



staff news

Issue 81

April 29, 2002

IT Update

As of last month, LISD (Library Information Systems Division) has moved to a new home on the Library organization chart. We are committed more than ever to supporting the entire Library's IT needs. We will work harder and make things happen faster. Also, we will use *Staff News* as a channel to inform you about what is going on. You can expect to see "IT Update" each month in the newsletter. You can also check out the LISD web site for more detailed project information. As always, send us your concerns and questions at help@library.syr.edu or call us at x4300.

What projects are the LISD folks working on? A lot! To name a few major ones:

Office 2000 upgrade

Starting June 1, LISD is going to roll out the Office 2000 suite for all staff members. Office 2000 has been a campus-wide standard in the public labs and in most SU schools and colleges. It has a very similar look and feel to the Office 97 suite that we have been using for the past four years. The file formats used by Word and Excel stay the same, but Access 2000 uses a different format than Access 97. LISD will be working with Staff Development Specialist Roula Anninos-Creighton to help staff switch to these new packages.

Windows XP upgrade

We have had Windows 95 for five years! Remember when we had a lock-down environment before we switched to what we call "open desktop" a year and a half ago? It is time to move forward again. In late summer or early fall, LISD will upgrade all staff stations to this newest windows operating system. The user interface is very similar to Windows 95/98/NT, but Windows XP is much more stable and is much friendlier. However, the administration part of XP is very different from the rest of the Windows products. LISD staff will have a lot of new skills to learn and master before we can roll it out to the rest of the Library.

Web browser upgrade

IE or Netscape? Which one do you prefer? These are the questions we have been asked a lot lately because the web browser has become an important client or interface program for many network-delivered applications. The fact is that many web sites only support IE, and Netscape just cannot display some of their information. IE is now a part of the Windows operating system and a "must-have" for many applications, including Office 2000. LISD will closely monitor the latest upgrade for both the IE and Netscape browsers. We will test them first and give staff the latest choices available. IE or Netscape? Ultimately, it will be your choice.

Workstation hardware upgrade

Currently, the Library has four Dell models for staff workstations (OptiPlex GX1, GX110, GXa, and GXpro). The OptiPlex GX1 and GX110 meet the minimum system requirements to run Windows XP. The OptiPlex GXpro and GXa have only a Pentium 180/233 CPU, so they will have to be replaced. LISD will work with Library administration to develop a strategy for the staff workstation hardware upgrade. After this upgrade, all of us will have a machine that is powerful enough to run Windows XP.

Email/print server upgrade

Our current email/print server is over 5 years old. This is a great-grandma age for a computer server. LISD, with help from CMS and Library administration, is working on this complex upgrade project. We have to check out our technical choices, test them, weigh their pros and cons, and then make a recommendation to the administration. It is a tough job. However, we know that once this project is done, staff members will be able to access their emails and personal calendars from anywhere on the web.

LISD has been operating with a reduced staff for the past six months. We are very happy that we will have a new staff member coming on board on May 16. Please join us in welcoming Anthony Bottari to the LISD staff. Anthony will be leading the desktop support effort and will also coordinate and develop the Technology Associates program. Anthony is new to the Library, but not to SU. He has been supporting computers at ECM and CMS for over six years. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and skills, and we are thrilled that he has agreed to join LISD at this exciting time of growth and change.

Yuming Tung, Library Information Systems Department

New York Center for Books and Reading to be Unveiled

Deirdre Stam, Director of the New York Center for Books and Reading, will be the discussion leader for the next Peer to Peer Library Dialog. Wendy Bousfield, Reference Librarian, will serve as discussion facilitator. The discussion will focus on the purpose, history, structure, and planned activities for this new center located at the Syracuse University Library.

This meeting will take place at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1 in the 1916 Room. Those planning to attend are strongly encouraged to visit the following websites prior to the session:

- New York Center for Books and Reading at <http://www.newyorkbooks.org>
- The Center for the Book at the Library of Congress at <http://www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook>
- Idaho Center for the Book at <http://www.lili.org/icb>

Resource materials to prepare for this dialog are also available at the Reserve Desk of ES Bird Library.

Staff News is a bi-weekly publication of the Syracuse University Library. All contributions are subject to administrative approval.

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Please send material for the next *Staff News* by Thurs., May 9, 2002 to the editor at 219 E.S. Bird Library.

Telephone: x5533; tabelzak@library.syr.edu.

In Brief

... news about our staff



We are pleased to announce that **Kevin Atwater** has accepted the position of Technical Specialist in the Database Management Department. The Library thanks the search committee for its efforts toward bringing this search to a successful conclusion.

And now for something completely different.... We've had Library outings to hockey games and baseball games, now let's try something just a little different - a visit to another century! See musicians, jugglers, and assorted other silliness during Library Day at the Sterling Renaissance Festival, Saturday, July 20, 2002. Advance sale tickets are \$14.99 for adults, \$5.99 for children ages 6 to 12 (ages 5 and under get in free). Please note that these tickets can be used any day of the festival run if for some reason you aren't able to go that day. Please give names and payments to **Lee Radigan**, Library Information Systems Department, by May 31.

Yuxin Yang, Circulation Department, and **Cynthia Needham**, Reference Department, recently attended the annual business meeting and the accompanying workshop, *Meeting the Challenge of 21st Century Librarianship*, presented by the Upstate New York Chapter of the Special Libraries Association. This day-long event was held on Friday, April 19 at the Syracuse Sheraton University Hotel.

Brief Notes from the Special Collections Department

Goodbye, Sally! The Special Collections Department bids a fond and reluctant farewell to **Sally Sessler**, who will be retiring at the end of April, and wishes her the best of luck with future endeavors.

Lucky Janet! **Janet Shahan** was the lucky winner of the Compaq iPAQ Pocket PC raffled off recently by the University Bookstore.

Congratulations, Julien! On April 11, 2002, **Julien Vernet** successfully defended his dissertation, "*Strangers on Their Native Soil?*" - *Opposition to United States Territorial Government in Orleans, 1803-1809*. Staff in Special Collections extend enthusiastic congratulations to Julien, the Library's first Dana Scholar and a former summer employee of the department. As he marks this remarkable achievement, Julien is finally liberated from the Xerox machine, where he spent considerable time photocopying for other researchers!

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the end of the meeting, Lisa Moeckel offered a reminder about the questionnaire survey being conducted by the action team which is considering potential improvements to the first floor of Bird Library. Staff members who have contact with faculty members and students are asked to encourage completion of the questionnaire. All Library staff members will soon have the opportunity to fill out a separate staff questionnaire.

Complete minutes of these two Cabinet meetings are posted at *F: Committees/Standing Committees/Cabinet/Cabinet Minutes*.

Lydia Wasylenko, Database Management Department

News from the March 26 Cabinet Meeting

Cabinet discussed having an advisory group to provide input on setting agendas, etc. We wondered if the SULA Executive Committee could serve such a function. Cabinet convenors could meet with the SULA Executive Committee on some kind of regular schedule and Cabinet could report out at SULA meetings. A small workgroup was formed to talk to SULA about this idea.

The Library is going to be part of a pilot for a new automated online service for SU recruitment and the application process.

Cabinet discussed our May retreat, which will be a one-day session this year (May 17) and will be a "working" retreat. We have tasks to complete beforehand to make the best use of our day.

The success of the recent Library symposia has prompted thoughts of a Library symposium series for the next year. We will focus on bringing in top-notch people and reach many Library people with one session. As we move forward with our many projects and initiatives, the employee knowledge base will need to rise as well.

Lesley Pease, Maps and Government Information Department

Highlights of the April Cabinet Meetings

April 9, 2002:

As is customary every six months when the Cabinet's convener team changes, facilitator George Abbott reviewed Cabinet Norms, a document which provides guidelines for effective participation in Cabinet meetings. (This document is posted in the Cabinet folder on the F-drive, and may be used as a model for other Library groups.) George then led review and discussion of action items from Cabinet's meeting of March 26, 2002.

In the absence of Peter Graham, only one standing report was given, that of Director of Administrative Services Cindy Cost. Cindy provided updates on eight searches and information on 2002-2003 salary increases; she announced the establishment of a new Library supervisors' forum; and indicated that she and Roula Anninos-Creighton will soon be reporting on the findings of a systematic Library training needs assessment.

Denise Stephens presented a proposal for a Web development action team, a new team which will build on the work of the group that developed the Library's current Web presence. The Cabinet meeting then concluded with a discussion of copyright issues and educational opportunities for increasing copyright awareness. This discussion was initiated by George Abbott, who had recently returned from a two-day copyright workshop at the University of Maryland. George will soon be sharing some of what he learned at the University of Maryland in a meeting open to the entire Library staff.

April 23, 2002:

The meeting began with standing agenda items, including a review and discussion of action items from the previous Cabinet meeting (April 9, 2002), the report of University Librarian Peter Graham, and the report of Director of Administrative Services Cindy Cost. In his report, Peter Graham shared information from two meetings he had recently attended, the first an Association of Research Libraries (ARL) special collections task force meeting, and the second the Spring 2002 Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) Task Force meeting.

The Graham and Cost reports were followed by a discussion of Library privacy issues and by review of preparations for the Cabinet's strategic planning retreat on May 17, 2002. In an announcement at

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A Profile of the Media Services Department

Change is everywhere and the Media Services Department is no exception. Each year, Media has expanded its service offerings and adapted them to meet the needs of today's library users. The focus, to help meet the strategic goals of the Library, has been on "going digital," offering targeted training/information sessions, and developing access to media collections.

During the past several years, Media has offered 10 to 15 sessions per semester for Library staff and the campus community and is engaged daily in one-on-one sessions instructing students in the use of multimedia workstations. Media currently has collections in 27 different media formats and is working to provide both bibliographic and physical access to these collections.

Copyright and preservation issues for these collections also present a broad range of challenges for the department. From the student wishing to burn a CD copy of his friend's CD, to the faculty member who wants to borrow a video for a public showing at an award dinner on campus, to the library user who asks for 25 photocopies of a collection of poetry to send to colleagues around the country, Media must advise and educate our users on the proper use of copyrighted materials. We ourselves are not immune and also must consider the copyright implications in our preservation efforts to recover and reformat information content from no longer viable media formats.

Media Services by the numbers

Media staff = 15
Service hours = 104/week
Photocopies produced = 2,093,963 (FY00-01)
Collections = over 3,000,000 items
Different media formats in collection = 27
Equipment inventory = over 425 items
Public computer workstations = 36
University buildings where Media has a presence = 6
Downlinks and training sessions offered = ~25/year

A recent trend that we are facing in Media highlights the changes and adaptations brought about by the move to digital. Both nationally and locally, there has been a dramatic decrease in photocopying volume over the past 3 to 5 years. As a result, a shift is underway in Media to expand digital scanning capabilities both in the self-service arena, which we have offered for the past six years, and in the staffed area where we have been offering digital scanning from microforms on a limited basis for the past year.

Many of our other media services are also morphing into the digital area with multimedia workstations available for digitizing video and audio files and for creating CDs and DVDs. Three digital cameras are available for 24-hour loan as well as a miniDVD camcorder to work with digital video

in the Library. Media also offers a wide range of graphic software and web page creation tools including *Dreamweaver* and *Flash*.

Other diverse components of the department are adaptive technologies, DVD/video/film distribution, the Television History Archive, access to numeric data sets from ICPSR, and of course, microforms. Our adaptive technologies range from the Kurzweil Reading Edge text-to-speech unit to *Jaws* software for voice output of the text from web pages and other programs. Our video collection receives heavy use both in-library and for classroom showings. During the past two years, 33% of all full-time faculty borrowed videos from Media Services. The Television History Archive contains 27 discrete collections of primary source materials encompassing more than 8,000 items that have been used not only in classes on campus, but have also received research inquiries from scholars and corporations worldwide.

In addition to our services to the campus community, Media also serves the Library staff. The department provides equipment setups in Library meeting rooms, services copiers in various locations, arranges teleconferences on current topics, provides technical advice on Macintosh computers and scanning applications, and prints signs and forms for Library departments. And for fun - we celebrate each Media staff member's birthday with a cake.

On the horizon are video conferencing, video streaming, network delivery of scanned text and ...

George Abbott, Media Services Department

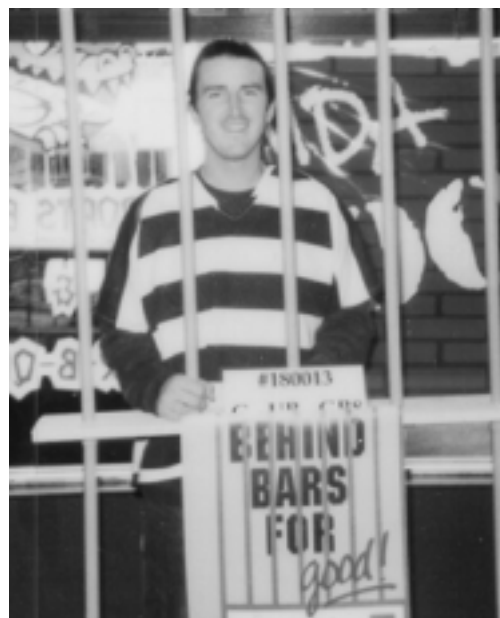
Sean Hogan — Behind Bars for GOOD!

Sean Hogan, whose latest known address was the Science and Technology Library, was "locked up" by the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) on April 10. He was apprehended at the library at about 2:30 pm. After being placed in the back of an MDA police cruiser (stretch limousine), and after a couple of stops to pick up other suspects, Sean was taken to jail (Tailgaters downtown in Armory Square).

He was booked, mugshots were taken, and he was placed in a holding cell (dining booth) where he proceeded to raise bail money (donations). He was served bread and water (actually, sandwiches and soda) to keep him going while raising his bail. After several hours, Sean raised \$252 for MDA.

Sean survived his experience tolerably well and reported that it was a fun way to raise money for a good cause. Thanks, Sean!

Janet Pease, Science and Technology Library



Sean Hogan, right, as he appeared during his "booking" for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Librarian Travels to D.C. Anti-war Rally

At 1 a.m. on Saturday, April 20, two buses left Syracuse headed for Washington, DC to join many from across the nation at "Stop the War at Home and Abroad," an anti-war demonstration for those who want peace and are against the war on terrorism. Members of these national and local groups feel that the war in Afghanistan is not an appropriate response to the events of September 11. Cynthia Needham, Reference Department, and her husband Craig Schaub were among demonstrators who traveled from Central New York.

The Syracuse Peace Council chartered the buses in order to join this rally which was sponsored by a number of groups. Among these are the National Youth and Student Peace Coalition, the National Coalition for Peace and Justice, 9-11 Emergency National Network, and NYC Labor Against War.

After returning from her 24-hour trip, Cynthia noted that, "Being part of this rally for peace and anti-war demonstration and march in Washington, D.C., this past weekend, was one of the most exhilarating, and energizing actions I have ever experienced! My husband Craig and I were among 200 others from Central New York who went on this trip. When we got to Washington Monument Park on Saturday morning for the Peace Rally, we were amazed at the numbers of people who were there! What was encouraging to see, as well, were the numbers of children who attended this event with their families! We marched toward the Capitol steps with close to 100,000 people! It was so powerful!"

May Day Celebration in Thornden Park

Again this year, Tom Keays and Ann Horan will dance at Thornden Park in the 22nd Annual May Day celebration hosted by Thornden Morris. It will take place on Wednesday, May 1 at 6:00 a.m. (dawn) at the Water Tower Hill.

The festivities begin with the Winstar Processional, followed by Morris dancing, speeches and singing. For fertility and good luck, the Morris cake is distributed, along with branches of May greenery. A mumming play will then be performed; the play celebrates the themes of light and dark, death and renewal, celebrating the end of winter and the return of the sun and fertility of the soil, usually with a lot of broad comedy. Finally, a participatory May Pole Dance closes the event. The audience, usually numbering from 100 to 200, particularly enjoys the play and the May Pole dance.

<http://witcombe.sbc.edu/earthmysteries/EMmorris.html> offers the following information about Morris dancing, the origins of which are lost in the mists of time. It survives today as a form of folkdance performed in the open air in villages in rural England by groups of specially chosen and trained men and women. It is a ritual rather than a social dance that the dancers take seriously. It is felt that the dances have a magic power and serve both to bring luck and to ward off evil.

Attempts to discover the origins of the dances have revealed a general connection with other ritual folkdances in the Mediterranean, Latin America, and Romania. It is suspected to be of pagan origin, performed most likely as part of ancient fertility rites. The music and dances were perhaps intended to attract beneficial influences, while the bells, fluttering handkerchiefs, and clashing sticks served as the means to scare away malevolent spirits. For more information, contact Karin Howe at (315) 422-8145 or karinhowe@earthlink.net. Visit <http://www.weavemaker.com/morris/> for photos and additional information.

Ann Horan, Science and Technology Library

SUL Staff Attend Conference

On Friday, April 12, Sarah Theimer and Pat Bench attended the New England Technical Services Librarians Conference *Something Old, Something New: Looking at Standards*, held at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. The keynote speaker was Sally McCallum from Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Library of Congress, who spoke on *Metadata and the Markup Explosion*. She explained what steps the Library of Congress is taking, including the imminent release of a MARC XML conversion package. She discussed MODS (Metadata Object Description Schema) and METS (Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standards). My favorite acronym was ZING (Z39.50-International: Next Generation).

We attended the session entitled *Applying Metadata Standards in a Real World* given by Robin Wendler, a metadata analyst from Harvard. She was the first to point out that Harvard is not the real world, so her title is slightly wrong. She gave a very interesting talk on the purpose of the use of metadata.

One of her main points was that catalogers have been creating metadata for years. Many schemes have been developed to handle specialized materials. She talked in depth about EAD (Encoded Archival Description) and Visual Resources Association Metadata set and gave us examples of how these are used. She talked about the metadata committee structure and the importance of coordination. She frequently emphasized that the utilization of standard schemes requires local decisions and that these decisions should be made in a consistent, methodical fashion. We also received information on XML and ONIX and discussed Geospatial metadata options. It was a good day.

On the sobering side, we talked with librarians from a state school in Massachusetts who said that they were told to cut acquisitions spending by over sixty percent. Positions were not being filled. Overall, we learned much about current metadata standards and the local decisions required before putting these standards to use.

Sarah Theimer, Bibliographic Service Division

Staff Honored for University Service

Sometimes it seems as though there is always a new face or two appearing at the door of the Syracuse University Library, ready to start work. Apparently, some of those new faces become integral parts of the Library landscape. Nine staff members were recently honored by the University in *Salute to Service* for reaching milestone anniversaries. They all deserve our congratulations and thanks for their years of service to SU. Collectively, they have worked at the University for 270 years!

25 Years

Bill Lee, Special Collections

Augie Teska, Library Information Systems

30 Years

Carolyn Davis, Special Collections

Eileen DeRycke, Circulation

Gloria Graham, Technical Services

Dorcas MacDonald, Interlibrary Loan

Gurnek Singh, Technical Services

35 Years

Ron Bouverat, Media Services

Howard Wallace, Library Administration