



NEW SOFTWARE TAKES THE MYSTERY OUT OF FINDING FULL-TEXT ARTICLES

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN:

Collection Development:
A Continuing Conversation

Although it's the beginning of a new calendar year, the fiscal year for the library's acquisitions budget will be ending in a few short months. In order to promote greater awareness of and involvement in the selection of materials and the development of the library's collections, two new pages have been added to our web site at

<http://www.svsu.edu/library/collectiondevelopment.pdf>. One describes how to suggest items for purchase, and the other lists all academic departments and the name and contact information for the librarian who serves as the collection development contact or liaison to each department. I invite all faculty to get to know their department's library liaison, and to become active participants in recommending items for purchase and building a library collection that supports their teaching and research needs.

As we did last year, we have once again earmarked funds from the acquisitions budget to address weaknesses in particular subject areas. All department chairs were sent a memo about the availability of Collection Improvement Funds last November. We are especially interested in areas in which new courses and programs have been introduced over the past few years. Recommendations to purchase books and other materials using Collection Improvement Funds (which are separate from departmental acquisitions budgets) should be submitted to the department's library liaison by the end of January.

Continuing to set aside Collection Improvement Funds is one of the ways we are acting upon the results of the Collection Assessment Survey that was sent to all

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Every semester Reference Librarians at Zahnow Library present research strategies to hundreds of students through the Library Instruction Program and at the Reference Desk. Presently a significant amount of time is spent teaching students to locate the full-text of journal articles from citations they find in different databases.

As of Winter 2006, the Zahnow Library subscribes to over 90 online databases covering the literature in multiple disciplines. Although there is a concerted effort to subscribe to databases that contain the full-text of the articles and books, often many databases provide only the citation and abstract. To complicate matters, although many databases may index the same journal, only a few will provide the full-text of the article and coverage may vary.

For example, if you are searching in the FirstSearch Humanities Abstracts, and find an article from a 1996 issue of **Theatre Journal**, how would you know that the full-text of the article can be found in the Project MUSE database? You would need to check CardCat's Journal /Newspaper/ Magazine index, an indispensable finding tool librarians have been maintaining for the past several years.

However, the number of online journals in the library collection has increased significantly in recent years. There are now approximately 11,000 titles available. Because of this number, it has become more and more labor-intensive to maintain the accuracy of the information about all 11,000 journals on CardCat. To assist with maintaining accurate journal data and to provide users with easier direct links to full-text articles, Zahnow Library has subscribed to a "journal article linker" software package called SFX, produced by Ex-Libris.

After the software has been implemented, users will have two ways of locating the full-text of journal articles:

- * Directly from the database being searched: The user will see a button next to the citation providing links to the article when the full-text is not already in the database being searched.
- * By Searching an **A-Z List** on the library home page: All of the journals to which the library subscribes will be listed alphabetically with direct links to the full-text.

When will users see the button and the A-Z List? A safe bet would be around middle of this semester. For more information, contact Anita Dey, Head, Reference Services, adey@svsu.edu or x7094.



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faculty last spring. In addition to providing us with good feedback about the adequacy of the collection, the survey also told us that many faculty members are unaware of the online listing of new books and media that can be found in Card Cat. When there isn't time to visit the New Book Shelves near the Reference Desk on first floor, checking the online list at <http://library.svsu.edu/search/ftlist> is a convenient way to stay up to date with our latest acquisitions. New items are listed alphabetically by title and by subject in call number order.

And finally, some closing comments about journals, which make up a substantial portion of our total acquisitions expenditures. In the historical price analysis provided by our print journal subscription vendor, the average yearly increase in our print journals was 10.2% from 2001 through 2005, and 40% over all. During that time period, the price increases for nearly 50 individual titles exceeded 100%.

Since our acquisitions budget does not increase by 10% each year, evaluating the usefulness and value of our current journal subscriptions is an on-going goal. While we do accept requests to add new journal subscriptions, we also need requesting departments to help us determine whether there may be other titles in their disciplines that can be discontinued. This is just one of many opportunities faculty have to join us in our continuing conversation about collection development.

-- Linda Farynk
(lfarynk@svsu.edu)

NEW POLICY FOR RESERVING THE LIBRARY COMPUTER LAB (Z111)

To reserve the library computer lab for online testing or other activities **not related to the Library Instruction Program**, contact Anita Dey, Head, Reference Services, adey@svsu.edu, x7094.

To request a **library instruction session** through the Library Instruction Program, contact Kathleen Kroll, Reference and Instruction Librarian, kmkroll@svsu.edu, x7054.

A copy of the Z111 Scheduling policy can be found at <http://www.svsu.edu/library/z111policy.pdf>.

Priority reservations are given to online testing requests.



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NEW DATABASES ADDED TO LIBRARY COLLECTION

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

ProQuest Literature Online

Contains a collection of over 350,000 works in English and American poetry, drama and prose, 175 full-text literature journals and other key criticism and reference resources.

ProQuest Nursing

Provides abstracting and indexing for more than 450 titles with over 390 titles in full-text. A substantial number of titles are indexed in CINAHL and 10,000 nursing dissertations are included. Indexing begins in 1986.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COLLECTION

The Children's Literature Collection on the 4th floor of the Zahnow Library is a valuable resource for faculty and students.

Over the past year, a large number of books were added to the collection. With the goal of adding as many award winning books as were available, many titles can now be found in the collection that have won the honors of the Newberry, Caldecott, Coretta Scott King and Carter G. Woodson awards.

In addition to award winning children's books, the Children's Collection now includes a few Braille picture books, a large number of new multicultural and bilingual titles, and a growing number of new non-fiction books about social issues, art, music, science, and collective biographies.

The fiction collection is arranged by reading level and the biographies are arranged by name of the person who is the subject of the book. Non-fiction materials are arranged by Dewey Decimal Classification.

Children's fiction is also searchable in CardCat using the reading level designations as a subject search: Picture Books, Step-Up Books, Juvenile Fiction, and Young Adult Fiction. Biography-Juvenile Literature is also a subject heading.

The Children's Literature Collection is intended to be a resource that College of Education students and faculty use to find the books they need for their classes. Recommendations for subjects or specific titles to add to the collection can be sent to Anne Menard, amenard1@svsu.edu, x. 7053.

NEW STAFF JOIN ZAHNOW LIBRARY

Averill Packard - joined the Reference staff in October 2005 as a part-time Reference Librarian. Averill works at the Reference Desk, participates in library instruction and collection development.

Beth Johns - joins the Reference staff on Monday, February 6th as the Electronic Resources and Reference Librarian. Her duties will include managing the electronic journals and databases, as well as working at the Reference Desk, participating in library instruction and collection development.

Trent Milligan - joined the staff of the Student Technology Center on Mon., January 16th. Trent assists Tammi Waugh, the STC Coordinator as the Student Technology Skills Specialist.