

CROSSFIRE

***** BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY *****

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AUTOMATION. WHERE ARE WE?

By Janet Strong

Where are we with automation? After looking at a number of systems the Automation Task Force (Tim Brown, Dave Crane, Ralph Hansen, Anne Matjeka, Gloria Ostrander, and Janet Strong) is still asking questions and looking at systems. This semester has been a learning experience in an incredibly complex process in which many issues need to be resolved.

OCLC LS/2000 system appears to have a good online catalog and circulation system but acquisitions and serials are weak. UTLAS T/Serials 50 also appears to have an adequate online catalog and a good circulation system but no acquisitions or serials. And

it is expensive. INNOVATIVE INTERFACES has excellent acquisitions and serials systems. The online catalog appears to be good; the circulation system is weak. Ali'i has a good online catalog and circulation system but no acquisitions or serials. More vendors may be invited to demonstrate during spring semester.

The Task Force believes that subject and name authority control is important and not many systems have good authority control. A user friendly online catalog is also important. If any of you have insights from demonstrations you have seen, the Task Force welcomes your comments.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT PUBLISHES NEW TEXTBOOK

By Don Haacke

A new edition of the Library Skills textbook has just come off the presses of the BSU print shop and will be ready for students enrolled for the spring semester. First developed by the BSU Library in 1974 the Library Skills textbook was used to teach a class of approximately 110 students each semester. The 8th edition is greatly expanded--jumping from 87 pages to 132. Two entirely new chapters have been added. Chapter 23 deals with style manuals. Chapter 24, entitled "Putting It All Together" correlates the various lessons

and outlines a basic research strategy for students. The other twenty-two chapters were extensively revised and brought up to date. A glossary of terms has been moved to the front of the book. New illustrations and floor plan maps reflecting the arrangement of the Library as of November, 1987, have been added. The University mainframe was used to create the text and to enhance the typographical layout.

The Library receives \$1.00 royalty per copy to offset part of the administrative overhead of the class.

DOCUMENTS/MAPS/DOCUMENTS/MAPS/DOCUMENTS

By Karin Eyler

Just as we are getting adjusted to our position changes and new student staff, the semester ends and we prepare for new changes to come in January. With the new semester, our corner will welcome the new Archivist, Alan Virta; Leslie Pass returns to her "regular" position; and we may have to say good-bye to Rita Nuxoll for the umpteenth time.

All things considered, we are going well. Visiting researchers using the Frank Church Collection are keeping Leslie busy, making all the sweat and tears of the project worth the effort. Rita has made life easier for us all. With four years experience as a student assistant, she not only needed very little training, but is able to help train student assistants in both maps and documents, as well as cover the desk efficiently. The students are fairly well broken in by this time - may they all

make the dean's list and return in January!

Documents plods on as usual, through the challenges of understanding and conforming with federal government procedures and logic. I am still uncovering the mysteries and new tasks, but things are generally in order. Thanks to an active group of debaters and several class assignments from BSU faculty, we have been busier than usual helping the public.

Darryl Huskey, Head Documents Librarian, and I went to the College of Idaho to see a demonstration of a D-base computer program, developed by the University of California. The program is a database containing all Government Publishing Office offerings - item number, superintendent of documents number, title and frequency. The program has been ordered, and should make determining our holdings easier and quicker.

LIBRARY SKILLS ENROLLMENT CLIMBS

By Don Haacke

Enrollment this semester in LS-102 (Library Skills) was up significantly. In the past we have seldom reached the enrollment capacity of 115. Fall semester 1987 has been a different matter altogether. 143 people signed up. Thirteen withdrew, leaving 130 students in the course. Reference staff and other departments in the Library have all felt the impact of so many students trying to learn to use and to

find basic resources required for their Library Skills assignments. The class has been especially attractive to students 1) who would seriously like to know more about the Library and 2) who need one credit to qualify for their financial aid package.

Many of those who completed the course have expressed appreciation for the helpful staff as well as the course itself.

By Ralph W. Hansen

Secret code? Looks like a code but its not secret. These are the identifying numbers for the three Idaho Humanities Council grants that have funded projects for which the Library is the primary participant. SO-86B-1 is the grant for the Frank Church Papers Processing Project, a project that most of you have heard about from time-to-time. For the Church Project the IHC awarded \$16,000 on condition that a third party "match" the grant with \$32,000. The BSU Foundation became our knight in shining armor and provided the additional funds. Officially the grant funded Project ended on October 31st when all of the IHC/BSU Foundation funds should have been expended. A final report to the IHC, now in preparation, is due by December 31, 1987.

The grant period began on November 1, 1986 and with money in hand the processing staff was enlarged and students were recruited, particularly from the disciplines of History, Political Science and Communication. With little experience processing such a large collection to draw upon we walked where wise men fear to tread. In the funded year we had hopes of processing a significant portion of the collection and producing a computer generated index to the Foreign Relations file, a file we considered to be the most important in the collection. Much to our joy by October 31 we had processed about 95% of the collection and had entered information into the computer from over 9,000 folders. This information consisted of a name index, a subject index and a

title listing of the folders (now almost 10,000 in number).

After the "big push" of this past summer the project staff slowly went its academic way. Some went on to graduate school, others went back to being full-time students at BSU and a few even went to work in the real world. At the present time we have Janene Berry working part-time in-putting records, two students, Debby Roberts and Todd Reed and one volunteer, Lillian Hansen, finishing off the odds and ends. Mary Carter of the Acquisition Department is acting as a resource person as needed. We are looking forward to that day in January 1988 when we can say that it is all finished.

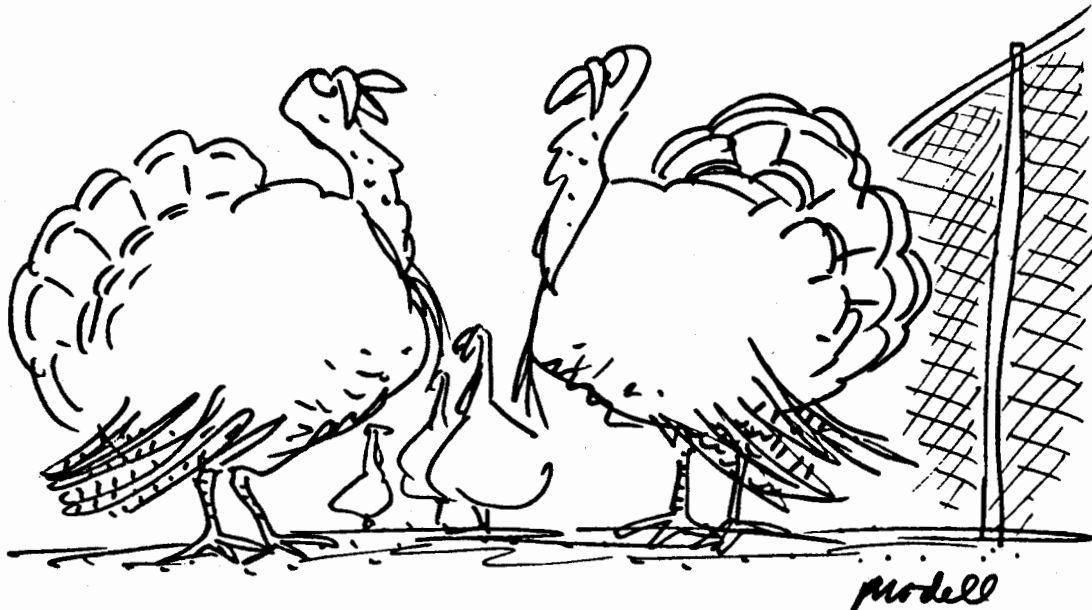
Even though the Church collection is not officially open to researchers there have been a number of users during the time processing was under way. Prof. LeRoy Ashby, of Washington State University, has spent about four weeks with the collection for a proposed biography of Church. After his most recent visit in November he wrote about his experience at BSU. "It was a delight to get back to the Boise State Archives, which is such a friendly place to work," wrote Dr. Ashby. He then addressed the quality of the Collection which he described as one of the richest of the over one hundred he has researched. Furthermore he wrote, "The Senator's papers are loaded with a wide variety of materials that shed light on far more than Church's own political career. Indeed, because they illuminate so many

issues and subjects, they will be exceedingly useful over the years to scholars with a huge range of interests." In commenting on the quality of the processing he passed out some accolades to the processors. "Your staff have done an outstanding job...I am amazed at how expertly and quickly you have accomplished what has been an immense job...the organization of the papers makes good sense."

SO-86B is a grant to produce a printed guide to the Church Papers. Two thousand copies will be printed and the one thousand research libraries on ALA's mailing list will receive a gratis copy. The guide differs from the computer products in that it will give an overview of the collection and is not intended to help in locating specific information

as the computer guides are. Hopefully the guide will be completed by Spring.

The final number is for the Limbert exhibit. Produced with the blood, sweat and tears of many, especially Leslie Pass, this exhibit has been traveling throughout Idaho. The project actually began in December by requesting grant funding. Much time and energy was put into the initial phases of planning. After successfully meeting the goals set in the grant, the whole project was to end in mid-December followed by a final accounting to the IHC within 60 days. Limbert, however, will not give up. At least two more locations have requested the exhibit in 1988. More requests are anticipated. The exhibit is currently on display in the Library.



"Well, at least the worst is behind us."

ALL I EVER REALLY NEEDED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN KINDERGARTEN
Submitted by Beth Allen

Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain but there in the sandbox at nursery school.

These are the things I learned: Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like

that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in a plastic cup - they all die. So do we.

And then remember the book about Dick and Jane and the first word you learned, the biggest word of all: LOOK. Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and sane living.

Think of what a better world it would be if we all-the whole world-had cookies and milk about 3 o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations to always put things back where we found them and cleaned up our own messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

The Love Letter, Vol.3, No. 11, Sept. 1987.

TEXTBOOK AND IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
By Anne Matjeka

November 30 through December 3 marked the winter meetings of the Idaho State Textbook and Improvement of Instruction Committee. Thirteen committee members were chosen to represent Idaho's institutions of higher learning, the State Department of Education, teachers, administrators, school boards, private schools and the general public. We gathered in an "unsmoke" filled room with motions booklets 2

1/2 inches thick before us and took up the tedious task of considering each text submitted. When we were done most of the hundreds of texts were approved. Of the 25 books rejected, most were low level remedial textbooks that were judged to be dull and unappealing. Next year the committee considers Mathematics, Business Education, Business English, Career Ed and Vocational Education.

"PHOUNDATION PHONOTHON"

or

"FOUNDATION FONOTHON"

You missed a wonderful dinner (brown bag) and a lot of fun if you weren't one of the callers for the BSU Foundation Phonathon for 1987. The Library took its turn at the phones December 16th and with script in hand the participants were given several names of alumni or past donors to call. Of course the first calls felt stiff and awkward but after the initial fright wore off it was "inspiring". Tim and Regina Brown, Anne Matjeka, Gloria Ostrander and Linda Kay Allen represented the Library. Several others had committed themselves to call as well but for one reason or another were unable to come. As a result of our efforts combined with those of the Baptist Campus Ministries we raised \$5,735.00 for the Library and various other campus needs. All money was matched by Mountain Bell so that really added to our total. Kim Philipps reported that our group raised the third largest amount of money for the entire phonathon. We look forward to an even larger turnout next year and a larger total. Thanks to all who participated.

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KATE ARRIVES FOR HOLIDAYS

Katherine Elizabeth has come to bless the Rosenheim family just in time for Christmas. "Kate" was born October 11, 1987, at 9:00 a.m. in St. Lukes Regional Medical Center. She weighed 6 pounds 2 ounces, and was 19 inches long. At the time of her birth her hair was brown, but as young ladies often do, she has already changed her hair color to a reflect a hint of red. Naturally she is the delight of Nancy's life. We congratulate the new parents.



ACCOUNT CLERK JOINS LIBRARY STAFF

A former BSU Accounting Office Account Clerk recently returned from Oregon and joined the Library staff in that same position. Claudia Scott replaced Anne Sheppard-Kurek effective November 16th. Anne took an accounting position

with the Social Security Office on Vista. Claudia is looking forward to resuming her work in the community theatre both onstage and backstage. Since 1981 she has directed eight shows, including On Golden Pond and Children of a Lesser God.

COMPUTER SEARCHERS AT BSU
By Terry Madden

Computer literature searches are available at the BSU Library. This is an increasingly popular service for students, faculty, staff and non-BSU personnel.

During Anne Matjeka's tenure as Search Coordinator she began a program of training other reference staff people in computer literature searching. This continues with weekly meetings of those members of the reference staff that have received initial training in computer literature searching at one of the training sessions presented by such companies as

DIALOG and BRS. Practice searches are run on the computer. The results of these searches are compiled and placed in the bibliography file in the reference department.

Currently Terry Madden is the Search Coordinator. Anne Matjeka continues to do computer searching and has been helpful in keeping us up to date with the growing number of searches. Other public service staff who have had computer literature search training are Beverly Miller, Janet Strong, Katherine Ultican, Adrien Taylor, and Don Haacke.

ART EXHIBIT

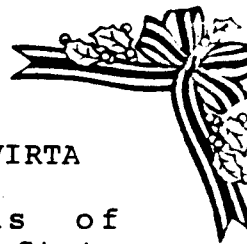
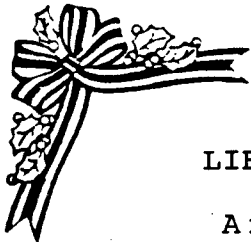
Ann Jones' exhibit of woven stitchery pieces is still on display in the main hall of the Library and has drawn much attention until this week. Vying for the attention of Library patrons is the Robert Limbert Traveling Exhibit which has also been set up in the main hall. The Limbert Exhibit toured several cities this last year and has received very positive comments from those who had the opportunity to view it. Hosts included Sun Valley, Ketchum, Redfish Lake Lodge, Shore Lodge in McCall, Coeur d'Alene Public Library, Idaho Falls Public Library, Pocatello Public Library, Weiser First Interstate Bank. We are still getting calls requesting showings in other places. If you haven't seen the exhibit yet, stop by and have a look. It's well worth it.

INTERNSHIPS
By Beverly Miller

Two more students, Charlene O'Leary and Leslie Haas, have signed up for internships in Library Science. Both will be working at the Statesman Library while Statesman librarian Linda Irons is in Washington, D.C. on assignment with USA Today. Charlene and Leslie, both of whom hope to become librarians, will each take two internships, one for Fall 87 and one for Spring 88. Their primary responsibilities will be clippings and filing newspaper clippings for the paper's morgue.

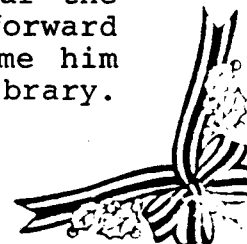


MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR



LIBRARY WELCOMES ALAN VIRTA

After many months of searching the Boise State University Library will soon be welcoming our new Head of Special Collections, Alan Virta. He is from Greenbelt, Maryland and leaves his position with the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. to accept his new position here. His transition to Boise should be quite smooth since he has already found housing near the campus. We are looking forward to his coming and welcome him to Boise State and the Library.



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT ABOUND

The Library again is sponsoring a family for Christmas. Our family this year is a single mother, expecting, with two children. Chantel is 4 and Kaila is 2.

Many have donated food, clothing, and toys. If you would care to contribute, either with gifts or money, please bring your items to Beth Allen in Cataloging.

CROSSFIRE is published, more or less whenever we can, by the Boise State University Library. If you have comments please send them to Linda Kay Allen, editor. Contributors to this issue are Beth Allen, Carole Clemens, Karin Eyler, Don P. Haacke, Ralph W. Hansen, Terry Madden, Anne Matjeka, Beverly Miller, Nancy Rosenheim, Claudia Scott, and Linda Kay Allen.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR HAPPY NEW YEAR!
