

library newsletter

February

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

1983

WORST LIBRARY IN THE NORTHWEST

Could anyone have missed the publicity the Library received in recent weeks? As a result are your friends and neighbors besieging you with open check books? A few have been generous with monetary donations. A number have come forward with fund-raising ideas. All this has been welcome. But the bottom line is that the Library's budget needs an infusion of money on an on-going basis. For example, late last summer (early in the fiscal year) we were forced to cut 216 serial titles in order to save \$17,000. Did we save money? Not really. The \$17,000 was absorbed by increases in subscription prices which were not built into this years budget. The Legislature is hopefully moving towards a status quo budget for 1983-84. Does that mean that we will be able to maintain subscriptions at the current level? Decidedly not. While inflation in the general economy has eased, there is no indication that serial price increases have slowed from the double diget inflation that has been typical of this type of material. A few examples might illustrate the problem. From 1977/78 to 1983/84 the subscription price for Time went up 63%, Scientific American 50%, Phytopathology 56% (here the dollar amount is more meaningful; from \$70 to \$125), American Journal of Diseases of Children 47%. How will we cope? Cut more subscriptions? Steal from the book budget? Charge admission? So if your friends ask you how they can help, tell them that to just keep up with the present level of buying we need more money than last year. Just to get back to where we were five years ago we would need a \$250,000 increase in next years material budget. No gift is too small - no gift is too large.

RWH

Beware of the futurists who tell us libraries will be irrevelent.

Marcia Lowell

An inscription over the entranceway to the royal library of the Egyptian Pharoah Rameses II read: "The House of Healing for the Soul."

STATESMAN INDEX AVAILABLE

The BSU Library Reference Department is maintaining the only available index to current issues of The Idaho Statesman, and demand for this new reference tool is becoming quite brisk.

Lois Cummins is currently retyping the first full volume of BSU's Statesman index, which covers the period from July 1981 to December 1982. Subsequent volumes are planned for each calendar year, and completed copies will be offered to area libraries at cost.

BSU's indexing project replaces our old practice of clipping issues of the paper for the pamphlet file. While the clippings were heavily used, they wore out easily, were often misfiled, and the attrition rate was high, with hours of labor lost each time someone departed with a batch of newspaper clippings stashed in a notebook. The clippings were impossible to sensitize effectively, and the losses were impossible to replace without a record of which items had been marked for clipping--to maintain such a record, we realized, would be to compile an index. In the end, we opted for the index and ended the clipping.

Until BSU began indexing, the only bibliographic access to Statesman articles was through files maintained in the newspaper's library. These files still comprise the only access to the Statesman 1973-July 1981.

BSU's index is very selective, covering only the kinds of information that cannot be covered elsewhere, and concentrating only on news stories (as opposed to the feature material that sometimes seems to make up the bulk of the paper). National and international stories are better handled by major metropolitan dailies and news weeklies, both of which are professionally indexed. BSU's index lists regional, area, and local stories that are seldom found (and then only skimpily covered) in national publications.

Types of articles not indexed include routine reporting of sports events, social news, criminal proceedings, vital statistics and weather. Legislative developments indexed by Daily Data are not covered, nor are advertisements, announcements, and non-news features such as those devoted to advice, travel, recipes, physical fitness, gardening, etc. Syndicated columns appear and are indexed elsewhere and thus are excluded. Exceptions to the above do occur: Ann Landers' column on the Christopher Peterman murder is listed, for example.

BSU's index also thoroughly indexes BSU items, with the exception of sports reporting.

ANNUAL EVALUATIONS

The season eagerly anticipated by the BSU librarians is upon us. Its time for annual evaluations. By University regulations the University Librarian is evaluated by a committee from within the Library. This years committee consists of Lois Cummins (Ref), Ralph Hansen (Adm), Darryl Huskey (Docs), Ken Hyde (EMS), Beverly Miller, Chair (Ref), Gloria Miller (Cat), and Gloria Ostrander (Mono). The librarians will be evaluated by their immediate supervisors with input from the support staff.

SUMMER HOURS

In an effort to speed the arrival of Spring, the Public Services Council discussed Summer 1983 hours of opening. It was agreed that the hours would remain essentially as they were last year. It was also agreed that the information desk in the lobby would be set up again and staffed by librarians and staff from the Public Services departments.

Monday - Thursday	7:30 am - 7:00 pm (2nd floor closes at 5:00 pm)
Friday	7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Saturdays	Reference desk staffed by librarians
June 11 - July 30th*	9:00 am - 1:00 pm (2nd floor open with student help)
August 6th & 13th	CLOSED
Sunday	CLOSED

* Closed July 2-3-4

COM UPDATE

The COM CAT supplement which was run in mid-January has been received and placed at reader stations. The supplement contains 12,040 records on 19 fiche. The format is the same non-compact as the base catalog although we anticipated receiving the compact format for comparison purposes. Next time!

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One should always have something sensational to read in the train.

Oscar Wilde

LIBRARY SKILLS SUCCESSOR IN THE WORKS

Several BSU librarians spent most of the holiday/semester break compiling questions for the new Library Skills course, tentatively titled "Library Skills II."* The course is scheduled to be offered in Fall Semester, 1983, for the first time.

LS 103 would follow the format established in LS 102, Basic Library Skills. It would, however, be a considerably tougher course, demanding more of students than simple fill-in-the-blank answers. Students would be expected to provide evidence of understanding how to incorporate the advanced tools in a research strategy.

Some types of tools covered in the new course include: specialized biographical tools, annotated bibliographies, literary criticism, indexes to primary sources, obituary indexes, location tools, abstracting services, the Apple II computers, microfiche collections and their access tools, legal research materials, transmittal services, and current awareness tools.

Unlike Basic Library Skills, which was based on a program developed at UCLA, the new class is entirely original. Other universities have presented advanced library skills in subject courses, with separate texts and exercises for each of a dozen or more fields, but BSU lacks the staff to develop such a program here.

BLS will be a prerequisite for the new class, although students may complete the two concurrently. Other changes are also being contemplated, such as requiring attendance at an introductory lecture and requiring students to submit completed worksheets according to some kind of calendar (rather than permitting them to do the work at any time during the semester). It is anticipated that these changes, in addition to the more demanding curriculum, will keep the new course from ever achieving the kind of popularity of BLS, which now could attract far more than the 115 students accommodated each semester.

* It's not a catchy name; I personally prefer "Son of Library Skills." Over semester break, I was referring to it as son of something else, however. Ed.

POTPOURRI

In recent weeks you might have noticed cable being strung above the false ceiling in the mail hallway. The cable comes from the Data Center and now connects the Library to the Center's computer. At our end the terminal is housed in Serials by Jill's desk. Shortly, we will have more information on the uses of this terminal...Some of you may have noticed the new frosting on the back entry doors. Just a little preventative maintenance to make the increasing amount of portable equipment in Tech Services less visible to covetous eyes...For those of you who have not been to the Reference Room lately you should become aware that after the remodeling, changes in materials locations were also undertaken. If you have occasion to send users to the Reference Room you should become acquainted with the new locations...During the recent heavy rains the absence of running and dripping water was a sure sign that the re-roofing project has been completed. Its nice to come to work and not see evidence, including buckets, of the ravages of rain...Do you want to know more about Adrien Taylor? There is a rather complete sketch of Adrien's life and career by Anne Matjeka, in the January, 1983 Idaho Librarian...This issue of the Library Newsletter is about three weeks late. We are not receiving enough hard news to publish on a monthly schedule. Submissions of news items are urgently requested, even if to you they may seem of limited interest. Let the editors judge. Send us your news.

Contributors to this issue. Ralph Hansen, Beverly Miller, Gloria Ostrander.
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There is a great deal of difference between the eager man who wants to read a book, and the tired man who wants to read a book. A man reading a Le Queux mystery wants to get to the end of it. A man reading the Dickens novel wishes that it might never end. Men read a Dickens story six times because they knew it so well. If a man can read a Le Queux story six times it is only because he can forget it six times.

G. K. Chesterton