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Suzanne Zack
University of Connecticut - Storrs, suzanne.zack@uconn.edu
In recent months, the library staff has updated the “vision statement” we wrote in 1995 as part of the Libraries’ strategic plan. Six years ago, the potential of rapidly developing new information technologies promised major advances in information delivery. Today, that technological promise has been fulfilled in web-based electronic services and digital library collections. Technology has become a critical part of the everyday world of librarianship and information services. Tomorrow, the next wave of technological innovation will bring changes we have yet to imagine.

As the staff considered our vision statement anew, they were challenged to visualize a preferred future and to develop a shared idea of the library we want to become so that we can move collaboratively toward that goal. Library staff employed a systems model for organizational design created by the Association of Research Libraries’ Office of Leadership and Management Services to develop Vision 2003, our new library-wide shared vision. (See page 6)

If we are to work collaboratively toward the future we envision, we need to hold a common understanding of the concepts imbedded in the language of our updated statement. So, once Vision 2003 had been articulated, we met together to talk about what it means in practical, day-to-day terms. These are our conclusions:

- We view the Libraries as continuing to be the primary gateway for delivering information resources to the University of Connecticut academic community at the same time that the university becomes one of the nation’s outstanding public universities. The Libraries will maintain their critical leadership role in providing high quality services to students, faculty, and staff despite increased competition from other information providers.
- The Libraries will maintain a visible and welcoming physical presence on the

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Exploring the Brave New World of Digital Collections

The UConn Libraries are Investing in Digital Initiatives, Creating Unique Resources

Heidi N. Abbey, Digital Collections Librarian

University Libraries’ staff are actively engaged in learning about the new world of digital collections—planning, creating, managing, and evaluating projects that will facilitate online access to public domain materials as well as to the university’s varied and unique primary resources. The library’s digital initiative is driven by our primary goal: to provide high quality collections and information services in support of the university’s research and educational missions. It also stems from users’ demands and expectations that materials will be available on the Web anytime, from any location.

The library has long been committed to furthering access to a broad range of information in a variety of formats. But, newly developed staff assignments and projects in the area of digital collections will strengthen our ability to contribute to scholarship at UConn and beyond.

The Digital Collections Planning Team was established in 1999, and a full-time Digital Collections Librarian was appointed in 2000. Both the team and the librarian are charged with planning a strategy for developing the Libraries’ digital collections program. Current efforts focus on defining guidelines and policies relating to the many issues that are integral to creating such resources, including copyright and metadata standards.

Enhancing staff skills for specific applications in the online environment is an essential long-term goal for the team. Therefore, a “Gateway to Digital Collections Resources” website was created to assist staff who wish to propose and implement new projects. See <www.lib.uconn.edu/teams/digicol1/).

To promote awareness about the ever-expanding number and variety of digital resources created by other academic institutions and organizations, the library recently launched a web-accessible database called “Digital Collections Online.” This resource, created by Undergraduate Services Librarian Kathy Labadorf and the Digital Collections Librarian, includes information about and links to digital collections worldwide, which range in subject from classic American sheet music and Connecticut history to George Washington’s papers at the Library of Congress. The database currently contains detailed records for more than 100 digital collections and will be updated continually. It is a useful learning tool for staff as well as a research source for the University community. See <norman.lib.uconn.edu:6550/DigitalCollections/>.

Although the library’s foray into digital collections is still evolving, six significant projects are already in development or have been approved for future implementation. The first of these is “Connecticut History Online” (CHO), a project funded by a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. CHO is a joint effort of Archives & Special Collections in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, the Connecticut Historical Society, and the Mystic Seaport Museum. When complete, this collection will provide access to over 14,000 images documenting Connecticut history from the collections of the three institutions. CHO will feature the largest collection of Connecticut historical images on the Web, a resource for teachers and students in grades 7-12. Users will be able to search for images that relate to specific geographic areas. A pilot website is available now; a final version will be launched in summer 2001. See <www.lib.uconn.edu/cho/>.

A second project relating to historical information about Connecticut is currently in development.
Students Offer Advice On Library Services

During the renovation of Babbidge Library, in 1997-1998, the Dean of Students and her staff facilitated meetings with student organizations to seek their advice on making the library more attractive and useful for students. The students contributed a number of good ideas, which were incorporated into the project.

Building on that experience, a Student Library Advisory Committee (SLAC) has been formed to provide ongoing counsel to the Director of Library Services on matters of interest to undergraduates and graduate students on the Storrs campus. Comprised of the Dean of Students, undergraduates, and graduate students, this new committee consists of the Chancellor’s Library Advisory Committee, which is made up of faculty, the Dean of Students, and a graduate student.

Student members of SLAC include: Sarah Bojarski (Honors Program), Aliza Boriz (SUBOG), Justin Carbonella (Undergraduate Student Government), Roxanne Donovan (Graduate Student Senate), Natasha Franco (Women’s Center), Don LeBlanc (Undergraduate Student Senate), Amy Hasley (First Year Experience), Sanamatha Locke (African American Cultural Center), Hasley Love (Rainbow Center), and Mariela Ramos (Puerto Rican and Latin Studies Institute).

Students are expected to serve both as representatives for specific interest groups and also as advocates for students at-large.

In addition to the Director of Library Services, other members of the committee are: Peggy Jablonski (Dean of Students), Scott Kennedy (Head of Research and Information Services), and Kathy Labadoff (Undergraduate Services Librarian).

The main issue currently under consideration by the committee is a USG proposal to extend library hours, particularly past 8 pm on Friday and 6 pm on Saturday, and past midnight on weeknights during the academic year. Committee members also have expressed an interest in having the library open 24/7, rather than 8 am Monday through Friday during the academic year.

USG representative Justin Carbonella coordinated a student survey prepared by the USG Academic Affairs Committee and endorsed by SLAC, which solicited input from which additional hours the library should be open and which services should be offered during extended hours. Concurrently, Scott Kennedy compiled statistics on the number of users in Babbidge Library at closing time each evening. The library is committed to working with students to try to extend library hours during academic year 2001-2002.

On another issue, the library has received helpful recommendations from committee members regarding the retrieval of circulating books that have been recalled by other borrowers. The students advised that overdue fines of $1 a day are not enough deterrent to assure that recalled books will be returned promptly.

The staff of Access Services is now reviewing this policy.

Our first year of experience with SLAC has been encouraging. I am appreciative of the students who are donating their time and the various members of the campus community who identified appropriate students to serve on the committee. We would welcome additional members and suggestions of topics that need to be discussed.

Brinley Franklin, Director of Library Services; brinley franklin@uconn.edu or 860-486-0947.
In 1950, a 21-year-old aspiring musician named Sam Charters headed to New Orleans in hopes of studying with the celebrated clarinetist George Lewis. Charters succeeded in coming under Lewis’ tutelage but he discovered that the stories the veteran musician recounted were far more captivating than the notes he played.

“In her “resume,” published last year—a 137-page Checklist of the Productions, Recordings, Compilations, and Writings for Album Release—Charters says he intended to produce four albums, then go on to “write novels, find a job somewhere as a labor economist, and finally work for the United Nations.” Charters did manage to produce novels, but that is where his plan ended. Of his lifelong passion and the course his life eventually did take, Charters states the obvious: “Music changed my life.”

A mutual love of music is what drew the couple together; they became acquainted as undergraduates in a music harmony class in 1954 at Berkeley. “He had the best ear for music of any man I’d met,” says Ann Charters, who trained as a classical pianist before turning her sights to literature.

In 1958, the couple collaborated on “A Joplin Bouquet,” the first album to record Scott Joplin’s rags in traditional style, in which Ann Charters plays songs like “Maple Leaf Rag” and “Hello-BaBa.”

The Bluesmen, which includes more than 1700 recordings of traditional jazz vocalists from the 1930s through the 1950s, which Charters examined and helped bring to the university—an almost complete record of the major African-American jazz singers of the period. The archive also includes a virtually complete collection of the African-American music released on the Arhoolie record label. In addition to donating the collection, Charters also created an annotated catalog for it. Among the many unique items in the collection, researchers will find Charters’ recording of Sam “Lightning” Hopkins, recorded in the artist’s rented room in Houston in 1959, which marked his rediscovery and which became an important influence on the blues renaissance that began in the early 1960s.

Sam Charters has produced recordings for two Swedish companies, Sonet and Gazell, since 1971. Currently, he is distributing American jazz on Gazell, producing new recordings of Swedish folk music, and distributing American folk music and jazz on his own record label. In addition, he has written a biography of a 92-year-old Afro-Cuban pianist entitled Sonny Time – The Story of Bebo Valdes, scheduled for publication this spring.

Continuing a musical quest that began more than fifty years ago in New Orleans, Sam Charters will soon journey to the Canary Islands, the Georgia Sea Islands, and Trinidad to research his latest book project, which focuses on all the music of the African diaspora.
Staff News

Staff Members

Dennis Thornton 30 Years
Ellen Embardo 25 Years
Melinda Bentley 10 Years
Robert Fall 25 Years
Lee Austin 20 Years
Gail Yuschak 10 Years

Joanne Palko 25 years; Jane Recchio 10 years;
Director’s Office Melinda Bentley 10 years;
Robert Fall 25 years; Dennis Thornton 30 years
Regional Campus Libraries Norma Holmquist
15 years; Sheila Lafferty 15 years; Susan
Therange 30 years
Research & Information Services Ellen
Embardo 25 years; Pat McGlamery 20 years

More Support for the New Leisure Reading Collection

Laura and Walter Broughton have made a
$10,000 gift to the library for the purpose of
refurbishing the space that will house the new
Leisure Reading Collection, and the room will be
named in their honor. Laura Broughton, a
member of the Class of 1947, participated in the
50th reunion class project to refurbish and equip
the Class of 1947 Lecture Room.

We are also pleased to report that total
donations to the David Garnes Honor with Book
Fund, which will support the collection, are
nearing the goal of $10,000. All gifts to that fund will
be acknowledged formally. Gifts of $50 or
more received by April 30 will be acknowledged
on a plaque. Donors of gifts between $100-$249
will be designated as “Benefactors,” and donors of
$250 or more will be listed as “Leadership”
contributors. To make a donation, please call
Linda Perrone at 860-486-0451.

A Gift of Art Books

Professor Walter Cahn, Yale University Mediaeval
Art Historian, has donated 158 books from the
collection of his late wife, Annabelle Simon Cahn,
to the Art & Design Library. Professor Annabelle
Cahn, also an art historian, taught at Southern
Connecticut State University. The collection is
especially rich in materials on Islamic, Turkish,
and ancient Near Eastern art and culture and will
help to fill lacunae in those subject areas of the

Electronic Document Delivery Inches Closer...

Are you tired of having to travel to the library to
retrieve requested Document Delivery/Interlibrary
Loan photocopies? Just can’t wait for documents
to get to you via campus or US mail? Well,
imagine being able to sit at a computer in your
home, office or anywhere in the world, and access
these photocopies on line in PDF (portable
document format). Imagine being able to print or
save these documents as you wish.
The staff of Document Delivery/Interlibrary
Loan (DD/ILL) is inching closer to offering
Electronic Document Delivery (EDD) to the entire
UConn community on all campuses. For the
moment, we continue in our test phase with about
350 participants, working out hardware issues,
but accepting new participants as they volunteer
(see below). EDD will change the way we do
business, allowing you to retrieve photocopies in
one central web location from anywhere in the
world. We’ve even seen some documents arrive
within hours of our request via OCLC—without
tagging them as “rush.” And we can make these
documents available to users only moments after
they arrive in the DD/ILL office.

Here’s how the EDD service works:

• The document/article you request is converted
to portable document format (PDF).
• The document is stored on a server.
• You receive an email message letting you know
a document is waiting for you along with
instructions about how to retrieve it.
• You go to the web address noted in the email
message.
• You use your email address and a unique
personal identification number (PIN) as a
username and password to access the docu-
mments waiting your retrieval.

Collections and Services
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University Librarian, visited UConn in early
April, to continue the planning process with
university and library staff.

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Nineteen library staff members, some of whom are
pictured below, were honored recently for service
to the university of ten years or more. They include:
• Access Services Judith DeLottie 20 years;
Frances Horlila 25 years; and Gail Yuschak 10 years
• Collection Services Peter Allison 10 years; Lee
Austin 20 years; Sandra Baker 20 years; Sandra
Gallup 10 years; Frances Llabey 10 years;

David Brethbauer has joined the staff of Information
Technology Services as Network Services Librarian.
Formerly, David served as Systems Librarian at Southern Connecticut State University. Prior to that, he was a cataloger at SCSU.

David received his MLS from Columbia in 1987 and is one of the co-founders of the LITA Open Source Special Interest Group.

Claudia Lopes has joined the staff of the Trecker Library as a permanent, part-time Access Services Assistant responsible for Document Delivery/Interlibrary Loan and student supervision. A student worker at the Trecker Library for the past three years, Claudia is a member of the UConn Class of 2001. She has facility with both Spanish and Portuguese— an asset that will be of great assistance on the multi-cultural Greater Eastern Connecticut State University. The collection is especially rich in materials on Islamic, Turkish, and ancient Near Eastern art and culture and will help to fill lacunae in those subject areas of the collection.

Joanne Palko 25 years; Jane Recchio 10 years;
Director’s Office Melinda Bentley 10 years;
Robert Fall 25 years; Dennis Thornton 30 years
Regional Campus Libraries Norma Holmquist
15 years; Sheila Lafferty 15 years; Susan
Therange 30 years
Research & Information Services Ellen
Embardo 25 years; Pat McGlamery 20 years

Claudia is a member of the Trecker Library for the past three years, a student worker at the Trecker Library and a part-time Access Services Assistant. Claudia has indicated an interest in pursuing graduate education in library science, law, or both.

Shirley Quintero has joined the staff of Information Technology Services as Applications Developer. She has been Web Site Specialist for the Town of Manchester since 1997, creating the majority of their database-driven web applications, developing training materials, and leading classes in standard productivity software as well as web development software. Shirley received her Bachelors degree in Industrial Technology from Central Connecticut State University in 1993 and her Masters in Educational Technology (Instructional Design) from CCSU in 1999.

Jacket Scott, Assistant Music Librarian, is the author of the recently published Music Core Lists: Recommended Recordings for Public Library Collections, List #13, Classical Vocal Music, (New England Chapter, Music Library Association, 2000), an annotated discography of 47 CDs recommended to public libraries interested in building a core collection of choral recordings.

Yi Zhang has joined the staff of the Director’s Office as a financial assistant. Zi was formerly accounts payable coordinator at WTIC TV (Fox 61) in Hartford. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Eastern Connecticut State University.
The Perilous Pricing of Academic Journals: How We Can Create Change

Scott Kennedy
Head, Research & Information Services

Each year, research libraries set about the annual ritual of canceling yet more subscriptions to journal titles serving fields of research central to their mission. The underlying cause for this exercise has little to do with the real cost of journal production. Academic journals, once the province of professional societies and university presses dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge, increasingly have come under the control of large commercial publishers, who have found there is great profit to be made from the scholarly community.

On March 15, at the Dodd Research Center, Chancellor John Petersen introduced a program entitled “Publish or Perish: the Perilous State of Academic Journals.” This second university forum on scholarly communication was held to review the underlying issues in the journals crisis and to discuss efforts now underway to return academic journals from commercial commodities back into instruments of service to education and research. The first speaker, Lawrence Hightower, UConn Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology, described his Alice in Wonderland experience when the journal for which he served as editor, Cell Stress & Chromosomes, came under the control of an international conglomerate out to maximize profits at the expense of research and education. Seeing the price of the journal skyrocket over night for no apparent cause, the journal’s editorial board, under Hightower’s leadership, decided to act. This story, which has a happy ending, is related in UConn Libraries (September 2000) and in the UConn Advance (March 12, 2001) (www.advance.uconn.edu/01031205.htm). Cell Stress & Chromosomes now sells to university libraries for $536 per annum. Its competitor journal, free ofSTress & Cell Research, published by Wiley-Interscience, sells for $5900 per annum—despite its lower impact factor.

The second speaker, University of Arizona Professor of Biology Michael Rosenzweig, is founder of the independent journal, Evolutionary Ecology Research. Dr. Rosenzweig, related a similar story to that of Professor Hightower, describing what happened when his original publisher, Chapman & Hall, was taken over by a large international corporation. After seeing the subscription price for their original title rise from $100 per year to $800, the physical quality of the binding and paper deteriorate, and the copy-editing standards fall to “K-Mart” levels, Rosenzweig and his editorial board resigned en masse and launched their own alternative title.

Upon publication of the first issue, the new venture was able to reduce the cost of the journal to libraries and other institutions by 62% and to individual subscribers to the marginal cost of production and mailing. They currently produce over 1000 pages a year in eight issues, on schedule, and continuing to publish the same price to libraries as in the inception year of 1999.

Dr. Rosenzweig’s presentation underscored the fundamental difference between academic publishing and raw commercial publishing. In raw commercial publishing, optimizing your profits becomes the ultimate goal. In such a world, where every article and monograph represents a virtual copyright monopoly, prices can skyrocket to heights comparable to professional sports figure salaries. The corporate entity recognizes no fundamental obligation to its readers, only to its stockholders.

As academics, we have a different goal. “When we give a paper to publishers for free, it is with the understanding that the publisher will try to disseminate that paper as widely as possible, so that it can be used to teach others and to help others do their work.” Our aim is not to maximize profit; our aim is to disseminate knowledge.

Between 1986 and 1998, the unit cost of academic publications increased by 9% each year at a time when the consumer price index rose by only 3.4%. Over the last four years, the average cost of a commercial publisher’s scientific journal has risen nearly 50%. A periodical price survey conducted by Library Journal in April 2000, reported that the median price of a physics journal had reached $1879.71, and that of a chemistry journal $1781.58.

Once a publisher announces its new, inflated journal prices, notes Rosenzweig, they monitor the crowding as publishers know the market will do. “If we do not howl and scream very much, they think they haven’t raised the prices enough. If we claw and scratch, they back off a bit, as they have begun to do in the past year or two.”

The question, says Dr. Rosenzweig, is not whether big commercial publishers are doing competent value—pricing—that is not in doubt; the question is whether value pricing is ethical in an arena that exists to maximize profit, to profit from the academic knowledge and learning. In this arena, because so high a value is placed upon the information created, society pays for its creation in advancing through academic salaries and grants. In this arena, authors offer their findings in print, and place their trust in publishers to disseminate these findings as widely as possible.

“‘But why,’” asks Dr. Rosenzweig, “should academics care how such profit a publisher makes?” The answer, says Rosenzweig, is that the high profits have so much reduced access to information that learning and research are suffering. Despite the fact that the budgets of the 120 member libraries of the Association of Research Libraries have risen an average of 7% in inflation adjusted dollars over the past twenty years, these libraries have had to cancel over 24% of their journal subscriptions. And libraries are not just canceling titles of the “offending publishers,” one of the finest, oldest, and most cost efficient journals on the market today, the American Naturalist, has seen a 25% decline in institutional subscriptions.

The situation is even worse in poorer countries. How is a developing nation to develop if it lacks access to scientific and technological information? According to Rosenzweig, “In the name of obscene profits, certain publishers are locking up the knowledge that we produce and contribute to them, and they are locking it up in the name of profit.”

Unfortunately, this effect is not limited to the world of serials. Dollars at academic libraries worldwide are being directed toward acquiring monographs have had to be shifted to fund critical journal expenditures, resulting in a 25% decrease in the number of monographs purchased by North American research libraries in the most recent decade.

Currently, a university press can expect to sell 300 copies of a first line monograph; twenty years ago this number was 1200. That is 75% fewer copies of these monographs, which are usually made available to our students. “The result is restriction of access, not dissemination of knowledge.”
Exploring the Brave New World of Digital Collections

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the creation of a third digital collection recently approved for implementation: “Steam and Electric Locomotives of the New Haven Railroad.” Laura Katz Smith, Curator for Business, Railroad, Labor & Ethnic Heritage and Immigration Collections in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, will develop this resource. When completed in early 2002, this collection will provide online access to over 460 black-and-white photographs that document steam and electric locomotives owned and operated by the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad from the 1870s to the mid-1900s.

Patrick McGlamery, Map Librarian in the Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC), has created a fourth digital resource, the “MAGIC Historical Map Collection.” This compilation includes 287 digitized maps of Connecticut, Long Island Sound, New England, the Northeast Atlantic region, and the United States from the period 1676-1919. See <magic.lib.uconn.edu/cgi-bin/MAGIC_HistList.pl>.

Library staff at UConn’s Stamford campus are creating a resource known as the “Benthic Marine Algal Herbarium of Long Island Sound Digital Collection.” Still in the production phase, it will eventually include an identification database of collected and pressed specimens of algae from Long Island Sound and an image archive for the University of Connecticut’s algal herbarium. Proposed by Library Director Nancy Gillies and Shelley Cudiner, Reference Librarian/Business Liaison, this digital project is a collaboration among library staff, faculty at the UConn Stamford Campus, and the Northeast Algal Society.

Finally, a sixth digital collection proposal recently approved for implementation has been submitted by Carolyn Mills, Liaison Librarian for the Biological Sciences. Entitled “Prototype of an Atlas of Invasive Plants in Connecticut and New England,” this database will comprise records, descriptive information, and images of fifteen invasive plant species. In a future phase of the project, the database will be expanded to include approximately 100 species and will be complemented by an interactive atlas of regionally invasive vascular plants, with both historic and current data. In its final development, this digital atlas will support early detection and rapid response to invasive plant species in New England, which will serve as an effective learning tool for students, researchers, land managers, conservationists, government agencies, the nursery industry, and the interested public. The invasive plants digital collection represents an exciting partnership between library staff and faculty in the Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department (EEB) on the Storrs campus. The project will be created, managed, and owned jointly by the University Libraries and EEB.

Library staff view these six projects as only the beginning of a new era in which digital projects will be undertaken in cooperation with faculty, staff, and other institutions and which will benefit researchers locally, nationally, and worldwide. We are creating a brave new world of digital collections, filled with challenges, rewards, and the excitement of information discovery!

For more information, contact Heidi N. Abbey at heids.abbey@uconn.edu or 860.486.2993.

20-20 Vision

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In 2005, as the University of Connecticut becomes one of the outstanding public universities in the United States, the University Libraries will provide institutional and professional leadership as the primary gateway for the delivery of information resources to the local academic community.

Operating from state-of-the-art libraries, we will be a facilitative and flexible learning organization, meeting and anticipating user needs in concert with the university’s outreach and education programs.

Informed in part through our strategic partnerships, the University Libraries will explore, implement, and promote innovative local and remote services in an environment that fosters academic achievement and research excellence.

The Libraries “visioning” process involved all staff and included an inventory of the current activities of each operational area, environmental scans, a “look-ahead” at activities which areas will be engaged in, and finally, area vision statements. Representatives from each operational area - the Vision Team, pictured here – wrote the culminating library-wide vision statement based on the area vision statements. Team members include: (standing left to right) Elizabeth Tonucci, William Ursich, Thomas Wilbold; (seated left to right) Joanne Della, Jo Ann Reynolds, Amelia Hinchcliffe; (foreground) Steven Batt.
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Commercial ventures are not in business to care about the dissemination of knowledge, nor are they in business to care about the archiving of information; they are ephemeral profit-taking entities responsible primarily to their stockholders. “In the western world,” Rosenzweig declared, “there is but one institution that lives to keep knowledge alive, and that is the library. The library has been civilization’s archive for over four millennia.” It is time for academics to recognize this fact and to begin contributing to the solution.

What Can Academics Do?

Here are Dr. Rosenzweig’s recommendations.

Academics should:
- Keep the copyright to their own papers
- Declare upfront that their work may be freely downloadable for educational purposes
- When a publisher is identified as a profiteer, academics should stop dealing with it!
- Stop submitting to its publication
- Stop reviewing for them
- Stop editing for them
- Stop reading them
- Stop citing them

Academic editors should work to peel away their journals from the publishing profiteers one by one, being careful never to agree to give notice of resignation in advance, or to refrain from editing another publication.

Academic societies should cease doing business with any publisher who becomes, or is taken over by, a publishing profiteer.

The only way for us to restore sanity to pricing and property rights, notes Dr. Rosenzweig, is by ceasing to indulge ignorance. “We are supposed to be the bearers of knowledge. But it is the ignorance of all these circumstances among ourselves—ignorance of opportunities, ignorance of our influence, ignorance of the role we play, and ignorance of what we can do to redress the problem—that keeps the problem alive.”

This forum was co-sponsored by the University Libraries and the Chancellor’s Library Advisory Committee. A videotape of the program is available at the University Libraries. For more information on the underlying issues, and how one might contribute to the solution, please visit: <www.lib.uconn.edu/ris/scholarlycommunication> and <www.evolutionary-ecology.com/citizen/citizen.html>.

Collections and Services

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Library User Survey Underway

The library is conducting a web-based, system-wide survey to determine faculty and student satisfaction with library services and resources. If you are among those randomly selected to participate in this assessment, please help us by completing the survey. The Neag School of Education’s Bureau of Educational Research has assisted the library in developing the survey and will help to analyze the data. Results will be published in an upcoming issue of UConn Libraries. Thank you for your assistance!

Scanning Equipment Upgraded

Computer & Copy Services has upgraded its scanning equipment. We have an Epson GT-10000 scanner featuring an 11” x 17” scan bed, high speed scanning, 600 x 2400 dpi resolution, 36-bit full color scanning, and OCR (text recognition). Scanning is available as a mediated service at the Computer and Copy Services Desk on Level 1 in Babbidge. Cost: $0.25 per page/image scanned.

The Dark Side of the Digital Revolution: Disappearing URLs

Since the mid-1990s, the wiring of the US college campus has had a dramatic effect on how students search for information. Much of the research that once was done in libraries now can be done in computer labs or on dorm room PCs. The result is that students increasingly cite popular Internet sites in their class papers instead of sources found in the library.

Now, a study by Cornell University librarians shows that many web addresses, known as Uniform Resource Locators (or URLs), cited in student term paper bibliographies often are incorrect or refer to documents that no longer exist. “The likelihood that web citations would lead to the correct Internet document has decreased significantly,” says Philip M. Davis, Life Sciences Librarian at Cornell’s Mann Library. “A URL that doesn’t work means the professor has no way to check the original document for plagiarism.”

Davis and Suzanne A. Cohen, Reference Service Coordinator with the university’s Catherwood Library, studied the citation behavior of undergraduates in a large, multi-college class, Introduction to Microeconomics (Economics 101), taught by John M. Abowd, Cornell Professor of Labor Economics in the university’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Their research, “The Effect of the Web on Undergraduate Citation Behavior 1996-1999,” will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Journal of the American Society for Information Science. A preprint of the article is available at www.people.cornell.edu/pjdm8/

The study, using term papers between 1996 and 1999, found that after four years, the URL reference cited in a term paper stood an 80% chance of no longer existing. URL references stood more than a 50% chance of not existing after only six months.

The researchers also discovered a significant decrease in the frequency of scholarly resources cited. Book references dropped from 30% to 19%. Newspaper citations increased from 7% to 19%, and web citations increased from 5% to 21%. “We are seeing a dramatic shift from the use of credible, peer-reviewed materials to popular and unfettered information,” says Davis.

Universities with large library collections—often a measure by which research universities are compared—should be concerned if students are no longer taking the opportunity to use them, says Davis. Professors should be concerned that they are not exposing their students to academic literature in their field, he says.

The researchers noted that electronic access to information is more convenient for students, and this might be especially true for those who work on their papers the night before they are due. The researchers say that the Cornell library system, like many college libraries, has increased the number of scholarly electronic resources available to the students and faculty. As a result of this study, Abowd requires at least one professional journal citation in a research paper’s bibliography, and if an Internet link is used, the link must be checked.

But from a professor’s perspective, can web citations undermine academic integrity? “This is a very hard problem—certifying the timeliness and accuracy of Internet citations. I do not expect my Economics 101 students to bullet-proof all of their citations,” says Abowd.

Rather, he hopes that they will be able to learn from the experience of having their citations checked and from my expectation that they use certified professional journals.”

Davis and Cohen suggest that professors set guidelines for acceptable citations in course assignments. Also, they believe that college libraries should create and maintain scholarly portals for authoritative web sites with a commitment to long-term access and instruct students on how to evaluate resources critically.

“In the world of academic scholarship, references form a link to original works, give credit to original ideas and form a network of connections to related documents,” says Davis. “A viable link—whether in print or electronic form—is absolutely necessary in order to preserve scholarly communication. Without citations that pass the test of time, we have no way to proceed forward because we can no longer see the past.”

For more information, please contact Linda Perrone at linda.perrone@uconn.edu or (860) 486-0451.

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:
- Associate: $50-$99
- Fellow: $100-$499
- Curator: $500-$999
- Patron: $1,000-$4,999
- Benefactor: $5,000-$9,999
- University Librarian’s Circle: $10,000+

Total Amount Enclosed $  

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Reuben Nakian, born August 10, 1897 in College Point, New York, enjoyed a long and distinguished career, maintaining his innovative spirit and creativity over more than seventy years, constantly rethinking and revising his modes of sculptural expression and exploring and mastering new media—marble, clay, plaster, metal, paper, and, in his last years, styrofoam.

Nakian received honorary doctorates from the Universities of Nebraska (1969) and Bridgeport (1972), medals from the Philadelphia College of Art (1967) and the American Academy/National Institute of Arts and Letters (1973), and the Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture (1985). He was the recipient of awards from the Connecticut Commission on the Arts (1979), Brandeis University (1977), and the Rhode Island School of Design (1979).

Nakian was a guest of honor at the Famous Artists’ Evening at the White House (1966), and the Smithsonian Institution produced a documentary on his life and work titled "Reuben Nakian: Apprentice to the Gods." (1985). He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1931 and a Ford Foundation Fellowship in 1958, and he represented the United States as the major sculptor in the VI Bienal in Sao Paulo, Brazil (1961) and the 1968 Biennale in Venice, Italy.

His work is represented in the permanent collections and sculpture gardens of many of America’s most prestigious museums and institutions. He has been honored with major one-man exhibitions at the Los Angeles County Museum (1962), the New York Museum of Modern Art (1966), the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, DC (1981), the Milwaukee Art Museum (1985), the Gulbenkian Centro de Arte Moderna, Lisbon, Portugal (1988), and a Centennial Retrospective at the Reading (PA) Public Museum and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC (1999), the site of Nakian’s first one-man museum exhibition in 1955. Garden of the Gods I was one of five sculptures to inaugurate the Metropolitan Museum of Art Roof Garden, while other of his monumental works preside over civic and private settings across America.

Reuben Nakian is a major figure in 20th Century art, his long career touching more of American art history than most artists, living or dead. He died on December 4, 1986 in Stamford, Connecticut at the age of eighty-nine, “one of the most distinguished American sculptors of the 20th Century” (New York Times obituary, 12/5/86).

This exhibition is made possible through the courtesy of the Sherry French Gallery, New York.

Babbidge Library, Gallery on the Plaza

The Paintings of William Patterson

William Patterson was born in Albany, New York in 1941. He earned degrees at the Hartford Art School, where he also taught for a number of years, and at Syracuse University; he also spent several years at the American Academy in Rome. His work has been exhibited in fifteen solo exhibitions, has been displayed in many invitational group shows, and is included in more than fifty public and private collections. Mr. Patterson is now a professor at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst; he lives in historic Deerfield. This exhibition is made possible through the courtesy of the Sherry French Gallery, New York.

Babbidge Library, Stevens Gallery

Recollections

Paintings by Ann C. Rosebrooks

Connecticut artist Ann C. Rosebrooks’ lifelong fascination with patterns is evident in her work over the past nine years. She has exhibited in numerous shows throughout New England and New York, most recently at the National Association of Women Artists annual exhibit in New York City, where she received the Knapp Award.

Babbidge Library, Stevens Gallery

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