

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN:

HOW WELL DOES OUR COLLECTION MEASURE UP?

The lead article in this issue of our newsletter describes the Bowker Book Analysis System, a new collection evaluation tool we're using to measure the degree to which our collection matches the core or basic book collection recommended for all academic libraries serving a primarily undergraduate population. The basic collection consists of around 60,000 essential titles covering over 60 subject areas from American Literature to World History.

This past fall we uploaded our library's holdings to compare them to the core collection. Just how well does our collection measure up? Not very well. Of the 60,000 titles in the collection, we own just over 11,000 or less than 20%.

Fortunately, the Bowker Book Analysis System provides detailed information about the titles we do not own. And, thanks to a special separate allocation of funds from the Vice President for Academic Affairs designed for collection improvement, we can begin developing priorities for filling in the most critical gaps in our holdings. This year there is \$15,000 in the Collection Improvement Fund.

A memo about the Collection Improvement Fund was sent to all academic department chairs on November 1, 2007. Any faculty member may request the purchase of titles in his or her discipline that were identified as not owned by our library in the results of the BBAS comparison. Collection improvement requests should be sent to the library liaison assigned to a faculty member's department by early February.

Library Committee members reviewed the disappointing results of the comparison and

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TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE THE ZAHNOW LIBRARY COLLECTION

According to the 2007 edition of the *Bowker Annual Library and Book Trade Almanac*, the total number of books published in the United States in 2006 was expected to reach more than 150,000 titles (52nd edition, ed. Dave Bogart; Meford, NJ: Information Today, c. 2007, p. 487). With so many titles to select from every year, how do academic librarians maintain a quality collection that supports the research needs of their faculty, students and staff? Book review journals play a major role in selection decisions, in particular *Choice*, which is published by the Association of College and Research Libraries and is edited by librarians and faculty. Additional collection development resources include publisher websites, book award lists, the Books-in-Print database and faculty suggestions offer ample titles to choose from.

This year a new resource is available to Zahnow librarians, Bowker's Book Analysis System (BBAS). The software provides a mechanism for libraries to compare their collections to a well known standard, *Resources for College Libraries* (formerly *Books for College Libraries*). As described by the RCL website, this database is identified as "the premier core list for academic libraries." The contents include hand-selected titles in 60 curriculum specific subject areas. Currently, RCL includes 60,000 recommended titles, with more titles added on a quarterly basis.

BBAS is a unique diagnostic tool that facilitates the process of identifying weaknesses in the library collection. Reports generated from BBAS will allow librarians to more effectively respond to the SVSU Strategic Plan goals that call for a library collection evaluation and increased funding for collection improvement. In the fall, Zahnow Library's holdings were compiled and imported into the BBAS software so comparisons could be made with the recommended sources in RCL. Specific subject areas were pinpointed for review and strengthening. Librarians already have begun to utilize this data to further update the collection with new and retrospective titles.

Interested faculty who would like to access the BBAS software directly from their offices can obtain the link, username and password from Jennifer Dean, Head, Collection Development and Acquisitions (x. 7094, jldean@svsu.edu). To schedule a demonstration or for further questions contact Jennifer using the information above.

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agreed that faculty participation in our collection improvement efforts is vital. To promote faculty awareness of BBAS and how it can strengthen our collection in their disciplines, the Library Committee arranged for a presentation during the January 17 Faculty Association meeting. Other opportunities to learn more about it are available during the following *What's New in Zahnow Library* sessions:

Friday, January 25, 10:00-11:00 am

Thursday, February 7, 1:00-2:00 pm

To register for either of these sessions, contact Kathleen Kroll at kmkroll@svsu.edu (ext. 7054). Please join us in taking action to improve our library collection!

-- Linda Farynk, Library Director
(lfarynk@svsu.edu)

LIBRARIAN WINS SVSU'S TEACHING WITH TECHNOLOGY AWARD!

At a reception in December, Averill Packard, a Reference librarian at Zahnow Library, received the 2007 SVSU Teaching with Technology Award. A committee of SVSU faculty and staff chose from many nominations across campus which highlighted various staff and faculty uses of technology in the classroom.

Over the 2007 summer months Averill created several online information literacy tutorials for the Academic Transitions Program. These tutorials were highlighted in the Fall 2007 issue of Zahnow Notes and can be accessed from the library homepage.

The tutorials were created using the Captivate software, which features interactive demonstrations of research tools and concepts for library users, especially those new to Zahnow Library or the research process. Lively animation, color, graphics and sound add to their appeal.



Averill Packard

CELEBRATING THE GREAT MICHIGAN READ: HEMINGWAY'S THE NICK ADAMS STORIES

The Nick Adams Stories by Ernest Hemingway was selected by the Michigan Humanities Council as the first book in its statewide reading program for adults. Ernest Hemingway spent the majority of his first 22 summers in Northern Michigan. These experiences played an essential role in his development as one of the world's most significant writers. *The Nick Adams Stories* chronicle a young man's coming of age in a series of linked short stories that address the many complexities of adulthood, including war, death, marriage and family.

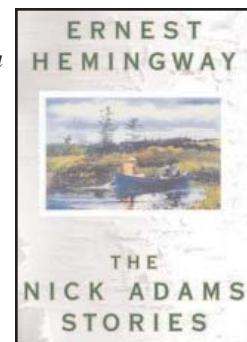
To celebrate the Great Michigan Read, Zahnow Library presents the following special programs in the Roberta Allen Reading Room:

Thursday, February 21, 2:30 pm

Lauri Anderson, author of *Hunting Hemingway's Trout*, a collection of short stories inspired by Hemingway.

Wednesday, March 19, 2:30 pm.

James Plath, author of *Remembering Ernest Hemingway*, a book of interviews with relatives and friends of Hemingway.



SCIENCE DIRECT - COLLEGE EDITION

Users of *Science Direct*, a large multidiscipline database focusing mainly on the sciences and engineering, will notice a change when they return in January. In the past, users searched the *Science Direct Freedom Collection*, which included approximately 200 titles with full-text coverage back to very early issues. In January 2008, the *Freedom Collection* will cease to exist. In its place, library users will now have access to *Science Direct College Edition*, containing 2000 titles in the same disciplines with full-text articles back to 1995. Indexing to earlier years will remain unchanged.

To access the *Science Direct College Edition*, use the DATABASES A-Z link on the library homepage. For questions or a demonstration of this database, visit the Reference desk or call (989)964-4242.

IN THE LIMELIGHT@SVSU

Did you ever want to express your artistic power through film? Now you can with a submission to In the Limelight@SVSU film festival! Create a 1-10 minute film and show everyone your creativity. The film festival is open to all students, faculty and staff.

The deadline for submissions is Friday, January 18th. The awards ceremony will be on Friday, February 15th at the Temple Theatre in Saginaw. Film contest applications and release forms can be picked up at the Student Technology Center (STC).

Questions may be emailed to James Caughel, jdcaughe@svsu.edu or you may stop by the STC, 2nd floor, Zahnow Library.