

CHECK IT OUT

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Winter 2005

- CALEB GOES LIVE
- LOCATING NEWSPAPER ARTICLES
- SOFTWARE HELPDESK COMING TO OLIN

— Check It Out — A NEW LOOK FOR 2005

The first issue of *Check It Out* appeared exactly seven years ago. Its purpose was to serve as a regularly published vehicle to call attention to important recently acquired library resources and innovations in library services. The first issue was in the form of a broadsheet printed on both front and back, and although this form has changed somewhat from issue to issue, it has looked pretty much the same over the years except for some color changes. This issue incorporates some radical design and format changes that will make it look more like other current Wesleyan University publications, and we hope that those who read it will find it physically more attractive, and that it will continue to fulfill its primary purpose: to help Wesleyan students, faculty, and staff become more aware of what the library offers and how to best take advantage of its incredibly rich resources for their scholarly work and general reading interests.

ALAN J. NATHANSON,
BIBLIOGRAPHER/REFERENCE LIBRARIAN
EDITOR OF CHECK IT OUT

WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

From the University Librarian

MANUSCRIPTS AND PRINTED BOOKS IN THE 21ST-CENTURY LIBRARY

Despite the dire rumors and forecasts of the demise of the book—and of libraries—predictions often heard during the last 20 years, libraries are here to stay and will most certainly continue to collect books as we know them. Many academic libraries predict a slower rate of growth of physical space needed for “hard copy,” partly because of budget constraints but also because of increased resource-sharing among consortia, and because a significant number of journals will only be available electronically in the not-so-distant future.

The Wesleyan librarians are now beginning to develop collections growth space projections for the next two decades. Librarians will be working closely with faculty to determine what resources we should own and whether those resources should be electronic or hard copy. We also need to decide which resources we might share with the CTW Consortium. Printed materials will continue to be a major part of our future acquisitions for some of the following reasons:

- Some hard copy resources, because of copyright restrictions, are more complete than their electronic versions. For example, the back issues of the electronic *New York Times* do not include some articles by freelance writers who have not granted permission for inclusion of their work. Whenever librarians discuss the purchase of a particular electronic or microfilmed product, they must be especially careful to compare the precise content of each product.
- The study of the book as a cultural artifact has gained increasing popularity in the past 10 years. While many library schools have abandoned their traditional courses on the history of books, English and history departments have picked them up. Roger Chartier, the French historian of written culture, is one of several scholars who have

promoted this growth. The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP, www.sharpweb.org) attracts members from a variety of academic disciplines. Their 2005 conference, “Navigating Texts and Contents,” will examine the cultural context of the printed word. The American Antiquarian Society conducts summer seminars attended by faculty and librarians alike, and is publishing a five-volume set entitled *The History of the Book in America*. The Rare Book School program at the University of Virginia now offers courses year-round, such as “Printing, Publishing, and Consuming Texts in Britain and Its Empire, 1770–1919.”

Many undergraduate courses require students to use “primary resources” to support their research. The Special Collections Department at Olin Library has presented more than 250 courses for Wesleyan students during the last five years. This has been in response to student and faculty demand for such courses as well as our extraordinarily rich collections of rare books and manuscripts. Students, for example, may look at an author’s handwritten or computer-generated manuscript and then compare it to the final published copy, which has undergone the scrutiny of editors and perhaps peer review prior to publication. I recall my own study, elsewhere, of a manuscript of James Jones’ *From Here to Eternity*. Jones’ publisher was squeamish in the cultural atmosphere of the 1950s to publish what was considered to be “offensive” dialogue between World War II soldiers. Jones, however, argued that this was how soldiers actually talked. He pleads with the editors, in the marginal notes of the manuscript, to restore his original language for the sake of authenticity. *From Here to Eternity*, winner of the 1952 National Book Award has, in fact, never been

published in an unexpurgated edition! It is important for undergraduate students to understand the nature of an author's manuscript, minus the "spin" of the editors, critics, and readers—and then look at the impact of the latter factors when studying a literary work. Collections of the writings of late 20th-century authors already show the lack of various drafts and marginalia, because of the nature of communication between author and editor via electronic word-processing.

The text of a book is, at times, less important than its "container." This is especially true of artists' books, which Head of Special Collections Suzy Taraba actively collects for Olin Library. Artists' books are an important aspect of contemporary book production, but they fall outside the realm of mainstream, commercial publishing. Many artists' books ask the reader to think about the nature of the book and the act of reading rather than to concentrate solely on the text. With a representative collection of these books, students learn to understand books in new ways. Artists' books complement the more traditional aspects of the rare book collections, through which students may study the history of bindings, paper, illustration processes, typography, and other aspects of the physical book. At times, the library might even purchase a book for significant historical marginalia of the book's owner, not for the author.

Even in the world of rare books and manuscripts, "print versus electronic" is a false dichotomy. Digitization is an important tool for special collections, so that unique materials may be preserved and shared worldwide. In a Rare Book School course at the University, I examined an original U.S. Civil War letter, then digitized it, and I adjusted the contrast so that the scanned version revealed words that were totally illegible in the original. There are times, especially with medieval and renaissance manuscripts, for example, when features can only be detected in the original. The original document then must be examined for erasures, paper chain lines, binding methods, or other physical attributes.

The challenge for contemporary librarians is to focus limited library financial resources on which materials should be retained, purchased, or preserved, and in which format to maintain them. This requires a highly complex decision making process and collaboration with faculty and library colleagues in other institutions nationwide.

BARBARA JONES, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

ONLINE NEWSPAPER RESOURCES AT WESLEYAN

Wesleyan University library users have access to an incredibly wide array of full-text newspapers, domestic, foreign, and historical. The table below lists some of the major newspaper titles available electronically through the Indexes & Database link from the library home page. For ease of use, separate links to the historical back files of *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *The Washington Post* are available from the alphabetical list on the Indexes & Databases page.

ONLINE NEWSPAPERS	DATABASE SOURCE(S)	DATES OF COVERAGE	NOTES
<i>New York Times</i>	Lexis-Nexis	6/1/1980–present	Text—No Images
	Historical Newspaper Collection—Proquest	9/18/1851–12/31/2001	PDF File (Digital Image)
<i>Wall Street Journal</i>	Factiva	1/2/1984–present	Images
	Historical Newspaper Collection—Proquest	7/8/1889–12/31/1987	PDF File (Digital Image)
<i>Hartford Courant</i>	News—Proquest Newspapers	1/1/1992–present	Text—No Images
<i>Los Angeles Times</i>	News—Proquest Newspapers	1/1/1985–present	Text—No Images
	Historical Newspaper Collection—Proquest	12/4/1881–1984	Current coverage to 1966; digitization ongoing
<i>Washington Post</i>	News—Proquest Newspapers	1/1/1987–present	Text—No Images
	Lexis-Nexis	1/1/1977–present	Text—No Images
<i>Washington Post</i>	Historical Newspaper Collection—Proquest	12/12/1877–12/31/1988	PDF File (Digital Image)
<i>Christian Science Monitor</i>	News—Proquest Newspapers	9/30/1988–present	Text—No Images
<i>Barron's</i>	Factiva	1/5/1987–present	Text—No Images
<i>Boston Globe</i>	Factiva	1/1/1987–present	Text—No Images
	Lexis-Nexis	9/1/1988–present	Text—No Images
<i>Village Voice</i>	Lexis-Nexis	2/28/1997	Text—No Images
<i>Times (London)</i>	Lexis-Nexis	7/1/1985–present	Text—No Images
	Factiva	11/1/1989–present	Text—No Images

For other newspapers, library users should first determine their availability at Wesleyan by using the Journal Locator located directly on the library home page. Users should also be aware that more recent articles from *The Hartford Courant*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Christian Science Monitor* that are contained in the Proquest Newspaper databases are not linked directly from the Indexes & Databases list. To search these newspaper titles specifically, users should click on the link for ABI/Inform (on the Indexes & Databases page), and then click on the link to "Select multiple databases" to the right of the basic search text box within ABI/Inform. Individual newspaper titles, a combination of titles, or all current Proquest newspaper collections may then be selected prior to entering the search. Because of the separate nature of the archival collections of Proquest newspapers (*The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *The Washington Post*), simultaneous cross-searching of the current and historical collections of these newspapers is not an option.

The Library's newspaper resources also include collections with a specific focus; each of these collections has direct links from Indexes & Databases on the library home page. These include historical titles published from the colonial period through the 19th-century America, while other collections provide access to contemporary international news coverage. The breadth of these collections is highlighted in the following table:

NEWSPAPER COLLECTIONS	SOURCE(S)	DATE RANGE	NOTES
Early American Newspapers	Varies by state; eventual collection to have 390 titles (digitization ongoing)	Varies by Title	Digitized version of same title available in Microform, call number AN2.A2
Accessible Archives	<i>Pennsylvania Gazette</i>	1728–1800	PDF File (Digital Image)
	<i>The Liberator</i>	1831–1865	PDF File (Digital Image)
	African-American Newspapers (7 titles)	Varies: 1827–1882	PDF File (Digital Image)
	<i>Charleston Mercury/</i> <i>New York Herald/</i> <i>Richmond Enquirer</i>	1860-1865	Civil War Collection; PDF File (Digital Image)
	Pennsylvania Newspaper Record (5 titles)	1819–1870	
World News Connection	A variety of international newspapers	Varies; earliest is 1994	Text—No Images
Ethnic NewsWatch	English and Spanish Newspapers covering: African-American/ Caribbean/African Arab/Middle Eastern Asian/Pacific Island Eastern European Hispanic Jewish Multi-Ethnic Native People	1990–present	

World News Connection accesses hundreds of resources worldwide. It includes newspapers as well as radio and television transcripts and provides access to these sources within 24 to 72 hours after publication or airing. A comprehensive list of sources by country is available from the “sources” link on the “welcome” page of this database.

Ethnic NewsWatch contains information from more than 260 newspapers, magazines, and journals of the ethnic and minority press in the United States, making it useful in interdisciplinary studies in the social sciences, arts and humanities, and contemporary culture. Since the source of the information is not from the mainstream press, it is especially valuable in providing alternative viewpoints.

The titles contained in the two tables above are only representative of many news resources available online through the library's collections. For assistance in determining which of these sources might be the right one for you or how to use them, library users should make an appointment with a reference librarian at www.wesleyan.edu/libr/assist.htm or call the Reference Department at 685-3873.

DIANE KLARE, SCIENCE REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

OLIN LIBRARY CARD CATALOG TO BECOME COMPUTER SOFTWARE HELPDISK

THE OLIN LIBRARY CARD CATALOG, one of the last relics of the precomputer age, and closed since 1988 when the bulk of our bibliographic data went online, is being reduced to 25 percent of its present size. The remaining drawers will be moved in order to make room for a software helpdesk and for more public computers. We expect this major change to occur late in the present spring term. A crew composed of Donohue Group contract workers, students, and library catalogers has examined each remaining card to retain only the “main entry” or principal access card for each work owned by the library, but, in many cases, not represented in the CALEB online catalog. Other cards must be kept because they provide valuable bibliographical information for Special Collections. The future location of the reduced catalog has not yet been determined. The card catalog represents 140 years of library acquisitions and the reduction project has yielded some fascinating finds from the 19th and early 20th centuries when library cards were exquisitely handwritten by professors and librarians. Here are a few examples:

DUNN, HENRY. Teaching; its pleasures, its trials, and its responsibilities. Being counsels for pupil-teachers, governesses, and others engaged in the instruction of the young. (1869)

GRIEG, JOHN. The young ladies' new guide to arithmetic. Being a short and useful selection, containing, besides the common and necessary rules, the application of each rule, by a variety of practical questions, chiefly on domestic affairs . . . (1803)

LOFTIE, W. J. A plea for art in the house, with special reference to the economy of collecting works of art, and the importance of taste in education and morals. (1876)

PODMORE, FRANK. Telegraphic hallucinations: the new view of ghosts. [1909?]

The card catalog reduction crew also found some unexpected items in the catalog including a small quantity of spare change, a Monopoly card with the instruction “Do not pass Go, do not collect \$200,” and a written exclamation of relief from the last time the library concluded a card-pulling project.

SALLY GRUCAN, CATALOGING LIBRARIAN



CALEB GOES LIVE

Users of the Wesleyan University online catalog may have noticed the image of Caleb T. Winchester who lived from 1847 to 1920, and was a member of the Wesleyan class of 1869. He later became both a professor and university librarian at Wesleyan. After a campus wide contest to name our new Voyager online catalog last year, the name CALEB was chosen as the official name of our online catalog from among several excellent entries to honor a man who was a very popular figure on campus during that time. Simply click on his image in the online catalog to learn more about him and his many contributions to Wesleyan.

**ALAN J. NATHANSON,
BIBLIOGRAPHER/REFERENCE LIBRARIAN**

OLIN LIBRARY'S NEW BOOK SHELF—NEWLY IMPROVED FOR EASY BROWSING

For the last several years, Olin Library has maintained a new book shelf consisting of books recently cataloged for the stacks. The new book shelf is located in the first floor corridor between the Interlibrary Loan and Reserve Offices, and it is now indicated by two colorful banners labeled "This Week's New Books" and "Previous Week's New Books." The books are arranged in call number order in order to make them easy to browse. Library users may take new books from the shelf and charge them out in the usual manner. When new books are placed on the shelf, the previous ones are removed and sent to the open stacks for shelving. The new book shelf is an excellent way for students and faculty to quickly see new books that the library has acquired in a field of their interest.

**ALAN J. NATHANSON,
BIBLIOGRAPHER/REFERENCE LIBRARIAN**

FRIENDS OF THE WESLEYAN LIBRARY

A day of events that culminated with the screening of the independent documentary film *Stone Reader* in Wesleyan's new Center for Film Studies on November 11, 2004 marked the revival of the Friends of the Wesleyan Library, an organization that has been inactive in recent years. The Friends brought Mark Moskowitz, director of *Stone Reader*, and Dow Mossman, subject of the film and author of *The Stones of Summer*, to campus for the day to meet with students, faculty, and staff. An evening reception on the mezzanine level of the Center for Film Studies preceded the film. Both Mr. Moskowitz and Mr. Mossman were available to chat with visitors and sign books and DVDs. A question and answer session moderated by Wesleyan University Librarian Barbara Jones followed the film. Approximately 200 people attended the event. Special thanks to the Center for Film Studies for their collaboration in this event and to Broad Street Books for providing copies of Mr. Mossman's novel.

The new governing board of the Friends met in November to discuss the history of the group and to plan for its future. The board consists of Wesleyan faculty, students, staff, alumni, and Middletown community members. The board is working on an updated mission statement and a membership campaign. Details about how to join the Friends will soon be available. Plans are also in process for an event for the spring semester.

**CHERYL HAGNER, COORDINATOR,
FRIENDS OF THE WESLEYAN LIBRARY**



LIBRARY DEPARTMENTAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

OLIN LIBRARY, FRONT DESK	685-2660
REFERENCE AND RESEARCH	685-3873
CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT	685-3877
RESERVE OFFICE	685-3852
INTERLIBRARY LOAN	685-3876
ACQUISITIONS DEPARTMENT	685-3834
CATALOGING DEPARTMENT	685-3845
SERIALS DEPARTMENT	685-3828
ART LIBRARY	685-3327
PSYCHOLOGY LIBRARY	685-2770
PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT	685-3875
SCIENCE LIBRARY	685-2860
SCORES AND RECORDINGS	685-3898
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS/ARCHIVES	685-3864
WORLD MUSIC ARCHIVES	685-3826



Check It Out is a publication of the Wesleyan University Libraries. It has been published since 1998, and 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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