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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 assumed that the great majority of these users own or have access to personal computers and could approach many of the library’s information services, their holdings, and their buildings.

Library Investing Heavily In Electronic Journals

The University Libraries are about to achieve a significant milestone in providing electronic information to the desk-top—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.

We have contracted for substantial content from the following publishers: Academic Press, American Chemical Society, American Institute of Physics, Association for Computing Machinery, Blackwell Science, Churchill Livingstone, Elsevier Science, Human Sciences Press, Institute of Physics, Karger, Kluwer, North Holland, Oxford, Pergamon, Plenum, Saunders, Springer, and Wiley Interscience. 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 iContinued on page 6

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Long-time Homer Babbidge 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 Koubiak, 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 Petersons, 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’s concerns with solutions that meet their needs.

Brinley Franklin, Director, University Library Services
The Hoffman collection came to UConn through a contact between Emeritus Director of University Libraries, Norman Stevens, and his friend, the late Leah Levenson. Until her recent death, Levenson had been working on a biography of Abbie. She had consulted with Jack Hoffman, who showed her the materials he had amassed through research conducted while writing his own book about Abbie. "Run Run Run: the Lives of Abbie Hoffman." Dr. Stevens informed the Dodd Center staff that a collection of historical importance was potentially available. Negotiations for the transfer of the collection to Archives & Special Collections then began with a visit to Jack Hoffman’s basement in Framingham, Massachusetts by Betsy Pittman, University Archivist, Dr. Stevens, and myself.

Earlier, Jack Hoffman had offered the materials to Brandeis University, Abbie’s alma mater, and to Clark University, in the Hoffman hometown of Worcester, but both institutions had declined the collection. While there were no familial or collegial connections to the University of Connecticut, Jack felt that the Dodd Research Center was an appropriate place for the collection because of its location between New York and Boston, as well as the quality of the faculty and the commitment of the curatorial staff.

The relationship of the Hoffman materials to other materials in the Dodd Center is most obvious with the Alternative Press Collection (APC). This nationally significant collection was established in the 1970s to collect, preserve, and make available publications documenting major social movements in this country and elsewhere. It includes materials on the counterculture, antiwar, protest, and student movements, along with publications from the beginnings of the feminist, black liberation, and gay rights movements. The APC is one of the most heavily used collections in Archives & Special Collections, consulted year round by researchers on site and around the globe via interlibrary loan.

Jack Hoffman hopes that his donation will lead others who still hold materials either connected to Abbie or related to the period to place their materials in the Dodd Center as well. News of the donation, appearing in the media, prompted one California musician to send us an image of an American flag he owns, which is signed by Hoffman, Dave Dellinger, William S. Burroughs, and the poet Allen Ginsberg. (The flag itself is promised to the Smithsonian Institution.)

The collection is an interesting combination of the personal and the political. Houseled in 16 boxes and several oversize drawers, the bulk of the collection consists of FBI and New York City Police Department surveillance files. At one time, Hoffman was under surveillance by as many as seven local, state, and federal agencies. The FBI files are fascinating as much for what they do not provide as what they do include; the pages are heavily censored in black marker. Even the FBI microfilm records are censored. Any information that could be used to identify a particular agent or member of the agency, for instance, has been removed.

There are intensely personal items such as Abbie’s prayer shawl, and yes, the dirty socks, once white with American flags on the sides. There is a Celtics jacket with its own interesting question about its original owner. Jack Hoffman recalls the jacket being given to Abbie by Bill Walton. But, there is mention in a 1988 interview Abbie did for alternative publication Earth Star: ES: Why did Danny [Ainge] give you the jacket?

AH: Well, I must tell you he did not personally hand it to me, through intermediaries. The reason is not political. It’s because it’s well known that I bet.

An avid sports bettor, Abbie worked on a sports betting program called “Steal This Game.” Perhaps Walton did give him the jacket.

In addition to Hoffman family memorabilia, such as family vacation films, there are files of correspondence consisting mainly of letters among Abbie, Jack, and their mother Florence. One of the most interesting, and touching, letters was written by Abbie while incarcerated. The intensity of the activist is obvious and unabated even while his physical movements are restricted.

Artifacts in the collection include awards, with one from a Camp Mohican (is there a camp award for organizing?), posters, political pins (“El Salvador is Spanish for Vietnam”), and a few stolen hotel keys. There are also items relating to Abbie’s death, such as sympathy cards and the memorial book from the funeral home, signed by family and friends and annotated with small peace signs. “Abbie lives!” and one hold “Right on!” in black ink.

Collection processing is now underway. A finding aid, now in draft form, will soon be available on the Dodd Center web page. The 16-mm films in the collection will be transferred to videotape, an expensive but very necessary step to preserve the films and make copies available to researchers. And new materials are still being added to the collection as they are received from Jack.

Abbie Hoffman died in April 1989, in New Hope, Pennsylvania, very near to where Thomas Paine wrote Common Sense. His death was ruled a suicide.

Abbie doing what he did best - talking! Hoffman Family Collection, Archives & Special Collections, University of Connecticut Libraries

STEAL THIS EXHIBIT!

Items from the Hoffman Family Collection will be displayed in the Dodd Research Center, March 25 through May 25, 2001, in commemoration of Abbie Hoffman’s death.
David Garnes, Reference Librarian and Liaison to the Schools of Nursing and Allied Health, retired at the end of January after twenty years of service to the university. David came to UConn in 1981 as Head of Library Acquisitions, and later the newly formed Collection Development Department. During his career, he taught English in New York City before earning his MLS degree at Columbia University and serving as Head of Book Acquisitions for the Columbia University Libraries from 1973-1981.

During the 1980s, the library experienced both financial cutbacks from the state as well as subsequent significant growth in the collections, particularly with the advent of electronic products and services. A milestone of David’s tenure as Head of Collection Development was his establishment of a comprehensive collection development approval plan with our principal book vendor; assuring automatic receipt of all primary U.S. academic publications.

In 1990, following an extended leave from the university to attend to a family medical situation, David opted for a career change, choosing to return to the library as a part-time reference librarian and as liaison to the Schools of Nursing and Allied Health. His “second career” with the Libraries turned out to be as successful as his first. A natural teacher, a leader in public service, and a mentor to younger colleagues, David established a model for collaboration with the academic community, helping to transform our notion of librarianship and the expectations we have for librarians.

Throughout his career, David has also encouraged the staff to engage fully in university initiatives. He has served in the University Senate, and participated in the Freshman Reading Program, the Freshman Book Selection Committee, the UConn Connect Program, the Rainbow Center, and the Gay and Lesbian Studies Task Force.

Beyond the library, David has held leadership positions in the American Library Association, the Connecticut Library Association, and the Association of College & Research Libraries/New England Chapter. He has served on editorial boards, chaired awards committees, published numerous articles in the library literature, and served as an adjunct faculty in the graduate library degree program at Southern Connecticut State University.

Most recently, David has enjoyed great success as a published author of biographical essays, short stories, memoirs, and occasional poems. He looks forward to a new creative outpouring as we wish him all the best in his retirement.

David’s contributions to the University Libraries and to the University of Connecticut State University. Tara joined the UConn Libraries as a student assistant in 1990. Following her graduation in 1994, she was hired as Reader Services Coordinator in the Dodd Center. In 1996, Tara assumed curatorial responsibility for several collections, including the records of the Connecticut Historic Preservation Commission, the Waugh Sundial Collection, Photographs and the Keys Horse Collection, the Fred Ho Collection, and, most recently, the Sam Charters Collection. She received her Master’s in Library Science from Southern Connecticut State University in 1999.

Tara’s contributions to the library and to Archives and Special Collections have been significant. She helped to plan the move of the collections into the new Dodd Research Center in 1998. She served as student supervisor for Ar- chives & Special Collections during her entire tenure and has welcomed and bid fond farewell to more than seven student classes. Tara also has been heavily involved in library personnel issues, serving more than three years on the team that redefined the University Library Assistant (ULA) job structure and as chair of the first panel to evaluate ULAS.

Alice Permenter has joined the staff of the UConn Libraries as Area Head for Collections Services. Alice has been a librarian for almost 20 years and comes to us from Tulane University in New Orleans where she was Head of Cataloging. During her tenure at Tulane, she also served as Acting Head of Monograph Acquisitions. Prior to going to Tulane in 1997, Alice held various department head positions at Loyola University Chicago and Southwest Texas State University. She brings a wealth of experience in supervision, project management and technical services operations to the UConn Libraries.

Cristina Simbotin joined Access Services as a volunteer in the Fall of 2000. Originally from Romania, she earned a B. S. degree in physics from the University of Bucharest. In Bucharest, she worked as a library assistant in the British Consulate. Christina and her husband, a post doctoral researcher in the Physics Department, came to the U.S. just over a year ago. She has been handling a variety of projects in Access Services, including scanning materials for Electronic Course Reserve.

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 Babbiidge 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.

Online for Posternity: A Plan To Preserve Electronic Records

Traditionally, the university’s official work has been documented at specific points with records on paper. For example, when a student graduates, a paper transcript of his or her record is created and placed into files the university is required to maintain permanently. But what happens when the transcript is created in digital format without a paper component? Given changes in technology, how will we maintain these electronic documents and ensure that only authorized people are able to
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 embryonic 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 need to take care of 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, working single-section items, such as music scores, into specially prepared covers. His contribution extends well beyond that, according to Carole Dyal, who heads the lab. “Professor Herrmann infects 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 worlds 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, 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 Libraries’ 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, reorganizing, encapsulating, mounting, and making and improving everything from manuscripts, maps, and drawings; cleaning, repairing, binding, and rebinding pamphlets, books, and other volumes; preparing volumes for commercial 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 worlds 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 Dool 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 860-486-0845.
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, whereas our own 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 News/Retrieval, 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 moving into 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 journals through hot linked full-text journal titles on our web site. Ultimately, all titles to which we subscribe directly will be represented and hot-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, Science, Engineering, and PsychInfo through the vendor Silver Platter; and Aquatic Sciences & Fisheries Abstracts, Metadex and Water Resources Abstracts through the vendor Cambridge Scientific Abstracts.

We are working to ensure that we will 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 we offer 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 ensure that contents will not disappear tomorrow.

Commercial publishers often restrict access to journal article or from journal citation to journal article 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 arise only when a particular 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 that is owned by their corporate family or strategic partners. Libraries are just beginning to grapple with how to best 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 our arena alone; institutional partners and corporate family or strategic partners. Libraries are just beginning to grapple with how to best communicate their own choices and assist their users as they navigate this new environment.

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The Social Life of Libraries (continued from page 1)

r 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 Faculty Advisory Committee unanimously recommended that Babbbidge 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 full-text monographs through JSTOR, we now offer 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 library.

In recent years, beginning with the Class of 1947, UConn alumni have established a new tradition of offering increasingly strong support for our libraries and library 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 1948), 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. (Story on page 7)

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 Boston 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 100 years from now," sharing the same vision for the University of Connecticut Libraries. We hope UConn’s Class of 2100, like the Class of 2000, will also choose the Libraries to receive their graduating class gift.

The Social Life of Libraries (continued from page 1)
Class of '51 Anniversary Gift Will Refurbish Video Theater

David Garnes, Liaison for Nursing & Allied Health

The 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 equipment,” 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 experience for students,” he says. “Our goal is to provide students and faculty with a state-of-the-art facility, 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 treatment will be installed. In addition, the room will be outfitted with new multi-media projection equipment, a new screen, and lecterns 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.

Artistic rendering of the new Class of 1951 Video Theater
Roz Cama, Inc., Designers

Each 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 1941 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. Balbridge, 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 Pearson, 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.

Collections and Services

Continued from page 3

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 educational 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/diglibinfo.htm>. Scott Kennedy, Area Head, Research & Information Services

Yes, I want to be a Friend!

I want to make a tax-deductible contribution to support the University of Connecticut Libraries in the amount of level of:

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The Quiet Sickness
A Photographic Chronicle of Hazardous Work in America
A photography exhibit by Earl Dotter

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 Yoshisuke 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

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

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