



## Zahnow Library joins MeLCat



### DIRECTOR'S COLUMN:

#### Collection Assessment Survey Results

As noted in a previous Director's Column, one of the initiatives in the university's strategic plan for 2004-2008 is to assess library materials and collections. To begin the data-gathering process, an online Collection Assessment Survey was sent to all full-time and part-time faculty in the latter half of the winter 2005 semester. A total of 102 surveys were completed. Seventy percent of the respondents were full-time faculty and 30% were part-time. In all, 25 academic departments were represented in the survey.

The first survey question asked faculty to assess library resources in their discipline in terms of meeting their teaching needs and their research needs. Using a rating scale of Excellent, Good, Marginal, Inadequate, and No Opinion, 75% rated our book collection as Good or Excellent in meeting their teaching needs, while only 48% rated our book collection as Good or Excellent in meeting their research needs. Sixty percent rated our print journals as Good or Excellent in meeting their teaching needs, with 57% giving our print journals a Marginal or Inadequate rating for meeting their research needs.

Respondents gave us high marks for our electronic resources. Seventy-three percent rated our electronic journals as Good or Excellent in meeting their teaching needs, and 68% gave them the same rating for meeting their research needs. In rating our online databases, 82% considered them Good or Excellent for their teaching needs, and 73% gave them the same rating for meeting their research needs.

Another survey question asked faculty about how often they use various types of library

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In July, Zahnow Library joined MeLCat ([www.mel.org](http://www.mel.org)), the new statewide library catalog. The Michigan electronic Library (MeL), which began as a web site to Internet resources and commercial databases, has expanded by creating a large catalog of the collections of participating Michigan academic, public and special libraries (MeLCat). At the end of summer 2005 MeLCat will have almost six million titles and more than nine million items.

A total of 13 academic libraries, 36 public libraries and four school library systems have joined MeLCat at this time. Because of the enormity of the project libraries are joining MeLCat quarterly. Over the next few years it is expected that over 500 libraries will be participating in MeLCat.



When users search CARDCAT, the catalog of Zahnow Library, a MeLCat button will appear at the top of the screen. Clicking on the button will automatically execute the search in MeLCat and retrieve the correct book records if a match is found. If an item is not owned by Zahnow library, it can be requested using the "Get this for me" button, which appears on the screen.

To expedite the delivery time for borrowed items, a courier transports material between libraries, reducing the wait time for a requested book to a few days rather than the usual 2 weeks for regular postal service. Books requested on MeLCat will be delivered to the Zahnow Library and can be picked up at the Circulation Desk.

Users can search MeLCat by title, subject, author or keyword. The entire catalog can be searched or a search can be limited by region, so local or area library holdings can be easily checked.

In addition to Zahnow Library, some of the academic libraries already in MeLCat include Central Michigan University, Ferris State University, Michigan State University, Wayne State University and University of Michigan - Dearborn. Public libraries include Genessee District Library, East Lansing Public Library, Bloomfield Township Public Library and the Library of Michigan.

Faculty interested in finding out more about using the MeL catalog for interlibrary loan may attend the workshop, "**MeL versus ILL: Getting What We Don't Have**" in Z111, on either Friday, September 16th from 10-11am or Friday, October 21st from 9-10am.

For questions, call or visit the Reference Desk, (989)964-4242, library first floor.

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resources. Thirty-seven percent of the respondents said they used books once a month, while 16% use them once a week or more often. Print journals are used once a month by 40% of the respondents. Twenty-six percent use electronic journals once a week or more, and 29% use them once a month. Our databases seem to be used the most frequently of all, with 43% of the respondents using them once a week or more.

Of particular interest to me were the responses to the question, "How often do you suggest items for purchase?" In order to acquire library resources that meet the teaching and research needs of our faculty, we need faculty input. While 39 respondents said they suggest items for purchase once a semester, 36 said they seldom or never do, and 13 said they don't know whom to contact.

We are just beginning to address what we have learned about our collection, and will step up our efforts to communicate with academic departments about improving the collection as the fall semester gets underway. A compilation of the results of the entire Collection Assessment Survey can be viewed on the library web page at <http://www.svsu.edu/~tzantow/CollectionSurvey.htm>

I invite all interested faculty (and especially those who did not respond to the survey) to join me for an informal discussion of the survey results over coffee in the Book Nook Café this fall. Check the blue box on this page of the newsletter for dates and times. I look forward to getting lots of helpful feedback!

-- Linda Farynk  
(lfarynk@svsu.edu)

## CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT BECOMES ACCESS SERVICES

In August, the Circulation Department was expanded and redefined as the Access Services Department. Access Services brings together Circulation, Media Services and Interlibrary Loan/ Document Delivery. ILL has worked closely with the Circulation Department for many years to bring material borrowed from other libraries to SVSU users. Interlibrary Loan's new location is behind the Circulation Desk on first floor.

On August 8th, Thom Zantow became the Head of Access Services (x 4238, tzantow@svsu.edu), leaving his position in Reference Services.

## LIBRARY COMPUTER LAB SCHEDULING

To schedule the library computer lab (Z111) for classes with computer related assignments or for online exams, contact Kathleen Kroll, 964-7054, kmkroll@svsu.edu



## NEW DATABASES ADDED TO LIBRARY COLLECTION

Four new databases were added to the library collection and can be accessed from the library home page using the DATABASES link.

### CCH Tax Research Network

Search the full-text of federal and state tax code including, State business income tax, sales tax and financial and estate planning.

### Culture-grams

Entries offer researchers information on the cultures of 187 countries and territories. Statistics, maps, and in depth detail covering 25 categories such as food, social customs, religion, and education are included. A photogallery contains more than 600 images representing over 50 countries.

### LLBA : Linguistics & Language Behavior Abstracts

This database indexes disciplines concerned with the nature of and use of language and linguistics. Citations from over 1,200 journals are indexed from 1973 to the present, covering the study of language including phonetics, phonology, syntax and semantics.

### Philosopher's Index

Philosopher's Index provides citations for over 500 journals covering all areas of philosophy. Some of the major areas covered include, aesthetics, metaphysics, philosophy of ethics and social philosophy.

## FALL LIBRARY WORKSHOPS OFFERED

To register for workshops visit the SVSU Training and Workshops page, <http://www.svsu.edu/workshops/#library>

### *Electronic Library Reserves*

Wed., September 7th, 3:30-4:30pm  
Tues., September 20th, 3:00-4:00pm

### *Linking Journal Articles in Blackboard*

Fri., September 2nd, 10:00-11:00am  
Fri., September 9th, 2:30-3:30pm

### *Library Services for Adjunct and New Faculty*

Fri., September 30th, 10:00-11:00am

\* all workshops will be held in Z111, first floor, library\*

## COFFEE WITH THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Join Library Director Linda Farynk and liaison librarians for coffee in the Book Nook Cafe and an informal discussion of the results of the collection assessment survey that was conducted online at the end of the 2005 Winter semester. Share your ideas for improving the library's collections; find out how you can suggest items for purchase; tell us what you think about print vs electronic access; books vs journals and more!

### DATES/TIMES

Wed., September 14th and Wednesday, October 12th  
10:30am - 11:30am and 3:00pm-4:00pm

### LOCATION

Zahnow Library Book Nook Cafe, 3rd floor

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Anita Dey and Linda Farynk