



Between the Lines

the Eli M. Oboler Library Newsletter

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Spring 2009

One-of-a-kind Item Added to Book Arts Collection

By Associate Professor Karen Kearns
Head of Special Collections

Artist books are usually created in small print runs. Even so, the newest addition to the Book Arts Collection comes from an unusually small print run: one. Book artist Tim Ely's newest



creation was produced specifically for the Book Arts Collection housed in the Special Collections Department of the Oboler Library. Paula Jull, professor in ISU's James E. Rogers Department of Mass Communication, has long helped guide the expansion of the Book

Arts Collection. Tim Ely is an accomplished book artist and National Endowment for the Arts Fellow based in Colfax, Wash. The two met in 1993 at the Paper and Book Intensive in Texas. During the summer of 2008, Jull and Ely met again at a workshop sponsored by the Marriott Library Book Arts Program at the University of Utah. Following the workshop, Jull approached the Special Collections Department about a commission with Ely to create a book specifically for the collection.

The results, a volume entitled *Formation*, arrived in December 2008. The book is informed by the colors and landscapes of southern Idaho and northern Utah. Some of the pigments used in the creation of the book were gathered at sites in Utah and Idaho, including a beautiful iron oxide that was ground into pigment and mixed with acrylics and wax. *Formation* is a drum leaf structure, a binding form invented by Ely. It is made up of 14 leaves that were pasted with abaca paper from antique dress making patterns. The book comes housed in a specially made box complete with a hidden compartment where a pamphlet describing the book and the process of its creation resides.

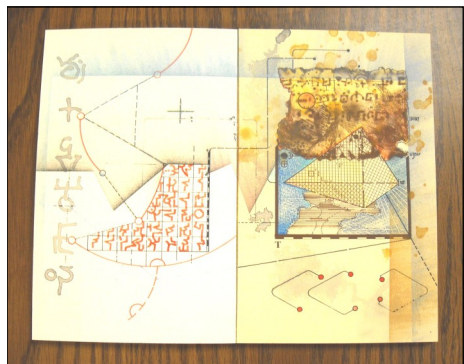
Tim Ely's one-of-a-kind books are in public and private collections worldwide including the Boston



Athenaeum, the Grolier Club, the Sackner Archive of Concrete and Visual Poetry, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. The volume created for the Book Arts Collection at Idaho State University marks the first time Ely has created a book like this for a teaching institution. We are honored to add it to our collection.

Contents of this issue

- *New Book Arts Collection Addition by Tim Ely*
- *Adopt a Journal Opportunity*
- *Library Sources for Troubled Times*
- *NLM Emergency Preparedness and Response Project*
- *Regina Koury, First Time Presenter*
- *Library Prepares to Cut Collection Budget*
- *Librarian Awarded IHC Research Fellowship*
- *LiLi-D: Statewide Online Resources*
- *Integrating Patron Services*



Library Sources for Troubled Times

By Associate Professor Karen Kearns
Head of Special Collections

Times of economic trouble provide special challenges for libraries: how to do more with less. While the phenomenon of increased library use during bad economic times is most extensively documented in public libraries, many academic libraries see a change in their use patterns as well. In addition to dealing with the results of increased enrollment as more non-traditional students return to school for retraining in search of a recession-proof job, libraries deal with more general use of their collections by non-students and students alike. People turn to the library as a source of both free information and free entertainment. The Oboler Library definitely provides many of those sources.

Among the free information sources patrons may find useful are our freely-available public computers with internet access, our Government Documents Collection, access to the Automobile Reference Center for car-repair information, and a typewriter for completing job applications. In addition, we have a large number of books on consumer health in the Idaho Health Sciences Library. The Arthur P. Oliver Law Library is available for "serve-yourself" legal help. Of course, because we're staffed by librarians and not doctors and lawyers, we can't help interpret health and legal information, but we can certainly help patrons find the right source.

Among the free entertainment sources patrons may find useful is

our extensive fiction collection, which is particularly strong in classic literature and science fiction and fantasy. Because our fiction is mixed in with the rest of the collections and not in a separate area like at the public libraries, it can take a little more work to locate, but it's worth it in the end when a patron finds a great book. We also have a growing video collection. While our patrons won't find the latest Batman movie, we do have a generous collection of documentaries and classic theater available. We also have access to a catalog of audio-books which can be downloaded to patrons' computers and certain mp3 players.

Libraries are often referred to as the cornerstones of our communities. In times as complicated as these, they perform a function more vital than ever.



Message from Kay Flowers, University Librarian and Dean: Adopt a Journal Opportunity

Tough economic times are tough on libraries, especially on the collections in research libraries.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read of the library's response to the current state holdbacks as well as our planning for a reduced budget next year. ISU faculty depend on the journal literature as they pursue their research. The current practices of scientific and technical publishers make it difficult to stay ahead of the curve.

One suggestion being explored around the country is a program to encourage donors to adopt a journal. Donors who wish to support the research in particular disciplines provide endowments that cover the cost of a scholarly journal.

The College of Education benefits from such an endowment from Jerry and Elnor Bellon. This fund has allowed the library to continue education journals that would otherwise have been cut due to funding shortfalls.

Those interested in adopting a journal should contact the library's administrative offices for additional information and assistance with the paperwork. Journals vary in price, from \$45 per year to \$14,000 per year, so the related endowments would vary in amount as well. The journal title adopted will be removed from the list that is vulnerable to budget cuts.

Most of us find it easy to complain about a situation. Here is a way to actually do something constructive.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Project

National Network of Libraries of Medicine

By Associate Professor Marcia Francis
Director, Idaho Health Sciences Library

Idaho Health Sciences Library (IHSL) staff is busy working on activities for two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). Marcia Francis, director of the IHSL, is principal investigator for both MOUs, and other IHSL staff assist her as needed.

The first MOU provides \$7,000 in funding to allow ISU to lead Idaho participation in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) Emergency Preparedness and Response Project. Francis has been appointed Idaho's NN/LM State Coordinator for Emergency Preparedness and Response for 2008 to 2011 and will serve on the NN/LM Pacific Northwest Region (PNR) Emergency Preparedness Committee. As state coordinator, she will train and assist Idaho hospital librarians with

emergency and service continuity planning. In the event of a disaster or emergency, Francis will serve on a team that will assist librarians and then report lessons learned after the event is resolved.

The second MOU provides \$5,000 in funding to enhance ISU libraries' role as Idaho's only resource library in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. This MOU began in December 2008 and runs for one year, with the possibility of a renewal. Planned outreach activities include research training for Idaho healthcare professionals, exhibits and presentations to public librarians at local and state meetings, as well as a health information needs assessment of an underserved group.



State Emergency Preparedness Coordinators Pacific Northwest Region: From L. to R: Bob Pringle, Washington; Kathy Murray, Alaska; Marcia Francis, Idaho; Dolores Judkins, Oregon; Laurel Egan, Montana.

First Time Presenter Experience: 2009 ALA Midwinter Conference in Denver

By Instructor Regina Koury
Electronic Resources Librarian



Many of our patrons here at the Oboler Library have very busy lives which might include pursuing a second degree while working full-

time and raising a family. Librarians sometimes have the great pleasure of showing these patrons how they can save time by doing a lot of their research at home, and even to access full text journal articles or old newspapers via the library's electronic resources. Seeing the "aha" moment is priceless. Going to the ALA Midwinter Conference was the same "aha" moment for me. I was especially thrilled since this year I was a co-presenter at the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services Electronic Interest Group panel discussion on troubleshooting e-resources.

In my presentation I briefly discussed skills and techniques necessary to troubleshoot e-resources, with examples of what has and has not worked in the past. The needs of our patrons are evolving in response to the latest technological developments. From basic to advanced, faculty and students want access to searchable resources online and they want it now. Lost online access can be extremely frustrating in a library instruction or reference transaction. Successful troubleshooting of exponentially growing e-resources

Continued on page 7

Library Prepares to Make Cuts to Collection Budget

By Professor Sandra Shropshire
AUL for Collections & Technical Services

The library expects that it will need to cut a minimum of 25 percent from its periodicals and its book budgets for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2009. In planning for the coming budget year, the library has had to consider the simultaneous occurrence of three independent events: 1) All university units have been asked to cut 12 percent from next year's budget 2) For the second consecutive year, the library received no ongoing funding to offset hyper-inflationary increases in the periodicals budget, and 3) The library anticipates a 10 percent inflation rate for its 2010 subscriptions.

As a first step, the library has reviewed its general collection budget and will be cancelling several microfilm subscriptions that are duplicated in print or electronic subscriptions. Additionally, the library will cancel some low-use materials and will discontinue binding many print journals. Subject collection decisions are shared with departmental faculty,

and library bibliographers are working with faculty throughout the university to secure subscription cancellation recommendations before the end of the spring 2009 semester.

The state and nationwide economic conditions explain only a part of the need to make this drastic cut to the materials budget. Although the economy has posted relatively low overall inflation rates for the last fifteen years, academic journal prices have so far not reflected this general economic trend, and they continue to inflate at extraordinary levels. Annual increases of 8-10 percent have become the norm. Ongoing supplemental state support to sustain these increases, which had been in place for a number of years, ceased at the beginning of the 2006/2007 budget year. Since then, the library has offset these increases by drawing down its reserves, but these funds are now exhausted.

University administration has shown support for the library's situation and included in ISU's request for the coming budget year a request for an ongoing amount to address this unique inflationary situation. This request was in place early in fall 2008 before the full extent of the nationwide economic situation was understood. To the detriment of the library collection and those it serves, statewide budget cuts have now eliminated any realistic chance of this request being met.

The discussion of serials expenses and cuts usually triggers a discussion of electronic vs. print subscriptions.

Many within higher education expected that the proliferation of journals in electronic form would enable publishers to reduce prices of their journals, but there is little evidence to suggest that will happen. Regardless of the format they publish, commercial publishers are in a sellers' market that is slowly becoming an oligopoly as larger publishers buy smaller ones.

Concern over sustained journals inflation is the basis for the "open-access" movement. The proponents of open-access promote an arrangement in which, after an agreed upon length of time, the journal literature would be made available to non-subscribers for free. The length of the delay would be negotiated with commercial publishers so that they would receive a "fair" return on their product. The idea has gained ground among those who conduct and fund federal research and who argue that U.S. taxpayers should not have to pay for the same thing twice—once for the grant to fund the research, and again to subscribe to the journal publishing the results of the research.

Support for the open-access movement was strong enough to convince Congress to pass the Consolidated Appropriations Act in 2008. This act included the requirement that grant investigators who receive federal funding from the National Institutes of Health must make their research openly available after a specified period of time. The Act states,

"The Director of the National Institutes of Health shall require that all investigators funded by the NIH submit or have submitted for them to the National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central an electronic version



of their final, peer-reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance for publication, to be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication: Provided, that the NIH shall implement the public access policy in a manner consistent with copyright law.” (Consolidated Appropriations Act. Pub. L. 110-161. 121 Stat. 2187. Dec. 26, 2007.)

There are other actions tied to the open access movement. For example, the faculty of arts and sciences at Harvard University has made its stance on open access clear. In February 2008, it voted to adopt a policy requiring faculty members to let the university make their scholarly articles freely accessible online. The faculty cited the

unnecessarily restrictive scholarly publishing system, which includes publishers who will not allow scholars to use and distribute their own work, and the “astronomical costs” of journals that cause many institutions and individuals to cancel subscriptions, as motivating factors for this move. (“Open Access News.” *Serials Librarian* 55.3 (2008): 347-349.)

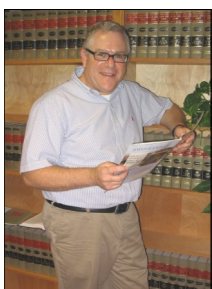
Although supporters of unfettered access to information have lately had cause to celebrate significant progress, there remain detractors. As would be expected, these include the publishers of academic journals

who see their profits as being in jeopardy. There has been enough dissent voiced to have caught the attention of Rep. John Conyers, Jr., of Michigan, who introduced the Fair Copyright in Research Works Act (H.R. 801, <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.801>;) in February 2009. He is pushing for an accelerated vote on it. The text of the act is such that it would essentially overturn the open access provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

The battle over academic journal prices, and the parallel budgeting woes, are neither new to the library nor will they be resolved soon.



Oboler Library Catalog Librarian Awarded Idaho Humanities Council Research Fellowship



Library Catalog Librarian and Associate Professor Philip Homan won a 2008 Idaho Humanities Council Research Fellowship to support his

research in Idaho on the first biography of Kittie Wilkins, the Idaho Horse Queen.

The Idaho Humanities Council is dedicated to furthering knowledge of and encouraging appreciation for the humanities in Idaho by supporting educational programs for the general public. Four of the five research fellowships awarded this grant round went to Idaho State University faculty.

Kittie Wilkins, the subject of Homan’s research, was the only woman at the turn of the twentieth century whose sole occupation was

horse dealing. She was the boss of the Wilkins Horse Company in the Bruneau Valley of Owyhee County, and owner of 10,000 horses.

Homan gave his first public program about Kittie Wilkins at the Twin Falls Public Library on Jan. 27, 2009, attracting the largest audience ever to the library. His presentation was part of the programming for the library’s hosting of the Smithsonian Institute’s Museum on Main Street traveling exhibition “Between Fences,” sponsored by the IHC.

He explained how Kittie Wilkins saw her wealth and influence diminish with the fencing of the open range, the replacement of horse power by the internal-combustion engine, and the discovery of gold on the Jarbidge River in Aug. 1909. He further

explained how she dealt with the gold rush through her ranch and range to Jarbidge, Nevada in late 1909 and early 1910.

Homan has a number of other events scheduled, including a program at the Idaho Historical Society’s Public Archives and Research Library on Oct. 15, 2009 in celebration of Archives Month. He has also been invited to speak about Kittie Wilkins on Aug. 15, 2009 in Jarbidge, Nevada. Speaking in the old Jarbidge Community Hall, built in 1922 and restored in 1965, his talk is part of the Jarbidge Centennial Celebration, celebrating the last gold rush in the American West.



LiLI-D: Statewide Online Resources

By Professor Jenny Semenza
Head of Reference

Since 1998, the Idaho State Legislature has funded a series of statewide online resources provided to all publicly-funded libraries. The program, named LiLI-D, is run by Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL). The contract for the databases was recently renegotiated, and database provider ProQuest was selected to provide the LiLI-D databases through June 2011. The Eli M. Oboler Library has integrated these resources into its Web pages.

PROQUEST DATABASES

ProQuest Central: A large multidisciplinary database with more than 11,000 titles, and more than 8,000 titles in full text. It serves as the central resource for researchers at all levels in all markets. More than 160 subject areas are covered extensively in this product including business and economics, health and medical, news, world affairs, technology, social sciences and more. ProQuest Central is comprised of several sub-databases including:

ABI/INFORM Dateline-Business
ABI/INFORM Global-Business



ABI/INFORM Trade & Industry –
Business
Accounting & Tax Banking
Information Source
Canadian Newsstand
Career and Technical Education
CBCA Complete (Canadian
Business & Current Affairs)
Criminal Justice Periodicals
Hoover's Company Records
OxResearch-History
ProQuest Asian Business and
Reference
Pharmaceutical News Index
ProQuest Biology Journals
ProQuest Computing Journals
ProQuest Education Journals
ProQuest Health and Medical
Complete
ProQuest Military Collection
ProQuest Newspapers
ProQuest Psychology Journals
ProQuest Religion
ProQuest Science Journals
ProQuest Social Science Journals
ProQuest Telecommunications
Research Library—
Multidisciplinary

Although the following are also ProQuest databases they are not included in the ProQuest Central search interface.

Black Newspapers: A collection of significant Black newspapers from the United States.

ProQuest Family Health: Complete, full-text information covering numerous aspects of family health from sports injuries to women's health, from food and nutrition to midwifery, from eye care to dentistry.

Snapshot Series: Worldwide market data for a broad range of industries and regions. Snapdata International Group is the only market research company to specialize in top-line international market research overviews. The

Snapshot International Group Series of 4,600 reports is designed to provide an instant overview of a market, and the data is supplied in both graphical and tabular format for ease of interpretation and analysis. All data is compiled in house by the Snapdata Research Department, an international team of research experts.

HeritageQuest: An incredible storehouse of American genealogical information dating back to the 1700's. Sources include U.S. federal census images, over 25,000 family and local history books, Revolutionary War records, Freedman's Bank Records, U.S. Serial Set records, the Periodical Source Index (PERSI), and more.

WILSON DATABASES

Art Museum Image Gallery: Provides access to rich digital art images and related multimedia gathered from the collections of distinguished museums around the world.

In addition to the databases, the Idaho Commission for Libraries has purchased 32 titles from the Gale Virtual Reference Library. Examples of these titles, which are permanent additions, include the following:

Alternative Energy
College Blue Book
Contemporary Novelists
Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle
East and North Africa
Gale Encyclopedia of the Unusual
and Unexplained
Nutrition and Well-Being A to Z
Scholarships, Fellowships, and
Loans, 25th edition
Critical Interpretations of Shake-
speare's Plays and Poetry, 2nd ed.
UXL Encyclopedia of Native
American Tribes

Integrating Patron Services into One Location

By Associate Professor James Teliha
AUL for Public Services

Public Services is working this spring toward creating a new integrated service desk. Planning is under way with the object of creating one large service point where the circulation desk is currently located. As a first step, the service point will house some of our staff who deal directly with the public (circulation, reserves, and the copy center.) It eventually may include other areas such as interlibrary loan and even reference. Combining our people at one location will allow us to save money by consolidating the number of student employees the library utilizes. Additionally, it will provide opportunities to better use library staff through cross-training.

The idea of a combined library service desk has been around for a

few years. Schools like Syracuse University, Washington University in St. Louis, and Northern Arizona University have implemented a central service desk where any user can walk up and check out or return books, check out course reserves, pick up and return interlibrary loan items, have their questions answered, and get any reference help they might need.

Integrating our patron services into a single location also gives Public Services the opportunity to examine our current processes, and make improvements to our operations. This will allow us to look for ways to increase efficiency and productivity, as we serve a growing student body.

Having a desk staffed both by reference librarians and library staff will also eliminate a particu-

larly pernicious problem many service desks have – bouncing patrons between desks. When a patron comes up to the reference desk with a circulation or reserve question, or a patron approaches the circulation desk with a reference question, instead of referring the patron to a different service desk, they won't have to walk anywhere, as our staff and librarians would both be there to serve the patron quickly and efficiently.

As Public Services moves forward with this plan, we anticipate providing more convenient and comprehensive services in a more efficient manner.



First time presenter experience — continued from page 3

involves “detective” work, knowledge of computer technology, good people skills and, last but not least, a sense of humor.

Some of the problems follow a general pattern and can be fixed within minutes; others require work with library acquisitions and systems departments, and vendor and publisher technical and customer support. For example, I usually follow a trail of bread crumbs and look at the “usual suspects”: acquisition files for payments, network address ranges regarding restrictions on campus or off campus and simultaneous users, browser changes, cookies, changed urls, and currency of titles in a package. I keep track of the

e-resources problems and their troubleshooting via blogs, wikis, and paper file cabinets. Cultivating good relations with our systems department is a helpful thing to do. Also “attaching” yourself to a good customer service rep helps. Working with publishers and subscription agents, you learn who will return your email or phone call right away and whom you have to “harass” to get the information out, which can be very frustrating.

Other presenters covered additional aspects of this new area, such as communication, diplomacy and negotiation skills used in battling lost online access, challenges in maintaining online access through various campuses, and creating a blog to document

the process of taking care of online access problems.

The question and answer period at the end of the presentations allowed participants to share their stories: from linking online resources in Blackboard, and troubleshooting electronic resources on weekends and holidays, to suggestions for fighting bad customer service with subscription cuts.

I had a great time as a first time presenter. I learned new things, shared my experience and made connections with my peers. I had also been asked to share materials from the presentation with colleagues who were not able to attend ALA Midwinter Meeting. Being able to go to ALA Midwinter was very rewarding and I am thankful to ISU for that opportunity.



Integrating patron services into one location or, one stop service — almost!

Library patrons will be able to check out books, make copies, and get articles from reserves all in one stop. Shortly after the end of spring semester, the copy center will move to the first floor and combine with circulation and reserves. Eventually, other public services will be moved to the first floor. For the full story, see page 7.



Between the Lines

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