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— JENNIFER BADGLEY, FRIENDS OF THE WESLEYAN LIBRARY —

NEW LIBRARY SYSTEM IN 2017

The CTW Library Consortium (CTW), consisting of Connecticut College, Trinity College, and Wesleyan University, has signed a contract with Ex Libris, a Proquest Company, to purchase Alma and Primo in order to provide a more powerful and modern integrated library system to our campuses.

In the 13 years since we implemented our current system (Voyager), the library environment has changed drastically—evolving from a primarily physical collection to a mix of physical and digital resources. Simultaneously, purchase models have changed from outright purchases to a wide variety of purchase, loan, and subscription models. CTW has adopted additional tools to help our staff and Wesleyan’s researchers manage the proliferation of electronic resources and purchase types, but over time this collection of tools has become inefficient and unwieldy.

Alma and Primo are designed for the new environment of changing formats and purchase methods. Both of these products are designed for flexibility and have the ability to grow with us into the future. In addition, both will result in cost savings to CTW and the individual libraries, allowing us to provide more services to our campuses.

For library users, this change will simplify interactions with the library. Searching for materials will be more unified across CTW, requesting materials will be simpler, library accounts will be integrated with Wesleyan’s Single Sign On and Interlibrary Loan, and we will be able to communicate the status of requested materials to our borrowers in real-time.

For our staff, this change will streamline day-to-day workflows, provide tighter integration with our content vendors and Wesleyan campus systems, and automate many repetitive tasks so that staff are freed to focus on more impactful work. Staff from the CTW libraries will be working on this system migration throughout the next year. We look forward to our library users reaping the benefits for years to come.

— LORI STETHERS, SYSTEMS/EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES LIBRARIAN —

EVENTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16: Constitution Day lecture by Middletown Mayor Daniel Drew
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21: Artist Talk by Nancy Ottman Albert MAL’S ’94, former university coordinator of events, on the exhibition “Documents in Black and White”
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29: Family Weekend
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— LEIGH JONSON, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST —

LIBRARY HELPS CELEBRATE VAN VLECk CENTENNIAL

On June 16, the Astronomy Department rededicated the Van Vleck Observatory. It brought to a conclusion more than a year’s worth of planning and research conducted by faculty, staff, and students to mark the centenary with a day-long symposium, events, and exhibitions.

Led by Roy Kilgard (support astronomer and research associate professor of astronomy) and Aynys Williams (visiting assistant professor of history), faculty, students, and staff used the observatory’s extensive collection of scientific instruments, teaching materials, photographs, drawings, and correspondence to create a new Van Vleck library exhibition, Under Connecticut Skies, which illustrates the changes in astronomical research and teaching over the past century. The team conducted many hours of research in Special Collections & Archives, and reproductions of SCA primary source materials are included in the exhibition. The project began in 2015 when a select group of student researchers, under the direction of professors Kilgard, Williams, and Paul Erickson, began a summer-long project to investigate resources and develop conceptual outlines. Development of the exhibition continued through the academic year, culminating with the opening on May 6. Throughout the process, University Archivist Leigh Johnson contributed research advice and helped to identify resources. Digital Projects Librarian Francesca Livemore, Library Assistant Malinda Johnston, and Johnson provided digitization support. In a related activity, Collections Conservator/Head of Preservation Services Michaele Biddle conserved archival drawings and documents related to the observatory that will be added to the SCA collection.

As a companion to Under Connecticut Skies and the Van Vleck centenary, Johnson and Sarah Harper ‘16 curated an exhibition in Olin Library, A Stellar Education: Astronomy at Wesleyan, 1831–1916, which explores the study of astronomy at Wesleyan from the University’s founding in 1831 through the construction of the observatory. Items on display include atlases, textbooks, photographs, an original Henry Bacon Van Vleck Observatory architectural drawing, and more. It will be on view until September 26. Johnson also presented an illustrated talk based on the exhibition as part of the June 16 symposium.

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— JENNIFER BADGLEY, FRIENDS OF THE WESLEYAN LIBRARY —
I’d like to give a warm welcome to everyone reading this; as warm a welcome as I myself have received from everyone at Wesleyan so far. As I write this I am only finishing up my second week as the new Caleb T. Winchester University Librarian, yet even in that short time, I have seen so many wonderful and innovative projects being done by our remarkable librarians and staff here on the Wesleyan campus and beyond. And I know that this is just the tip of the iceberg. I am eagerly looking forward to learning even more and being part of it, as well.

And what better group to share this connection than with the Friends of the Library? As I myself have received from everyone at Wesleyan so far, so I write it. I am only finishing up my second week as the new Caleb T. Winchester University Librarian, yet even in that short time, I have seen so many wonderful and innovative projects being done by our remarkable librarians and staff here on the Wesleyan campus and beyond. And I know that this is just the tip of the iceberg. I am eagerly looking forward to learning even more and being part of it, as well.

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