LIBRARY HOMEPAGE GETS NEW LOOK

The Zahnow Library homepage recently got a new look as the university incorporates content management software into departmental homepages. The move allows library staff direct access to web page content so information can be quickly updated. Todd Pashak of SVSU’s IT Services worked with Zahnow librarians to ensure the changes would meet the expectations and needs of library users.

Issues taken into consideration were the appropriate number of links on the main page, placement and groupings of links, ease of navigation and overall appearance. Several university library web pages from across the country were investigated for innovative ideas and visual appeal.

The new design groups web page links into a total of eight categories. The top three categories, “Library Catalogs”, “E-Resources” and “Guided Search” provide links for locating books, journals and web pages, and offer assistance with finding these resources. The three middle categories group various “Help” and “Services” options, including links to unique library “Collections”. The final two categories are “Zahnow Library” and “My Library”. The first includes library hours, departments and research assistance and the second offers links to help users manage their personal library business.

In the box on the right margin users will find a link to library news, an option to do a quick search of CARDCAT, and links to popular pages, such as the Regional Education Resource Center (RERC) and the Student Technology Center (STC). The same “Quick Links” function, available on the former homepage, is also located on the right margin.

Comments and suggestions regarding the new look and function of the library homepage are welcome. Users may contact library staff through the “Suggestions” link or by contacting the Reference Desk, (989)964-4242.

(continued on page 2)

DIRECTOR’S COLUMN:  
Will Google Make Libraries Obsolete?

With much fanfare, news of the deal between Google and five major research libraries to digitize millions of books made headlines right around Christmas time. The Chronicle of Higher Education and the New York Times covered the story, as did scores of other newspapers across the country. Faculty and staff members forwarded copies of articles to me, and one or two rather cautiously raised the topic in casual conversation, as if it were a dire forecast of the future of libraries.

Will the Google project make libraries obsolete? Not for a long time, if ever! As the Chronicle pointed out, the number of volumes to be scanned is astounding. The holdings of the five libraries involved - Harvard, Stanford, University of Michigan, New York Public Library, and Oxford - total nearly 57 million volumes. Estimates of how long it might take to complete the project range from a non-committal “many years” to a decade or longer.

What’s more, there is the problem of copyright to be dealt with. Google will be able to publish the full text of only those library books that are old enough to be out of copyright. For copyrighted works (just about everything published since 1923), Google plans to digitize the entire text but will only be able to make short excerpts available online. Along with the excerpt will be information about where a book can be found, as in which LIBRARIES actually own a copy of the book.

(continued on page 2)

CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK  
* Sun., April 10 - Sat., April 16, 2005 *

Join Zahnow Library Staff for free ICE CREAM AND PRIZES  
on Mon., April 11th, 1pm  
at the first floor Library entrance
GREAT ESCAPES:
NEW BOOKS ADDED TO THE POPULAR READING COLLECTION

Looking for a good read to help you get out from under the drop cloth of winter? Need an escape from the daily routine? If so, check out the Popular Reading Collection located on the 3rd floor in the Library.

New titles to choose from include:

FICTION:
The Broker, John Grisham
The Falls, Joyce Carol Oats
I am Charlotte Simmons, Tom Wolfe
Kafka on the Shore, Haruki Murakami
Life Expectancy, Dean Koontz
Lost in a Good Book, Jasper Fforde
Prodigal Summer, Barbara Kingsolver
R is for Ricochet, Sue Grafton
Waiting, Ha Jin

NON-FICTION:
Can't Stop, Won't Stop: a History of the Hip-Hop Generation
Jeff Chang
Dreams from my Father: a Story of Race and Inheritance
Barack Obama
French Women Don't Get Fat: the Secret of Eating for Pleasure
Mireille Guiliano
The Man called Cash: the life, love and faith of an American Legend
Steve Turner
Truth and Fiction in the Da Vinci Code Bart Ehrman

A complete list of titles can be found online at http://library.svsu.edu. Just click on the link that says "Popular Reading".

To suggest titles for future purchase, contact Jack Wood, Head of Circulation Services, 964-7097, jwood@svsu.edu.