The Special Collections Department received several new manuscript collections during Summer and Fall. Idaho authors Helen W. Olsen, Virginia Stumbo, and Donna Fletcher Crow presented collections to the Idaho Writers Archive. Papers of Penelope Reedy, editor of Redneck Review of Literature, were transferred to BSU from the University of Wyoming. In July, Mrs. Mary Bradford of Boise donated an engraved map of New France and the Great Lakes region. Printed in 1755, the map was prepared by Jacques Nicholas Bellin, hydrographer for the French Navy. Not many copies of this map have survived the 235 years since publication. The Library of Congress holds two copies.

The authors of two recently published books cited the department in the Acknowledgments section of their works. Tom Lopez used several photos from the Robert Limbert Collection in his book, Exploring Idaho’s Mountains. Grant Amaral spent many hours with the USGS topographic map collection compiling Idaho Whitewater Guidebook.

In July, the theater at Craters of the Moon Visitors Center was dedicated in honor of Robert Limbert. The National Park Service developed a slide show on Limbert’s exploration of the Craters based largely on photos in Special Collections. The Idaho Fish and Game Department also used the Limbert Collection in developing a slide show on the history of wildlife management in the state. This summer Redfish Lake Lodge, near Stanley, prepared an exhibit with materials from Special Collections. Copies of photos and documents from the Robert Limbert Collection are now on permanent display in the main lodge building, documenting the history of the resort, which was built by Limbert in the 1920’s.

The Nell Shipman collection has attracted several out-of-state researchers in recent months. A journalist is under contract with a national magazine to prepare an article on her, and two film makers from California are working on a documentary film about her career as a silent film star, director, and producer. Additional out-of-town researchers who have used other collections in the department recently have included history professors from Idaho State, Utah State, and Whitman College, a historian from the National Park Service, and an English professor from Utah.

The Maps Departments’ collection of city maps has been augmented by the addition of new maps of approximately 150 major U.S. cities.

Alan Virta spoke to Tom Truskey’s Book Arts class twice this semester. He displayed some of the Library’s vellum and leather-bound books and gave a talk about BSU’s one piece of incunabula (Historia Scholastica, ca. 1479). He also spoke to the Pacific Northwest Association of Church Librarians this summer on the topic of archival conservation and attended the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Seattle in September.

During the summer the reception and conference areas of the Hemingway Western Studies Center were rearranged and redecorated. Drawing on the Library’s de Groot collection, Mary Carter and Alan Virta prepared an exhibit on Hemingway that will remain on display in the central reception area.

Congratulations are in order to Russell Tremayne, a former Library employee (Church project) who is now an adjunct faculty member in the History Department. In August he was awarded a PhD from the University of Washington. His dissertation, “Delusions and Reality: The Evolution of Frank Church’s Ideas on Latin America, 1956-1980,” was based primarily on research in the Frank Church papers here at BSU.

Special collections has a new graduate assistant this semester. She is Kathleen Carney, a graduate student in History. Kathleen is processing the archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Idaho, which came to BSU in 1988. Welcome, Kathleen.
The outstanding program that I attended at the Idaho Library Association Conference in Idaho Falls was the preconference on "How to Run Better Meetings." Kathleen June and May Lowry of the Women's Leadership Training Institute in Denver "practiced what they preached" and gave an excellent workshop.

The following topics were covered: to think strategically, to identify outcomes (know how you want to accomplish in the meeting), plan so that outcomes can be achieved, keep the meeting moving by building a positive climate and using healing communication, and how to set goals so that participants feel something has been accomplished. One way to accomplish goals is by the use of timelines. They also emphasized the importance of agendas.

One of the useful concepts that was presented was the idea of group development. All groups go through four stages of development whether the first time they meet or the 15th time they meet. These stages are repeated when people enter or leave the group or when the task of the group changes. The four stages are: Forming - which includes issues of psychological safety. "Am I going to be safe?" Storming - which includes issues of power and influence. If this isn't resolved, decisions will not get made. Norming - the decision making stage. Performing - carrying out the decisions of the group.

June and Lowry presented pointers on how to open up meetings to get them to work and how to use communication to help people grow. They emphasized that leaders must be flexible and consistent in order to help the group get what it needs.

Reflecting on communication they used this motto: "Life is a series of choices between little lives (enhancing, helpful) and little deaths (put downs that are damaging and splintering). The goal of their workshop was to help us make choices that will enhance lives and not damage lives.

The other useful workshop I attended was "Marketing Library Collections" presented by Dr. Sharon Baker. Her thesis is that libraries should design collections in line with patron needs and desires but also in line with library goals.

She suggested evaluating library collections in a three step process: 1) identify currently owned items not used (look for patterns of non-use); 2) conduct frequent and systematic identification of heavily used items (by authors, titles, genres, etc.); and 3) identify items not in the collection but desired by users (regularly and systematically solicit patron feedback).

When promoting the library know which tactics work and which don't. She suggested that booklists, when widely distributed but which require little effort on the part of the user, are useful. Unannotated lists are just as good as annotated lists (saves us some work). Her experience is that in-library promotion is better than out-of-library promotion.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE ILA MEETINGS

1991 - October 2-5 - Nampa Civic Center
1992 - October 1-3 - Boise State University Student Union
1993 - October 6-9 - University of Idaho Student Union
1994 - October 5-8 - Sun Valley
1995 - April - probably Spokane, WA - joint meeting with Washington Library Association
ILL SERVICES
By Beverly Miller

The BSU Library recently rejoined the Copyright Clearance Center, after CCC revised its policies to accommodate the need of small and medium-sized academic libraries like ours. Although we initially became members back in 1987, our status was relegated to inactive because BSU did not meet CCC's quota of 120 copies in excess of CONTU guidelines every 6 months, a condition we only learned about after joining. As of this September, however, CCC is permitting all libraries to obtain full services in exchange for an annual $75 fee. This enables us to set up a deposit account, to which we can charge royalties for copies in excess of CONTU restrictions, for all titles currently registered with the Center. Since the fees are paid after the fact, Interlibrary loan service is not held up on the titles in question, while the Library seeks permission to make additional copies from the publisher, as sometimes happened in the past. We hope that copying can be expedited from at least half of our more frequently demanded titles, although this remains to be seen. Anyone with questions about obtaining permission to request multiple copies of articles from recent issues of a journal title should contact Beverly Miller, x1626.

From the Library suggestion box....

"The Suggestion Box Idea is not a good one. It shows no consideration for people as human. You miss the one on one." - Anonymous

REFERENCE HELP
By Liz Cardinale

The topic of censorship has always been popular with our student term paper writers. The library, of course, has many sources of material on this subject and one of these, the Banned Book Exhibit is an easy to use history of recent attempts to censor print materials. It cites particular titles, the locale and reason the attempt took place, and the date of the action. The Reference Department annotates the list with call numbers if we own the book.

In an attempt to make this source even more useful for our patrons, we have been adding a photocopy of the bibliography from the ALA Intellectual Freedom Newsletter each time it is published.

The Banned Book Exhibit is shelved at the Reference Desk, call # ref Z 658 U5 F694. Remember it as a good, easy to use, source of material on censorship.

DID YOU KNOW...

The American Teacher of 1910 was female, age 24. She probably began teaching around the age of 19 after completing four years of education beyond elementary school. She teaches an average of 34 pupils on an annual salary of $485 after five years of service. The total teaching force in 1910 was $23,000.

Submitted by Carole Clemens