEMYPE** search. Video recordings, for example, may be on cassette or disc, yet the **ITEMYPE** demands that you choose one or the other (**VIDEODISC** or **VIDEOCASS**, complicated by the fact that one CTW institution actually uses **VIDEO-CASS** for videocassettes). On the other hand, a search for a title with the term "videorecording" in the "words or phrase" box will produce videocassettes and laser discs at all three institutions. The following is a list of terms you may find useful when you look for different media:

- To find a score or sheet music, try "score," "p. of music," or "v. of music."
- Use "compact disc" or "sound disc digital" to find CDs.
- "Sound disc analog" will find you LPs, while "sound cassette analog" finds you cassettes.
- To find any audio recording, use "sound recording."
- You can use "videorecording," "video cassette," or "videodisc" to find videos.
- For CD-ROMs, try "computer, laser, or optical disc," while "computer disk" will find you floppy disks. (N.B. spelled with a "k").

Group Study Rooms

We found, from the student survey, that group study is one of the more popular activities at the Science Library. In order to provide students with more group study space, we have been busy cleaning, painting, and refurbishing some of our storage rooms for group study use. We are happy to announce new group study space in the Science Library this semester.

There are now three study rooms in the Science Library basement: rooms 77, 88, and 90. Second-floor study rooms are rooms 260, 266, 269, and 272. Most of these rooms are also equipped with blackboards. Please note, however, that rooms 260 and 266 are sometimes reserved for classes. You will also find two group study rooms in Olin Library located on Floor 3A. They are on the far north and south ends of the new addition to Olin. One of these rooms is usually available when you need to get a group discussion going.

To find really quiet private study space, try the Smith Reading Room on the main floor of Olin Library. Floors 3 and 3A of Olin Library are also reserved for quiet reading and study, while the basement is the quiet floor in the Science Library.



Olin Memorial Library: (860) 685-2660
 Reference and Research: (860) 685-3873
 Circulation Office: (860) 685-3877
 Reserve Office: (860) 685-3853
 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

books; her determination to gain community understanding for the importance of gathering, preserving, and managing the university's archives; and her carefully reasoned participation in all the issues she addressed.

The library is planning a series of lectures in her honor, the first will be held in late Spring 2001.

Farewell to Gary

Gary Wasdin, Access Services Librarian, has accepted the position of Training Coordinator for the New York Public Library's Humanities and Social Sciences Research Library. During his slightly less than three years at Olin Library, Gary has done much to improve the quality of library services to the Wesleyan community, particularly by spearheading the online reserve program, improving Interlibrary Loan services in general, and launching the ILLiad project in particular. We are grateful for his fine work here.

In his new position, Gary will be supervising one librarian and two to three support staff members. He will coordinate and train librarians on various electronic products, as well as manage the new electronic training facilities and perform community public relations for the New York Public Library. Because this is a new program and a new position, he will have the opportunity to shape its development in the formative stage.

A Living Memorial for Elizabeth Swaim

A Franklina Alatomaha tree will soon be planted outside of Olin Library as a living memorial to Elizabeth A. Swaim who served for many years as Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist. Her career at Wesleyan began in September 1964 when she was hired as a cataloger and specialist in rare books, and it ended with her retirement in June 1998. Elizabeth died after an extended illness on May 15 at the age of 66.

Elizabeth was an active participant in a wide variety of community affairs. She served on the Connecticut State Historical Records Advisory Board; she was a Member-at-Large of the American Library Association's Rare Books and Manuscripts Section Executive Committee, and she also served on the Council of the Bibliographical Society of America. Her devotion to the Middletown community was exhibited in the bequest from her estate of \$650,000 to the Middlesex County Community Foundation. Elizabeth's work at Wesleyan will be remembered by her passion for well-made