

## FROM THE LIBRARY

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### *Notes from the Librarian ...*

*I'm frequently asked, "How does the Library keep up with technology? Everything keeps changing so rapidly and information resources are so expensive." One answer is, "Through growing collaboration with the libraries at Colby and Bates colleges, our partners in the 'CBB' consortium." As a Bates librarian recounts, "A few years ago, if our faculty requested a book we did not own but Bowdoin held, we rushed to buy it. Now, we're happy to place an interlibrary loan request and apply the money towards a book neither library has." Today we routinely rely on CBB cooperation to expand access to scholarly materials in all formats, and to make optimal use of limited resources.*

*The libraries have drafted a strategic plan and a shared vision which states in part: "...CBB Libraries, working together, will make their collective information resources available to all CBB students, faculty and staff ...They will make the CBB Libraries a model for effective collaboration among private liberal arts colleges."*

*In the future, consortial activities to strengthen the academic programs at the three colleges will continue to grow. For the moment, I want to call attention to the CBB library initiative to implement a \$975,000 award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to strengthen liberal arts education through the creative use of technology. Staff members are working to:*

- ◆ *Develop common access and delivery systems for library collections, by installing software to make possible simultaneous searching of the three library catalogs, and by standardizing circulation policies;*

- ◆ *Develop shared faculty education programs, including workshops and seminars to demonstrate successful approaches to information use; and*

- ◆ *Establish two-way and three-way videoconferencing capability at the three campuses to support inter-institutional teaching, joint meetings of faculty and staff at different schools and shared audiences at guest lectureships.*

*Watch for notices of these new services.*

*Sherrie Bergman*

### **New Student Loan Rules**

With enthusiastic endorsement by the faculty Library Committee and the Student Assembly, the student loan period for books has been changed from one semester to one month, effective Spring Semester 1998. Students and faculty agree that this will facilitate research by ensuring that needed materials are more readily available. Please watch for a campus e-mail announcement.

### **New Connections & Workstations**

To improve access to online resources, six computers have been placed around Hawthorne Longfellow Library to access word processing, e-mail, the World Wide Web and library resources. In addition, 50 laptop network ports have been activated throughout H-L and the Hubbard stacks. Special thanks to Liu Jia Wang '00 for designing the special ports logo.

## LIBRARY ORIENTATION FOR THE CLASS OF 2001

Members of this year's First Year Class attended one-hour sessions at the main library, which included a mini-tour of important service desks as well as a chance to sample the electronic resources available through the Library Web Gateway. The classes featured the online catalog, course reserve lists, and electronic indexes and web search engines, providing students with introductory hands-on experience and the tools they need to continue to explore online resources on their own. By focusing on introductory group sessions for first-year students, librarians hope to establish a basic skills level for all students which will allow future library classes for specific courses to concentrate on more advanced research skills.

### "GETTING STARTED " ON THE WEB

New library users may wish to begin their exploration of the Library Web Gateway with the "*Getting Started*" button on the Gateway page, which leads to a collection of helpful information screens. Serving as a convenient reference point for frequently asked questions, the site includes library schedules, the library staff directory, and a section called "Library 101," which provides quick tutorials on searching the library catalog, finding course reserves, and other skills essential for the library researcher. We hope that the "*Getting Started*" page will evolve into a complete beginner's guide to making the most of the library's resources. Please send comments to Kathleen Kenny (kkenny@polar).

## INTRODUCING ELECTRONIC NOTICES

The library has introduced a new electronic notification system for circulation and interlibrary loan services to all faculty, staff and students. Campus e-mail is used to send notices for books being held for pick-up at library circulation desks, as well as notices for recalled materials and overdues. In addition to ensuring more timely notification, e-mail notices save both paper and staff time. It is easy to spot these notices in your e-mail account: just look for the subject line that reads "Circulation Notices."

## NEW ONLINE DATABASES

The library is offering access to several new indexes and databases this year; information about these new online resources is provided through the Library Web Gateway Indexes/Databases page, located at: <http://www.bowdoin.edu/dept/library/erl/index.html>.

One of the most exciting changes is the introduction of *Lexis/Nexis Universe*, a large full-text database of news and legal information on the Web. The earlier Windows version of *Lexis/Nexis* was available only in the Library; *Universe* can be accessed through the Library Web Gateway from any computer on campus.

*Marcive*, the GPO Monthly Catalog of U.S. government publications (1976-), also is available now in web format; special features include hot links to government materials available on the web as well as to holdings information.

*CIS Compass* (1989-) is a new government-related index on the web. It

provides primarily full-text access to many publications of Congress, including hearings reports, the Congressional Record, biographies of members of Congress, and voting records.

Additional new databases include: *Bibliography of the History of Art (BHA)* (1973-), which covers European and American art from late antiquity to the present, indexing art-related publications and articles from over 2,500 journals; and *Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI)* (1970-), which describes materials on US-Hispanic and Latin American topics, indexing articles published in several languages from more than 100 scholarly journals worldwide. An online version of *Anthropological Index* has replaced its print counterpart, which is no longer available. New *ERL (Electronic Reference Library)* databases include *Peterson's Graduate, Political Science Abstracts, Essay and General Literature Index*, and *Contemporary Women's Index*.

For assistance with these resources, please call the H-L Reference Desk (x3227).

## **BORCHARD FOUNDATION FUNDS CATALOGING PROJECT IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

A grant from the Albert and Elaine Borchard Foundation is providing funding for a project in the library's Special Collections and Archives to catalog the titles in the James Bowdoin and Romance Languages collections. Online records for these titles will ensure that faculty and students at Bowdoin, as well as scholars worldwide, will have easy access to bibliographic records for these important collections. Barbara Dash, a rare books cataloger from the Library of Congress, is serving as project cataloger.

This is the first of several similar projects planned for our collections of rare books and is part of the library's ongoing commitment to catalog all of its resources online. Other rare book collections for which the library is seeking project funding include: Africana, Arctic, Classics, Early Imprints, American and British History, American and British Literature, Children's Literature, Music, Philosophy, Religion, and Science History.

## **ELECTRONIC INTERLIBRARY LOAN AND ORDER REQUEST FORMS**

This semester the library introduced library forms on the web. The online Interlibrary Loan request form, with its straightforward format and simple prompts, is increasingly popular with faculty, staff and students. It can be found on the Library Web Gateway Library Forms page at <http://www.bowdoin.edu/dept/library/forms/index.html>.

A new online order request form is being tested this semester by acquisitions staff in the Technical Services Department. A copy of each order submitted online is returned via e-mail to the requestor and serves as a confirmation that the order has been sent to the Library. This form (*Library Materials Order Form -- Beta Test*) may be found on the Library Web Gateway at <http://www.bowdoin.edu/dept/library/forms/index.html>. The Library invites faculty and staff to try this new online order form and to send comments to Collection Management/Acquisitions Librarian Penny Schroeder ([pschroed@polar](mailto:pschroed@polar)).

Filling out these online forms is especially easy for those who are working from online resources and can take advantage of computer options to copy and paste information directly into the form.

## INTRODUCING *JSTOR*: AN ONLINE ARCHIVE OF SCHOLARLY JOURNAL LITERATURE

The Bowdoin College Library has joined other Oberlin Library Group libraries as a charter member of the *JSTOR* project, an initiative sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon foundation to offer full-text scholarly journals in electronic format. *JSTOR*'s initial objective is "to develop a trusted archive of core scholarly journal literature, with an emphasis on the retrospective conversion of the entire backfiles of key journals." During its first three years, *JSTOR* will provide access to a minimum of 100 journal titles in different fields of study.

To date 32 titles have been converted in Asian Studies, Ecology, Economics, Education, History, Mathematics, Philosophy, Political Science, and Population Studies. Bowdoin faculty, staff and students may view a current list of titles, along with full-text access to their contents, from the library homepage or directly at <http://www.jstor.org/>. There are three methods currently available for printing *JSTOR* articles (it is not possible to print out articles simply by using the "Print"

button in a WWW browser). Information may be found at the *JSTOR* web site at <http://www.jstor.org/about/printing.html>.

*JSTOR* (short for Journal STORage), a not-for-profit organization located in New York City, makes journal literature backfiles available in digital format. This service has proven increasingly attractive both to publishers, who understand the importance of converting and indexing the contents of their journals for scholarly research, and to libraries, who are concerned with providing more convenient access to journal contents as well as reducing journal storage costs. In order not to compete with the print version of these journal titles, *JSTOR* offers access to the complete runs of titles except the current year and five previous years.

All *JSTOR* titles are cataloged in Phebe (the Library's online catalog at <http://library.bowdoin.edu/>) with direct links from Phebe to the *JSTOR* online version of each title. To view a current list of titles in Phebe, search "*JSTOR*" as an author.



### Library-sponsored Web Classes

#### **Navigating with Netscape: An Introduction to the World Wide Web**

Mon., Feb. 2     2:30-4:00 p.m.  
Tues., March 3   9:30-11:00 a.m.  
Wed., May 6     9:30-11:00 a.m.

#### **Finding it on the Web: Understanding Search Engines**

Tues., Feb. 3     9:30-11:00 a.m.  
Thurs., March 5   2:30-4:00 p.m.  
Thurs., May 7     2:30-4:00 p.m.

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