



Between the Cines

the ISU Eli M. Oboler Library Newsletter

Volume 14, Number 12

<http://www.isu.edu/library/libcol/libnews.htm>

Spring 2007

INFLATION FORCES LIBRARY TO PLAN FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS CUTS

ISU's battle to maintain adequate journal resources has been waged for well over a decade. On at least one front, the battle has gone well. Students and faculty currently have access to more than ten times the number of journals than they did in 1990. On the financial front, however, the Library has had to make several strategic retreats. Regrettably, another retreat appears to be required in the near future.

As most members of the academic community are aware, for many years the rate of inflation of journal prices has been two to three times the overall inflation rate. The State of Idaho provided special funding to combat the problem for almost ten years, but recently that funding has often fallen substantially short. The Library, in response, has resorted to using one-time and carried-forward funds, holding back on book expenditures (in the amount of \$50,000 this fiscal year), and, in 2004, trimming the journal budget by 3%. Despite these measures, it has continued to lose ground.

For fiscal year 2008, the State has been generous in supplying inflation funds. Officially, it has granted ISU \$159,800. But the funding is structured in such a way that the Library cannot yet be sure that it will receive more than \$117,000. Until the University's Budget Committee completes its deliberations on this and other budget matters next month, the final inflationary appropriation for the Library will not be known. In the meantime, the Library feels it must use that figure for planning purposes.

Of the projected \$117,000 in new funding, \$43,000 will be used to retain access to the EBSCO journal databases. These databases were formerly of no cost to the Library, due to funding by a state contract, but the State

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From the University Librarian—

In this issue, you will see that the library is once again facing the need for a journals cut. This cut is only the most recent in a cycle that goes back to 1970 when the information explosion began reaching the limits of budget expansion. We are in another round of this process.

Many had hoped that the move to network delivery of journals would solve this problem. Unfortunately, the journal publishers continue to charge the same price for the digital content and, in some cases, more. There are also unresolved issues of copyright and archiving. Most online journals are licensed, not purchased, and librarians are still dealing with the challenge of continuing access to material when a subscription is cancelled or a journal ceases publication. Several solutions are being explored.

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Friends Of Oboler Library visit with guest speakers Lyle Olson, Editorial Page Editor, Idaho State Journal, Doug Andersen, KPVI News Channel 6, and Roger Chase, Mayor, City of Pocatello, at the FOOL's "Media in the Crosshairs" dinner lecture in October 2006.

We invite you to the next FOOL event :

"A TOAST TO OUR AUTHORS"

a wine tasting celebration to honor ISU Humanities Faculty Authors,

Friday, April 13, 2007, 5:30PM to 7:30PM,

Wood River Room, Pond Student Union Building.

More information is on the FOOLSCAP page of this newsletter.

Journal Cuts — Continued from page 1

recently switched to a different vendor's product. Because EBSCO databases provide access to numerous valuable scholarly journals and have come to be heavily relied upon by faculty and students, the Library has opted to purchase them out of its own funds on a continuing basis.

An additional \$10,000 of the \$117,000 will be applied toward inflationary increases in the maintenance fee paid to our library system vendor. The remaining \$64,000 is available to cope

with journal inflation. Unfortunately, the Library estimates that the total cost of maintaining current purchasing power, for books, journals and other databases, is approximately \$165,000. Therefore, after calculating the relative inflation rates of these three types of resources, the Library has concluded that it must request academic departments to prepare for a 7% cut in journal expenditures. This, it should be noted, is the "worst case" percentage; it may turn out to be less.

The University Library Committee, library liaisons and department chairs have been told about the situation and they have recently been sent their journal lists. These lists will be accompanied by a request that faculty rank their choices of journals to be eliminated and inform the Library by mid-April.

The Oboler Library, like academic libraries across the United States, will continue to fight to preserve its journal collection. It will protest publishers' extraordinary increases in journal subscription rates — increases that continue to occur despite the accelerated conversion from paper to electronic formats, with its resultant cost savings. Unfortunately, commercial publishers are not only in a sellers' market, they are slowly becoming an oligopoly as larger publishers buy out smaller ones. The academic publisher, Wiley, for instance, purchased another publisher, Blackwell, late last year, which leaves only five or six major publishers in science, technology and medical fields. It is not easy for libraries to intimidate corporations of such size and power. Faculty might want to consider supporting these efforts by publishing in their alternative journals.

One possible weapon against the commercial publishers is the "open access" movement, which argues that publishers should retain copyright control of published articles only for a limited time period and then release those articles into the public domain. This idea is gaining ground especially among those who conduct

and fund federal research. They point out that U.S. taxpayers should not have to pay for the same thing twice—once for the grant to fund the research, and then again to subscribe to the journal publishing the results of the research (for more details on this movement, see the University Librarian's column, in this issue). Another line of attack being tried is encouraging the creation of reasonably-price scholarly journals that compete directly with those that are the most egregiously over-priced. An international organization called SPARC (The Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition) is pioneering strategies for enabling non-profit, scholarly society publishers to provide alternatives to commercially published journals.

In spite of the dynamic nature of scholarly publishing, the Library will do everything possible to maintain the journal collection for the Idaho State University.

—Sandra Shropshire

Associate University Librarian for Technical Services
and

—Leonard Hitchcock, Professor Emeritus, Library

UNIVERSITY RECORDS MANAGER RESIGNS HER POST

Robin Wilson, Records Manager since May of 2000, is ending her service to ISU on March 23. She accepted the position in Washington, D.C., as Assistant Records Manager for the Federal Trade Commission, an independent federal agency with regulatory enforcement authority that reports to Congress on its actions.

When Wilson was hired, this institution had virtually no overall plan for records-keeping or a clear and complete set of guidelines to guide for these processes. After visiting most of the departments and offices on campus, she initiated the structure of the University Records Program. Wilson organized the Records Management Advisory Committee, trained many department Records Coordinators, created the Records Center in the Continuing Education Building, and compiled the Records Retention Schedule for the University. Her abilities have been recognized statewide by her membership on the State Historical Records Advisory Board since 2002.

Robin said, "My successful bid for this position was built on my work here at ISU, as well as my graduate degree taken here in Public Administration. To an agency full of attorneys, my emphasis in Administrative Law was attractive. ISU has started many people on the road to superior public service and I intend to join their number."

Library Takes a BITE out of Google at ISU Day at the Capitol

Library faculty team up to convey the importance of using the Library and authoritative databases, rather than simply surfing the Web. Participating were Marcia Francis, Director, Idaho Health Sciences Library, Janet Higgins, Assistant University Librarian for Library Systems, and Phil Homan, Reference/Cataloging Librarian.

—Phil Homan, Reference/Cataloging Librarian



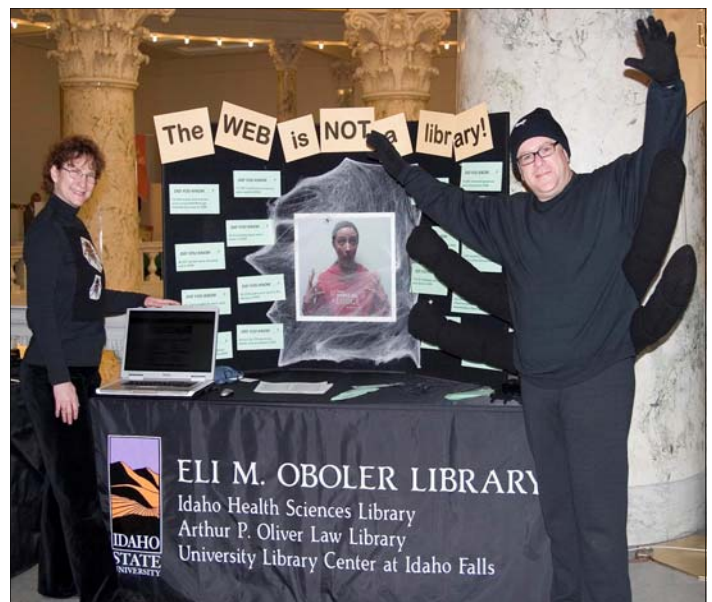
Yearly Cost to the Library for Access to these Databases via the Web

- ◆ \$35,931—BIOSIS, #1 biology database
- ◆ \$32,614—STAT!Ref, online medical books
- ◆ \$23,325—SciFinder Scholar, #1 chemistry data base
- ◆ \$16,353—Clinics of NA Journals
- ◆ \$10,625—PsycARTICLES, Psychological Association Journals
- ◆ \$7,780—CINAHL, #1 nursing database
- ◆ \$3,024—CCH Health & Human Resources
- ◆ \$2,415—Cochrane Library, #1 evidence-based medical resource

The focus of the Oboler Library display this year was a photo of Reference Department student assistant Emily Phelps, inextricably caught in the tangles of the World Wide Web, screaming for a librarian to save her.

Library Services provided in 2006

- ◆ 718,741 database searches completed
- ◆ 257,291 full-text articles requested from the Library's databases
- ◆ 152,330 visits to the library catalog
- ◆ Access to 74,595 electronic journals provided
- ◆ 40,897 books checked out
- ◆ 34,543 photocopies printed
- ◆ 31,734 periodicals used in the library
- ◆ 30,370 books used in the library
- ◆ 15,860 books and articles requested through Interlibrary Loan
- ◆ 14,866 reference questions answered
- ◆ 11,307 reserve resources used
- ◆ 6,707 periodicals checked out by patrons
- ◆ 4,531 students taught in these workshops
- ◆ 348 library instruction workshops taught
- ◆ 298 *Ask a Librarian* virtual reference questions answered by email
- ◆ Access to 155 electronic books was provided



TRIBUTE TO A LIBRARIAN

Given on the retirement of Leonard Hitchcock, Professor Emeritus, June 2006



By Roger Schmidt, Professor of English and Philosophy

When Leonard first told me last fall that he was retiring, I was taken somewhat aback. I have been at ISU for seventeen years, and have seen many colleagues retire, but somehow it didn't seem right that a librarian should be allowed to retire. The idea seemed foreign to me. To lose a librarian such as Leonard is to lose part of the library itself, and such things ought to be avoided whenever possible. For at least three hundred years people have been referring to books as "companions." Books accompany us everywhere, a fact that is expressed in the motto of the *Everyman Library*, those small, nicely-bound books, reasonably priced, that easily fit in a jacket pocket: "Everyman, I will go with thee," it says inside the flyleaf of each volume. If books are our companions, that must make the librarian for collection development something like the Companion-Master-General. It has been Leonard's responsibility to see that we all have good companions, both now and for the years to come. We all know, though, that good books, like a good companion, are hard to come by—with Leonard's retirement, we lose doubly, for we are losing both.

"Everyman, I will go with thee," it says on the flyleaf, and what is being referred to is the book we hold in our hands. The book will go with us. Indeed, books often prove to be the most loyal companions we have. But the line, taken from the fourteenth-century morality play, *Everyman*, actually refers to our "good deeds." It is not books, or money, or friends, but only our "good deeds" that we can take with us when Death summons, only our good deeds that will endure. I would like to speak briefly of one of Leonard's good deeds as a University librarian, one that I think will endure for many years to come. I am sure whenever I use the library that I am indebted to Leonard in more ways than I realize. The English department in particular and the Humanities in general have depended on Leonard, and we have all benefited greatly from his knowledge and judgment and the choices he has had to make within his limited working budget. I think we have taken a

lot of the work he did for granted, as if books somehow got ordered on their own, or collections somehow built themselves. This is not the case.

But the particular good deed I want to speak of is the establishment of the "Samuel Johnson and His Circle Collection" of rare books, and the parallel collections of early dictionaries, and the collection of artists' books. (I include artists' books here—and by artists' books I mean handmade works of art that expand or explore the possibilities of what books are and can do—because artists' books are an integral part of the history of the book as a material object.) If you have not been down to Special Collections and taken a tour, I strongly recommend that you do so. And take your students with you, whether they are in History, Art, Mass Communications, or English. And be sure to look at the Hogarth prints, as well as some of the handmade books. (Or at least take the virtual tour available on the library web-site, www.isu.edu/jhnsnbooks/index.htm) These collections came into being under Leonard's stewardship, and we are very lucky to have such a fine collection of rare and valuable books, given that we are a regional university in southeast Idaho. It is a substantial collection, though not a large one, and it serves as a foundation. It will continue to grow. Today so much of the library budget goes toward information technology, which is where it has to go I suppose, but the technology lasts such a short while before it has to be replaced. How much different it is with an original Hogarth print, which stares back at us with all the richness, depth and detail that it had when it was first printed over two hundred years ago; it will continue to share its richness and depth with generations of students and scholars for years to come. By investing in the old, Leonard has provided something of permanent value for the future.

If you do wander down into the rare books collection, and if you do pick up, say, a 1757 edition of Hume's *Treatises*, I would ask you to think about how little the appearance of the book has changed. The book achieved absolute perfection of form and function several centuries ago and has evolved very little since. Think for a moment about the design features good books embody in their form: quietness, reliability, ease of use, remarkable durability, richness of knowledge, an unobtrusiveness, and an extraordinary sense of timelessness; indeed, books embody a slowness that is humane and the result of

much thought and reflection—these, not surprisingly, are the characteristics of a good librarian. Librarians are as various as books themselves, and every bit as eccentric as authors, but the basic humanist values which books embody, they too embody. It would be strange if they didn't.

There are bright young librarians out there, and perhaps one will be hired to take Leonard's position. Still, I like an old librarian, the older the better, someone who has spent a decade or two wandering the stacks, and has personally held in hand at least half a million books. Librarians today when asked a question often just type in a few keystrokes and can generally give you many more references than you even thought existed. They make it seem so simple, and their efficiency is terrific and much appreciated. Still, I sometimes get nostalgic for the librarians I remember from my undergraduate and early graduate days. You would ask a question and they would stare into the distance for a long moment, and then they would say, "I think you might want to start with *Alibone*, and if that doesn't help you, you might [try] *Chambers'*, and then they would walk you back into the maze of reference stacks and very quickly have pulled out two or three works and opened them on a table for you. My point is that librarians of that generation had to have a capacious and unending memory, a library inside their own mind, a vast warehouse of information not at their fingertips, but *in* their fingertips, as it were: as if their fingers themselves knew where to find the information in a reference work.

I would like to conclude by reading a brief poem about trees. Every May we meet here in the Alumni House for various occasions, for retirements and promotions and what not, and every May the chestnut trees out front are just coming into leaf. We grow older, but the trees never seem to lose their spring glory. It is a common enough poetic theme, but I choose this particular poem because it was

written by a major poet who was also a university librarian for his entire career: Philip Larkin, of Hull University, in Hull, England.

The Trees

The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said;
The recent buds relax and spread,
Their greenness is a kind of grief.

Is it that they are born again
And we grow old? No, they die too.
Their yearly trick of looking new
Is written down in rings of grain.

Yet still the unresting castles thresh
In fullgrown thickness every May.
Last year is dead, they seem to say,
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.
(1967)



"Those who declared librarians obsolete when the Internet rage first appeared are now red-faced. We need them more than ever. The Internet is full of 'stuff' but its value and readability is often questionable. 'Stuff' doesn't give you a competitive edge, high quality related information does."

— Patricia Schroeder, Association of American Publishers President

Changes to the LiLI Database Program

As part of the Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI) program to provide free online database access to Idahoans, the Idaho Commission for Libraries has provided state-wide access to many multidisciplinary and subject-specific EBSCO databases for the past four years.

With EBSCO's state contract at an end, the Reference staff learned that Gale had been awarded the contract, and it became clear that major changes were headed our way. Over the past four years, we, the students, and the faculty have come to rely on many of the EBSCO databases, especially Academic Search Premier, Business Search Premier, EBSCO's versions of ERIC and AGRICOLA, and others. Academic Search Premier alone accounts for a significant portion of the database searching done here at ISU and has been our most used database for the last three years. Further, students who attend library workshops for First Year Seminar, Speech (Communication 101), English 101, English 102, and other classes are being taught specifically how to use Academic Search Premier as their starting point to find articles.

The Library's major concerns with the change from EBSCO to Gale had to do with the differences in the article content between the two packages. During the evaluation process and in the months since the changes took effect, several Reference staff members have noted that the Gale products don't offer enough

academic content to be very useful to ISU students, faculty, and staff who are doing advanced research or research for upper division classes. In fact, Sandra Shropshire (Associate University Librarian for Technical Services) reports that EBSCO's package of databases offers 4,400 *more* unique journal titles compared to the Gale package.

Because of these concerns and our reliance on EBSCO products both in the Library instruction program and at the Reference Desk, the Oboler Library has made a determined effort to find funding for continued access to EBSCO's products. Currently, we have funding for the EBSCO databases through July of 2008.

The new products from Gale have been added to the Library's website on both our alphabetical list of databases, as well as our Resources by Subjects pages and include such titles as: Academic One-File, Business & Company Profiles, Health & Wellness Resource Center, Health Reference Center Academic, InfoTrac Custom Newspapers, and LegalTrac.

These databases add more full text content to our current offerings. LegalTrac in particular received high marks during the evaluation process.

— Anna-Lise Smith, Reference Department

University Librarian — continued from page 1

There is some hope on the horizon. Currently, there is a movement to require that tax-supported research, such as that supported by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, be freely available six months after publication. Last year, a bill was introduced in Congress to require that agencies that fund extramural research keep a safe digital copy of any paper and provide access to that paper within six months of publication. There are plans to reintroduce that bill in this Congress.

As with any policy question, there are multiple sides. The publishers are afraid of losing revenue, as are learned societies that depend on publications for a major part of their operating funds. Some fear that such a scheme will undermine the peer review system. All of these concerns must be addressed before we can realize the benefits that open access to research will provide.

In the meantime, we continue to do everything we can to maximize the return on the university's investment



**The new
fire alarm system
is now working!!**

**Thanks to all
"sniffers" who
ensured our safety
during the
construction of the
new system.**

in scholarly journals. With help from the faculty, the library will continue to offer those journals that provide the greatest contribution to the research instruction of the university.

—Kay A. Flowers, University Librarian & Dean

Library Staff Notes



HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY

Ruiling Guo, Health Sciences Librarian, attended the Western Medical Library Association Chapter's 2006 Annual Meeting in Seattle on October.

At this meeting, she co-presented a poster on "Assessment of Information Needs for Idaho Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists" with Janene Willer, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders, and Education of the Deaf, and Barbara A. Bain, PhD, Professor Emeritus.

Guo also, in collaboration with Willer and Bain, received an Express Outreach Award of \$12,000 funded by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Northwest Region. They will use the grant to provide evidence-based practice training to speech language pathologists and audiologists in Southeast Idaho.

INTERIM ELECTRONIC RESOURCES LIBRARIAN HIRED

Anna-Lise Smith, Reference Department assistant since 2003, will fill the new position of Electronic Resources Librarian, and will assume primary management of the Library's electronic resources, as well as instruction and certain collection development duties.

Conferences/Workshops: **K. Austin**—*American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works*; **B. Downing, S. Shropshire, K. Flowers**—*Am. Library Assn. Midwinter Conference*; **B. Mayfield**—*Back in Circulation Again Conference, U of Wisconsin*; **B. Downing**—*Depository Library Council*; **K. Kearns**—*State Historical Society Mtg, Idaho Digital Summit*; **J. Semenza**—*Internet Librarian Conference, State Applied Leadership IV*; **S. Shropshire, K. Flowers**—*Am. Library Assn. Annual Conference*; **R. Wilson**—*Nat'l Assn of Government Archives and Records Semi-Annual Conference*; **C. Sebold, M. L. Beran, B. Downing, C. Gray, J. Semenza, S. Shropshire, and K. Flowers**—*Idaho Library Assn.*

New Databases

Several new databases were added to the Library's offerings during the fall semester. One of these is *Book Index with Reviews (BIR)*. Much like *Books in Print*, *BIR* offers publication information for nearly five million out-of-print, forthcoming, and in-print books, music albums, and films. *BIR* also offers short reviews of these titles from publications like *Booklist*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and several library journals. *BIR* is as fully featured as *Books in Print*, and even includes some complete tables of contents and first chapters.

Two new newspaper databases were added to the database rolls. *Access Newspaper Archive* offers a searchable collection of historical newspaper articles as far back as the 1700s up to the 1970s. This database is available on the ISU campus only. *Idaho State Journal Archives* offers a searchable collection of articles from the *Idaho State Journal* from 2000 to the present, and is available only inside the Oboler Library.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the United States is very similar to the *Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* in that it offers full text keyword searching of both encyclopedic biographical and topical articles. This encyclopedia focuses on the history, culture and politics of the Latino world. Articles include references.



The 10 Most Used Databases of 2006

Academic Search Premier	183,527 searches
PsycINFO	26,952 searches
CINAHL	25,305 searches
CINAHL with full text	23,294 searches
LexisNexis Academic	23,029 searches
ERIC (EBSCO)	20,933 searches
MLA International Bibliography	20,672 searches
MEDLINE	20,431 searches
Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection	17,950 searches
Business Source Premier	15,218 searches

—Anna-Lise Smith, Reference Department



Library User Survey

The Oboler Library will conduct a library user satisfaction survey of a sample of our students, faculty, and staff, utilizing the Association of Research Libraries' LibQUAL+™ survey instrument. Look for more information on our Website.

Current Library Displays

First Floor: Women's History Month

Second Floor: Martin Luther King, Jr.
Ellis Island
Writing Your Life: Journals,
Diaries, Memoirs, Blogs

Third Floor: Women Authors



Between the Cines

*Eli M. Oboler Library
Idaho State University
921 S. 8th Avenue, Stop 8089
Pocatello, Idaho 83209-8089*

FAX: (208) 282-5847

Voice: (208) 282-2997

Published by:

The Eli M. Oboler Library

Editors: Karen Kearns,

Sue Roth

Photographer: Gene Warren

Send comments to:

rothsusa@isu.edu

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