



So Many Changes

One year ago, we put a diagram on the front page of the newsletter of how the Library's main floor could maybe be configured. Now, that diagram is a reality and there are more changes in the works!

To recap, in 2005, we moved the Children's Collection to the lower level, reconfigured the Reference Desk, began replacing some of the study carrels with tables, and moved the Circulation Desk. Then, in 2006, we added more network ports on the main floor and improved wireless network access throughout the building. We also updated the multimedia classroom (TV Studio) on the top floor and installed compact shelving in Periodical Storage to pave the way for future main floor changes.

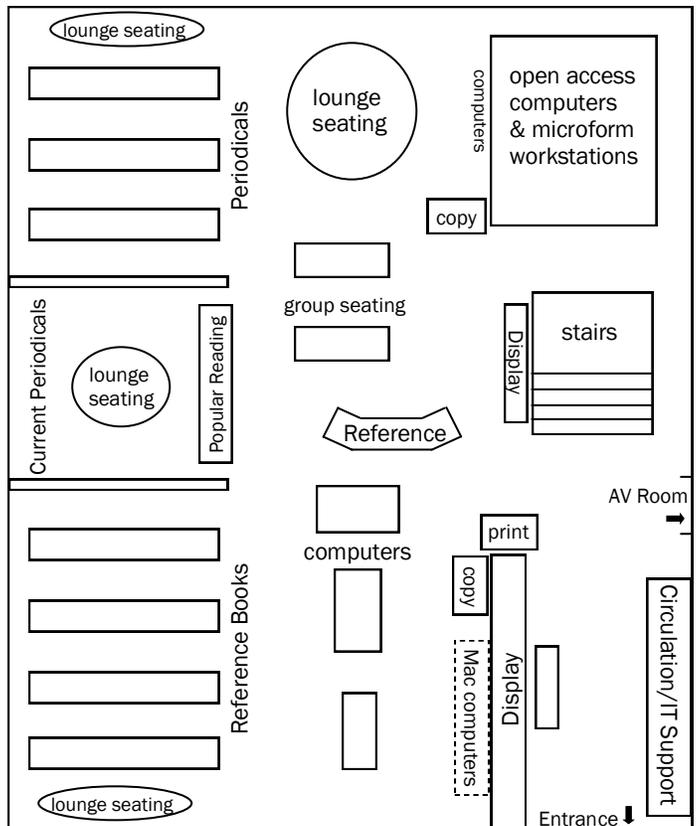
In Spring 2007, we expanded our hours, added late-night tech support, introduced the Popular Reading Collection (see p. 3), and started preparations for a reconfiguration of the Periodicals area by moving many older and/or less-used magazines and journals to the compact shelving mentioned above.

This move allowed us to take out four ranges of shelving on the main level during the summer thus opening up space for a new reading area with comfy furniture and easier-to-find current periodicals. We were also able to create a new and improved home for the Popular Reading Collection—these books are now on their new shelves right by the new reading area.

Another big change for Fall 2007 is the installation of four Macintosh computers in the Reference area. The Mac Lab (in Warner Hall) closes at 9pm and isn't open on weekends. Bringing these Macs to the Library will greatly increase access for Graphic Arts students and other Mac users.

While we have accomplished quite a bit, several things

remain to be done. A planned tech-enabled classroom/conference room for the upstairs, enhancements to the children's area, and other changes will have to wait their turns.



ABOVE: Basic main level floor plan, a dotted outline (.....) indicates an upcoming change

More Databases Available to Faculty & Staff

Now, for the first time ever, the New York State Research Library is making all its research databases available to "permanent New York State Government employees"—which includes SUNY Faculty and Staff! You can find a complete list

of available remote access databases on the NYSL website at: www.nysl.nysed.gov/gate/remotedb.htm. Library cards are also available to New York State residents. See a reference librarian for more information.

New Adaptive Technology Available

One of the goals of disAbility Support Services (DSS) is to help students with disabilities become more independent through learning how to use adaptive technology. Thanks to Perkins Grant funding, DSS has acquired some new technology to assist students in their academic pursuits.

To supplement the Premier Scan and Read program (scans and then reads printed material aloud) which we've been using for some time, we recently got "Key to Access" which gives you the Premier software on a USB MP3 player. This allows our students to have accessibility where ever they go. The Key to Access even has a built-in recorder that allows a student to dictate or record lectures and listen to them later.

We also got some new reading pens to provide personal reading assistance for discreet use where needed—classroom, library, or home. The pen scans single words or full lines of text. It can then display definitions, synonyms, or read scanned text aloud; it recognizes over 540,000 words.

We're excited about having this new technology to use this fall and hope our students will benefit from the freedom and independence that it provides them. To learn more about these new tools, or any of the other adaptive technologies we have available, please contact Lynn Abarno (x5282 or abarnolk@cobleskill.edu). Or, check out the DSS website (cobyweb.cobleskill.edu/DSS).

Instruction Program: What's New for 2007

The Library's Coordinator of Instruction, Fran Apollo, will be working closely with Dr. Susan Zimmermann and the ENG101 professors this year. Thanks to Sue for her leadership and the teachers of ENG101 for their willingness to collaborate. New this semester, we will administer an Information Literacy pre-test early in the fall and follow that with a post-test in December. This should help to gauge how well students are absorbing these skills.

With the assistance of Instructional Technology Coordinator Dr. Jiang Tan, Fran has completed the pre- and post-tests as well as a very brief survey for faculty to gauge where we all are on the road to integrating Information Literacy skills throughout the curriculum.

In addition to the direct classroom-related work, Sue and Fran will be working with department chairs in all three Schools to determine where the College is in its Information Literacy efforts. They will also work with them to illustrate where students encounter initial, intermediate, and higher level opportunities to acquire these important life-long learning skills. These

efforts are a continuation of the work recommended by the Information Literacy Task Force in May 2005.

In the Library, workshops will be presented on a variety of topics; watch for that schedule to be released. Also, several podcasts (online audio instruction) have been created and posted to the Instruction/Information Literacy area of the Library's website (cobyweb.cobleskill.edu/library), look for them under Services.

Looking ahead, Fran and Sue plan to secure a speaker for the January convocation to discuss some topic of interest, maybe copyright law since it relates to academic integrity. Like our meeting several years ago on advisement, this will be a real opportunity for us to affirm where we are and improve our service to students. We'll keep you posted as things develop and the time nears.

As always, Fran is available for instruction assistance in the classroom or the Library. Please contact her as early as possible for collaboration as her schedule can fill up quickly (apollof@cobleskill.edu or x5858).

Recommended Reading

The Whale Caller
by Zakes Mda

Ten Days in the Hills
by Jane Smiley

A Thousand Splendid Suns
by Khaled Hosseini

A Lotus Grows in the Mud
by Goldie Hawn

Bradbury Speaks: Too Soon From the Cave, Too Far From the Stars
by Ray Bradbury

The Double Bind
by Christopher Bohjalian

Married to the Mop: a Charlotte LaRue Mystery
by Barbara Colley

The Greedy Bastard Diary: a Comic Tour of America
by Eric Idle

From Rage to Reason: My Life in Two Americas
by Janet Langhart Cohen

Cooked: from the Streets to the Stove, from Cocaine to Foie Gras
by Jeff Henderson

Tutorials & More with ScreenCorder

The Library has purchased an exciting new piece of software—ScreenCorder 5. ScreenCorder is a desktop recording program from MatchWare. The program lets you record activity on your screen with or without audio, insert webcam or other AVI videos, and enhance your recordings with various interactive elements. You can even add quizzes where appropriate to assess how users are doing or gather feedback.

ScreenCorder is great for creating training videos, tutorials, and online demonstrations for classes. Contact Jiang Tan (tanj@cobleskill.edu or x5869) to learn more.

LiSUG Conference Coming to Cobleskill

The Library Software Users Group (LiSUG) Fall Conference will be held at SUNY Cobleskill on Friday Oct. 5. Part of LiSUG's mission is to encourage discussion and education within and between interest groups of SUNY librarians and staff with regard to the wide variety of software used in SUNY libraries—from course management systems to blogs to research databases.

The conference will offer sixteen 45-minute presentations, four in each time slot. Some really good proposals have come in and it looks to be an exciting day. Sessions will focus on topics such as: library web integration with the Angel course management system, Binghamton University Libraries' implementation of Innovative's Encore product, and Aleph version 18 features.

Further information about LiSUG and the conference can be found on the LiSUG website: www.sunyla.org/lisug.

360 Link Replaces SFX

The Library is now using Serials Solutions' 360 Link as our OpenURL link resolver. 360 Link connects our various research databases and makes it easier to locate the full-text of articles, when available. So, if you're in Academic Search Premier and it's only giving you a citation for that article on wetland remediation you want, 360 Link can tell you that the full-text is available in Science Direct and link you right to the article. Or, if it's not in one of our databases, it can link you to ILLiad so you can get it through Interlibrary Loan.

Besides linking between databases, 360 Link also lets you find out whether specific journals are available full-text to begin with and which full-text journals are readily available in a given subject area. The 'A-Z Full-Text Electronic Journals List' on our website (cobyweb.cobleskill.edu/library) provides a searchable list of thousands of full-text journal titles.

360 Link replaced our previous article linker, SFX, this past July and we think there have been some definite improvements. The linking is more up-to-date and the interface gives users more options. Improvements or no, there are still some bugs to work out so please let us know if you run into any problems.

Microsoft Office 2007

Office 2007 (Word, Outlook, etc.) has been installed on all of the Library's public computers. Things look very different and some features may be difficult to find. Feel free to ask one of the reference librarians if you have questions.

Mentoring Matters at SUNY Cobleskill

The Fall 2007 semester will be the third time the students enrolled in the MERITS program will have a peer mentor assigned to help them transition from high school to college. Each academically at-risk student will have an upper classmate assigned to help them become acquainted with the campus, the available technology, and with study skills. The objective of this program is to help the new student succeed.

Students chosen to be peer mentors have been successful academically and will:

- Serve as role models for students who will benefit from another responsible student in their lives.
- Engage, encourage, and support the mentee during the first transitional semester.
- Help with problem solving academic and other issues

E-Resource Spotlight: ARTstor

ARTstor, according to their own documentation, “provides curated collections of art images and associated data for noncommercial and scholarly, non-profit educational use.” The collections are very good; they are also searchable and the images can be downloaded. All of which makes ARTstor a valuable educational resource. Photographs of Aboriginal cave paintings in Australia? No problem. A self-portrait by Mark Rothko? Got it. An agriculturally themed painting from 17th century China? There are several to choose from.

Like our other research databases, ARTstor can be accessed on or off campus, 24/7 from our website (cobyweb.cobleskill.edu/library). One quirk to be aware of—the search interface is slow to load. Just give it a minute and all will be well.

Foundation Center Grants Collection

Nonprofit organizations and other grantseekers on campus and in the surrounding area looking for funding sources now have access to a valuable new collection of print and online resources! The Van Wagenen Library's Foundation Center Cooperating Collection is one of over 200 such collections in the United States. The Center's mission is to gather, analyze and disseminate information about foundations to organizations and individuals looking for grants. The collection is located on the main floor of the Library and is available for use whenever the Library is open.

Two comprehensive online databases are also part of this collection: the Foundation Directory Online and Foundation Grants to Individuals Online. The Foundation Directory is aimed at nonprofit organizations and provides access to the Center's database of more than 80,000 grantmakers and half a million grants, updated weekly. Foundation Grants to Individuals is for students, artists, and researchers and offers access to the Foundation Center's special database of more than 6,100 funders, updated quarterly. Both databases are accessible from the computers in the Library. Please contact Peter Barvoets (barvoeped@cobleskill.edu or x5894) for more information about this valuable resource.

that may occur on the campus.

- Talk over school and goals in life.

While the peer mentor is working to provide information and guidance to the new student, he/she is also gaining new personal skills and expanding his/her own leadership abilities. Mentors increase their own self-esteem and strengthen their academic development.

The mentoring program is housed in the Center for Academic Support and Excellence (CASE) on the Library's lower level. The program is coordinated by Marilyn Barnes, Interim Director, and Deborah Collins-Madison, assistant to the MERITS and Retention program. Additional information about MERITS and other CASE programs can be found on CASE's website (cobyweb.cobleskill.edu/CASE).

Popular Reading Proves Popular

Do you ever just want something to read? The Library's Popular Reading Collection can help! There are hundreds of books to enjoy, including the latest best sellers from J.K. Rowling, Mitch Albom, Suze Orman, Jodi Picoult, Barack Obama, James Patterson, Susan Isaacs, Robert Ludlum, Patricia Cornwell, Ishmael Beah, Dean Koontz, and so many others. In fact, all of this issue's recommended titles (p. 2) are from this collection.

Why have a popular collection? People have been asking for more leisure reading material the last few years. We thought it was a good idea and finally, thanks to some Investment funding, in March 2007, we were able to give it a try. We're monitoring this new collection closely to see if the usage will be strong enough to justify the expense. So far, it's a hit!

The Popular Reading Collection can be found right on the Library's main floor and a full list of titles is easily accessible from our website (cobyweb.cobleskill.edu/library).

First Friday @ the Library

The Library is hosting the first “First Friday” of the semester (Sept. 7) and all faculty and staff are invited! We'll begin at 4:00pm, probably in the TV Studio since we're still open until 5:00pm. We'll show off what's new, offer demos of databases, and (of course) have some refreshments. Contributions of snacks and/or beverages are welcome.

Data Tracking in CASE—AccuTrack

AccuTrack is a system for tracking user information. Starting this semester, we're going to have all students who use CASE sign-in to AccuTrack. The program will help us gather data by tracking student visits, contact hours, tutoring usage, usage of disability support services, student demographic information, equipment loans, etc. AccuTrack will also generate reports as needed. We are very excited about using this program to help with the extensive data collection required for our various grants and program assessments.

Libraries are far from the rarefied cathedrals of secular humanism they pretend to be, while librarians are the shadiest creatures this side of the Russian mob.

— David Schmader (Last Days column, thestranger.com, 17 October 2002)

50/50 Book Sale Starts Homecoming Weekend

Give us your books! Buy others to replace them! Seriously, it's almost time for our big annual book sale and half of the proceeds from this year's sale are going to charity. The book sale starts on Homecoming Weekend (Sept. 28-30) and keeps running throughout October.

Everyone is encouraged to clean out their bookshelves and CD/DVD racks to help stock the sale carts. Simply drop items off at the Circulation Desk and we'll

LibQUAL+ Survey Results

The LibQUAL+ survey administered this spring was designed to assess users' perceptions regarding library service quality. We also ran this survey in 2003 and, now that the 2007 results are in, we can compare and see what's changed.

The Library continued to score well in terms of service. Most respondents indicated that they receive good one-on-one attention and that librarians and support staff are generally helpful and pleasant to deal with. This is great for us to hear since service is one of the things we stress.

We scored fairly well in the "library as place" category in 2003 but we scored

take it from there. Please try to get your stuff to us by Sept. 26th so we have time to sort through things.

Prices will be the same as usual: \$1 for hardcovers, 50¢ for paperbacks. Big multi-volume sets, non-book items, and other special items will have their prices posted. We sold around 400 books last year—we can beat that number!

Questions? Contact April Davies (x5887 or daviesac@cobleskill.edu).

even better this time around. We're reasonably sure that's due to our continued efforts to make the Library a welcoming and functional space.

While we didn't score badly in any area of the 2007 survey, please rest assured that we won't be resting on our library-laurels. We will continue to work on improving access to resources, providing high-quality service, and finding new ways to serve your information needs.

The Library would like to thank the 376 students, faculty, and staff who took the time to participate in the LibQUAL+ survey. The results will help to guide our endeavors now and in the years to come.

Book Talks

Talk about a good book! On Sept. 4, *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult will be discussed by faculty-student panel members Sue Zimmermann, Chuck Moran, David Brunjes, and Claire Papell. Michael Crichton's book *Next* will be the topic for Sept. 18, featuring panel members Michael Murphy,

Cindy Shelley, Betsy Jensen, and Christy LaGrotta. Both events will be held in the Gallery at 4:00 pm. Copies of both titles are available for loan from the Circulation desk at the Library. Refreshments will be available. Mark your calendars and join in the conversation.

Staff News

Fran Apollo traveled to Washington D.C. in June for the American Library Association (ALA) annual conference as part of her duties as President-elect of the Eastern New York Association of College and Research Libraries (ENYACRL). Fran has also been "moonlighting" as a book reviewer for *Multicultural Review* since May.

Marilyn Barnes is stepping in as Interim Director of the Center for Academic Support and Excellence (CASE) for the coming year. She is taking over for Kathy Johnson who has moved back to a teaching line in the Humanities department.

Peter Barvoets co-presented a preconference session entitled "Tinkering in the Engine Room: Aleph Reports Topics" at the SUNY Librarians Association (SUNYLA) annual conference in June. Pete is currently serving as Chair for upcoming Library Software Users' Group (LiSUG) conference to be held here at Cobleskill in October.

Gina Brady has joined the staff as a Library Clerk III in Circulation and Interlibrary Loan. We stole her from SUNY Albany's Dewey Graduate Library.

Deborah Collins-Madison joined the staff as a MERITS/Retention Program Assistant in August. Deb previously worked part-time in the Circulation department.

April Davies completed her duties as Presentations Co-Chair for the 2007 SUNYLA conference held at SUNY Maritime June 13-15. The conference went very well and has received great reviews so far. She is now serving as Conference Vice Chair/Chair-elect for LiSUG.

Gregg Kiehl received the 2007 Interlibrary Loan Distinguished Service Award from the Capital District Library Council for his work on the Point-2-Point ILL project.

Jiang Tan attended the Conference on Instructional Technologies (CIT) held at SUNY Plattsburgh May 29-June 1, partly funded by a \$100 FACT scholarship, where she won a 32-unit CPS (classroom clicker) system! More on that later.

Carl "MacGyver" Walther, long-time AV tech extraordinaire, retired at the end of July. Contrary to rumor, he is not chained up in the basement repairing microfilm machines.

Library Hours for Fall 2007*

Mon.-Thurs.	8:00am-12:00am
Friday	8:00am-5:00pm
Saturday	10:00am-4:00pm
Sunday	2:00pm-12:00am

* **Library Café open until midnight—every night!**

Calendar

Sept. 4	Book Talk: <i>Nineteen Minutes</i> by Jodi Picoult
Sept. 7	Faculty/Staff 'First Friday' event
Sept. 18	Book Talk: <i>Next</i> by Michael Crichton
Sept. 28-30	Book Sale begins / Homecoming Weekend
Sept. 29 - Oct. 6	Banned Books Week
Oct. 5	LiSUG Conference
Nov. 6	Election Day
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day
Nov. 12-18	Children's Book Week
Dec. 17-20	Finals Week