**SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION AT WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY**

Last year librarians and faculty undertook the painful process of balancing the library budget by cutting journal subscriptions because of their rapidly escalating costs. Many lesser-used subscriptions were cancelled when we agreed that they no longer supported the curriculum. Ten years ago, at the dawn of the age of electronic journals, we had hoped that computerized journal access would help to solve this perennial problem, but it has only served to make it more complex while the availability of electronic journals has actually increased the costs of maintaining journal subscriptions.

The term “scholarly communication” is used by the Association of Research Libraries to describe the process of research, peer review, publication, dissemination, and legal rights assignment, for academic publication. In Summer 2005 Billy Weitzer, then associate provost, Dan Schnaidt, academic computing manager for arts and sciences, and I attended the First Symposium on Scholarly Communication at UCLA. I am now a member of the Symposium faculty which continues to hold national meetings on a regular basis because the process of scholarly communication does not function well, and collaboration among scholars, librarians, and publishers is strained at best.

Last year at Wesleyan when the library went through the exercise of subscription cancellations, it absorbed a significant amount of both librarian and faculty time, in addition to the fact that faculty were understandably concerned about the impact of these cuts on the integrity of the library collections. We worked out a budgetary strategy so that the necessity of reviewing serial publications would not be necessary again for five years while having some funds available for new subscriptions needed to support new course offerings. It is also our hope that by that time there will be additional alternatives available to help us remain within our budgetary constraints. Wesleyan faculty, librarians, and administration clearly understand that subscription costs are symptomatic of the broader crisis in the economics of publishing. After last year's serials review, I promised the faculty that beginning this fall the librarians would work together with faculty, students, and the administration to address these important matters:

The following steps will begin during this fall term:

- Ganesan Ravishanker, head of ITS, Dan Schnaidt, and I will convene a Scholarly Communications Advisory Group to assist with setting policies and priorities.
- The Library Collections Group will hold monthly meetings, open to interested faculty, to involve them in how the collection process works and to seek their advice.
- In considering the recommendations of the R2 Consulting Group’s visit to the library last June, the Library will review its collection development organization and processes. The Library will also work closely with faculty during campus curricular reviews to insure that the focus of collection development in the library matches changes in the curriculum.
- The CTW Consortium received a $350,000 Mellon Grant to assist us in continuing our efforts to share resources with other libraries, and to experiment with new economic models for providing access to information in the most cost efficient and timely manner.
- The university librarian will present an annual report to the faculty on trends in scholarly communication, both at Wesleyan and beyond.

Stay tuned for future developments in this complicated issue of maintaining balanced library collections in all formats which best support Wesleyan’s curriculum as well as remaining within budgetary limitations.

—BARRBARA JONES, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN
IMPROVING LIBRARY SERVICES

As evidenced by the articles in our Check It Out publication, the library is always making improvements to the wide range of services that we offer. This includes providing new online databases, statistical data, images, and video and audio files, in addition to new books and journal articles both in electronic and in traditional formats. We work hard to improve and simplify access to existing library services as well as instituting new ones. The Journal Locator, or Indexes and Databases, SPX and other search applications allow users to easily locate and make use of library resources. New systems such as electronic reserve allow students to access course materials when and wherever they need them, not just when they are in the library. In addition to these incremental changes, it is important to occasionally step back and take a comprehensive look at the entire range of services we offer. What do Wesleyan students and faculty need to support their learning, teaching, and research? How can the library best allocate its financial and staffing resources to effectively meet these needs?

Wesleyan University Library is in the midst of such a review. Last spring, R2 Consultants Inc., a library consulting firm, came to Wesleyan to review and recommend changes for technical services functions including the selection, acquisition, and cataloging of our resources. The consultants analyzed our local practices and recommended ways to make these operations more efficient, as well as to provide improved access to our electronic resources. We are now in the process of reviewing and implementing these recommendations.

The librarians will also perform an internal review of our public services functions such as Circulation, Reserves, Reference, and Interlibrary Loan. In the next few months, a team of librarians and staff will begin collecting background information—innovative services that have been developed elsewhere, documentation and statistics regarding our local processes, and, most importantly, input from Wesleyan students, faculty, and staff. Once this information is collected and documented, it will be analyzed to determine what changes we might make to further improve library services at Wesleyan. In order for this review to be successful, we are soliciting our users’ questions, comments, and suggestions about library services. Later this term we will be contacting many of you for information about your experiences using library resources and services. If you are interested in participating in this initiative, or if you would like to convey your thoughts about the library, please contact Pat Tully, associate university librarian, at ptully@wesleyan.edu, or extension 3887.

— PAT TULLY, ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

NEW ELECTRONIC BACK FILES, ENHANCED DATABASE ACCESS, AND ELECTRONIC ENCYCLOPEDIAS

The librarians at Wesleyan always seek to acquire deeper back files to our collection of scholarly electronic journals, important electronic reference tools, and easier access to digitized documents and other publications contained in our databases. During FY 2006–2007, we bought several important enhanced electronic resources that will be valuable for our students and faculty in a variety of disciplines:

Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

- JSTOR, one of our most heavily used sources for digitized scholarly articles, has developed a new resource called Arts and Sciences V that will, by the end of 2009, add 120 journal titles to the JSTOR collection. The articles are available from the year of inception of the individual journal title up to five years previous to the present date presented in PDF format. Six new journal titles have been added this year.

- U.S. Congressional Serial Set, 1817–1919. MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) records have been added to the Wesleyan University Library Catalog (Caleb). These records allow users to search by author, title, Library of Congress subject heading, or keyword almost 200,000 reports, documents, journals, and other publications of the United States Senate and House beginning with the 15th Congress in 1815 to the 65th Congress of 1919. The bibliographical record in Caleb will provide a URL to each digitized title in this database. Within the next two or three years when this project is completed, this easy access to an especially complex set of resources will be available through the 96th Congress (1981/82).

- Early English Books Online (EEBO) contains digital images of nearly every work (about 100,000 items) printed in England, Scotland, Wales, and British North America from 1473–1700. It includes the first book printed in English by William Caxton in 1473 through the age of Spenser and Shakespeare to the English Civil War, the Restoration, the Glorious Revolution of 1688, and the end of the 17th century. This collection is of critical importance to students of English history, literature, and the arts and sciences of the early modern period. The addition of MARC records for EEBO to our online catalog (CALEB) makes it a simple matter for users to search the catalog, and to receive a direct link to each item in EEBO whether they search the online catalog by author, title, subject heading, or keyword.

- Eighteenth Century Books Online begins where EEBO ends. It is a comprehensive database that includes images of every significant English-language and foreign-language title printed in the United Kingdom, along with thousands of important works from the Americas between 1701 and 1800. It includes not only books, but also pamphlets and broadsides from this important historical time period. Like EEBO, we have purchased the MARC bibliographical records for each of the 138,000 items in this database so they can easily be searched in our online catalog with a link to each item in the database.

- Early American Newspapers: Series 4 (1756–1922) and Series 5 (1777–1922) also has been purchased to increase our holdings in this important database used heavily by American historians.

- Periodical Archives Online (PAO) supplements archival access to journal titles not included in JSTOR, adding 144 journal titles across the arts and humanities. Access begins in the early 20th century through 1995.

The Sciences

The Cell Press publishes six important scientific journals of which Cell is the most important. With the purchase of the back file we now have electronic access to these titles retrospective to 1974.

- Earth and Planetary Science is a collection of 88 journals in this field, the oldest of which goes back to 1937. Our back file access pro-

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coming to Wesleyan, Johnson was archivist and historian at Aetna Life and Casualty. He has also worked as an independent archives and history consultant and contractor, undertaking a wide variety of projects, from oral histories to managing large photography collections to researching and writing corporate histories. Johnson holds a bachelor of arts in American history (cum laude) and a master of arts in American history with a certificate in public history and archival management, both from the University of Connecticut. He is currently pursuing a degree in information and library science at Southern Connecticut State University. He is active in archival organizations, including New England Archivists and the Society of American Archivists. He is a frequent speaker at conferences and has prepared many exhibits. Johnson is perhaps best-known for his film clip-and-lecture presentation, “Archives in the Movies.”

Jenny Miglus, library/archival assistant V, also has previous Wesleyan experience, having been an intern in Special Collections and Archives during the 2005–06 academic year. During that time, she processed the David McAllester Papers. Since 1998, Miglus has worked as a budget assistant at the Hartt School Community Division, University of Hartford. Before that, she held a variety of positions as a middle school and high school science teacher and a medical research assistant. Miglus holds a bachelor of arts in zoology from the University of Washington. She also has studied at Harvard and the University of Hartford. She is currently pursuing a degree in library and information science, with a concentration in archives, at Simmons.

Welcome, Leith and Jenny!
— Suzy Taraba, University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian

Friends of the Wesleyan University Library

This fall brings many changes to the Friends of the Wesleyan Library Board. We thank retiring Board members Cheryl Hagner, Diane Klare, Jim Sarbaugh, and Andy Szegedy-Maszak for their service. Cheryl was the guiding force behind the revitalization of the Friends three years ago, and her term on the Board was filled for one year by Diane Klare, head of reference. The Friends thank them all for their leadership. Andy Szegedy-Maszak and Jim Sarbaugh have given generously of their time, ideas, and support throughout this time. Fortunately for the Board, they will continue to remain involved as Friends, maintaining their passion for the Friends’ work on behalf of the Wesleyan University Library.

We now warmly welcome Erik Grimmer-Solem, associate professor of history; Cecilia Miller, associate professor of history; and Katherine Kuenzli, assistant professor of art history, to Board membership. Our fall calendar will include an event in November in collaboration with the Center for Film Studies and a book sale, the date of which is yet to be announced.

As mentioned in previous articles, proceeds from the last Friends book sale have allowed the library to hire a specialist to catalog the Nathan Comfort Starr Collection of Arthuriana, a remarkable gift of 700 books and manuscripts related to King Arthur that was donated to Wesleyan in 1981. This valuable collection has, until now, remained a “hidden” or uncataloged treasure of the library. The books have been moved to the processing area and work will begin on them soon.

If you would like to learn more about the Friends organization, become a member, volunteer for Board membership, or to assist at events, please contact Jennifer Hadley, jthom@wesleyan.edu or at 860-685-3897. The Friends Web site is located at http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/friends/. We also invite you to stop by our ongoing book sale, located on the first floor of Olin Memorial Library just outside the Smith Reading Room.

—Jennifer Hadley, Library Friends and Scores and Recordings Assistant

vides seamless coverage to the articles in these journals through the most recent issues.

• ISI’s Century of Science extends our coverage of Science Citation Index from 1900 to 1944, now giving us full access from 1900 to the present time.

• Nature Archives, 1950–1986 extends our online access to Nature from 1950 through the most recent issues.

• Chemistry & Chemistry Societies: This new subscription offers access to 16 journals from the mid-19th century to 1997 with seamless access through the most current issues.

In our first foray into seriously collecting electronic reference books, we recently acquired the following titles, mostly in the sciences, all of which are Elsevier publications:

Comprehensive Organometallic Chemistry
Encyclopedia of Archaeology
Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science
Evolution of Nervous Systems
Treatise on GeoChemistry
Treatise on Geophysics

Library users should note that all of the titles described above may be accessed through the online catalog or the journal locator.

— ALAN J. NATHANSON, BIBLIographer/REFERENCE LIBRARIAN; HELEN AIELLO, SERIALs LIBRARIAN

OLIN LIBRARY ON
PUBLIC TELEVISION’S
HISTORY DETECTIVES
SERIES

Olin Library was featured on a July 16 episode of PBS’s History Detectives. The investigation centered on a book found in Olin’s open stacks, August Spies’ Auto-Biography. This slim volume was written by one of the men accused of inciting the Haymarket Tragedy in Chicago in 1886. Although the book is somewhat rare, what makes the Wesleyan copy especially unusual is the stamp on the front, which reads, “LUCY E. PARSONS/785 MILWAUKEE AVE./CHICAGO, ILL.” Lucy Parsons, herself a well-known activist, was married to another one of the men accused in the Haymarket event, Albert Parsons. She was a lifelong champion for radical reform to the economic and political system of the United States. Upon her death, her entire library was confiscated by authorities and presumably destroyed. So how could one of her books end up at Wesleyan?

The detective Elyse Luray visited Wesleyan in January and met with Stephen Magro, the library user who noticed the book and alerted us to its significance. Luray filmed scenes with Magro, as well as with labor historian James Green. She also traveled to Chicago with the book, where she met with a rare book expert who confirmed the book was authentic. She then met with historians and labor activists to get the real story behind the book.

Back in Middletown, Luray sat down with Magro and revealed her findings. The book had passed through Lucy Parsons’ hands, but not as a book she owned herself. Instead, Parsons had sold the book in a Chicago park while her husband was in prison. She hoped to raise money for his defense and put her stamp on the front to let purchasers know where to get more copies. The copy found in Wesleyan’s stacks is the only known existing copy with the stamp on the front—in part because many radical publications were destroyed in the 1920s.

The book represents a pivotal moment in United States labor history. Albert Parsons, August Spies, and two other men were ultimately executed for their alleged crimes, although no evidence linking them to the event was ever produced. The story lives on, however, and the autobiography is a direct link to those turbulent days.

August Spies’ Auto-Biography was transferred to Special Collections and Archives and may be examined Monday–Friday, 1–5.

— VALERIE GILLISPIE, ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST

Check It Out is a publication of the Wesleyan University Libraries that has been published three to four times annually since 1998. Its purpose is to offer timely information to students, faculty, and staff of recent developments in library technologies and resources available at Wesleyan that will assist them in using the libraries in the most effective ways possible.

Articles are contributed by library staff members, and the publication is edited by Alan J. Nathanson, bibliographer/reference librarian, anathanson@wesleyan.edu, (860) 685-3869.

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