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The Social Life of Libraries

Brinley Franklin
Director of Library Services

These days, when a library director is interviewed, he or she is invariably asked if libraries will continue to exist as physical entities as information becomes more readily available electronically. I always answer “yes” for the University of Connecticut Libraries, and my reasons for doing so are many.

In their book, The Social Life of Information, John Seely Brown and Paul Duguid devote several pages to “digitized libraries.” They point out that the dream of making all printed material digitally accessible died not long after it was born. Project Gutenberg, perhaps the earliest attempt to realize this dream, is now 30 years old and has managed to mount only 10,000 titles online. The most popular electronic book vendor, netLibrary, has about 30,000 titles available. Meanwhile, in 1999, the most recent year for which we have statistics, 100,000 titles were published in the United Kingdom alone.

Brown and Duguid note that the dream of an all-digital library (with which several new universities have experimented) is largely the stuff of visionaries. In fact, digital and physical libraries are complementary. Moreover, as the gap widens between the amount of information produced and the ability of any one library, or consortium of libraries, to collect the sum total of information available, libraries increasingly will reflect the uniqueness and diversity of their users, their services, their holdings, and their buildings.

The continuing need for a physical library facility on UConn’s Storrs campus is demonstrated by the fact that the Babbidge Library is visited more than one million times each year by students, faculty, and other scholars. It can be visited more than one million times each year by the inclusion of a cap on price attractive by the inclusion of a cap on price.

The Hoffmann Family Collection, which traces the life and times of activist Abbie Hoffman, is now part of Archives & Special Collections in the Dodd Research Center. A photo from the collection shows Abbie (left) sharing something presumably illegal with his friend, Beatle John Lennon. Story on page 3.

Library Investing Heavily In Electronic Journals

The digital revolution, at last, is providing more titles than ever—and at a price we can afford.

Peter Allison, Principal Bibliographer, and Carolyn Mills, Liaison Librarian for the Biological Sciences

The University Libraries are about to achieve a significant milestone in providing electronic information to the desktop—in a month or so, we will offer access to more scientific and technical journals in digital form than we have available via print subscriptions. This figure includes more than two thousand scholarly titles to which we have no current print subscription.

This is very good news for busy students and researchers, who will be able to consult these titles without leaving their dorms, homes, labs, or offices. This enhanced access will help users save valuable time, increase research efficiency, and greatly speed up preparation of time-dependent grant proposals.

We’ve come further—and faster—than we expected, toward a goal we had set, because large commercial publishers, concerned with their loss of market share, have proposed very favorable terms on packages of digital content. The larger publishers typically are offering electronic access to all or almost all their electronic journals for only 5%-10% over print subscription costs. In many cases, the agreement is made even more attractive by the inclusion of a cap on price increases for both print and electronic titles. And, in a number of instances, the library has regained access to important, but painfully expensive, titles that were cancelled in the 1990’s.


The figures below include those agreements that will bring in the largest number of new titles. They demonstrate the title gain for the Storrs community. And, since the libraries at the regional campuses and the Health Center subscribe to fewer print journals than Storrs, system-wide electronic access yields an even greater title gain for them. Faculty, staff, and students will be able to consult most of the electronic journals through a web browser by registering their browsers through a proxy server in University Information Technology Services.

Most publishers represented above share a

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<td>Academic Press</td>
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<td>Blackwell Science</td>
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Continued on page 6
Babidge Library Restores Current Journals Browsing Area

Long-time Homer Babidge Library users will recall the Current Journals Reading Room that existed on Level B before that floor was renovated in 1997-98. During the renovation, unbound journals were moved to Level 3 and shelved next to bound volumes of the same title.

The library’s User Team then decided to use the opportunity to survey several hundred users of the unbound journals to see which of several possible shelving arrangements they preferred for current issues. Users were evenly divided in preferring unbound journals shelved either as a separate browsing collection or on the shelves with the bound volumes. It was clear, however, that they preferred having both current and bound journals on the same floor. Library staff decided to maintain both bound and unbound journals on Level 3 as an integrated collection and not to re-establish a separate browsing collection of current issues only.

Soon thereafter, the Libraries received a petition from department heads and faculty in the Humanities requesting that the library restore a current journals browsing area. The Vice Chancellor for Information Services, Paul Kobulnicky, and I met with the petitioners, and the matter was subsequently referred to the Chancellor’s Library Advisory Committee. In the spring of 2000, the Committee unanimously recommended the creation of an unbound journals browsing area on Level 3.

The library’s Space Planning Team (Brinley Franklin, Scott Kennedy, and Dennis Thornton), assisted by David Kapp, former Associate Director for Collections and Information Services, prepared a shelving configuration that would accommodate 4,500 unbound journal titles in an area adjacent to bound journals on Level 3. Shelving was constructed in November 2000. Library conservator Carole Dyal and Lee Astin, who maintains the journal collections, planned the arrangement of unbound journals for the shelves, then Lee and Patrick Dillon oversaw the shifting of unbound journals to the new shelving over the winter recess. Carole Dyal, Head of Preservation, and Meredith Petersens, Signage Team Leader, coordinated the title-by-title production of labels and signs for the collection.

The current journals browsing area is now restored to faculty, students, staff and others. The project is noteworthy, we believe, as an example of the importance of user feedback in the library’s decision-making and resource allocation processes. It also serves as a good illustration of the way in which staff members work as a team to respond to user concerns with solutions that meet their needs. •

Brinley Franklin, Director, University Library Services

Collections & Services

Video Theater 1 Renovated; Online Reservation Forms Available

Over the winter recess, Video Theater 1 was completely outfitted with new multimedia projection equipment, including a digital video disc player, a universal video cassette player, a liquid crystal display projector, and a new screen and audio speakers. All of the equipment is operable from a lectern that provides computer connectivity to the Internet. Video Theater 1 seats 35 people. A second project to upgrade Video Theater 2 is underway; see the story on page 7.

Faculty now may reserve Culpeper Library A/V media and book Video Theaters 1 and 2 using web-interactive forms. The online forms should greatly reduce and eventually eliminate paperwork and delays in reserving both media and the theaters.

The Media Reserve Request Form enables faculty to reserve library or personal video, audio, or DVD items for a semester or for specific days. Up to five items at a time may be reserved. Once the form has been completed and sent online, both user and Culpeper staff receive confirming email notices.

The Video Theater Booking Form is designed to reserve either theater for specific dates and times. Users can check an online schedule to make sure their reservation does not conflict with another event. Faculty may also reserve the A/V media needed for their booking on this form. When the reservation is confirmed online both user and Culpeper staff receive email notification.

Fang Gu, Media Librarian, Culpeper Media Services Library

Gejdenson Papers Donated to Dodd Research Center

Former Congressman Sam Gejdenson has donated his papers to the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, where they will complement the Center’s collection of congressional papers, including those of Thomas J. Dodd, Barbara Kennelly, Prescott Bush, Francis Maloney, Bruce Morrison and William Ratchford, among others. Mr. Gejdenson represented the Second District of Connecticut from 1981 until 2000. The collection consists of materials pertaining to his congressional career and includes correspondence, reports, news clippings, press releases, speeches, committee and issue files, and audio visual materials.

Known as a passionate advocate for children, senior citizens, and working families, Gejdenson supported efforts to bring modern technology to schools and to make government more affordable. He also worked to enhance retirement security, to create jobs here in the United States by promoting the export of American-made goods and services, and to protect the environment for the enjoyment of future generations.

Gejdenson, the first child of Holocaust survivors, was born in 1948 in an American displaced persons camp in Eschwege, Germany. He received an A.B. degree from Mitchell College in New London in 1968 and is a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a B.A. awarded in 1970.

In 1974, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, serving two terms before accepting a post in the administration of Governor Ella T. Grasso. In the 104th and 105th Congresses, Gejdenson served as Co-Chairman of the Democratic Task Force on Retirement Security. In the 106th Congress, Representative Gejdenson served as the Ranking Democrat on the Committee on International Relations; he was a member of the Committee since coming to Congress in 1981. His other committee appointments include the Committee on International Relations, Joint Library Committee, Committee on House Administration and several task forces.

For more information about the Sam Gejdenson Papers, or other political collections at the Dodd Research Center, contact Betsy Pittman, University Archivist and Curator, Political Archives, at Betsy.Pittman@uconn.edu or 860 486-4507.

Sue Gejdenson represented Connecticut’s Second District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1981 through 2000. Photo: Peter Morenus

Statistical Universe Your Best Source for Statistics

Statistical Universe is the most comprehensive database available for statistical data from federal and state governments, international and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. UConn faculty and students now have online access to this database at the Libraries’ web site, <www.lib.uconn.edu>. The electronic database is a continuation of three printed indexes: American Statistics Index, Statistical Reference Index, and Index to International Statistics; providing access to publications from over 200 federal agencies, 50 state governments, 100 international and intergovernmental organizations, and 500 private and academic sources.

Direct links to many U.S. government statistical sources and World Bank publications are provided in the Abstracts database. The Homer Babidge Library subscribes to the accompanying 115 microfiche set of international statistical publications indexed by Statistical Universe. The Power Tables module contains the full text of tables from statistical publications from 40 federal agencies, state compendiums of statistics, and the World Bank, as well as the entire content of the Statistical Abstract of the United States. Many tables are available in Excel format, usually with more data than is provided in the print publication. •

Steven Batte, Reference/Liaison Librarian

C.H. Dexter & Sons Records In Archives; Was Oldest Stock Traded on New York Stock Exchange

The Dexter Corporation, highly respected in the specialty papers and fibers industry, was a vibrant and successful business that provided employment to thousands of Connecticut workers for well over 200 years. The corporation’s roots extended to 1757, when Seth Dexter II founded a sawmill in Windsor Locks. Seth’s son, Charles Haskell Dexter, experimented in the 1830s with making...
Hoffman Family Collection Traces Life of Activist Abbie Hoffman

Terri J. Goldich
Curator, Alternative Press and Children’s Literature

Trying to write about Abbie Hoffman and the Hoffman Family Collection is a little like trying to remember the 60’s. Who said, “If you remember the 60’s you weren’t part of it”? It has been said of Hoffman that he was one of the first political activists to understand and utilize the connection between politics and that ever more popular medium, television. His ability to attract media attention was amply demonstrated by his famous antics during the Chicago Seven trial: he wore a flag, he wore judges’ robes, and he threw a Wednesday they later called Chicago upside down and mesmerized the rest of the world. One defendant, Bobby Seale, was jailed for contempt of court, and the rest earned fame as the Chicago Seven.

Archives & Special Collections, at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, has acquired a body of materials from Jack Hoffman, Abbie’s younger brother. Known as the Hoffman Family Collection, it includes family story, correspondence, article and book research, personal papers, written material by and about Abbie Hoffman, copies of government files, newspaper articles, 16 mm films of the family, and personal photographs. Collection processor and graduate intern Ryan Thompson writes in the collection’s finding aid of Hoffman:

“Abbot Howard Hoffman, ‘Abbie,’ was born November 30, 1936 in Worcester, Massachusetts. He studied psychology with Abraham Maslow at Brandeis University, where he graduated in 1959 with a BA. He then completed a year of graduate work at the University of California at Berkeley.

His growing participation in the various counter-culture movements led to his arrest and subsequent trial as a member of the Chicago Seven following the 1968 riots at the Democratic National Convention. He co-founded the Yippie movement and was a vocal activist for civil rights, ending the Vietnam War, and other social movements.

Following his arrest for selling cocaine in 1973, he jumped bail and spent the next seven years as a fugitive, sometimes traveling abroad. He studied psychology with Abraham Maslow at Brandeis University, where he graduated in 1959 with a BA. He then completed a year of graduate work at the University of California at Berkeley.

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An Honor With Books Fund has been established in David Garnes name.

David has designated that the fund be used to help accomplish a long-time library goal—the establishment of a recreational reading collection in the Babblidge Library. The primary clientele for the collection will be undergraduates, who have no easy access to a public library in Storrs.

The goal for the fund is $10,000, of which $4,000 has already been pledged. Donors of $50 or more will be acknowledged by name on a plaque to be placed in the new Recreational Reading Area. Donors of $100 - $249 will be designated as “Benefactors,” and donations of $250 or more will qualify as “Leadership” gifts. If you wish to make a donation for this purpose, please contact Linda Perrone, Director of Library Development; linda.perrone@uconn.edu or 860-486-0411.
access them? What happens when a university official sends out an e-mail memorandum establishing a policy? Where will that e-mail reside as part of the university’s records?

These are among the issues the university has been considering as the result of a grant received in April 2000 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Under the grant, the university has now developed a strategic plan to preserve and make accessible its administrative records created in electronic format.

Following receipt of the grant, Vice-Chancellor for Information Services Paul Kubalski appointed a project planning team consisting of team leader Thomas Wilsted, Director of the Dodd Research Center; Elaine David, Coordinator of Special Projects in University Information Technology Services; Betsy Pittman, University Archivist; and Tom Ruller, Project Consultant. From April through June, the team met with representatives of university administrative units already using and/or developing electronic records systems, and they established an advisory board to help develop a strategic plan. The 14 members of the advisory board represent the major university constituencies. Together, the two groups have prepared a strategic plan, which has been endorsed by the chancellor’s office.

To implement the strategic plan, Wilsted says, the university will:

• Identify its core information assets
• Establish university-wide policies and procedures pertaining to electronic information
• Develop training programs for staff who are responsible for preserving electronic data
• Establish the position of knowledge-asset manager to develop programs regarding electronic information

The complete plan can be found at: <www.lib.uconn.edu/DoddCenter/ASC/pages/StrategyPlanElectronicRecords/2000.htm>. Comments on its implementation may be sent to any member of the planning team.

Homer Upgrade Improves Searching and Screen Displays

Homer, the Libraries’ online system, has been upgraded to provide enhanced features for searching and display, as well as improved functionality for acquisitions/serials control operations.

• Simplified search screen A simple basic search screen allows users to enter search terms, choose the type of search to be done from a pull down menu, and even select one of a number of frequently-applied search limits like location or language.
• Capitalization not required It is no longer necessary to capitalize the Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT when entering a keyword search.
• Selected records retained on multiple screens It is possible to retain selected records across multiple pages of a search result so that all can be printed, saved, or emailed together.
• More information in initial display The initial display of titles resulting from a search now includes the location, call number, and circulation status of each title listed.
• Post-search limits Users can apply limits to a result set after it displays in order to reduce the number of records to be reviewed.
• New sort options Users can sort the items in the results on display.
• Jump bar A new “jump bar” allows users to navigate large result sets more easily.
• New search anywhere A search box that displays along with results makes it easy to modify the current search or to initiate a new search without returning to the original search screen.

In addition to these enhancements to Homer’s public interface, behind-the-scenes operations in the Libraries will also benefit from more flexible and efficient processing procedures. Questions and/or comments about future developments in the Libraries’ search anywhere service should be directed to Melissa.Wisner@uconn.edu or Fritzi.Batchelor@uconn.edu.

Barbara Cervone, Reference/Liaison Librarian

The Connecticut Digital Library

During the 2000 legislative session, the General Assembly enacted Public Act 00-187, authorizing the creation of the Connecticut Digital Library (CDL). Years hence, the establishment of the CDL will be remembered as a milestone in the history of information access in Connecticut, for it will provide immediate and full-text access to information and digital content at no charge. The CDL will include the following databases:

• Connecticut Historical Society Collections
• Connecticut Historical Society Digital Collections
• Connecticut Legislative Digital Collection
• Connecticut Legal Digital Collection
• Connecticut Newspapers
• Connecticut Sheet Music
• Connecticut State Records
• Connecticut Vital Records
• Connecticut World War I Memorial

The CDL is administered by the Connecticut State Library in conjunction with the State Department of Higher Education. It is a component of the Connecticut State Library’s Web site. The CDL is the Connecticut Digital Library. The CDL is a project of the Connecticut State Library.

Suzanne Zack, Asst. to the Vice Chancellor for Information Services, Marketing and Communications

For Professor of Biology Emeritus Heinz Herrmann, life seems to focus on begin-nings. Herrmann spent his decades-long career delving into the mysteries of life by unraveling the molecular and cellular mechanisms that regulate embry-onic development. Now retired, he finds that he himself has begun a new life. He is a volunteer in the Conservation Lab at Homer Babbidge Library, where he helps to preserve the Libraries’ research collections.

“It’s fantastic,” Herrmann says of his work. “I don’t see how any person, whether an academician or anyone with a trace of intellectual curiosity could not enjoy it. I handle everything from resolutions of the United Nations about the environment, to sheet music for piano concerti, to pamphlets from art galleries. I don’t have to go to New York, I have everything here,” Herrmann quips.

Since fall, 1999, Herrmann has spent two afternoons each week in the lab, sifting through single-section items, such as music scores, into specially prepared covers. His contribution extends well beyond that, to Carolyn Dwyer, who heads the lab. “Professor Herrmann infects us all with his love of learning and his deep appreciation for research library collections in a way that we do not often experience,” she says.

Herrmann’s enthusiasm for the new world he is exposed to mirrors that of his academic life. He received his M.D. degree from the University of Vienna Medical School in 1936 and began a career as a research scientist by studying for several years at The Carlsberg Laboratories in Copenhagen. In 1939, he came to the United States, where he conducted research first at Johns Hopkins University Medical School, and later at the Yale Osborn Zoology Laboratories. He established the noted Laboratory of Chemical Embryology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, then came to UConn in 1959 as the second director of the university’s Institute of Cellular Biology, a position he held for ten years.

After retiring in 1978, he continued his scholarly pursuits and produced two highly regarded books, but searched for something “more useful” to occupy his time. He approached the coordinator of the library’s volunteer program, who arranged for him to work in the Conservation Lab.

The Conservation Lab is designed to provide technically sound and chemically stable treatments for the Libraries’ collections. While around ten percent of the materials needing physical treatment require commercial binding, most materials can be handled in the lab itself. The lab work force performs a wide variety of conservation treatments including: flattening, cleaning, alkalizing, repairing, encapsulating, mounting, and reconstruction of various materials such as manuscripts, maps, and drawings; cleaning, repairing, binding, and rebinding pamphlets, books, and other volumes; preparing volumes for commercial library binding; and constructing a variety of custom-made protective enclosures.

On average, the Conservation Lab provides treatment of some 15,000 items a year, not including those salvaged from disasters.

Herrmann intends to continue exploring the new world he encounters as a volunteer. “Last week, I had a pamphlet about the history of bee keeping by an English author, who noted that bee keeping has been with us for 5,000 years,” he observed. “There was a figure that was mind boggling. The author said there are 20,000 books about bee keeping. Can you imagine that? I wish I could be irresponsible and just sit here and read, ” he chuckles as he begins work on another pamphlet.

The volunteer program enables people to work in many areas of the library, ranging from Archives and Special Collections in the Dodd Research Center, to Circulation, to the Art and Design Library. Volunteers generally work at least two to three hours per week, but may also have the opportunity to work on special projects of limited duration. For additional information, contact Betty Tonucci in the library’s administrative offices at 860-486-1045.
primary focus on scientific and technical information. The library is giving priority to the acquisition of electronic journals for communities of users who typically work within very short time frames where their access to information is constrained in their ability to make regular use of our physical facilities. These groups include undergraduates, commuter and distance education students, and laboratory scientists.

For several years the Libraries have offered a substantial body of full-text material to undergraduates and business students through aggregated collections of business, legal, and news sources such as Academic Universe, Dow Jones Newsletters, and Westlaw; and mixed databases of journal abstracts and full-text such as InfoTrac, and WilsonWeb. The large scientific and technical publishers, however, have generally resisted licensing their content to aggregators, preferring to deal directly with libraries and library consortia. Now that significant electronic content is available in the sciences and an attractive business model has emerged, the Libraries are entering this arena as strongly as resources permit.

How will we make such a vast number of new titles and easily accessible content transparent to users? In the short run, users are being directed to the Web page for a full journal list on our web site. Ultimately, all titles to which we subscribe directly will be represented and linked through HOMEr, our web-based catalog. Links to electronic journals are becoming a common feature of the bibliographic and citation databases to which we subscribe. Examples of databases offering direct links to full-text journals are Web of Science; Current Contents; Expanded Academic ASAP, and Psych Info through the vendor Silver Platter; and Aquatic Sciences & Fisheries Abstracts, MetaLex and Water Resources Abstracts through the vendor Cambridge Scientific Abstracts.

We are seeking to be able to offer such a bonanza of added electronic journal content to the university community. At the same time, we are concerned by the dramatically changed circumstances in which we find ourselves. Some agreements into which we are entering strain our resources and may limit future choices. Commercial publishers’ practice of bundling many journals into large packages decreases our ability to influence the quality of journals offered through title-by-title selection or cancellation decisions. Licensing is not the same as owning; subscriptions to digital content can disappear completely if they are not renewed. And no one in the library community believes that commercial publishers can be relied upon to provide long-term archival access to their electronic output.

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It is no accident that the publishers who have driven the huge escalation in scientific and technical journal prices over the past three decades are now in the best position to offer large quantities of digital content on attractive terms. Six of the 11 journal publishers listed above are owned by Reed Elsevier, whose electronic journal product, Science Direct, is the most ambitious, costly, and, in some quarters, controversial of our new digital commitments. The Libraries prefer to partner with non-profit and society publishers who share our long-term interest in the future of a sustainable system of scholarly communication. Unfortunately, many of these publishers lack the capital to invest strongly in the digital transition.

Others seek to finance their electronic offerings by requiring prospective users to pay exorbitant premiums over the cost of their print subscriptions. Despite our preferences and concerns however, we are very aware that commercial publishers continue to control substantial content that library users want.

Retention of print subscriptions is still linked to the pricing of electronic journals at this time; however, the large commercial publishers are moving more quickly than ever to avoid the abandonment of paper publishing. Soon, they are likely to be offering economic incentives to cancel rather than to retain their print titles. Exclusive electronic publishing will be more profitable for them, and quite likely cheaper for them because of reduced check-in, claiming, and binding activity. Difficult archiving issues still remain to be addressed.

We foresee an exclusively digital future for many news services and specialized scholarly journals, but we will approach replacement of local paper subscriptions with caution. Initially, we will focus on titles of current interest only, titles available through multiple vendors, and titles maintained electronically by societies or non-profit organizations, whose primary commitment is to the dissemination of knowledge, rather than to increased rate of return on investment. In upcoming years we will work towards sharing responsibility for electronic archiving with other libraries on a national or possibly international basis.

The Libraries are seeking to managing the cost of the new electronic journals for the next couple of years without substantial reductions in our print subscriptions. The price caps associated with many of the new agreements give us reason for optimism in this regard. Some believe that the transition to exclusive electronic publishing will allow commercial publishers to expand their profitability without increasing prices. Others speculate that publishers habituated to double-digit revenue growth can eventually evolve a symbiotic relationship with the higher education community, where investments continue to be in people and prospects for significant revenue growth are large.

The University of Connecticut Libraries will continue to support progressive electronic publishing efforts by non-profit and scholarly society publishers, such as JSTOR, Project MUSE, and BioOne. We look to this sector for long-term strategic partners. We will also work nationally, through the Association of Research Libraries’ Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (ARL/SPARC), and on campus as well, to encourage academics and scholarly societies to retain greater control of their own literature. Should we find that we cannot sustain these commitments in the face of increasing costs, we may have to consider offering title-by-title digital collections, rather than all of the packages.

Most of us arrived at our understanding of the library’s journal collection in the age of print. We subscribed to as many high quality, pertinent titles as we could afford. When inflation drove costs beyond our resources, we embarked on title-by-title cancellation projects in discussion with affected faculty. This model no longer describes our reality. We are entering an era where selection is often by publisher, not by title; many of today’s offerings conceivably could disappear tomorrow.

The concept of library holdings has become increasingly hard to define. In the future, users will retrieve content via hot links from database resources to journal articles or from journal citation to cited journal. The distinction between what the library owns or licenses and content for which no such provision has been made is likely to disappear completely if a user’s access is specifically affected. Publishers and vendors who provide these links hope to add value for their customers and, simultaneously, to steer them toward content through their corporate family or strategic partners. Libraries are just beginning to grapple with how best to communicate their own choices and assist their users as they navigate this new environment.

We are moving rapidly into largely uncharted waters, but our mission gives us a good sense of direction and we see a new world of possibilities for ourselves and our users. Clearly, we are not in it alone, and we agree with our colleagues in the academic community that we must work together toward content from their corporate family or strategic partners. Libraries are just beginning to grapple with how best to communicate their own choices and assist their users as they navigate this new environment.

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The Social Life of Libraries

resources from their dorm rooms, offices, or homes if they chose to do so. Despite their easy, "twenty-four/seven" online access to our web site, students still ask us regularly to extend the library building’s service hours.

Faculty, too, have registered their need to have printed journals available, no matter that many titles, particularly in the sciences and social sciences, are available electronically. In response, the Libraries’ Advisory Committee unanimously recommended that Babbidge Library restore its unbound journal browsing collection, and we have done so (Story on page 2).

The staff of the UConn Libraries is fully engaged in enhancing access to information resources both virtually and physically. Concurrent with the purchase of our first electronic monograph through NetLibrary offers of more than 12,000 full-text electronic journals, and the introduction of interlibrary loan/document delivery service available only via the web, we are at work on a number of projects to enhance the physical presence of the Libraries. In 2000, we dedicated the new Music and Dramatic Arts Library on the Storrs campus. Planning is underway for libraries in the new School of Pharmacy building and for the new downtown Waterbury regional campus.

In recent years, beginning with the Class of 1947, UConn alumni have established a new tradition of offering increasingly strong support for our campus, university library, and physical facilities by selecting the library as the recipient of their 50th anniversary and graduating class gifts. They have helped us to furnish the new Music and Dramatic Arts Library (Class of 1943), the Class of 1947 Meeting Room, and the Class of 1949 Electronic Classroom. Most UConn alumni have established a new tradition of offering increasingly strong support for our campus, university library, and physical facilities by selecting the library as the recipient of their 50th anniversary and graduating class gifts. They have helped us to furnish the new Music and Dramatic Arts Library (Class of 1943), the Class of 1947 Meeting Room, and the Class of 1949 Electronic Classroom. Most recently, alumni as diverse as the Class of 1950 and the Class of 2000 helped us to create a Library Lecture Room and to renovate the 24-Hour Quiet Reading Room, respectively. This year, the Class of 1951 50th anniversary gift is funding the renovation of Video Theater 2.

Yes, along with our initiatives to deliver pertinent information to your desktop, wherever that may be, UConn’s physical libraries will continue to exist. Bricks and bits will complement each other. President Clinton was quoted recently in The New York Times as saying he wants the library that will be part of the William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, to be a place “people will want to walk into 109 years from now.” We share his same vision for the University of Connecticut Libraries. We hope UConn’s Class of 2010, like the Class of 2000, will also choose the Libraries to receive their graduating class gift. Contact Brinley Franklin at bfranklin@uconn.edu or 860-486-1049.

Coming Soon: Library Notices Via Email

In response to many patron requests, library notices will soon be delivered by email. This new service will be implemented during the spring semester. Stay tuned for more information!
T
he Class of 1951 will celebrate its 50th anniversary reunion at the Storrs

campus in June. In honor of this special occasion, the Class of 1951 Gift Committee, co-

chaired by George R. Brown and Seymour Gavens, has pledged to raise $100,000 for the

refurbishing of Video Theater 2 in the Homer Babbidge Library. The theater is part of the

Culpeper Media Services Library, an audio/ video/microform facility established in 1986

through a grant from the Charles E. Culpeper Foundation.

In reviewing possible gifts to commemorate its reunion, the committee was drawn to ways in

which the library’s interior space might be enhanced to complement the extensive, state-

funded, exterior renovations completed in 1998. “We were aware that few dollars were earmarked for new furnishings and equip-

ment,” says co-chair George Brown, and we were inspired and challenged by the successful efforts of the Class of 1950 in raising funds last year for the Class of 1950 Lecture Room on Level Two of the library.”

The decision to retrofit the 15-year-old video theater will accomplish an important

library goal, according to Brinley Franklin, Director of Library Services. “The Class of 1951 gift acknowledges and supports the

faculty’s increased use of video and other technologies to enhance the learning experi-

ence for students,” he says. “Our goal is to provide students and faculty with a state-of-the-

art facility that will recreate, as nearly as possible, the cinematic experience they enjoy in a

multiplex theatre.”

The refurbished theater, to be renamed the Class of 1951 Video Theater, seats approximately

100 people. A new sound system and new acoustic treatments will be installed. In addi-

tion, the room will be outfitted with new multi-

media projection equipment, a new screen, and lectern and jacks for laptop/desktop computer

connectivity. These enhancements will make the room a state-of-the-art facility. If the budget

permits, seating will be raised and banked to

improve sight lines.

Class of 1951 Gift Committee co-chairs George Brown and Seymour Gavens are impressed by the

many changes that have occurred not only on the Storrs campus but also at the regional campuses

since their time at UConn half a century ago.

Collections and Services

(Continued from page 5)

the Connecticut Education Network, which is

mandated to provide "state-of-the-art, high-speed, reliable Internet access and video, voice, and data

transmissions that electronically link all educa-
tional institutions in the state, including public and independent institutions of higher education; the state’s libraries and all elementary, middle and secondary schools; and other institutions including businesses, job centers, and community organizations” (Public Act 00-187, Section 35).

The Connecticut Education Network establishes a framework through which the university community can communicate with schools, institutions, centers, and businesses throughout the state. The opportunities for education and outreach, for preparing students for university life, for establishing a better-informed citizenry, are suddenly multiplied a thousand fold.

State Librarian, Kendall Wiggin, calls the establishment of the CDL "the most significant new investment in library service in Connecticut in many years." A kick-off conference that will introduce the CDL to the Connecticut library community is planned for March 26, 2001. The conference will provide a detailed introduction to all digital library resources and address questions of curriculum integration. For more information visit <cslib.org/ch dlgtlibinfo.htm>.

Scott Kennedy, Area Head, Research & Information Services

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terest in a special project or specific area, please contact Linda Perrone at

linda.perrone@uconn.edu or (860) 486-0451.

Artificer's rendering of the new Class of 1951 Video Theater

Roz Cama, Inc., Designers

Each a recipient of a BS degree from the School of Business Administration, they began their affiliation with UConn at different locations. Seymour went directly from high school to the then-
downtown Hartford campus on North Main Street. George, a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, was a member of the first class at the Fort Trumbull Extension in New London, a regional site created in 1949 for approximately 2000 returning military personnel. Tuition was $250 a year in those days, and the university was just beginning the massive post-war expansion that was the hallmark of the Albert N. Jorgensen and, later, the Homer D. Babbidge, presidencies.

As long-time active alumni, both George Brown and Seymour Gavens share a commitment to supporting and enhancing the services of the university. And each recognizes the importance of an excellent library in achieving this goal. As Seymour says, "When you look at an academic institution, you look at its library. If the library isn't first-rate, you don’t have a first-rate university."

George Brown served on the University Board of Trustees as Alumni Trustee from 1989 to 1993, and he well remembers the difficult times the library has experienced in terms of funding shortfalls and structural woes. "I saw and lived through a lot of negative publicity about the Babbidge during that time," George says, "and I want to do all I can to continue to promote a positive image for the library."

Now approaching its twenty-fifth year as the university’s flagship library, the Babbidge Library has been the recipient of five consecutive 50th anniversary class gifts, thanks to the efforts of Linda Perrone, Director of Development for the University Libraries, and the staff of the University of Connecticut Foundation. Linda says, "It is wonderful to know that alumni recognize the significance of the library and are taking renewed pride in helping to maintain its central role within the university.

Work on the Class of 1951 Video Theater project is well underway, with Media Services Librarian Fang Gu and Dennis Thornton, Head of Library Facilities, as project managers. Roz Cama Inc. is serving as design consultant and Crimson Tech as primary supplier. Completion is expected by the time alumni from the Class of 1951 return to celebrate their anniversary in June.
The Quiet Sickness
A Photographic Chronicle of Hazardous Work in America

Earl Dotter enjoys a national reputation for his vivid and insightful workplace photographs, used extensively in textbooks, health and safety manuals, national magazines, and by OSHA and NIOSH. In his words, "When I walk through a mine, mill, factory or on board a commercial fishing vessel, I find myself drawn to those subjects who emanate a sense of personal worth and belonging to the human family. When I experience tragedy in the workplace—death and disability—I use the camera to explore not just the person or event, but my own reaction to it. If I am successful, then the viewer will be better able to stand before the photograph and feel the intensity of the moment as I myself felt it." Sponsored in cooperation with the University of Connecticut’s Center for Environmental Health.

Moku Hanga
Japanese Woodcuts by Lynita Shimizu

Lynita Shimizu has been creating Japanese woodcuts (moku hanga) for twenty-five years. She studied art at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, then moved to Japan to concentrate on woodblock printmaking. During her four years there, she studied in Kyoto with a master of traditional woodblock printmaking, Tomikichiro Tokuriki, and in Tokyo with contemporary printmaker Yoshihuke Funasaka. She has exhibited nationally and internationally, including recent shows in Uganda and Israel.

Homer Babbidge Library, Gallery on the Plaza

All in the Family
The Art of Margot and Karin Rosenthal
Paintings, Prints, Collages & Photographs

Born in Berlin, Margot Rosenthal studied art in Dresden before coming to the U.S., where she continued her education at the Hartford Art School. Her paintings, prints and mixed media works have been exhibited in many New England one-person and juried group exhibitions, winning more than 40 awards. In 1999, she was honored with a retrospective of her work at the Hartford Jewish Community Center, where she taught for thirty years.

The photographs of Karin Rosenthal, Margot’s daughter, are included in many museum, library, corporate, and private collections and have been published in a number of books. Currently, she is preparing an exhibition of her work for the New England School of Photography and another to be shown at Harvard University’s Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts.

Homer Babbidge Library, Stevens Gallery

Connecting the Dots
Southern New England Telephone’s Response to Natural Disasters in Connecticut

Connecticut has had its share of devastating natural disasters. SNET has responded to each by acting swiftly and efficiently to restore telephone service to its customers. SNET’s slogan, “We Go Beyond the Call,” truly was put to its test when times were tough. In this exhibit, captivating photographs recall the disasters that have befallen Connecticut and demonstrate the response of SNET’s work force. The photographs are complemented by historical documents and published sources from the SNET Historical Collection.

Dodd Research Center Gallery

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Homer Babbidge Library, Stevens Gallery

Common Grackles, woodblock print by Lynita Shimizu

SNET Lineman Dick Bernier high above the Quinebaug River after the Floods of August 1955

Coal miners Lee Hipshire has just emerged from the mine at the end of the day shift. At age 46, he had worked 26 years underground. A few years later, Lee took early retirement because of Black Lung disease. He died at 56, Logan County, West Virginia (1976)

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Homer Babbidge Library, Stevens Gallery

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