

library newsletter

October

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

1984

Here & There About The Library

This issue of the Newsletter was prepared in haste since the editor was preparing to leave on vacation. Items not completed for this issue, particularly annual statistics, may appear in a future issue....Reference librarians have more fun than technical service librarians! Witness the "Famous (or infamous)" questions they are asked while working at the Reference Desk. Look for them on a following page.

We have learned from Circulation that the stacks supervisor position was divided into two half-time positions: one 12 months and one 9 months. Kim Pierce, now Hickman, selected the 9 month position and Ronda Gilmore, a BSU student, has been hired to fill the 12 month position. Her starting date was September 4... All book and periodical stacks were read this summer and some shifting was done to accommodate growth. The microfilm collection was read and shifted. Students are now reading the ERIC collection, pulling duplicate fiche, and making note of missing fiche... The linedex was photocopied in August, labeled, and covered to be ready for use at the beginning of fall semester. Information from Peggy Hendershot's list of government periodicals was incorporated into the linedex before the photocopies were made. The *'s indicating current display were not all added however. Copies were made for reference, for all other library departments, and for limited distribution outside the library... The current display area for periodicals was expanded by adding one or two shelves to each section. Suggestions for additions or deletions were solicited from librarians; however, on a continuing basis, anyone may make suggestions for changes. There are now about 900 titles for which the most recent issue is displayed...Circulation has a new phone, 1816, which is permanently attached to the answering machine. The recorded message gives library hours and information on renewing a book by phone. The number will be listed in the forthcoming Campus Directory and the Bell telephone directory. Hopefully many calls formerly directed to public service desks will now call this line.

From Carole Clemens comes a "warm fuzzy" which should make us feel good. Reports Carole:

One of our regular patrons and former Regional Special Education Consultant, Judy Secrist, passed on the following information regarding the library: She appreciates our services, particularly what is available from reference in the way of business updates, and the materials from CRC. She attended ISU and the University of Oregon and claims that our library is the best. These comments were particularly related to the physical plant itself, i.e., a bright and pleasant atmosphere, comfortable chairs, warm colors, etc. She also praised the staff for all of our efforts to assist her.

Most of you have probably noticed the two barricades and a missing piece of the cement on the edge of the entry level to the Library. The missing piece was broken off to determine the effect of moisture on the underside of the sidewalk. Physical Plant is undertaking to replace the front walk because it is deteriorating. We don't know what they found underneath the cement or when rehabilitation efforts will begin. Meantime the barricades are a silent reminder that someday something will happen.

Two new staff have joined the Library staff since the last Newsletter. They are Cynthia Carroll and Barbara Christensen. Cynthia, who hails from New Plymouth, has joined the Cataloging & Serials Department and works for Jill. Cynthia is no stranger to the Library, having worked for the Circulation Department during her student days. Barbara, an Oregonian, has had considerable library experience in Boise area elementary and junior high schools before joining the Periodicals unit of the Circulation Department. Welcome to Cynthia & Barbara.

Pacific Northwest Library Association Annual Conference

Three members of the Library faculty journeyed to Billings in late August for the PNLA meetings. The reports of two of them follows:

Intensity and contrast best describe my PNLA experience in Billings. Intensity because of the long days and the concentrating on the information presented and contrast because of the theme "High Tech/High Touch." Several workshop speakers discussed high tech while the entertainment was high touch. I attended the pre-conference workshop presented by Richard Boss on the impact of automation on the library and his workshop "Preparation for Automation." Other high tech speakers were Michael Annison who spoke on "Global Trends - Information Technology and Changing Social Patterns" and "High tech/high touch and its impact on libraries;" and Philip Bereano from the University of Washington who spoke on "Technology and Human Freedom." High touch events were the buffalo barbecue with Utah Phillips, folklorist of the railroad tramps; the banquet with poet Kim Stafford as speaker; and the reception at the Yellowstone Art Center.

Janet Strong

The highlight of the conference was Michael Annison's presentation "Global Trends-- Information Technology and Changing Social Patterns." Mr. Annison's approach was to show how quickly and dramatically things are changing today, and why many of our established organizations and industries are not responding to the newly created demands of a high-tech, global society. He contrasted the decline of industries such as auto and steel with the simultaneous rise of innovative, high-tech companies, spawned with venture capital, which define a specific need or application, and become successful overnight. Libraries, too, must respond in a creative fashion, or their role will decline and they will become irrelevant to the user.

In contrast to Mr. Annison, who dealt with the broader social issues affected by technology, Richard Boss, in his workshop "Preparation for Automation," focused on the nuts and bolts of automating a library, including the perils and pitfalls and how to avoid them. In his presentation he gave specific guidance on such matters as how to deal with vendors, how many terminals to order, and why you should not expect any dollar savings by automating.

Dave Crane

Decade 40's Fund to Support the Library

Graduates of BJC from the 1940's have undertaken a fund raising effort to benefit the Library. The following quote from a letter by D. Clair Bush '43, provides the essence of the program. Let's hope that they are successful!

As we make our plans to attend the Decade 40's Reunion, it causes us to reflect on the time we spent at BJC and the lasting impact it has had on our lives. Personally, I have often wondered how I could repay the University for all it has meant to me over the years.

It is this feeling of gratitude and the upcoming celebration that has led me to write to you. On September 21, we will not only begin a weekend of festivities, but will also kick off the Decade 40's Fund.

The Decade 40's Fund provides a way for us to show our appreciation to the University. With your help, we can create a lasting symbol of the Decade 40's Alumni and at the same time provide a permanent fund for the Library which will benefit future generations of faculty and students. Specifically, the fund will be used to purchase needed equipment each year and prevent obsolescence. The University has designated support for the Library as a top priority.

I hope you will join me in contributing to this important effort...our goal to be reached by December 31, 1984 is \$40,000.

Musical Gift From the College of Southern Idaho

CSI recently transferred to BSU 1501 records, with the permission of the collector who had originally donated them to CSI. The collection contains recordings of Broadway shows such as THE MOST HAPPY FELLA, GIGI, APPLAUSE!., and many more. There are also TV and movie sound tracks such as BEN HUR, M*A*S*H, PETER GUNN, KING OF KINGS, etc. There are concert recordings by such artists such as Judy Garland, Liza Minelli, Carol Burnett, Elvis Presley, and the Smothers Brothers. A few historical albums include sports events at Madison Square Garden, Israeli marching songs, plus the opening of Lincoln Center in New York. Big Bands from the 40's and 50's are well represented in addition to a few collections of rock and roll hits from the 50's.

The Broadway shows and some of the movie sound tracks will be used by the Theater Arts and Music Department people. The children's records will probably come to CRC. Out of the entire donation, it is estimated that we will keep 8-900 records. This is a fine addition to our record library and is in an area where there has been a need to expand but a lack of funds to do so.

The balance will be given to Boise Public Library for their circulating collection.

Gleanings from:

The Next Whole Earth Catalog

THE RISING SUN **NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER**

Rightists and leftists gotta believe in libraries — for lefties they are the *only* property sharing thing, no qualifications, no strings, we've got going and it's a sin to let it die. (Nineteenth century anarchists pointed to free public libraries as the beginning of the revolution — and they were right, just because the rest of the revolution didn't happen doesn't mean that libraries aren't a little bit of workers' paradise now — when they're open nights, so workers and not just club ladies can go.) And if conservatives want to believe that Horatio Alger can still make the big jump, that everybody has a chance if they work hard, they better have a library open for Horatio to study up on the skills of his choice and it better be close to his house because he's tired and it better be open late.

The Reference Department staff has put together a list of "Famous (or infamous) Reference Questions We've Been Asked" for your amusement and edification. You think our work looks easy? Try responding to some of these with a straight face!

1. What is the name of the Statue of Liberty?
2. What was in the grain in Michigan in 1974? The cows ate it and died.
3. I just saw a film about the life of Jesus. Do you know the name of the book it's based on?
4. Why did I order this book on interlibrary loan?
5. Do you have a book on how to build a spaceship out of organic material? I don't want to go to the moon in a plastic bucket.
6. Where do I look to find the number of dead men and the number of dead women that archaeologists have dug up?
7. I need the book on electricity that is 2 3/4 inches wide and has an orange cover.
8. I want the red book that sits next to Thomas Register in the Salt Lake City Public Library.
9. Do you have a photograph of the crucifixion?
10. Where is the book you use to answer questions about facts?
11. Who performed the first Caesarian?
12. What's in the ball (globe) on top of flag staffs? I know there is a fork, but what else?
13. In what state was Matt Dillon born, when and where did he die?
14. Do you have a book of words that were never used?
15. I want to borrow a book from the Boise Public Library -- I don't know the title, but it's in the 3rd section from the wall, about the 4th row down, in the middle of the row, and the book is sort of pale green.
16. Do you have any statistics here?
17. I want to use the St. Thomas Register.
18. How much weight can an eagle carry?
19. Can you tell me if finding a dead bird under your pillow is an omen of something?
20. Where is the Paul Newman Center, where the Catholic students meet?

from The Haunted Bookshop
by
Christopher Morley C 1918

p. 174 "I wish there could be an international
peace conference of booksellers, for
(you will smile at this) my own conviction
is that the future happiness of the
world depends in no small measure on them
and on the librarians."

The most recent issue of Map Projections
from the University of Wyoming Libraries
reveals some interesting statistics
complimentary to BSU.

STATISTICS FOR 7/1/83 - 6/30/84

	<u>U. of Wyoming</u>	<u>BSU</u>
Circulation:	1,095	6,236
In house use:	<u>3,771</u>	<u>9,771</u>
TOTAL MAP USE:	4,866	16,007
Reference Questions	623	1,522
Total Maps as of 6/30/84.....	101,771	102,787

Contributors to this issue: Beverly Miller,
Ralph Hansen, Carole Clemens, Dave Crane,
Janet Strong, Leslie Pass.
Typist - Sylvia Burr