

FROM THE LIBRARY

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1

AN OCCASIONAL PUBLICATION

MARCH 1999

Notes from the Librarian

In the coming weeks, I hope you will assist the library both to review the periodical collection and to craft an instructional program. Consider how the library supports your research and teaching through the periodicals collection and through library instruction services.

Periodicals Review:

Broken, Dead or Outdated?

So reads the label on a box of old library computer keyboards, but it also is an appropriate metaphor for the periodical review we soon will begin.

We are about to send to department chairs lists of library journals ordered originally by department faculty. Soon after break, librarian liaisons will contact departments to request meetings to review these journal lists and identify obsolete titles for cancellation. Journal prices are projected to increase 10.5 per cent in the coming year, thus continuing to outpace the Consumer Price Index. Our library has been more fortunate than many of our peers; until recently, through budget increases and assistance from endowment income, we have been able to keep up with price increases. Next year, however, we project a shortfall. We need to act now by reviewing current subscriptions and canceling unneeded titles.

In recent years, the library has followed a comprehensive program of periodical cost containment strategies. Over the last five years we have canceled 129 titles for a collective price of \$81,768. Prepayments to major subscription agencies have realized \$54,937 in savings over the last three years. We are about to complete a review of serial standing orders, which will result in numerous cancellations. In addition, in the last few years we have been developing a priority document delivery service to provide you with speedier access to articles in journals not available in the library. Nonetheless, faculty continue to engage actively in research and the total cost of new periodical requests exceeds the total cost of canceled titles.

The rapidly increasing number of periodicals now being published electronically does not offer a financial panacea. We are not saving any money by subscribing to electronic journals; many publishers demand that we continue to pay for paper subscriptions in order to receive the electronic version. We need your participation as we work to

ensure that we spend library funds most wisely. So please look at your journal list and let us know about those dead or outdated titles.

Teaching Students to Use the Library:

Elsewhere in this issue, we propose developing a Library Research Skill Plan to improve how we teach students to use the library during their Bowdoin careers. Our goal is to lead students through four progressive levels of instruction. In the coming weeks as we work to design a library instruction program, our librarian liaisons will request your assistance with two activities: identifying the resources and scholarly conventions particular to your specific academic discipline; and identifying the specialized skills needed by your students undertaking honors and independent study projects.

Your participation in the journal collection review and the development of a research skill plan will be essential to the success of these two projects. This work must be done in partnership with you. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Sherrie Bergman

David Levering Lewis The John Brown Russwurm Lecture

American Exceptionalism and the Discontent of
W.E.B. Du Bois
Smith Auditorium, Sills Hall
Thursday, April 15, 1999, 7:30 PM

Reception to follow in Druckenmiller Hall Atrium

Sponsors: Africana Studies Program and the
Bowdoin College Library

Bliss Bindings Online

**Blissful Books and Bindings:
Selections from the Susan Dwight Bliss Collection.**

On the library gateway at:
[http://www.bowdoin.edu/dept/library/arch/
present/bliss.htm](http://www.bowdoin.edu/dept/library/arch/present/bliss.htm)

New Library Catalog Features

Through an Andrew W. Mellon grant, Colby, Bates and Bowdoin staff designed and implemented catalog software to enhance your access to library collections. New features include:

CBB Search

You now can specify that your search be performed in any one, two, or all three library catalogs. The results screen will show the number of matches from each catalog and the retrieved records may be viewed from within the Colby, Bates or Bowdoin catalogs.

CBB Request

While exploring records for materials available at CBB campuses, you may request items for delivery while online. Select the “request” option at the top of the screen and complete the online form. Please note: continue to use print or electronic Interlibrary Loan forms for periodical article requests.

Renewal

You may now renew materials checked out to you through the catalog. Simply go into the library catalog from which the item was borrowed and select the “View your record” option.

Visit the CBB Library Consortium web page for more details on these new features: <http://www.colby.edu/cbb/info-coop/index.html> or click on *CBB Help* at the bottom of your library catalog screen.

Where is it?

Where are government documents and for how long may I check them out? A new feature in the catalog answers these questions. At the screen for an individual item, click on the words appearing under “LOCATION” (e.g., Spec Coll, Internet). You will be linked to a description of the location where you will find the item and a summary of the loan periods.

Borrowing from Colby and Bates

CBB REQUEST vs. Interlibrary Loan

Many faculty and students are enjoying the new ability to request materials directly from Bates and Colby. However, to use this new catalog feature you must determine whether to use the CBB Request option or traditional Interlibrary Loan service.

Use **CBB Request** for:

- Books
- Government documents
- Music recordings (faculty only)
- Audio books
- Video recordings
- Music scores

Use **ILL** for :

- Journal articles
- Newspapers
- Special Collections
- Bound journals
- Microforms

The Request Function: What’s going where

For the 1998 fall semester

Items borrowed from Colby & Bates	675
Items Loaned to Colby & Bates	835

72% of CBB requests go to students.

New Audio Books

Did you know that the library has books-on-tape? Discover them at Hawthorne-Longfellow Library in the display area on the first floor. These items circulate for 14 days with one renewal.

My Other Life: Paul Theroux

The Color of Water: A Black Man’s Tribute to his White Mother: James McBride

Full House: The Spread of Excellence from Plato to Darwin: Stephen Jay Gould

Lincoln: David Herbert Donald

The Monkey: John Fullerton

White on White: E.B. White

Developing a Library Research Skills Plan

Developing strong library research skills is an important part of each student's educational experience at Bowdoin. For several years, librarians in partnership with faculty have employed a variety of methods to teach students how to access and evaluate print and electronic information resources:

- One-to-one assistance at the Reference Desk
- First year student orientation program
- Course-related presentations based on specific class research assignments for 100 level through upper level courses
- Course-related Web guides (<http://www.bowdoin.edu/dept/library/classes/>)
- Print and electronic documentation on effective use of library resources
- Consultation with students doing independent studies and honor theses
- Workshops on the use of specific information resources (e.g. Netscape, search engines, new databases, etc.)

While we have had many successes, we want to develop a cohesive library research skills plan to more effectively and efficiently address our students' needs, a plan that leads students through four progressive skill levels during their four years here:

- An orientation to the physical layout of the library and to the variety of information services the library provides.
- The ability to develop a research strategy and to make effective use of the library online catalog and periodical indexes.
- Knowledge of the important resources (scholarly indexes, major bibliographies, significant Web sites) that provide access to the literature in the major field of study, as well as the research strategies and scholarly conventions particular to that discipline.
- Specialized research skills and knowledge required for honors theses and independent study projects.

In the coming months, we hope to engage faculty in a conversation to determine what Bowdoin students need to know about finding, evaluating and using information resources and how we can best teach these skills. We look forward to speaking with you. In the interim, we would welcome your comments about how to enhance instruction of library research skills.

Judy Montgomery

News from around the World

Connect to the world from your office or dorm computer. Check out the Language Media Center web page (<http://www.bowdoin.edu/dept/library/lmc>) for more information on these exciting resources:

BRS Web Radio

http://www.web-radio.com/in_a.html
Digital radio from around the world.

News Resource

<http://newo.com/news/>
A global directory of international newspapers, indexed by country.

Internet TV

<http://internetv.virtualspace.net/>
Watch International television on your desktop computer.

SCOLA

<http://www.scola.org/>
View Channel One on your desktop computer or channel 49 on the Bowdoin Cable System.

Special Collections and Archives

Services and Staffing

While a nationwide search is being conducted for a new Director of Special Collections and Archives, staff continue to answer reference requests, welcome the transfer of college records to the Archives, mount new exhibits, and maintain, catalog and preserve collections:

Dianne Gutscher continues as Associate Special Collections Curator (Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10:00 AM -3:00 PM, phone ext. 3385).

Dianne is joined by the following temporary staff members:

Susan Burroughs is Special Collections Librarian and department coordinator for 1998-99. Call her with reference or general departmental questions. (Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM -5:00 PM, phone ext. 3288)

Cally Gurley continues as Temporary Archivist through the end of June, providing access to the George J. Mitchell Papers and the college Archives. Call her if you wish to transfer files to the Archives or need to have confidential files destroyed. (Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM, phone ext. 3374)

Sean Monahan joined the staff in January as Special Collections & Archives Assistant. He helps with the general work of the department, supervises student assistants, and has taken responsibility for a number of special projects. (Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, phone ext. 3096)

Donna Sciascia continues to catalog the Marguerite Yourcenar Collection on a part-time basis. (Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM)

We welcome your visits and inquiries! If you cannot reach a particular staff member, please call the general department number, ext. 3288, and we will find an answer to your question.

George Mitchell and Northern Ireland

Looking for information on the Northern Ireland peace process and George Mitchell? Visit the George J. Mitchell Project and Special Collections and Archives at:

<http://www.bowdoin.edu/dept/library/arch/mitchell/>

Exhibits

William Pitt Fessenden and the Impeachment Trial of 1868 **Second floor, Hawthorne-Longfellow Library**

A new exhibit of letters and photographs from the Fessenden collection, concerning the impeachment of Andrew Johnson, has been mounted in the Hawthorne-Longfellow Library. Items on display include the correspondence of William Pitt Fessenden, an influential Senator from Maine and a member of the class of 1823.

The selections in the exhibit trace the impeachment process through the eyes of Fessenden who, as a Republican, was torn between his party's and constituents' calls for conviction and his belief that only acquittal was constitutionally and morally just. Read from beginning to end, the exhibit engages the contemporary viewer with its historical significance and eerie similarities to contemporary events.

Famous Names:

Letters from the Lyman Abbott Autograph Collection **Second floor, Hawthorne-Longfellow Library**

Harriet Beecher Stowe:

"In reply to your letter about the story I have only to say that I write just as fast as I can & *cannot* write faster."

General Ulysses S. Grant:

"However we may have differed from our Southern brethren in the events of the last four years we have now become again one people and with but one interest."

John Muir:

"A trip with you in the mountains would be delightful"

Letters from these and other notables in the exhibit, including: Daniel Webster, Winston Churchill, Sarah Orne Jewett, and William James, offer a small sampling of the collection.

Many of these letters are addressed to Lyman, others to his brother Edward, editor of "Literary World," and a few from other sources. The autograph collection is a part of the larger Abbott Family Papers.

Electronic Indexes and Database Updates

New: The *WorldCat* database contains the holdings of every major library in the U.S. and of other libraries worldwide -- over 40 million records. This collection provides resources in all subjects and is very useful for verifying citation information and determining which libraries own the titles you need.

Avery Index to Architectural Periodical indexes over 1,000 periodicals in the field of architecture and related disciplines. Coverage begins in 1977. You'll find this CD in the H-L reference area.

Statistical Universe covers statistics generated by the U.S. government, some of which are international in scope. Search results provide citations and abstracts as well as links to the full-text when available. It is the online equivalent to *American Statistics Index*.

Bibliography of Asian Studies (BAS) indexes western-language monographs, articles and book chapters on all parts of Asia published since 1971. The disciplinary scope covers humanities, social sciences, and the natural sciences which have strong human components, like medicine, public health, and geology.

Other News: You now have desktop web access to several databases previously available only on CD-ROM in the Hawthorne-Longfellow library:

- *America: History and Life*
Covers U.S. and Canada from prehistory to the present.
- *Historical Abstracts*
Offers information on world history from 1450 excluding the U.S. and Canada.
- *Ethnic Newswatch*
Provides full-text articles from more than 100 U.S. ethnic newspapers and magazines beginning in 1992.
- *The Complete Marquis*
Who's Who Information from 20 individual *Who's Who* print sources beginning in 1985.
- *Religion Indexes* (ATLA Religion Database)
Covers journals and multi-authored books from 1949 to the present.

All web products are available through the library's Indexes/Databases web page <http://www.bowdoin.edu/dept/library/erl/>

CBB Faculty Stipend Program

The CBB User Education Committee is pleased to announce the inauguration of the CBB Mellon Project for Library and Information Technology Faculty Stipend Program. The program offers direct support to faculty who wish to explore opportunities to work collaboratively with colleagues at the three colleges to use information resources more effectively in their classes. Faculty have received a brochure containing an overview of the program and application instructions.

Detailed application instructions and sample conceptual examples are available on the WWW at <http://www.colby.edu/cbb/info-coop/>.

Please contact Rosemary Roberts, Bowdoin's faculty liaison to this program, by e-mail (rroberts@bowdoin.edu) or at ext. 3566 for assistance with the development of your proposal.

THE PROPOSAL DEADLINE IS APRIL 9, 1999.

Tax Notes

Reproducible copies of all available federal tax forms are now on reserve at the Library. Current year tax forms as well as those going back to 1992 are also available on the Web at:

http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/basic/forms_pubs/

Please note that it is necessary to have Adobe Acrobat software loaded on your computer to print the forms; this software may be downloaded free from the internet through the IRS web page or at <http://www.adobe.com>

The Library will offer these Internet classes during the Spring semester to Bowdoin students, faculty, staff and Friends:

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD WIDE WEB

This class introduces new users to the World Wide Web and its many varied resources.

Wednesday, April 7, 3:30-5:00 PM

FINDING IT ON THE WEB:

Understanding Search Engines

Learn how you can take advantage of the unique search features of several major search engines.

Thursday, April 8, 3:30-5:00 PM

Please sign up in advance by calling the Reference Desk at x3227. Classes meet in the Electronic Classroom in the Hawthorne-Longfellow Library.

Audio-Visual Services Scheduling Guide

For your convenience please retain this copy of the Audio-Visual Services Scheduling Guide for referral through the rest of the year. Updates and changes will be distributed to you electronically.

Sarah Morgan, AV Specialist, ext. 3612,
smorgan@bowdoin.edu

Stan Paul, AV Assistant, ext. 3613,
spaul@bowdoin.edu

Hourly Staffing:

The AV office (2nd floor, Coles Tower) is normally staffed from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Sarah works 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, and Stan works 2:00 – 10:00 PM. Students work in the office throughout the day. Sarah and Stan's hours may vary depending upon scheduled events.

Booking AV Equipment and Services:

All audiovisual equipment and services must be booked at least **ONE WEEK** prior to the event. Late requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis, depending upon availability of equipment and staff. *AV equipment and services are scheduled through Roberta Davis (ext. 3421) in the Events office.*

Confirmation Calls:

The AV student handling your event will call the contact person listed on their work order. The contact person is the individual scheduling the event. If you do not receive a confirmation call for your event, please call the AV office at x3612 to ensure that your request was received.

Equipment Delivery:

In most cases, AV students will deliver and set up the requested equipment and pick it up after class. You may request that a technician stay and help operate the equipment. Normally, students will have equipment set up at least ½ hour prior to an event. However, many rooms are scheduled back-to-back, and students may not have access to the room until minutes before the next class begins.

On-Call Services:

AV staff members are on-call in case of emergency. If equipment doesn't arrive, or fails to work, call the AV office at ext. 3612. If no one is in the office, the voicemail message will allow you to transfer to the Communications Center and have a staff member (or student, if available) paged. AV should not be paged to handle last-minute requests.

Equipment Training:

We are happy to provide equipment training for individuals or small groups. We provide scheduled equipment training (for auditoriums and lecture halls) at the beginning of each semester. If you would like to receive training on any AV equipment, please call ext. 3612.

Educational Technology Task Force Events

Inventing Education in a Wired Culture

Peter Schilling, Educational Technology Manager
Tuesday, April 6, 1999
Pierce Reading Room,
Hawthorne-Longfellow Library
3:30 – 5:00 PM

Brown Bag Lunch Demonstrations

ProCite: Bibliographic Citation Software
Tuesday, April 13, 1999
Language Media Center, Sills Hall
12:00 – 12:45 PM

ETTF Technology Fair

Thursday, April 22, 1999
Language Media Center, Sills Hall
3:30 – 5:00 PM

From the Library
3000 College Station
Bowdoin College
Brunswick, ME 04011
hlgopher@bowdoin.edu