ILA/ACRL Newsletter   Other Partnerships

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ILA/ACRL Newsletter, vol. 17, no. 1, March 2007

Association of College and Research Libraries. Iowa Chapter

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President's Piece

Welcome to 2007 ACRL! Our Awards Committee has two new initiatives this year: the new Iowa ACRL Research Award and the new Iowa ACRL Public Relations Grant. The Research Award will recognize excellence in a research publication/presentation by one of our members, and the Public Relations Grant will fund a library PR initiative led by an Iowa ACRL member. Plans for implementing these two awards will be a major project of the awards committee. [See article below for more on these awards.]

The conference committee is planning a wonderful day for our members at Grinnell on Friday, March 23. Pam Snelson, current ACRL President, will keynote. Pam is College Librarian at Franklin and Marshall College. She has a particularly strong interest in the teaching role of librarians. In addition, the committee had many proposals for concurrent sessions. We can expect a dynamic program.

The ILA By-Laws committee is considering our a proposal to make a by-laws change that would give us flexibility in expanding the size of committees. Our current by-laws specify an exact and inflexible number of members for each committee. As we develop new initiatives like those that the Awards Committee is working on this year, we will need the flexibility to expand committees and get more people involved. There will be a membership vote on this change at our March business meeting. Our by-laws can be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any business meeting of the chapter.

The membership committee is also hard at work. If you have colleagues who are not members, please be sure to encourage them to join. There are many good reasons to be a member:

- Networking: Many of us can attest to the professional and personal benefits gained from getting to know other librarians in our state.
- Conferences: Membership means reduced conference fees for both the Iowa ACRL conference in the spring and the Iowa Library Association conference in the fall. Conferences this year are in Grinnell and Iowa City.
- Professional involvement: Our new awards will encourage members to engage in professional work particularly in either research or public relations.
- Iowa ACRL listserv: Members may participate in the Iowa ACRL listserv-an opportunity to share with colleagues nearby challenges and ideas focused on college and university librarianship
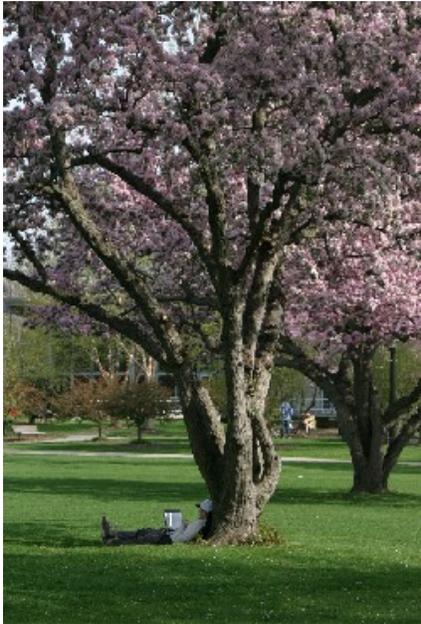
See you in Grinnell!!
Jean Donham, ILA/ACRL President

ILA/ACRL Spring Conference, March 23rd at Grinnell College: Work Worth Doing: The Value of Academic Libraries for the 21st Century

Friday, March 23, 2007 at Grinnell College

3 Great Reasons to Attend...

1) The Conference Keynote Speaker will be Pamela Snelson, President of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) and College Librarian at Franklin and Marshall College. Her talk is titled "What Do We Know About the Value of Academic Libraries? What Should We Know?"

2) Librarians from around Iowa will also give presentations about their work.

3) See the beautiful campus of Grinnell College in springtime!*

Trees in bloom and student happily reading while lounging on grass are subject to weather and other variables beyond the control of ILA/ACRL!

PLEASE NOTE: Registrations will be accepted as late as the day of the conference (checks only), but lunch will not be guaranteed for those registering after Friday, March 9. No refunds will be issued for cancellations after March 9.

Spring Conference Schedule

Spring Conference Registration

Membership Reminder...

Don't forget to check the Iowa Chapter ACRL box when you renew your ILA membership! If you have already renewed with ILA and forgot to check the box for ACRL, you can send Laurie Hews a check for $5 with ILA/ACRL on the memo line and she will add you to the list. (Iowa Library Association, 3636 Westown Pkwy #202 , West Des Moines , IA   50266). Benefits of membership include the electronic newsletter, a membership directory, and access to the ILA/ACRL listserv, reduced conference registration rates. (**Spring Conference registration** is under way, the fee for nonmembers of ILA/ACRL is **$65** and only **$50** for members.)

It's a Major Award! (Two actually!!)

ILA/ACRL Research Award

A $500 grant will be awarded to an ILA/ACRL Chapter member for a presented or published scholarly work. A qualifying presented paper must be text-based and have been delivered at a regional, national or international conference.

A qualifying published paper is to have appeared in a scholarly journal. A qualifying book is to be scholarly in nature. The subject matter of the work need not be library-related. The submission should have been published or presented at a conference since December 1 2005.

A call for applications will go out October 1, 2007, and announced again at the business meeting at the ILA Annual Fall Conference in Coralville. Applications will be due December 15, 2007. We will make the decisions by mid January 2008; winners will be officially announced at the ILA/ACRL Spring Meeting in 2008. The winner will be invited to discuss their research at the 2008 ILA/ACRL spring meeting.

Please jot this date down and be looking for the call in October.

ILA/ACRL Public Relations and Marketing Grant

A $500 grant will be awarded to the best Public Relations/Marketing proposal and the monies awarded will be used to implement the project Applicants must be Iowa academic or research libraries.

This award will be offered every other year. This year, the call for proposals will go out at our spring meeting in 2007 in Grinnell. Proposals will be due by July 31 and the winner of the grant will announced at the ILA/ACRL business meeting at the 2007 ILA annual fall conference in Coralville.

We look forward to reviewing the work and ideas of our colleagues throughout the state!
Submitted by Rebecca Stuhr, Awards Committee chair

Survey on Education Opportunities

The ILA/ACRL Education Task Force is charged with identifying (1) the status of educational opportunities for library staff in Iowa , (2) the key players in education for library staff, and (3) collaborating to promote the development of educational opportunities. It is also charged with investigating and reporting ways that academic libraries can promote literacy and life-long learning for all Iowans. Please help us accomplish these goals by filling out this survey, and submitting it by March 16, 2007 . Thanks in advance for your help! The Committee includes: Susan Moore, Linda Nelson, Sheryl Taylor, Jennifer Wolfe, and Jane Campagna.

ACRL National Affiliate Initiatives

ARL/ACRL Institute on Scholarly Communication.
July 18-20, 2007 in Washington , DC . For more information and to apply, visit their website.

ACRL Legislative Advocates.
ACRL is attempting to develop a network of legislative advocates by identifying one "LA" for each Congressional District. Applications are due by April 6, 2007. Click here for details.

Campus Advocacy: Involving All Staff in Influencing Campus Dynamics.
This workshop is free but limited to 60 participants and will be held March 30 at the ACRL National Conference in Baltimore . Watch the website for more details, or contact Mary Jane Petrowski mpetrowski@ala.org.

Page 1 edited by Suzanne Araas Vesely

Transforming the Physical Library Space: Library as Place and Information Commons in Iowa Academic Libraries

by Kate Hess and Kathy Magarrell

As academic librarians in the 21st century, we are in a unique position to alter the perceptions and preconceptions of students, faculty, staff and visitors to our campuses. The academic library, in the words of Geoffrey Freeman, "has always held a central position as the heart of an institution" as a "center of learning and important gathering place for scholars." But we've also needed to deal with the physical design of library buildings that were "primarily devoted to the preservation and security of materials and to the efficiency of the library collection services". (1) This may sound like a view of the past, but as recently as 2003 Ohio State librarian Scott Bennett found through a survey of academic library directors, that the data they gathered before planning their remodels was "poorly balanced, tilted heavily toward library operations and away from systematic knowledge of how students learn". (Bennett, 11) The librarians that we interviewed for this piece would seem to reject that view. All responded that their awareness and observation of how students learn and work was a driving force in their library remodels. Contrary to the opinions of some that academic libraries would become a thing of the past as more and more information is accessed online, we are seeing that library remodels have had a dramatic impact in increasing usage. Freeman cites several examples of prominent college and university libraries where, with collaborative planning, "the demand for services and technological access to information, regardless of format, is beyond expectations." (2)

It is now almost fifteen years since The University of Iowa Libraries opened its Information Arcade, an early model of the information commons. The concept of the Information Commons

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can be defined "as a conceptual, physical, and instructional space that involves an organizational realignment from print to the digital environment." (Beagle) How are academic librarians in Iowa today responding to the changing needs of their students? Are we giving adequate consideration to the library as a place for student learning? Is the information commons concept a workable idea for every library? We present here an overview of the literature and a few snapshots of Iowa libraries as they prepare and implement changes in their physical environment.

Bette-Lee Fox in Library Journal reports that a total of 29 academic libraries nationwide completed either a new building, a remodel, or an addition in the 2005-06 fiscal year. (par. 1) This year there are three large academic libraries in Iowa doing major remodels, and a fourth that completed a remodel in 2005. The University of Iowa and Iowa State University are both remodeling spaces with the information commons concept in mind, with the emphasis on both technology and integration of services that this term implies. (Bailey, 277) Kirkwood Community College is completing a major renovation with a heavy emphasis on making the library an inviting place for student research and collaboration, and Scott Community College completed a remodel with similar objectives in mind.

One of the more striking components of the information commons is the accommodation for collaborative work among students, and the collaboration among librarians and technical support staff in implementing the ideal of seamless service for students. (Bailey) Providing help to students at their point of need and from the appropriate professional often requires not only renovating physical space, but transforming how different departments and staff members work together and function on a daily basis.

Please see the bottom of the page for a list of works cited, and see the left side column for additional articles, books and websites.

Iowa State University, Parks Library

Dave Baldwin, Associate Dean for Reference and Instruction at Parks Library, shared some detailed information regarding their current remodel. The current reference area, reference desk, lobby, and computer work stations on the first floor are all affected. The newly remodeled area will be known as the " Learning Connections Center ," and will "transform facilities and services provided in the Parks Library into an interactive group space." New workstations will allow students to work together in groups with the ability to share a computer. Multimedia studios "allow students to create multimedia products" for classes. Also included in the space are individual computer workstations, quiet study carrels, group study rooms, and the Bookends Café. The new reference desk is set to be staffed by librarians, IT staff and students, who will together respond to student research and technical needs.

Librarians found that their print reference collection was not being used, as students "walked past" the books to use online resources. So even as the print reference collection has been winnowed down in size, Parks Library is increasing the number of online reference resources for students and staff.

Left: a view of the "old" reference stacks at Parks Library.

The purpose of the remodel was to "increase student use of library reference services and research collections as part of a broad collaborative set of information and technology services. The new service point is designed to respond to today's student learning styles and provide collaborative spaces for small group study and research." Baldwin stated that librarians have observed that students need a place where they can work together on projects, and have access to computer resources as well. "Students were pulling their chairs together around a computer, pushing tables together for group study, and booking study rooms solidly until closing." This new Center will provide that much needed work space for students.

University of Iowa, Main Library

Later this spring, The University of Iowa Libraries is preparing to unveil its newest addition: a flexible, configurable, high-tech classroom in the Main Library. According to Nan Seamans, Associate University Librarian, Research and Information Services, "With ubiquitous access to the Internet and the exploding amount of information available electronically, the needs of students and faculty have shifted from access and instruction to services and consultation." As Ms. Seamans points out, there is a continued effort on collaboration, "but with a shift toward more student-centric collaboration." These principles are the driving force behind the new classroom. Physical flexibility will allow optimal pedagogical advantages for faculty with varying teaching styles and requirements. The flexible classroom will also allow students to work in small groups while still having access to high-powered workstations, access to their course websites, and to the multitude of electronic resources available through the Libraries.

The new space also encompasses 2 project rooms. These enclosed spaces are suitable for student projects that require more intensive group work, and are ideal for brainstorming activities. One of the most common requests from students is more space for group work.

As Lisa Martincik, Head, Information Arcade, points out, "the new classroom provides an opportunity to offer more hands-on learning for all types of classes and adds a dimension of mobility. Multiple student groupings will be possible in a computer classroom without wires and

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stationary desks. Collaboration in research and creation is increasingly recognized and valued, even expected; the Libraries prides itself in providing opportunities for all kinds of study environments."

Kirkwood Community College Library, Cedar Rapids Campus

Arron Wings, Library Director, responded to our questions on the renovation of the Kirkwood Library. The whole library is being renovated, with the 1st floor done during fall semester, and the 2nd floor being completed spring semester. The physical appearance is completely new, with the only reused materials being the library collection itself and the computers. A fresh air exchange, new HVAC system, and new electric wiring and communications cablings required renovation of the existing structure.

Above: the newly renovated 1st floor reference desk.

New colorful carpeting, paint and furniture, as well as the rearrangement of new book stacks, have transformed the library into a very colorful and inviting environment for student use. Service and back office areas were also reconfigured.

The "library as place" concept figured prominently in planning, with group study rooms, increased number of soft furniture, and inviting reading areas being some of the outcomes. Wings stated that although the "information commons" seems to be "the future," individual libraries need to consider their own students and staff expectations. For Kirkwood , this was not the right time for the "digital focus" that is one integral part of the information commons.

Scott Community College

The remodel of Scott Community College Library was a complete renovation of their current space. Though not quite as extensive as the Kirkwood remodel described above, it was also a situation where the library was not gaining any extra space, but needed to make the most of what space they had. Stacks and staff were relocated for a short period of time, and the library space was "gutted" and renovated during winter break and the beginning of spring semester of 2005. Student input played a large part in this remodel, as design students actually drew up the plans as part of a class project. Scott Community College Librarian Jane Campagna reports that the focus on giving the library a "colorful inviting atmosphere" paid off in a 71% increase in average

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weekly library traffic in fall 2005, as compared to fall 2000. Wall and carpet color and stuffed chairs were important to students, and rearrangement of staff and service areas improved the look and efficiency of library operations. A student survey done after completion of the remodel reinforced Campagna's impression that the remodel was a success, with student comments such as "It is very nice & brings a good comfortable climate to the place." Library as place was at the heart of this remodel.

Above: Scott circulation desk before...   ...and after remodel.

As far as the "information commons" concept, Campagna sees this as the future of Scott. The library there already serves as the de facto "open computer lab" for the campus, where students come to work on papers and projects. In the words of Campagna, "The library staff is inundated with questions about computer problems from printing to how to double space. This is where they are working on their projects, this is where they need the help."

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For further reading and reference on Information Commons and Library as Place:

Library as Place: Rethinking Roles, Rethinking Space by the Council on Library and Information Resources

"Information Commons Redux: Concept, Evolution, and Transcending the Tragedy of the Commons" by Russell Bailey, Barbara Tierney, in Journal of Academic Librarianship, Sep2002.

"Implementing an Information Commons in a University Library". by Allison Cowgill, Joan Beam, Lindsey Wess, in Journal of Academic Librarianship.

And for you visual learners: a nice powerpoint on "Developing an Information Commons" with highlights of the where, how, and why.

Iowa Academic Libraries...What's the Scoop This Spring?

Grand View College
Change occurred during the past year in our library. There was a major renovation of the first floor. The circulation area was moved to a central location with all-new furnishings and wall colors providing a very open inviting look. A new information help desk with dual screen monitors was installed adjacent to the library lab. We have found it very convenient for students to have close access to assistance for technology and research. Every thing was moved either to a new setting or upstairs to allow space for the coffee shop to move in; not adjacent to but in the library. We are greeted with odors of fragrant coffees and cinnamon rolls and other goodies each morning. The activity in the library has increased twice fold. Students are much more at home using the library and interacting with the library staff. There can be very positive results from change.

Dan Chibnall is a new staff member who came to us via his first professional experience at the University of New Orleans, which was ended early by Katrina. We welcome him to our staff; he has been a great addition to our information literacy instruction and research help to students. Dan is a Cardinal fan; he received his MLS from the University of Missouri and his title is User Services and Instruction Design Librarian.

A library portal was introduced to the campus this month; the first on campus. We thank Pam Rees, Associate Director, for putting it together. It has an events section, a calendar, book clubs,

and features such as Black History Month with links to websites and e-books. The faculty page has recommended web sites and e-books of interest. In the student section there are tutorials such as how to find journal articles and books, and how to cite references. A blog is planned for later this year.
--submitted by Sandra Keist

Hawkeye Community College

Hawkeye librarians feel that the college experience should include access to academic library resources and services no matter where the students take their college courses. Therefore, we have been "taking the show on the road" by providing library instruction to high school students who are enrolled in HCC contracted courses at their school. A contracted course is a college credit course taught by either HCC faculty or by high school teachers who qualify to teach college courses.

On-site library instruction has been given at four different high schools for the following courses: Composition I, Composition II, Fundamentals of Oral Communication, and Introduction to Sociology. During these sessions the instruction primarily focuses on developing search strategies and accessing information in eBooks and online periodical databases.

Since the computer labs at the high schools are "off-campus" sites, we work closely with the contracted course instructors to ensure that all of their students are able to login via the HCC proxy server. During the actual library instruction sessions, we occasionally experience minor technology issues such as slower connection speeds or the lack of a projection system. But, being able to "think on one's feet" and adapt to the situation has gotten us through any problem.

The instructors and students appreciate having the librarians come to their classes, and the librarians enjoy meeting the students who may eventually be taking classes on campus.
--submitted by Judy Mitchell

Luther College

At Luther College, the library has taken official responsibility for the College's Fine Arts Collection. This diverse collection of visual art includes paintings, drawings, sculptures, fiber art, pottery, pre-Columbian artifacts and pottery, carvings, and other special collections. Now numbering over 1,400 items, the collection has been growing since the late 19th century when a core collection of paintings was first donated to the College. The collection can be viewed on the Fine Arts Collection website.

Most recently, two items of news about the collection have emerged. First, the online searchable database of the Fine Arts Collection with images of each piece has been fully implemented on the FAC website. This was prepared in concert with the IT component of Library and Information Services at Luther College. Creation of the searchable database required over three years of work and refinement before it was ready for prime time. Secondly, a representative of

the ASIANetwork recently visited the college and reviewed all the art from Asia which is part of the Fine Arts Collection. The final report from this representative indicated that a number of pieces from the College were starred for special consideration and further research. This will be followed up by a book which highlights the lesser known but significant Asian collections at colleges and universities throughout the United States.
--submitted by Jane Kemp

Maharishi University of Management

Maharishi University of Management Library has had a dynamic year.
- All of the computers in the reference area of the concourse have been replaced with the new 60 GB Acers.
- Faculty member Ken Daley has equipped the Library's Mac Lab with ten new, state-of-the-art computers with 160 GB Serial ATA hard drives and special features such as a built in video camera that allows videoconferencing.
- A new Work Station in the reference room has a CD burner, Canon Pixma 3000 Color printer, Adobe suite with Photoshop, and a new Epson Scanner. Student reaction: "This is really easy and wonderful!"
- New Security Gate will make easier access through the East Door, which faces the main campus and Highway 1.
- The Library Director has been able to get the full Reference budget reinstated, and reference resources are now more current.
- New Couches, which are very comfortable, are located in the newspaper reading lounge area and in the North Concourse Solarium. Students assembled the pieces and volunteer students carried the furniture to the right places.

April's visiting lecturer Ed Holtum of the John Martin Rare Books Room at the University of Iowa thoroughly enjoyed his visit to M.U.M. and is eager to return and have a longer look at the Maharishi Stapathyadic® building projects.

Stan Stansberry of KHOE radio conducted a one-hour interview of Martin Schmidt and Suzanne Vesely last April about our efforts to make the library a user-friendly place. The program played a number of slots that week on KHOE, and Stan has asked us to return with future interviews.
--submitted by Suzanne Vesely

North Iowa Area Community College

The North Iowa Area Community College Library hosted its first National History Day workshops on December 18 and 19. A total of 70 middle school students and their teachers from four area schools attended one of the two workshops, which included tips on historical research, lunch, and an opportunity for free research time in the college library. As they were leaving, one young student's final comment was, "I had the best time!". (So did the librarian!)
--submitted by Karen Dole

Northwest Iowa Community College

Our online consortium, Iowa Community College Online Consortium (ICCOC) offers WebFeat Enterprise Edition for its federated search solution to students enrolled in online classes. In addition, each member library of ICCOC now has WebFeat Express available for all students.
--submitted by Molly Galm

St. Ambrose University

Cassandra Moon has joined the staff of O'Keefe Library as Head of Technical Services. She replaces Jennifer Davis, who retired in December.

O'Keefe Library rolled out its new blog, "The O'Keefe Brief" in January. The blog contains upcoming events, book and movie reviews, and "fun" stuff. Anyone is welcome to contribute to the blog. It can be found at: http://okeefelibrary.wordpress.com/

Heather Phillips has been hired as a part-time archivist/curator for the Library Archives and the Catich Art Gallery on campus. She splits her time between the two locations, as well as overseeing the digital Catich Collection.
--submitted by Mary Heinzman

University of Iowa

Exhibits
In celebration of Valentine's Day, the University of Iowa Libraries unlocked the archives to expose love letters, love poems, and other romantic artifacts from its collections of rare books, manuscripts, and ephemeral publications. Librarians from Special Collections, University Archives, and the Iowa Women's Archives discussed highlights from their holdings at a lunchtime presentation titled "Love in the Stacks" on Wednesday, February, 14th. An online exhibit of additional artifacts, including a collection of antique valentines, is currently featured on the UI's Iowa Digital Library website.

The "African American Women in Iowa Digital Collection," on the web at http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/aawiowa, is a collaborative project coordinated by the Digital Library Services department of the UI Libraries. Featuring digitized material from the Iowa Women's Archives and the African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa, the collection includes items dating between 1924 and 1970 that were formerly owned by Iowans ranging from sorority girls to civil rights activists.

People
Carlette Washington-Hoagland, Assessment and Staff Development Coordinator at the University of Iowa Libraries , is among 20 librarians selected for the Association of Research

Libraries (ARL) Leadership and Career Development Program. The selected librarians represent a diverse combination of library experience, cultural backgrounds and research interest areas. Christopher J. Shaffer, Assistant Director for Public Services at the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences has been selected for a NLM/AAHSL leadership fellowship for 2006-2007. The leadership program is jointly sponsored by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL).

Grace Fitzgerald, Music Cataloging Specialist, was recognized for outstanding leadership in the face of a natural disaster during the University's 2007 Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Week. Fitzgerald led an effort to raise funds for the Red Cross and the American Kennel Club Companion Animal Recovery Program in the months following Hurricane Katrina.

Mary White has been appointed Education & Outreach Librarian for Hardin Library for the Health Sciences. Mary holds an M.S. in Health Informatics from Johns Hopkins University and an M.L.S. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill .
--submitted by Randy Roeder

Waldorf College

The Luise V. Hanson Library on the campus of Waldorf College has been open for one year and has been well received on campus. Over 150,000 patrons have visited and students often comment on the flexible study space and availability of the coffee shop. In the coming year we plan to add more stack space, upgrade the technology in our classrooms with addition of plasma TV's and Smart Boards, and expand our faculty research room into a center for faculty teaching and learning.
--submitted by Jim Kapoun

Care to toot your own horn?

To submit your library's news story for the upcoming June newsletter, simply email a member of the Newsletter Committee.

Page 3 edited by Jeff Dodd

Contact Us

If you have any comments or corrections regarding this newsletter, or if you have story ideas for future newsletters, please email newsletter committee chairperson, Kate Hess, at khess@kirkwood.edu. Thank you!

2007 ILA/ACRL Newsletter Committee Members:
Jeffrey Dodd
Nancy Bird Luikart
Kathy Maggarell
Veronica McAsey
Randy Roeder
Ellen Van Waart
Suzanne Veseley
Kate Hess (chair)

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