A New, Expanded Library Catalog Now Available

Erika McNeil

T he Library is experimenting with a new, expanded, and visually enhanced catalog that includes not only the holdings of the UConn Libraries, but the holdings of thousands of libraries around the world through OCLC.

The catalog is being developed by the Boston Library Consortium (BLC), an association of 19 academic and research libraries in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire, which includes UConn, together with OCLC in an effort to provide expanded access to local, regional, and worldwide library resources.

The new “Catalog Beta” allows users to search for information simultaneously at UConn, at the other 18 regional BLC libraries, and at the 10,000 WorldCat libraries, the world’s largest network of library content and services. This includes over 125,000,000 books, CDs, DVDs, maps, online resources, and archival materials. Search results include a display of the item’s cover, if available, and a clear indication of the type of material it is.

Search results are returned in logical groupings, including author, format, and date of publication. The “UCONN Links” button allows users to access the full-text of journal, newspaper, and magazine articles, as well as link to e-books, and request items through Intercampus Express and Interlibrary Loan.

Library users can use the new service in a number of ways to simplify their searches for information. For example, anyone who uses the service can create lists of resources they find in the database and share lists with their friends. They can also export items on the lists for inclusion in bibliographies. Researchers might also want to take advantage of the opportunity to add personal reviews of library materials that are available not only to members of the UConn community but also to anyone else who uses the new catalog. The new catalog also integrates web 2.0 technologies.

Wireless Printing and Text Messaging for Help Debut

Jean Nelson

T he UConn Libraries’ Information Technology Services Team has long operated behind the scenes ensuring that the library’s information resources and services operated smoothly for users and staff. In January, the department assumed a more proactive approach by providing users with two new services: wireless printing and text messaging.

With wireless printing, users simply log onto the University’s computer network and print to the library's black or white color printers from any location either inside the library or on campus, whether an office or dorm room, or even popular places outdoors, like the benches outside Bookworms Café on the plaza. Specifics on the new service can be found at: http://print.lib.uconn.edu.

Prior to the institution of the new service, users needed to access the printers in the Learning Commons on Level 1, when the library was open.

“Wireless printing will have a dramatic effect on how our patrons use the library, from their use of public computers, to where they choose to sit, to when they actually enter the building,” said Dave Hicking, the Libraries’ technology support coordinator. The department has also collaborated with the Undergraduate Education Team to introduce a text messaging service, which allows users to submit questions for help via their cell phones for an immediate response. The service, which will utilize Google Voice, is an extension of the library’s instant message and e-mail reference service. Users in the library who need assistance, can send a text to (860) 515-TEXT.

Testing has become a major mode of communication and is growing so quickly that it is hard to keep up-to-date statistics. According to the Wireless Telecommunication Industries International Association, more than 135 billion messages were sent each month in 2009, compared to 12.5 billion only three years ago.

To capitalize on this trend, higher education institutions across the country are adopting similarly styled text messaging services. For example, the University of Nebraska at Omaha’s Library has started a similar program, noting that more than 77 percent of their users surveyed sent text messages every day.

“Reaching out into the environment where our students are active and most comfortable is a great way to connect with them and find out what they need our help with,” noted Vice Provost for University Libraries Bradley Franklin.
Electronic Devices Join Books

Babbidge Library Loans Kindles, Digital Cameras, Camcorders, Voice Recorders, and New Laptop Computers

Suzanne Zack

The word “library” may derive from the Latin liber or “book,” but users at Homer Babbidge Library know that UConn’s library is far more than books. In January, the library began offering students and other members of the campus community the opportunity to borrow digital cameras, camcorders, digital voice recorders, new laptop computers, and Kindles, Amazon’s wireless reading device.

The new equipment may be borrowed from the iDesk on the Plaza level of the Library.

“Technology is ubiquitous and is critical to the way in which the library delivers information,” notes Emerging Technologies Librarian David Avery. “We know that students have moved beyond simply needing a computer to do their work, to needing digital cameras and camcorders to complete more sophisticated academic assignments. We are providing students with these new devices in an effort to provide them with that assistance.”

The Kindle lending program includes four Kindle devices, small, portable, and about the size of a magazine; three of these are the newer DX model with a nine-inch screen, and one of them is the 2nd Generation, with a six-inch screen. With these devices, a book can be requested, downloaded, and made available for checkout within minutes. Kindle readers have access to over 360,000 books available at Amazon.com, and, with the built-in PDF reader, the Kindle also has access to over one million books through Google. Kindles may be borrowed for two weeks, with one renewal possible.

Two Canon Powershot SD1200 IS digital cameras, two Flip digital camcorders with a two-hour capacity, and three Sony digital voice recorders capable of 372 hours of recording time will be available, with a two-day loan period.

Fifteen new Dell Latitude E5400 laptops will also be available. Students responded enthusiastically to a laptop loan program started by the Library in March 2009. Initially the Library loaned donated, pre-used, Apple iBook laptop computers for a maximum of three hours for in-house use only. As a response to user requests, the new computers may now be borrowed for 24 hours and may now be taken outside of the building.

According to Avery, “We cannot keep the items on the shelves! The first day we offered the Kindles, they were all loaned out by 10:30 a.m. When the Kindles are returned they go right back out. In fact, the holds on the Kindles are around three deep.”

The laptops are likewise being borrowed at a brisk rate, he says, as are all the other devices.

“The multimedia studios in the library’s Learning Commons offer photo and video editing software that is a natural complement to using the new devices,” Avery said. “We hope students will take the time to visit the space on Level 1 and learn about the services available to them. We’re here to make their lives easier,” Avery said.

For additional information on borrowing one of the new devices, please visit: http://lib.uconn.edu/techtrends.
Janet Cummings Good ’66 and Peter Good ’65

A Labor of Love: Long, Lean, and Literate Calendars

Suzanne Zack

To Janet Cummings Good ’66 and Peter Good ’65, it is simply a labor of love. Considering that it tracks time and they have had so much fun doing it, it might also be thought of as time well spent, or perhaps the time of their lives, that is, if one were to follow their linguistic lead.

The “it” in question is a long, lean, and literate wall calendar produced since 1995 by the award-winning design team, and the focus of an exhibit in the Dodd Research Center titled “The Design of Time: Ten Years of Cummings and Good Calendars.”

First developed as a promotion for a large Hartford-based commercial paper company that was transitioning to new ownership, the initial calendar carried the theme “Change.” The company gave the Goods a few copies, which they shared with clients and friends. An immediate hit, they soon became sought-after keepsakes.

When the company abandoned the calendar, the Goods stepped in and went on to self-publish 16 calendars, including 10 that have been marketed nationally.

According to Peter Good, “the calendar series was born of our passion for combining words and images to create evocative notations that apply to a theme. It is a labor of love for art, language and print, a month at a time, and has become a ritual of inspiration, stimulating our intellectual preoccupations and our visual craft.”

Highlighting years 2001 to 2010, the exhibit tracks the creative process followed from concept sketches to a gallery of all 120 final printed months. Original art, photographs, news articles, correspondence and promotional items provide the underpinnings of the exhibit.

With whimsy, and remembered moments are the calendar’s hallmarks. For example, in the “GOOD” 2003 calendar, a photo of their son, Jesse, then age 6, dapper in a wool cap and jacket, appears under the heading of “Good Advice,” and suggests that rocks are a good substitute for food or drink. In another, a photograph of a towering oak in their backyard is accompanied by arboreal observations by Marcel Proust and Isaac Asimov: Yet in another, an image of a path to the sea at a favored vacation spot on Cape Cod captures Emily Dickinson’s thoughts on the summer sky. Each calendar is prefaced with a thought-provoking introduction, which for the past 13 years has been written by their older son, Justin, Ph.D., who teaches “Aesthetics” in UConn’s School of Fine Arts. Justin not only supplies words. He appeared in the “LOVE” 2004 calendar as an infant cradled in his mother’s arms under the heading “First Love.”

The calendar, which comes rolled up in a colorful cylinder or time capsule, has focused on the themes: Slow, Food, Good, Love, Life, Home, Work, Play and Song. This year’s calendar theme is BOOK 2010. In it is an image of an elephant from “The Book of ABC’s” by G.B. Falls (1923) from the Dodd Research Center’s own collections. Eventually, the Goods plan to donate their papers to the Dodd Center, where a Cummings & Good Archive has been established.

The calendar has allowed the couple the ability to exercise their individual creativity. For Peter, that means collage. For Jan, her illustrations, particularly those of felines, shine. It has also enabled them to share their pleasure in the project by showcasing friends like “60 Minutes” correspondent and fellow Chester resident Morley Safer and nationally known chef and Madison resident Jacques Pépin, whose images have graced the calendars.

The Goods are currently at work on the BLUE 2011 edition. As noted in an order form in the 2010 calendar for next year’s offering: “...BLUE’s purpose in life is to delight. It will uplift and inspire you with artful graphics and colorful thoughts. It will hang around your home, workplace, or school, silently reminding you of what you need to do, where you’ve been, and when the moon will be full. And its light-hearted advice will be there for you, only when you inquire.”

Aficionados of the calendar know that they can expect an imaginative exploration of both the color and emotion, punctuated perhaps with striking visuals for risqué movies, hospital emergency codes, and maybe a police department that’s under the weather. The pleasure is in the anticipation. While blue, the sky is not the limit.

The Goods, who met as art students at UConn in the early 1960s, work in a studio in an historic Greek Revival building in Chester, Connecticut, producing artful posters, identities, signage, books and brochures for Fortune 500 companies, arts and educational institutions. In 1997, they received the University’s highest honor, the University Medal, for “outstanding professional achievement, leadership, and distinguished public service.” The following year, they completed a comprehensive identity system for the University – the first ever in the history of UConn, one of their most gratifying endeavors, they say. Their studio is featured in Branding USA, a 2006 Graphis survey of design firms throughout the U.S. and Canada recognized for their extensive work in identity development. In 2009, they were honored as “Design Legends” by the Connecticut American Institute of Graphic Arts and the Connecticut Art Directors Club.

Those interested in learning more about the calendar may visit http://www.cummings-good.com. The exhibit continues through March 5.
To Michael Young, Loreto, Italy is far more than a pilgrimage site thought to be the birthplace of Mary, the mother of Jesus, which has drawn Catholics and non-Catholics alike since the 14th century. For Young, who is the Libraries’ Art & Design librarian and Art & Humanities Team Leader, and who also teaches Art History at UConn, Loreto is a phenomenon.

Young traveled to Italy in August to discover why there are more than 50 Baroque copies of the Holy House (Santa Casa) at Loreto in the Czech Republic. In Loreto, he found important contemporary documents related to pilgrims to Loreto from Bohemia and Moravia, some of whom built or adorned the simulacra, or representations, of the Santa Casa in the Czech Lands.

Undergraduates’ Work Habits to be Assessed

Susanna Cowan

This semester, the Undergraduate Education Team at the University of Connecticut Libraries is conducting a broad study of how undergraduates use the spaces and technologies at the Libraries’ and at the rest of the University to complete their academic work.

The study is broken up into four overlapping assessments, which began this month with focus groups on the Babbidge Library’s Learning Commons. Students are sharing their views on the Learning Commons: what it is, what it isn’t, and what it could be. Following the focus groups, we intend to do an online technology survey to all UConn undergraduates, across all six campuses. The survey will gather data about what technologies students own and how they use them, whether they be electronic devices, or the Library’s or non-Library Web sites, to conduct research and accomplish academic work.

The third stage of the study will take the form of filmed interviews. Modeled on ethnographic approaches to data-gathering, these interviews will both record what students have to say about how they do research and find information, and how they do research/find information, i.e., how they work with a computer/the Internet to seek information, for example.

Finally, we’ll be sending student volunteers out with cameras to film popular spaces/places in and around campus, where students do academic work. These work-space monologues will produce both visual footage of these spaces and “monologues,” during which the students will narrate answers to a series of questions about what makes a given space good or bad for doing work.

We expect these studies will provide us with a fairly detailed snapshot of our undergraduates in terms of the environments and tools they choose when they do academic work. We have significant quantitative data about undergraduates; this study is meant to provide us with qualitative data, or a sense of the diverse work styles of our students. We will use the information we collect from these studies to make decisions about how best to augment the services and spaces we provide in the Library. We hope also to better understand the library’s place on the continuum of spaces, services, and technologies that our undergraduates use.
The Changing Image of African-Americans in Comics,” an exhibit featuring comic book art and trinkets from the 1950s on, is slated in February at the Waterbury Campus Library as a tribute to Black History month. The display will highlight a number of items which are part of Professor William H. Foster III’s extensive personal collection, and will also feature his observations on the role that comic books have played in black history, emphasizing a recurrent theme that “comic books aren’t immune to the taint of institutional racism or prejudice any more than any other segment of American society.”

Foster, a professor of English and Communications at Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) in Waterbury is a renowned scholar who has curated exhibits at numerous venues, including the Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art in New York. His infectious enthusiasm on the subject of superheroes and his erudite background has made him a popular commentator on CNN and National Public Radio. Foster’s interest in exploring social issues is carried over not only into the classroom, but in his pursuits as a writer. His play, “Tropical Blues,” presented at the NVCC’s Genesis II in 2007, focused on women trying to survive after being released from prison, and was based on his experience as a security guard at a women’s halfway house. He authored Looking for a Face Like Mine Fine Tooth Press to create an awareness of superheroes of color, “something that was in short supply growing up in West Philly in the early 1960s.” As a contributor to African-American Comic Book Characters and Archetypes: Art Exhibition Catalog (Other Heroes, 2007), he shared his perspective on black women characters.

Foster developed a passion for comic books during the years that he was in college at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. At that time, he proclaimed that he was initially drawn to Superman, Batman, and Spiderman because of their quests for justice. Adding that among minorities, comic books often offered a comforting niche to those who felt disenfranchised. In his own mission in collecting comic book images, he quickly discovered that images did not in any way represent him. Dr. Foster often refers to the historically unflattering portrayals of blacks “as savages, cannibals, simpletons, and worse” that dominated the world of comics for many years. At this point in time, he indicates that portrayals have changed drastically, with a large number of characters of color in comics increasing, “representing both positive and negative points of view.” His displays typically provide a lively collection of ground-breaking heroes who gradually surfaced and became deeply rooted in mainstream comics, particularly “the Black Panther,” an African monarch who appeared in Marvel’s Fantastic Four. “He was like water in the desert,” according to Foster because the Panther wasn’t just a background character.

As times have changed, depictions have become increasingly positive. Even President Barack Obama, a “comic book geek,” has now been prominently featured in a Spider-Man issue (Amazing Spider-Man #583, Marvel Comics). Foster concludes that in the post 9-11 world, we may all be looking to our nation for a superhero.

The Waterbury campus exhibit will include some 20 panels highlighting portrayals of individuals that students may readily identify, including Jackie Robinson, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday. Running from February 22 to March 15, “The Changing Image of African Americans in Comics” serves as a catalyst in uncovering the racism that inherently appeared within this increasingly popular medium that has now come of age and is being explored academically across many campuses.

Shelley Roseman, Director, Waterbury Campus Library.
T he country may be struggling to recover from a deep and prolonged economic recession, but financial hardship doesn’t dampen a person’s innate desire to do good Leslyn Clark contends. “I think that very often during challenging times people who feel passionate about something still give of themselves and their resources,” says Clark, who is the Libraries’ new Assistant Director of Development.

Although Clark joined the UConn Foundation just two months ago to develop support for the Libraries, she has already become acquainted with a number of the library’s longtime donors and is hard at work organizing the Class of 1960’s 50th reunion in June. The group plans to raise funds to renovate the Video Center space on Level 3 as its gift to the University.

Prior to joining UConn, Clark served as director of corporate relations for the non-profit organization Boundless Playgrounds in Bloomfield, which helps communities create barrier-free playgrounds where children with and without disabilities can play together.

A native of Atlanta, Clark earned a degree in business management at Fisk University, and went on to earn an M.B.A. in marketing from Atlanta University. After earning her graduate degree, she accepted a position at General Foods, and went on to hold positions at Sara Lee and Heublein.

She then shifted gears and joined Southern New England Telecommunications, where she helped to promote its wireless service.

She found she has been able to transfer the marketing skills developed in corporate consumer products to development and fundraising. She believes her efforts on behalf of Boundless Playgrounds provided her with a solid introduction to the non-profit sector and will be a natural fit for her current position.

Clark is enthusiastic about her new fundraising responsibilities for the UConn Libraries, including the capital campaign, which will enhance its technology, facilities, and collections. She believes a UConn education is a transformative experience and points to the library’s central role in that experience.

Interestingly, Clark’s parents were both educators. Her father was a high school principal and her mother was a high school librarian. Both, she says, had frequently encouraged her to obtain a teaching certificate, something she resisted. Now that she is working in higher education, she often thinks of her parents’ wish.

“There are many different ways to be involved in education without being in a classroom,” she observes with a smile.

Clark’s office is in Homer Babbidge Library’s administrative suite on the Plaza Level. She may be reached by e-mail at lclark@foundation.uconn.edu, or by phone at (860) 486-0451.

Anna Kijas Named Music & Dramatic Arts Librarian

A nna Kijas has been named Music & Dramatic Arts Librarian at the University Libraries.

Kijas earned a bachelor’s degree in Music Literature and Performance and a M.L.S. in Library and Information Science from Simmons College, and a master’s degree in Musicology from Tufts University.

Involved in music performance, research, and library studies for more than 10 years, she has more than 20 years experience as a musician.

In her most recent position, she served as a reference librarian at the Needham Public Library in Massachusetts.

Prior to that, she served as a music research assistant at Northeastern University, where she provided research and teaching materials for courses, as well as editorial and research assistance for the publication, Music in the U.S.A.: A Documentary Companion. Her most recent project is a bio-bibliography about Maria Szymanowska, a 19th century Polish pianist and composer, that is scheduled to be published this year.

Stanley Huzarewicz New Interlibrary Lending Librarian

S tanley Huzarewicz has joined the UConn Libraries as the Interlibrary Lending Librarian.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in English Literature from San Francisco State University, and a master’s degree in Information Studies, Library and Information Services, from the University at Albany, where he was a recipient of the Alice Hastings-Murphy Scholarship for MSIS students.

He has also served as a reference librarian at the Sage Colleges Libraries, as well as Assistant Librarian in Interlibrary Loan at SUNY, Albany.

Five Library Research Carrels Available for Short Term Use

H omer Babbidge Library is piloting a program that allows users to have short term access to the library’s research carrels, or personal studies.

Five research carrels are available on a temporary basis to any UConn student. Keys for these carrels may be charged out at the circulation desk (iDesk) for up to six hours at a time.

Generally reserved for faculty engaged in library research and graduate or honors students preparing theses or dissertations, the library’s 216 research carrels are in great demand.

The pilot program is in response to undergraduate and graduate student requests.

Managing Group Studies in a Quiet Environment

A s the result of recent complaints about noise levels, this semester the library is restricting the use of the group studies on Level 4 to those who agree to observe the quiet study culture. Keys for group studies on Level 4 may be charged out by UConn students at the circulation desk (iDesk) for up to six hours at a time.

New Sculpture Graces Library at Avery Point

A new sculpture, made from the sand mold of a bronze cast of a branch by adjunct professor Diane Barceló, was recently installed in the library at the Avery Point campus. The mold was framed in steel and inserted into the carved hollows of the wood, which was then rubbed with red clay and placed on a steel lecture stand. Says Barceló, “It questions the origins of knowledge and how or where we find it.”

Barceló, who has been making mixed media sculpture and installations for more than 20 years, teaches art appreciation at the campus.
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The University’s Capital Campaign supports the increasingly popular Libraries, according to the Vice Provost for University Libraries. The new electronic devices available for loan are hot items.

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Three new staff members have joined the Libraries.

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