Director's Column: Results of the Print Journal Subscription Review

Upon the recommendation of the Library Committee, last winter the Library began a comprehensive review of all of its current print journal subscriptions in order to gauge which journals are essential to support the teaching and research needs of our students and faculty, and to identify any candidates for cancellation. Department chairs were sent lists of the current print journal subscriptions in their respective disciplines, which included subscription costs for this year and the past three years. They were asked to share these lists with their faculty members and to come up with a rating for each title based on the consensus of their department. From the outset, faculty input was a critical part of the review process.

Once all of the lists were returned, librarians began the task of evaluating every title identified as a candidate for cancellation by the faculty, including any titles that cost more than $500 per year. They looked carefully at a number of factors, including:

- The number of times the print issues of each title had been used during the fall and winter semesters
- The availability of each title in one or more of our full-text electronic journal databases
- The number of times the online version of each title was used, where that information was available

In the case of a few journals, heavy usage of print issues justified maintaining current print subscriptions to those titles. More frequently, though, the usage statistics showed far greater use of the electronic version of journals for those titles that are available both online and in paper. This led to yet another round of evaluation to determine which print journals could be canceled without losing access to the electronic version.
Underlining the ever-increasing preference for electronic versus print journals, the Psychology Department specifically asked to cancel all of its print journal subscriptions in exchange for electronic access. Although we were able to do so, no cost savings were achieved in the switch, as all of the dollars spent on the print subscriptions were reallocated to electronic database subscriptions.

When the review process was finally completed, department chairs were sent a list of 113 current print journal titles slated for cancellation. They were asked to review the list one last time and inform us of any titles they wanted us to reconsider. Only one request to reconsider one journal was received. After it was explained that the journal is available online, the request to retain the print subscription was withdrawn.

So, what’s the bottom line? The current print journal review will produce a net cost savings of $21,500 with the cancellation of 113 print subscriptions for 2005. With input from faculty, we’ve been able to identify and eliminate journals that are not essential to the teaching and research needs of our students and faculty. And, wherever possible, we’ve eliminated the duplication of journals in print when the full text is also available in one of our online journal databases. Currently, the Library provides access to 10,500 full-text electronic journal titles.

At this time, the library acquisitions budget for 2004-05 is still uncertain. But with annual inflation in the cost of journals averaging more than 10% in recent years, the cost savings resulting from our print journal review will help minimize the impact of journal price increases on the rest of the acquisitions budget.

My sincere thanks to all of the department chairs and faculty members who took part in the review process and assisted us in making the most effective use of the limited funds we have.

-- Linda Farynk
lfarynk@svsu.edu
Library Teaching Lab Expands to Accommodate Online Exams

A recent construction project expanded the library's teaching lab (Z111) for online testing. When the project is complete, 20 additional computer workstations will be added, bringing the total number of workstations in Z111 to 60. To compensate for the added space and computers, a wireless microphone will be available for presenters. At the end of September, when expansion is complete, new furniture for the additional computers will include an ADA compliant workstation. In addition, a color laser printer will be added to the two existing laser printers.

The Usage Policy and Procedures for scheduling Z111 for online exams can be found via the “Quick Links” option of the library homepage (http://library.svsu.edu). Online exam reservations for Z111 must be made within the first four weeks of the semester. This includes requests for mid-term and final exams. Through the GroupWise scheduling software, faculty and staff can view the availability of Z111. A link for Group Wise instructions can be found via the policy and procedures page.

For questions or to make a reservation, contact Kathleen Kroll at 964-7054, or send an email message to kmkroll@svsu.edu.
New Paperbacks Purchased for the New Cafe Collection

Thanks to a grant from the SVSU Foundation, the library is able to offer popular paperback books in the Book Nook Café. The grant was used to purchase a starter collection of paperbacks and shelving for the browsing collection. In the future, the collection will be maintained through donations of used paperbacks.

Kerry Segel and Laura Yelsik, English professors, first saw the need for a high-interest paperback collection in the library that would encourage more reading for pleasure among SVSU students. With the cooperation of Linda Farynk, Director of the library, they secured the grant to purchase the shelving and the starter collection of books. A committee of librarians selected the first titles for the Café Collection.

The books are located in the Book Nook Café on the third floor of the library. Titles range from biographies and sports to science fiction and mysteries. There should be something for everyone. Unlike the rest of the library’s collection, the Café Collection titles are available to remove from the library without check-out. Just pick up your favorite title from the shelving in the Book Nook Café, settle down to read it with your favorite beverage or snack from the café, than take the book with you. You are encouraged to return the book and pick up another one. You may also donate copies of your favorite paperbacks for others to read.

Come, enjoy a good book in a great location overlooking the central campus, relax with a snack and then take the book with you when you leave. Return the book when you finish it. Stephen King, Rosalyn McMillan, Sue Monk Kidd, Mercedes Lackey, Katherine Graham and many other authors are waiting for you in the Book Nook Café.
New Coordinator for the Student Technology Center

Tammi Waugh began coordinating the Student Technology Center (STC) on August 9th by embracing it with an enthusiastic plan to enhance its existence. This is clear when asked about her goals and expectations for the STC. She states “that she wants the STC to have a welcoming environment for learning”. To create this environment, Tammi added bright pictures to the walls and will have background music playing softly in the center. These features will add ambience to go along with a skilled staff that provides great service. The center will have two returning assistants (David Ran and Zain Halai) and two new assistants (Bruce Huang and Kevin Donaghue) to help students with technological needs.

Ms Waugh is also working to increase student awareness of what the center can do for them. She started by participating in freshman and upper classmen transfer check in. This allowed her to meet and greet many potential STC users. She also attended the annual CARDS party in September to spread the word about the STC. Another new approach for the center will be the offering of mini workshops throughout the semester. These mini workshops (i.e. Learn Powerpoint in 30 minutes or less) will be scheduled so that students can attend without formal registration. Tammi believes that “this concept could lead to establishing a training room for the center”.

Library Home
Tammi has some ideas about increasing faculty awareness as well. She wants more to know that the STC staff will visit their classrooms to inform students of how the STC will assist with their technology needs and to provide in class training when requested. Faculty can now request an in class session via an online form located at the STC Just for Faculty web site (http://www.svsu.edu/library/stc/faculty.htm). Awareness will also be increased through coordination with the library instruction program, Tammi will be speaking to all English 111 classes when they visit the library. This allows her to speak to both students and instructors about the STC.

In addition to all of these enhancements, Tammi has adjusted the STC’s hours of operation by adding more evening hours. It appears this plan of action will show both faculty and students that the Student Technology Center is ready, willing, and able to address student technology issues. The center’s new slogan best describes the STC’s vital role on campus as “Your Tech Know How Place”. For more information about the STC please go to the web site at http://www.svsu.edu/library/stc.
Roethke Literary Landmark Dedication

On Wednesday, September 29th at 2:30pm, a celebration unveiling the recently awarded Literary Landmark plaque was held at the childhood home of Theodore Roethke, Saginaw’s Pulitzer Prize winning poet. On August 17th, the Michigan Center for the Book announced the Roethke house, 1805 Gratiot Avenue, as the third Literary Landmark in Michigan.

The event was celebrated with speakers including Senator Mike Goschka and readings from Roethke’s poetry will be done by W. D. Snodgrass, Pulitzer Prize winning poet and Al Hellus of the Drainage Basin Alliance. Others attending include Ruth Sawyers, SVSU English Instructor, Annie Ransford of the Friends of Theodore Roethke Foundation, and Nancy Robertson, Michigan Deputy State Librarian.

Later in the evening, at 6:30pm, a dinner and evening program, “Celebrating the Literary Legacy of Theodore Roethke,” was held in Curtiss Hall at SVSU.

In conjunction with the celebration, there is a very special display of signed and rare editions of Theodore Roethke’s books in the Roberta Allen Reading Room. These items are on loan from Jett Whitehead Rare Books of Bay City. Jett also provided the annotations for each item and arranged the display.
New Databases Added to Library Collection

Four new databases have been added to the library collection:

- PsycInfo
- PsycArticles
- Psychology Journals
- CSA Social Services Abstracts

The three new psychology databases are a welcome addition, not only for psychology students but also students in the areas of nursing, business and criminal justice. For years, library users had access only to PsycFirst, the current three years of PsycInfo or Psychological Abstracts (print version). Now users can take advantage of the entire PsycInfo database, containing thousands of psychology and psychology related journals, dating back to 1872.

PsycArticles complements PsycInfo by providing full-text access to 50 journals published by the American Psychological Association. Although PsycInfo and PsycArticles are produced by the APA, access is provided by ProQuest. Library users will recognize the familiar ProQuest database interface, which has been used for several years with other ProQuest databases such as the PQ Research Library, PQ ABI Inform and PQ Newspapers.

The third psychology database, Psychology Journals, also provided by ProQuest, complements the PsycInfo database by providing access to hundreds of full-text articles from non-APA psychology and psychology related journals.

CSA Social Services Abstracts provides coverage of research focused on social work, human services, and related areas. Content focuses on social welfare, social policy, and community
New Databases Added to Library Collection.

Over 1,406 serial publications are indexed with abstracts of journal articles, dissertations and citations to book reviews. Coverage in the CSA Social Services Abstracts includes publications from 1980 to the present, with approximately 5,500 records added annually.

For information call or visit the Reference Desk on the first floor of the library (989)964-7094.
Zahnow Library invites faculty to participate in the selection of resources to be included in the library’s collections. Each librarian is assigned subject areas and serves as a liaison between the library and academic departments on campus. Print and electronic resources are selected and purchased July-April. Interested faculty should contact their Department Chairs for procedures. Comments on existing collections are also welcome.

ACCOUNTING
ART
AUDIOVISUAL
BIOLOGY
CHEMISTRY
COMMUNICATION
COMPUTER SCIENCE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
ECONOMICS
EDUCATION
- Educational Leadership
- Teacher Education
ENGINEERING
- Mechanical
- Electrical
ENGLISH
FINANCE
HISTORY
LAW
LEADERSHIP & PUBLIC ADMIN
MANAGEMENT & MARKETING
MATHEMATICS

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MATHEMATICS
MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES
MULTI-MEDIA GRADUATE MUSIC
NURSING
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
PHILOSOPHY
PHYSICS
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
POLITICAL SCIENCE
PSYCHOLOGY
SOCIAL WORK
SOCIOLOGY
THEATER

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ZAHNOW LIBRARY WELCOMES STAFF

On August 28th, Matthew Anderson joined the library staff as the part-time Library Technology Specialist.

Matt’s 5 years of experience with Gateway PCs, 2 years with customer service and office networks, made him the perfect fit for the library. With more than 100 PCs and peripheral equipment in public and office spaces, Matt will spend much of his time trouble-shooting and maintaining software updates and changes.

His responsibilities include the first line of resolution for PCs problems in the Library. This aides ITS in alleviating some of those first line issues. ITS will continue to work with the library staff to resolve the more complex/network issues.

Please welcome Matt.

FALL 2004 STUDENT TECHNOLOGY CENTER HOURS

Mondays 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Tuesdays 10:00 am – 8:00 pm
Wednesday 10:00 am – 8:00 pm
Thursday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Friday By appointment
Saturday Closed
Sunday 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Exceptions to the above hours:
Closed: 4:30 pm, Wed., Nov. 24; Thurs., Nov. 25 – Sat., Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving); Sat., Dec. 18 – Sun., Jan. 2 (Holiday Break)

NEW DIGITAL MICROFORM SCANNER LOCATED IN INTERLIBRARY LOAN SERVICES

Over the summer a digital microform scanner was purchased for the library and placed in Interlibrary Loan Services. When combined with software, such as Adobe Acrobat the scanner copies from microfilm or microfiche originals to a PDF file. The scanning software provides quality enhancements to the page images. While this scanner is used primarily to support ILL and document delivery services, other uses which support the unique needs of library users are being investigated. Please contact Thom Zantow (tzantow@svsu.edu, x4238) for questions or more information.