Point of Reference - Spring 2003
Renovation Update: Entire Collection on the Move

Gould Library’s entire collection will be uprooted this summer as compact shelving is installed for bound periodicals and books are reordered into a more logical arrangement. This move begins phase two of the building’s renovation.

“This is about housekeeping,” says College librarian Sam Demas. “The library is at full capacity and the installation of compact shelving will provide enough storage space to accommodate the collection through 2007. This also seemed like the opportune time to reorganize the books.”

The move will begin immediately after final exams and be completed by August 29. Bound periodicals will be placed in new compact shelving on level two and rearranged by subject, according to newly assigned Library of Congress call letters. (They are currently arranged alphabetically by title). The book collection will be reordered, beginning with Library of Congress call letter A on level one and ending with call letter Z on level three.

“In this way, the books will be stacked logically,” says loan services manager Jennifer Edwins. “We believe changing the order of the books will make finding them more intuitive.”

The science faculty and the library committee also recommended that science books (call letters Q, R, and S) be located on level three, adjacent to group study spaces. “We took into account the social character of each floor—fourth being the noisiest and first being the quietest,” Edwins says. “Group study of science on third tends to be a little noisier than individual study of humanities on first.”

As part of the move, about 26 percent of the library’s collection—books with call letters N through Z—will be boxed and stored off campus, making them unavailable all summer. These books include the disciplines of art and art history, languages and literatures, all sciences, public health, agriculture, forestry, photography, and technology. Library staff members are urging faculty members and others to think
Art in the Library:
The Carleton Arch

The Carleton Arch is a common sight to library patrons, who may walk past it every day without a thought about its presence or meaning. But when sculptor Dimitri Hadzi installed the 18-foot-tall stone sculpture in the spring of 1986, it was greeted with editorials, cartoons, and spirited discussions that aired the mixed feelings of the Carleton community.

The sculpture stands in Founder’s Court, a small memorial plaza honoring the contributions of College supporters from the days of William Carleton to the present. Its arched shape, a favorite motif for Hadzi, recalls ancient architecture as well as the human form abstracted on a monumental scale.

“Satellite pieces,” large fragments of stone that Hadzi placed in the plantings outside Founder’s Court, reinforce his allusions to classical ruins.

A Harvard professor and creator of public sculptures nationwide, Hadzi was one of several artists commissioned in 1984 to enhance the library and its environs with artworks. He designed the Carleton Arch to be “a didactic reference, providing a link to history and a focus for the future.”

Carleton students eyed this new sculpture warily at first. The Carletonian reported the range of opinions. Some missed the flower bed that was removed to make way for Founder’s Court; others analyzed the sculpture’s look and meaning. “The work is timeless, fitting for a campus that contains architecture spanning a number of years,” said one student, while another grumbled, “It sucks.”

A third realized that over time, novelty would give way to acceptance: “Perhaps, when we return for reunions several years from now, we will embrace this conglomeration of stone.” Today the arch is a familiar element of the campus landscape, with mature plantings that enhance its setting.

Inside the library, Hadzi’s Cosmic Glow I, made in 2000, hangs in a study area on the second level. This monotype (a unique image made by painting with ink on a printing plate, which is printed onto paper in a press) draws on Hadzi’s interests in the natural sciences to evoke the cold depths of the night sky.

Thomas O’Sullivan is curator of art and exhibitions at Gould Library.

Behind the Scenes with Technical Services

It’s a pretty good assumption that most Carls, if they were asked to identify a library staff member, would name someone who works in the reference area or at the checkout desk. Though less visible, technical services staff members provide equally important services, albeit behind the scenes.

These nine staff members order, receive, process, and catalog all of the library’s materials. They maintain subscriptions to more than 1,600 print periodicals and newspapers (plus about 14,000 electronic ones). They organize more than 400,000 government documents and operate the library’s online management system, which tracks everything from what items each patron has checked out to what’s on order to the financial record for each book.

“Most people don’t understand the breadth of the work done in technical services,” says department head Carol Eyler. “Essentially we are responsible for providing the library’s resources to its users.”

New items arrive daily and move quickly and efficiently through technical services. Staff members sort the library’s mail twice a day for newspapers, journals, and magazines that need to be checked in and processed immediately. “Our goal is to have new periodicals on the shelf no later than 3 p.m.,” Eyler says.

New books come in nearly every day; cataloging and processing them requires less than two weeks.

Technical services orders books mostly from vendors like Amazon and Barnes & Noble, or wholesalers like Midwest...
Since 1930 the library has been a depository for publications of the U.S. government and its various agencies. The library is not charged acquisition fees for these documents—the program’s purpose is to guarantee citizens access to government information. The documents librarian chooses what documents to receive—the library’s current collection includes the U.S. Code (the official codification of laws), all papers related to water supply, most of the Smithsonian Institution publications, and much more. Documents are classified in the SuDocs system, which arranges documents according to the issuing agency. For example, publications from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are filed under I for U.S. Department of the Interior. Technical services is in the process of creating catalog records for Carleton’s government documents to make finding them easier for patrons.

“We really are a service department,” Eyler says. “Everything we do relates to providing materials in support of the Carleton curriculum.”

The technical services offices are located in the northwest corner of the fourth floor. Next time you’re in the library, stop by and say hello—and thanks.

Marla Holt is a staff writer and editor for Carleton.

### Book Notes: Rediscovering German Novelist Irmgard Keun

Irmgard Keun, a popular novelist in Weimar Germany, has been all but forgotten by the American public. Known for her portrayals of the independent, sexually liberated, and materialistic “New Woman” of the 1920s and 1930s, Keun went into exile after her work was banned by the Nazis and subsequently slipped into obscurity. Kathie von Ankum’s 2002 translation of Das kunstseidene Mädchen (The Artificial Silk Girl) reintroduces Keun and her work to American readers.

Keun’s story is about Doris, a young office worker in a provincial German town who aspires to a life of glamour beyond her humble origins. Seeking upward social mobility through her paramours, she flits from one romantic liaison to another, eternally hopeful that the next man will give her a grand romance, a role in his new film, or, at the very least, some money to purchase a new dress or purse. After a brief stint in the local theater, she leaves for Berlin with only a stolen fur coat for comfort and companionship. Doris tries to realize her dreams there, but instead encounters many forms of human misery—hunger, homelessness, unemployment, crime. Wandering the streets, she befriends prostitutes, disabled World War I veterans, and other misfits relegated to Berlin’s underworld. Ultimately, Doris recognizes her dreams as self-deception.

Modern readers undoubtedly will recognize Doris’s similarity to Bridget Jones and other heroines of modern fiction. Yet The Artificial Silk Girl is also a work of its time, offering a fascinating glimpse of Depression-era Berlin and a biting social critique of women’s emancipation in Weimar Germany.

Colleen McFarland is a reference and instruction librarian at Gould Library.
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moved out of the north end of level three, we can bring back N through Z to occupy that location.”

Beltmann Group, a moving company that specializes in library work, will conduct the complex move. Using 30 to 40 people, they will work throughout the summer to complete the project on time.

Demas regrets the disruption of service caused by the move and says this part of the renovation is only a Band-Aid to the library’s space crunch. “The building was expanded in 1984 to accommodate collection growth until 2004. We actually filled up in 2001. With these changes we’ll gain more space, but we’ll run out again in 2007–08. By then, a long-term solution must be in place. It has never been our intent to fill every last inch of the library with books. We want to maintain the library as an important place to gather and study and to enhance that space for learning and teaching.”

Marla Holt is a staff writer and editor for Carleton.

Navigating Carleton’s Resources

Cambridge Scientific Abstracts Databases

In 1996 Carleton was the first institution in Minnesota to subscribe to Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA). In the past year, students, faculty members, and staff members have conducted nearly 100,000 searches on CSA, making it one of our most heavily used products. But don’t let the name fool you—there are other databases in CSA that aren’t necessarily scientific, including Linguistics & Behavior Abstracts, Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS), and Sociological Abstracts.

L’Année Philologique

L’Année Philologique is an annual bibliography of articles on the archaeology, history, law, linguistics and literature, philosophy, and science and technology of ancient Greece and Rome. It indexes 1,500 periodicals and contains 350,000 records, including abstracts. The majority of indexed articles are not in English, but results can be limited by language. This database is most useful to classics students and faculty members.
Middle English Compendium

Middle English Compendium brings together several important tools for research on Middle English language and literature—the Electronic Middle English Dictionary, the HyperBibliography of Middle English, and the Corpus of Middle English Prose and Verse. The Electronic Middle English Dictionary contains all of the content of the print *Middle English Dictionary*, organized in a database that allows a wide range of searching. The HyperBibliography is a hypertext bibliography of all of the Middle English texts cited in the *Middle English Dictionary*. The Corpus of Middle English Prose and Verse is a searchable digital library of Middle English texts. The Corpus currently provides access to 62 texts, with the goal of collecting authoritative texts of all works cited in the *Middle English Dictionary*.

Newspapers

You can access many online newspapers through the library’s databases, ranging from current to historical issues. From the library’s Web site, follow the link to databases, then click on *multi-discipline*. Scroll down to the newspapers category. LexisNexis Academic contains current full text articles from more than 50 major English language papers, hundreds of regional papers, and about 300 campus newspapers. ProQuest Historical Newspapers database offers access to the full text of the *New York Times* (1851–1999) and the *Wall Street Journal* (1889–1985). You can find the *Star Tribune* through the National Newspapers 5. Don’t forget that the library also subscribes to 39 print newspapers from around the world. Curl up with one in a comfy chair on level four!

BioOne: Not a Typical Database Publisher

BioOne brings to the Web a uniquely valuable aggregation of the full text of 46 high-impact research journals in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences. Most of these titles are published by scientific societies and, until now, have been available only in print form. BioOne is the product of an innovative collaboration between scientific societies, academe, and the commercial sector. It is offered as a nonprofit venture through the combined efforts of:

• the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), a coalition of 200 libraries that promotes and facilitates expanded competition in the scientific journals market;

• the American Institute of Biological Sciences, publisher of the journal *BioScience*, is a federation of scientific societies that facilitates the exchange and dissemination of research;

• the Big 12 Plus Libraries Consortium, which represents 23 major research libraries;

• the University of Kansas, focusing on scholarly inquiry; and

• Allen Press, one of the nation’s leading producers of scientific, academic, and medical journals.

This collaboration among public and private organizations is a new model for scientific societies, universities, libraries, and publishers. It represents a groundbreaking approach to service, design, features, cost, and terms of use for publishers, subscribers, and end users. At the heart of the collaboration is the belief that these alternatives to commercially published research can play a continuing and expanding role in scientific communications.

Gould Library has been a consortial member of SPARC since 1999. By participating, Carleton has access to new services that promote increased accessibility to the research literature. Continuing developments in technology will improve the scholarly communication process and reduce production and distribution costs. In future issues watch for other SPARC initiatives the library is bringing to your desktop.

First-Year Student Information Literacy Survey

During last fall’s New Student Week, librarians surveyed 176 first-year students about their previous library experiences, research skills and habits, and citation practices. Students were asked to provide self-assessments and to demonstrate specific information literacy skills. The results provide information about students’ experience with and understanding of research practices, and the data has been used to reassess library instruction for introductory level classes.

Over the next several months, Carleton librarians will work with colleagues at 11 other colleges to construct a common Web-based survey to gauge first-year students’ information literacy. With support and funding from the Midwest Instructional Technology Center, the project will result in a spring 2004 pilot survey for use by all participating institutions.

Some of the results from Carleton’s 2002–03 First-Year Student Information Literacy Survey are on the following page. The complete survey results are available at www.library.carleton.edu/reference/InfoLit/fysurvey2002.htm.

Profile: Charles Priore

cpriore@carleton.edu • x4415

Liaison librarian to biochemistry, biology, chemistry, physics and astronomy, and geology.

To contact the liaison librarian who specializes in your area of interest or to arrange for classroom instruction in the use of reference materials, visit www.library.carleton.edu/reference/lliaisons.html.
Athenæum Events & Library Exhibits

This list is a sampling of what’s happening in the library. For an up-to-date listing of events, visit www.library.carleton.edu/Athenaeum. For more information about exhibits, visit www.library.carleton.edu/admin/exhibits.

Faculty Scholarship Celebration Party
A celebration honoring faculty and staff members who recently have published books or major peer-reviewed journal articles or produced significant creative work.
Tuesday, April 8 • 4:30 p.m.

Fourth Annual Classics Marathon Reading
Tuesday, April 8 • 7:00 p.m.

Presented by the Perlman Learning and Teaching Center
Thursday, April 10 • 12 noon

American Scenes between the Wars: The Fine Print, 1917–45
A reception in conjunction with the library’s exhibit of the same name.
Thursday, April 10 • 8:00 p.m.

Annie Oakley and a History of Women at Arms
Firearms historian R. L. Wilson ’61 is the author of 42 books and more than 200 magazine articles. His lecture is in conjunction with the library’s exhibit of his works: A Lifetime in Art and Antiques.
Tuesday, April 15 • 5:00 p.m.

Minnesota’s Regionalist Printmakers: Subjects, Styles, and Aspirations
Thomas O’Sullivan, curator of art and exhibitions, Gould Library
Wednesday, April 16 • 7:00 p.m.

Sand County Almanac Reading in Honor of Earth Week
President Robert A. Oden Jr.
Monday, April 21 • 8:00 p.m.

Maura Nolan Lecture on Geoffrey Chaucer
Wednesday, April 23 • 4:00 p.m.

The Green Fuse
Poetry and prose reading
Friday, April 25 • 7:30 p.m.

Off-Campus Studies Photographs and Readings
In conjunction with the 17th Annual Off-Campus Studies Photo Exhibit
Thursday, May 8 • 7:00 p.m.

Anonymity and Free Speech in a Digital World
Presented by the Perlman Learning and Teaching Center
Thursday, May 15 • 12 noon

Poetry Reading
Arthur Sze, author of five books of poetry, including The Redshifting Web
Thursday, May 15 • 7:00 p.m.

Reading and Book Signing
Iris Chang, author of The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II
Monday, May 19 • 7:00 p.m.

Karimba Recital
Carleton students led by Melinda Russell, assistant professor of music
Tuesday, May 27 • 12 noon

Point of Reference
is available online at
www.library.carleton.edu

Gould Library
Spring term hours:
Weekdays 8 a.m. to 1 a.m.
Saturdays 8 a.m. to midnight
Sundays 10 a.m. to 1 a.m.