

CHECK IT OUT

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

May 2005

- BEHIND THE SCENES
- STAR COLLECTION
- COOKBOOKS AND GENDER

THE WORLD MUSIC ARCHIVES

The circulating collection of the Olin Library's Scores and Recordings division is rich with CDs and LPs of commercially available music ranging from the traditional classical music repertoire to rock and roll to obscure recordings of music from around the world. For those who haven't yet used it, another valuable trove of musical recordings in the library awaits discovery: the World Music Archives. This collection consists of two general categories of material: international recordings that have been donated by Wesleyan students, faculty, and alumni, as well as many non-Wesleyan persons who have an interest in our Music Archives, and a continually growing repository of recordings of campus concerts and student recitals. Most of these recordings are non-commercial and are therefore not available elsewhere. Many donated recordings are the results of student and faculty research in the field, often involving complete performances of musical events that would not have been otherwise commercially recorded, such as concerts, ceremonies, lessons, and radio broadcasts. The Wesleyan concert collection consists of almost every concert on campus that has been recorded since the late 1980s, along with a large number of earlier recorded concerts dating back to the 1960s.

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WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

From the University Librarian

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM ON THE INTERNET: A CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Unfettered access to information, regardless of national borders, has become a key issue for academic libraries since the rise of the Internet. The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) clearly states, in its Core Values, its dedication to both the principles of intellectual freedom and to "global perspectives." ACRL also states that "content filtering devices and content-based restrictions are a contradiction of the academic library mission and a violation of intellectual freedom policies in academic libraries."¹

These goals are easier said than done in a global information society with a multitude of conflicting laws and regulations regarding the Internet; they are also easier said than done when dozens of conflicting cultural values arise with regard to such important issues as privacy, the definition of "obscenity," and the role of government in filtering the Internet. What happens if a U.S. scholar unwittingly distributes a PowerPoint presentation for a Paris conference, containing content that is constitutionally protected in the United States but not in France? Another potential conflict could arise over the culturally-bound idea of "blasphemy." The last major court conviction for blasphemy in the United States was in 19th-century Massachusetts. But for many of my library colleagues in other parts of the world, the acquisition of blasphemous books could subject them to punishment. The policies of the Cuban government with regard to the definition of a "library" and the meaning of "access to information" have caused considerable debate on the Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression Committee (FAIFE) of ACRL. Should such a committee condemn one government perceived by some to violate Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, when it might be argued that no government,

including the United States, has a perfect record in regard to censorship?

Issues such as these cause heated debate among legal scholars with regard to Internet law and freedom of expression. Does the existence of the Internet require a revision of free speech laws because of its inherent nature? The Internet is anti-spatial; it can be read by many people simultaneously from locations all around the world. Its content is in constant flux and change. Its size can't be measured; and no one actually administers it.²

Issues regarding Internet traffic across national borders are just beginning to be discussed. I am honored to serve as one of two U.S. representatives on the FAIFE/IFLA committee. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the largest international library organization, and unlike similar library organizations, it makes special efforts to include librarians from developing countries. The freedom of, and access to, information is one of IFLA's "core values," and FAIFE is an international committee that includes representatives from China, Cuba, Kosovo, Italy, Germany, South Africa, and many other nations. I recently returned from IFLA's midterm meeting in The Hague, and I engaged in fascinating dialogue about these issues.

I went to the meeting prepared to discuss some of the issues cited above, but the agenda for many of my colleagues in the "developing world" was very different. If a university campus in developing countries has low bandwidth Internet connections available for only four hours daily, and only two terminals in the library, my colleagues' major concerns are focused primarily on one thing: basic access to a reliable Internet connection, and the availability of more computer hardware. Also, if the Internet is not available to poor people, then

there is essentially no access. And so, the FAIFE agenda is now focused on four areas:

Closing the “digital divide” between the rich and poor

Using the Internet to provide public health information on AIDS

Assuring access to the Internet by women

Fighting national corruption that siphons money from academic Internet projects into the pockets of government officials

How do these complex issues affect the Wesleyan University Library?

Wesleyan University purchases and licenses information globally, and this trend will continue to grow at an exponential rate. It is important for us to understand what restrictions are placed on information resources by the countries providing it—including the United States. Our Government Documents Librarian needs to know, for example, which countries exercise censorship over which aspects of their published government data. We should support such organizations as the Center for Research Libraries. This organization maintains important contacts in the developing world to provide access to these countries’ newspapers, political pamphlets, and other valuable information.

Wesleyan students and faculty often study and conduct research in international settings. They will, therefore, encounter widely differing library policies with regard to access of information. Many U.S. researchers are surprised when they are required to present a letter of introduction from their home institution to gain access to information in overseas libraries. Wesleyan University librarians are pleased to provide such introductions for faculty and students as required.

Researchers should clearly understand the sometimes vast cultural differences with regard to privacy, and the issues surrounding access to “prohibited” information in different parts of the world. What we may assume to be taken for granted as basic intellectual freedom policies in the United States may differ dramatically from country to country. Global information policies, in sum, affect the kinds of data the Wesleyan University Library can purchase and make available to its users. Understanding and tackling this complex environment is crucial, because the Internet has truly enormous potential to shatter the boundaries preventing open access to information.

BARBARA JONES, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

1 www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/whitepapers/intellectual/html

2 See “Law and Borders: The Rise of Law in Cyberspace,” by David R. Johnson and David G. Post, in *Crypto Anarchy, Cyberstates, and Pirate Utopias*, ed. Peter Ludlow (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2001), pp. 145–195.



BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Not many people ever stop to think about how the books and other materials that are needed by students and faculty for their study or research actually arrive on the shelves of the library, or are made available electronically on the library home page. The library does not employ elves who miraculously order, process, and make all of these items easily retrievable by library users. There are, however, dozens of library staff who work behind the scenes to accomplish these tasks. The library obviously acquires a wide variety of books, CDs, DVDs, electronic journals, and hard copy journals. Each format is processed in a different manner, and for the sake of simplicity, we will follow the path of a typical book from the vendor or distributor to its place on the shelf of one of the campus libraries.

Books are added to the Wesleyan library collections in a variety of ways. Librarians who specialize in the literature of the various academic disciplines taught at Wesleyan directly submit orders to the Acquisitions Department for books and monographs after sifting through publishers’ catalogs, book reviews, or selection slips sent to the library by our vendors. The subject specialists often receive advance information from publishers about their projected titles several months in advance of actual publication, and they will order these titles prior to publication in order to ensure that they will be available for our users as soon as possible after they actually become available. When faculty members request books needed for their course reserves, the Reserve Department staff submits the requests so that the reserve readings are available at the time they are needed by the students. The library also encourages professors, students, and staff to submit requests for specific items that are not owned by the library. A special “Suggest a Purchase” link for this purpose is available through the Online User Services section of the library homepage. The Acquisitions Department uses the services of over 1,500 vendors from all over the world to secure our purchases at the most advantageous prices. Approximately 75 percent of library acquisitions, however, come from about a dozen large vendors. When books arrive at the library, the Acquisitions Department staff checks them in and submits the invoices to the Financial Services Department of the University for payment. The library also frequently receives books as gifts to the University, and Acquisitions Department staff decides whether they should be added to the collections.

The next stop for a new book is the Cataloging Department. Library catalogers aim to provide a complete and accurate electronic bibliographic record for each item in the CTW online catalog so that all items in the catalogue may be located through the use of a wide variety of search terminology. This means that library users can search for items by searching authors, titles, Library of Congress subject headings, or keywords anywhere in the electronic bibliographic record. The online catalog also permits search limits by date, language, format, and other criteria. Catalogers have the option to electronically import a fully-detailed record for a specific item that has already been cataloged by another library, or to create their own original bibliographic record. The catalogers also correct existing records as needed, and they assign Library of Congress call numbers and barcodes to each item. Marking staff then handles the physical processing of the books: property stamping, security stripping, attaching date-due slips, producing spine labels. The Cataloging Department at Wesleyan catalogues approximately 10,000 titles annually. It also processes roughly an additional 10,000 books that are delivered to the library by the vendor “shelf-ready” (already marked and barcoded).

The new books are now ready for the public. Books destined for Olin stacks are first showcased for a week in the New Book shelves on the first floor of Olin and then if not snatched up by eager users, they are shelved in the appropriate place in the stacks. If a library user, however, has asked to be notified of the arrival of a book, Circulation Department staff will hold the book at the Circulation Desk and send out notification to the requestor. Books for reserve receive priority for processing and are sent to the appropriate reserve desk, while books for the branch libraries are placed on holding shelves until they can be transported there.

So begins a typical book’s career at Wesleyan. As mentioned above, the library staff also handles a great variety of other items—journals, e-journals, sound recordings, video recordings, databases, special collection and archival items, etc.—each having their own cataloging challenges. But the goal is always the same—to provide easy and convenient access to these materials and information for your research and for your enjoyment.

JENNIFER THOM HADLEY, LIBRARY ASSISTANT/SCORES AND RECORDINGS, WORLD MUSIC ARCHIVES

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY STAFF NEWS

Michaelle Biddle, special projects librarian, published *Halls, Houses and Eating Clubs of the Middletown Chapter, Alpha Delta Phi Society, Wesleyan University, Founded 1856*, a history of its first 150 years. Among the many Alpha Deltas who have been generous benefactors of the Library are George W. Davison, Harvey Gram, and most recently the Adelpic Educational Fund, which contributed a fume hood to the Library's book conservation lab in Michaelle's honor. In October 2004, Kendall Hobbs, reference and instruction librarian, and Diane Klare, reference librarian, presented "Virtually Yours—The highlights and lowlights of Wesleyan University's experience providing live chat reference within a consortium of small academic libraries" at the Dartmouth Biomedical Library's annual October Conference. The theme of the conference was "Beyond the Building: Taking the Library to Our Users." At the same conference, Kendall did a poster presentation on "At the Students' Convenience: Personal Research Sessions with Wesleyan's Librarians" covering statistics, policies, and procedures for our popular PRS sessions. Kendall was also on a panel discussing "Learning Object Repositories" at the 2004 annual meeting of ALA (American Library Association). Learning objects are "sharable, reusable digital tools for teaching a particular concept." We will be hearing more about learning objects in the years to come. Diane is currently Webmaster and incoming president-elect for 2005 of the Connecticut Valley Chapter of SLA (Special Libraries Association). For 2004-2006, Susanne Javorski, art librarian, is treasurer and member of the board for the Art Library Society-New England. Erhard Konerding, documents librarian, is currently serving as cochair of the development committee of the GODORT, the Government Documents Roundtable of the American Library Association. Since 2002, Alec McLane, music librarian, has been editor and reviewer for the "Digital Media Reviews" column in NOTES: Journal of the Music Library Association. At the 2005 Annual MLA conference, he participated on a panel discussion of "NAXOS Musical Library Technical Issues." Alan Nathanson, reference librarian and bibliographer, is cataloger and editor of the European Intellectual History component of cURL (Curricular Resource Library), a joint project also involving Mike Roy, director of academic computing services and the Digital Library Initiative, Cecilia Miller, associate professor of history, and a group of both Wesleyan-affiliated and non-Wesleyan contributors. The cURL project began in 1998. Alan is also editor of the library's *Check It Out* publication. Suzy Taraba, special col-

lections librarian and archivist, published "Now What Should We Do with Them?: Artists' Books in the Curriculum," in the fall 2003 issue of *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage*. She is currently an intern on the ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) Budget and Finance Committee and on the planning committee for ABC (Artists' Books Conference) to be held at Wellesley College in June 2005. This spring term Suzy is teaching a GLSP course "Texts in Context: The Book as Cultural Artifact" and last fall term she taught "History of the Book" in Continuing Studies. In March 2005 she gave a presentation to the Middletown Rotary Club on "Treasures of Wesleyan's Special Collections." Ed Rubacha, reference librarian, is currently a member of the board of the Colleges and University Libraries section of CLA (Connecticut Libraries Association)

MICHAELLE BIDDLE,
SPECIAL PROJECTS LIBRARIAN

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All of these recordings are searchable through the CTW online catalogue, and they can be located by using names of performers, titles of works, dates of concerts, and any subject terms such as "Navajo Indians" or "Bagpipe music." Because of the nature of many of our donors' agreements and contractual agreements with visiting performers, most of the collection is available only for in-house listening. Often, however, copies can be made for research or entertainment purposes, provided that permission is secured from either the donor or responsible parties involved in the recording. Among the few recordings that we will freely circulate to students, and that can be copied without permission, are a Grateful Dead concert in 1970 and a Phish Concert from 1990, both of which took place on Foss Hill. Both of these groups have publicly encouraged the copying of any of their live performances. The rest of the collection, however, must be enjoyed in the peace and quiet of the library's listening rooms.

Reflecting the strengths of the Wesleyan music department, the primary areas of the world represented in the World Music Archives are India, Indonesia, Africa, and much of East Asia. The growing collection of Wesleyan concerts and recent donations of other recordings have expanded the scope to include Irish music, contemporary experimental music, as well as the performances and compositions of Wesleyan students. The music faculty, of course, uses the collection heavily for teaching purposes, but the collection may be enjoyed by anyone at any time.

HIDDEN COLLECTIONS AT WESLEYAN: THE NATHAN COMFORT STARR COLLECTION OF ARTHURIANA

One of the Wesleyan Library's best-kept secrets is a splendid collection of books, pamphlets, and ephemera related to the tales of King Arthur and his compatriots. Numbering more than 700 items, the Nathan Comfort Starr Collection of Arthuriana is filled with treasures. The collection was bequeathed to Wesleyan in 1981 by Nathan Comfort Starr, an Arthurian scholar who studied at Harvard and taught at several universities over the course of his career. Starr was a descendant of one of Middletown's founding families and he was a close friend of former University Librarian, Wyman Parker.

The Arthurian legends take their name from the sixth century Romano-British king, who may—or may not—have been an actual historical figure. These complex and diverse tales became more fully developed throughout the medieval period. In modern times, they have been revived and retold, recast and reworked periodically, notably among the Victorian poets and pre-Raphaelite artists. Some aspects of the legends, such as the power of King Arthur's sword Excalibur, Lancelot's quest for the Holy Grail, the eccentric magician Merlin, and the love story of Tristan and Isolde, are widely known in the Western world. Other tales and characters are more obscure.

The Starr Collection includes an amazing range of materials. From the second edition of Geoffrey of Monmouth's history of the kings of England (1517) to a circa 1935 Avalon cigarette package, the Starr Collection offers opportunities to examine the Arthurian legends as manifested both in canonical works of the English tradition and in popular culture. The greatest strengths of the collection lie in English and American interpretations of the legends, but there is also significant material from France, Germany, and elsewhere.

Several Wesleyan classes, including "Days and Knights of the Round Table," taught by Jeff Rider, professor of Romance languages and literatures, have made frequent use of the collection over the years. Nevertheless, it is largely unknown to students and faculty because it has never been cataloged. It rivals the best Arthurian collections in the United States including those at the Newberry Library in Chicago, the Cleveland Public Library, and the Watkinson Library at Trinity College in Hartford. For more information about the Nathan Comfort Starr Collection of Arthuriana, contact Special Collections and Archives.

SUZY TARABA, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST
AND HEAD OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

COOKBOOKS AND GENDER IN POSTWAR AMERICA

Jeffrey Makala, assistant university archivist/reference librarian, recently accepted the position of Special Collections Librarian in the Rare Books Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Prior to his departure from Wesleyan, Jeffrey mounted a fascinating exhibition in Olin Library entitled *Cookbooks and Gender in Postwar America*.

The study and examination of cookbooks is, of course, an aspect of culinary history in particular as well as of social history in general. The large outpouring of cookbooks that appeared in the postwar World War II period sheds considerable light on the rapidly changing ways that American men and women worked and lived in a time of rapid societal change. During the postwar years learning how to become a credible cook became an important aspect of both single and married life. It was also during this time that men came to regard cooking as a worthwhile set of skills to develop. Many of the cookbooks published at this time were geared towards single women who were living away from home for the first time. These cookbooks generally offered recipes with short preparation times either for single persons or for busy new families.

Most of the approximately 35 cookbooks in the exhibit came from Jeffrey's personal collection. Besides such old standbys as *Betty Crocker's Picture Cookbook* first published in 1950, the collection includes such titles that are often amusingly evocative of their time such as:

Hills, Marjorie, *Corned Beef and Caviar for the Live-aloner* (1937)

Young, Hazel, *The Working Girl Must Eat* (1944)

Loeb, Robert, *Wolf in Chef's Clothing* (1950). This clever title offers advice to men on how to become a "gustatory eagle—king of the kitchen and baron of the bar."

Twelve Pies Husbands Like Best (1952)

Sheraton, Mimi, *The Seducer's Cookbook* (1962)

Kilvert, Cory, *The Male Chauvinist's Cookbook* (1973) This semisatirical work urges men to "take over the last room in the home that they don't already dominate."

Jeffrey's exhibit ran from mid-January through March 31, 2005, and it received favorable notices in the *New York Times*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *Hartford Courant*, and the *Hartford Advocate*.

ALAN J. NATHANSON,
BIBLIOGRAPHER/REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

FRIENDS OF THE WESLEYAN LIBRARY

As I write, the Friends are planning and preparing for a spring event that will have taken place by the time you read this. Some of you may have pleasant memories of an entertaining afternoon spent in the Smith Reading Room of Olin Library snacking on mini-burgers and milkshakes while enjoying a slide show and talk by Richard J. S. Gutman, author of *American Diner, Then and Now*. Or perhaps you were one of the 45 generous donor/attendees of the Friends private fundraising dinner held at O'Rourke's Diner in Middletown later that same evening.

The celebration of books and writers and the raising of funds to support programs such as these are the main purpose of the Friends of the Wesleyan Libraries. Reenergized after a lengthy dormant period, the Friends hosted two events this academic year and they worked to create the infrastructure necessary to insure that the group will thrive in the future.

An annual membership drive will begin this May. Membership is open to everyone in the greater Wesleyan community including current students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and area residents. The Friends plan to sponsor two programs each academic year, to fund the publication of this newsletter, and to raise funds for special library projects that might otherwise go unfunded. These projects include preservation efforts and cataloging of library materials not presently cataloged. Plans are also underway for a campus book sale in spring 2006. All who are interested in volunteering and/or supporting the Wesleyan Library are invited to join. Forms are available at www.wesleyan.edu/libr/friends and at the circulation desks in Olin, Science, and Art libraries.

CHERYL HAGNER, COORDINATOR,
FRIENDS OF THE WESLEYAN LIBRARY



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OLIN LIBRARY, FRONT DESK 685-2660
REFERENCE AND RESEARCH 685-3873
CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT 685-3877
RESERVE OFFICE 685-3852
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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.

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