



Collection Connection

The Newsletter of Trexler Library

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Spring 2006

Greetings from the Library Director

Martha Stevenson
Interim Director, Trexler Library

Welcome back everyone! Hope your spring semester got off to a good start. The library missed everyone. It got to be a tad too quiet around here.

In December I became Interim Director of Trexler Library. I am honored that I was given this opportunity to lead the library for a while and will do my best to keep us moving forward. It will be a semester of change. During my time as Interim Director I will make sure the library continues to provide the same great services to our patrons. Hopefully, during this time we can also implement some of the new ideas and projects the library staff seem to always be thinking of that would make us better than we are.

Many of you I know, but for those of you who do not know me, I was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. I tend to say "y'all" quite often and I could probably get you Elvis' autograph next time I'm at home! I have a B.S. in Computer Science and an M.S. in Library Science, both from the University of Tennessee. My first professional job as a librarian took me to Minot State College in Minot, North Dakota, where I spent 9 years. On many days I went to work in 22 below degree weather. It was also here that I met my husband, Bruce. In 1998 we made our way to Allentown where I began my job here at Trexler as Sciences Reference Librarian. A few years ago I moved up the ladder to Head of Public Services. As such I oversee reference, interlibrary loan, and circulation/reserves services. Along the way Bruce and I acquired three dogs, a cat, and our first home on Route 309. I enjoy reading, of course, walking, and fixing up our 250 year old home--which is never-ending.



Fun Fact: The iris (Genus Iridaceae) was designated as the state cultivated flower by the Legislature in 1933. While there are several different colors among the iris, the purple iris is commonly accepted as the Tennessee state flower.

During this semester, if you have any questions, concerns, or comments for me please send me an e-mail, stop by for a visit (my office is on Level A, next to the Circulation Desk), or we could meet at Java Joe's.

Have a great spring semester.

Martha Stevenson
Interim Director

Public Services Updates

TAX FORMS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Dawn Kramlich, Reference Student Assistant

Tax forms will no longer be available in paper form at the reference desk. In an effort to cut down on paper consumption, and to speed up the refund process, the federal government has decided to no longer supply us with tax forms. However, do not fret! We have made it easier for everyone by making them available online.



The following websites, which can be accessed from any computer, anywhere, present the forms for the public.

Federal tax forms will be obtainable by going to the website: www.irs.gov

Pennsylvania state tax forms are available on: www.revenue.state.pa.us

New Jersey state tax forms can be found on: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation

In addition, these websites will be set to the default link and readily available to you on select computers in the reference area. PC #8's desk top has the direct link for federal forms; PC #9's desk top has the direct link for Pennsylvania state forms.

Stop by the reference desk or look at our upcoming poster for more information.

PALCI and EZ Borrow

Kristin Harakal, Interlibrary Loan Manager

If you have not yet taken advantage of the new EZ Borrow Interlibrary Loan, please check it out by going to the library home page and finding the link under Finding Books and then E-Z Borrow Catalogs. Books are arriving in a timely manner and will be checked out for an eight-week period. There will be no additional renewals.

Due to a grant the library received from LSTA (Library Services & Technology Act), which is administered by the Office of Commonwealth of Libraries, Muhlenberg has now joined PALCI. The Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium, Inc. (PALCI) was formed in 1996 as a grassroots federation of 35 academic libraries. It now has over 55 members. Three of its current members, Rutgers University, Seton Hall and University of West Virginia, are outside of Pennsylvania, but offer much with their catalog. PALCI is a membership organization of private and public academic libraries. The primary mission of the group is to spur the development of library cooperation within the Commonwealth and surrounding area. An EZ Borrow link can be found from the library home page allowing patrons to directly order books from other PALCI members. Once you type in the title, author, subject or ISBN of the book you are interested in, the system will search the catalogue for a match. The book can be ordered once a match is made.

A number of PALCI libraries have agreed to extend free reciprocal borrowing privileges to each other's faculty so they may have direct, personal access to materials that are not available at the home institution. I hope that you will find the time to take advantage of this new service.

If you have any questions concerning either privilege, please contact Kristin in the Interlibrary Loan office at X3510 or email harakal@muhlenberg.edu.



Trexler Library Drop-In Workshops

Trexler Library is launching a series of drop-in workshops on a variety of research-related topics. Faculty and staff, come for your own interest, or invite your students to attend. We do ask if you require a large group of students or an entire class to attend, that you email us in advance, at

refdesk@muhlenberg.edu. Otherwise, just show up, no signup required! Attend as many and as often as you like.

**Location for all workshops: Trexler Library B01
Seating capacity: 32**

Journal Locator and Beyond

Date: Tuesday, February 14
Time: 11:00-11:30 a.m.
Track down full text wherever it is hiding.
Know all your options.

Smart Interlibrary Loan

Date: Tuesday, February 21
Time: 2:00-2:50 p.m.
How to get what you want through interlibrary loan fast and efficiently.

Google Tricks

Date: Thursday, March 2
Time: 11:00-11:50 a.m.
Smart searching in Google. Interpreting Google results.

Smart Interlibrary Loan

Date: Tuesday, March 7
Time: 11:00-11:50 noon
How to get what you want through interlibrary loan fast and efficiently.

Google Tricks

Date: Friday, March 17
Time: 1:00-1:50 p.m.
Smart searching in Google. Interpreting Google results.

Journal Locator and Beyond

Date: Monday, March 27
Time: 4:00-4:30 p.m.
Track down full text wherever it is hiding.
Know all your options.

APA Bibliography Magic

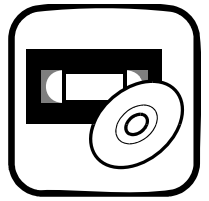
Date: Wednesday, April 5
Time: 4:00-4:50 p.m.
All things APA, including citing sources from the internet.

MLA Bibliography Magic

Date: Thursday, April 20
Time: 4:00-4:50 p.m.
All things MLA, including citing sources from the internet.



Technical Services Updates



Trexler Planning to Publish Civil War Manuscript

Linda Bowers, Head, Technical Services

Trexler Library owns by deed of gift the holographic manuscript *History of the 209th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry of the 18th Army Corps, Army of the James; and 9th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac*, by J. Howard Wert. Wert, a prolific writer of local history in the Adams and Dauphin counties area of Pennsylvania, had first hand experience as a government scout during the Battle of Gettysburg. He was considered a recognized authority on the Battle and his collection of battlefield memorabilia known as The Wert Gettysburg Collection, now in private hands, is nationally famous. He joined the 209th Pennsylvania regiment in 1864, after the battle, rising from sergeant to lieutenant in the unit. This unique manuscript, currently housed in the Rare Book Collection, is eminently legible and well preserved. The library feels that the publication and distribution of this material will add much to the scholarship of Civil War and Pennsylvania history.

The Library asked Professor Edward Bonekemper of the History Department, a well-published author of Civil War histories, to comment on the value of the manuscript's contents. He found the history of the 209th to be a "well written and informative document. The text is filled with views on regimental organization, bounties, bounty-hunters, life of the common soldier, picket duty, sutlers, 'colored' troops, and other features of late-war military life. It contains many details about the siege of Petersburg, a Civil War development that presaged the trench warfare of World War I—complete with sharp-shooting, no-man's land, deserters, and attacks by soldiers feigning desertion (one of which captured the 209th commander and many of the soldiers)". Last spring, Professor Bonekemper and two of his students, Mike Engels and Mark Cantora, provided the Library with a preliminary transcription of the text and valuable analysis of the contents of the manuscript. Their insights convinced the Library to pursue publication.

Over the summer, Dr. Michael Barton, Associate Professor of American Studies and Social Science, from Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg, agreed to take on the project and become Editor-in-

Chief. His familiarity with the writings of J. Howard Wert is evident in his editorship of *Harrisburg's Old Eighth Ward*, (Arcadia, 2002), which contains 35 articles written by Wert originally published in the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania *Patriot* from 1912 to 1913. Barton prefaced the volume with an extensive biographical introductory essay on the author. At present, Dr. Barton has several of his Penn State graduate students transcribing, researching, and annotating the manuscript. They will be looking for suitable photographs to go with the text, and will be scouring other archives for additional manuscript or previously published diaries and letters written by unit members that could be included with the history of the 209th regiment. The Library is hoping that Pennsylvania State University Press or Stackpole Press might publish the final result. The project sounds both exciting and noteworthy, and the Library will keep the campus updated on the progress.

We Asked...The Students Answered

Penny Lochner, Serials Librarian

Students who were at Muhlenberg last spring may recall being asked to complete a survey about the library. Since the last official survey had been conducted about a decade ago, we thought perhaps the time had come to reevaluate our performance! The library staff asked students to complete a 55-question survey, which was available in a paper version and online. About 15% of the students responded, with participants representing all majors and academic levels. The library's Assessment Committee will issue a final report soon, which will be posted on the library's website. There will be an announcement on the library's blog, so watch the home page. The report will include a compilation of all survey questions with results as well as commentary and recommended changes. We recognize the importance of student feedback in making the library a better place. In the meantime, here's a bit of what we found.

We were pleased to learn that the overwhelming majority of students are happy with the service they receive in the library. We now know that the library as a campus venue remains important. Students use the library to study almost as much as for doing research. A strong majority like the atmosphere and find it a comfortable and functional study space, although about 1 in 10 are not satisfied with all aspects. And – in a bit of a reminder for us – we learned that having access to working computers and group study spaces in the library are extremely important to students.

Having an unfinished final report hasn't prevented us from taking action. The most asked for enhancement – the ability to renew library materials online – was added to the library website last summer. The next most asked for – online access to course reserves – is a much more complicated undertaking, but don't count that out yet, we are working on it. Other popular requests included wiring study carrels for Internet access, adding a coffee cart, getting more periodicals (online & print), and the ability to use a flex account to pay for photocopies. Since last spring, wireless Internet access has been available in the library, and we have added hundreds more full text online periodicals to the library's catalog.

As part of the survey, students were invited to tell us their complaints and suggestions. As we tallied recurring comments, we discovered students most frequently complimented the staff and expressed their satisfaction with the physical space. They value the computers and online journals. Without question, malfunctioning printers, computers, and copiers caused students the most frustration. Regarding library services, only 5% of the students who answered the survey wanted to see the library stay open longer hours. To test how useful this would be for the rest of the students, the library hours were extended during final exams in fall 2005. You can be assured that the library staff will continue to address issues uncovered by the survey.

Thank you to all students who participated. If you have more ideas you'd like to share or make other comments, please remember we keep a suggestion box near the front door, or email the director at any time.

Facts on Foreign Orders

Karen Gruber-Acquisitions Manager

Foreign materials are among the hardest to acquire. There are many reasons for this and we will explore a few of them in this article. If the item can be procured from a domestic vendor, it is no problem. Calls and e-mails can be exchanged if there is a glitch, and issues are usually resolved very quickly.

Most vendors out of the country have websites in their native language. We (I get lots of help from my foreign speaking co-workers!) are fairly adept at navigating the typical website. We can put items in the cart and go to the check-out screen. This is where things may start to go downhill. Sometimes the vendor's security certificate is not valid. This is a real concern since we cannot put our credit card numbers on an unsecured site. It leaves us with nowhere to go, but to e-mail the company and ask them if there is any other way to order. Often these e-mails go unanswered. Sometimes, we get through the whole procedure of checking out and later receive an e-mail needing detailed banking information to back up our credit card. We cannot give them this information because most of the requests are not sent via secure sites. This holds things up while we try to address these concerns. Again, our e-mails to them often go unanswered.

Spotty distribution also seems to be a problem. Sometimes vendors will hope to get a title in stock (or back in stock) and it never happens, even though the title appears for sale on the website. Eventually, they cancel the order, but it's typical for a vendor to hold an order six months to a year before issuing the cancellation.

Shipping can be a concern, too. If a vendor sends the item through regular mail, it may take a month to get here. I am told that items now have to wait longer in port to be distributed in the U.S. due to safety concerns. If possible and cost effective, I do try to have delivery expedited in some way.

All things considered, we still do a fair amount of ordering from foreign vendors. And, we will continue to order anything that we need. This is just a reference to let requestors know some of the common challenges we encounter and why their foreign materials may be delayed.

Federal Government Information in Trexler Library

Linda Bowers, Head-Technical Services

Have you ever wandered around the library in a fit of ennui and noticed the eagle decals on some of the ends of the book stacks? Well, you have just discovered that Trexler Library has been designated a Federal depository library and serves the federal information needs for the people of the 15th U.S. Congressional District of Pennsylvania. The purpose of depository libraries as set out by the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) is to make U.S. Government information, regardless of format or medium, freely accessible to the public, and to provide for its continued availability in the future. For more than 140 years depository libraries have supported the public's right to Government information by collecting, organizing, and preserving it.

Trexler Library has been a depository site since 1939, and currently receives 28% of everything the government disseminates. Annually the library is given the opportunity to select government information materials to support the College's research, administrative and curriculum needs, and, in keeping with the depository guidelines, materials to meet the needs of local citizens and businesses. The collection attempts to be as comprehensive as possible in the areas needed for academic teaching and research, both current and anticipated. Strong emphasis is placed on materials in the following areas: statistics, economic and social sciences, energy research, education, health and human services, congressional documents both retrospective and current which support the Political Science and History departments, and materials dealing with Pennsylvania. So how is this collection going to help you?

For one thing, government information is primary source material. The very latest statistics, economic previews, and Federal policy information on national and international issues is available. If you heard only the highlights of Judge Alito's remarks on CNN, you can pour over the entire confirmation hearing in the published version of the



Congressional hearing. If you are doing a paper on global warming or “climate change” as the current administration prefers to call it, you need only enter a subject search on the on-line catalog under “climatic change”, refine your search by “where item is located” (Government documents), and you will have almost 200 primary sources to choose from. Remember too, Federal document collections are the primary historical resources of our nation. Series like *The War of the Rebellion: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies*, published under the direction of the Secretary of War in 1880-1901, provides 128 volumes of minute details of the American Civil War through reports, correspondence between combatants, military orders, calls for troops, etc. on both sides of the conflict. It makes for fascinating reading.

Some things you should be aware of when using documents:

- Documents are classified using an alphanumeric scheme called the Superintendent of Documents Classification system, so documents are assigned very specific SuDocs numbers. This number appears in some indexes, like *PAIS*. Documents are arranged by issuing agency and the SuDoc numbers generally are mnemonic. For example, D is for Dept. of Defense, E for Dept. of Energy, ED for the Office of Education, but Y is for Congress. If you have problems locating documents in our collection, ask for help at the Reference Desk.
- Documents are issued in a variety of formats including print, microfilm and microfiche, electronic (CD-ROMs and DVDs), maps, and on-line. Congress has now decreed that the primary method of making publications available to the public is via on-line dissemination. While there continues to be a core collection of print reference titles, the full-text document, complete, official and permanently accessible, is increasingly available on-line.
- All post-1976 documents selected by Trexler are fully cataloged and indexed in the on-line catalog. A great many pre-1976 documents are also fully cataloged, with more being added

daily. Many older documents originally issued in print or microformat are being digitized and archived so are now available on-line. Look for the blue hyperlink in the catalog record. The depository collection in Trexler currently numbers over 275,000 pieces.

- If you cannot locate what you need in the Library's catalog, try GPO Access at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/> *GPO Access* is a service of the U.S. Government Printing Office and provides free electronic access to a wealth of important information products produced by the Federal Government. The information provided on this site is the official, published version and the information retrieved from *GPO Access* can be used without restriction, unless specifically noted.

And now, a story about a “hot topic” and the vigilance and tenacity of Trexler Library staff. When the scandal concerning the mistreatment of Iraqi detainees in Abu Ghraib Prison broke, a Major Taguba was assigned to conduct an investigation. His report was to be issued on March 9, 2004, and was designated “SECRET / NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION.” By 8:00 a.m. on March 9th, document librarians were e-mailing back and forth trying to find out if this particular government document was going to be made public, was it going to be a depository item, if so, how soon was a copy going to be sent, etc. No one at FDLP could immediately supply an answer, but of course the report was leaked, scanned, and ended up on several prominent websites. The next question was, “Whose website was most reliable and was it going to be posted in perpetuity anywhere?” By noon, the report was available through our catalog. At first we chose the *Washington Post* website, but word got out that NPR was a safer bet, and now you can find the document archived at www.findlaw.com.

Federal information belongs to the people of the United States; the act of making this information accessible to the Muhlenberg community is an important responsibility for the Library. In 1822, James Madison wrote, “A popular government without popular information is but a prologue to a tragedy or a farce, or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power that knowledge gives.”

The Joy of Listening

Linda Bowers, Head, Technical Services

As you stroll down the Concourse (the big aisle) between the Circulation and Reference Desks heading for General Pete, look to your right and take some time to browse the library's audiobook collection. You might be alternately surprised at the depth of the selections you will find there or horrified at the triviality.

The collection was founded originally at the request of those library users who spend a lot of time in the car, and wanted some diversion (and possible enlightenment) when stuck on Rt. 22 or [insert here any of several dozen highways in the northeast corridor that you have to take to get to or from the college]. But you don't have to be driving to enjoy being read to. A lazy, rainy Saturday afternoon with Henry James, Jamaica Kincaid, Annie Proulx, or David McCullough can be a real treat. The gentle humor and wisdom found in Garrison Keillor's tales of life in Lake Wobegone is always satisfying, even downright uplifting.

We've got biographies of presidents and patriots (*Theodore Rex*, by Edmund Morris and *Benjamin Franklin*, by Walter Isaacson), class acts (*Chronicles* by Bob Dylan) and sad sacks (*Bush at War*, by Bob Woodward). We've got literary classics including works by Dickens, Austen, Fitzgerald, and Homer (can't get more classic than that). Popular fiction includes works by Rowling, Le Carre, Koontz, Cornwall, and Clancy. Chick lit, mysteries, sci-fi, poetry, and tales of adventure – we have them. And the readers are sometimes really exceptional too. Try the *Screwtape Letters* as read by John Cleese, *Lolita* by Jeremy Irons, or *Harry Potter* by Jim Dale. So give this collection a try and suggest some titles you would like to listen to. You can suggest purchases by clicking on ‘Suggest a Purchase’ <http://www.muhlenberg.edu/library/forms/suggest.html> under the ‘Finding Books’ category on the library's main menu, or by filling out a green order card available at the Reference or Circulation Desks. We want to hear from you.

Books: Brought and Sold

Penny Lochner, Serials Librarian

Last year we asked you to free your shelves, closets, and attics of unwanted books for our spring book sale. You responded beautifully. We had a broad selection of books that needed new readers. The resulting sale, held in May, attracted an all-day stream of browsers and buyers. Few people left empty-handed, and the library netted enough money for us to buy a selection of new audiobooks. This year we may use proceeds to buy more audiobooks or, even better, identify other high demand items we need.

And so here we are again with another appeal. If you have built up a stockpile of books (or other media), or perhaps you didn't get a chance to clean out last year, please think about contributing to the spring book sale. No donation is too small, and there are good reasons to give:



- You will be giving your books a second life (or maybe third or fourth) by finding them a new reader;
- You can declare your donation on your tax return, because each contributor receives a letter of acknowledgement;
- And best of all, you will have space for everything you buy at the book sale!

Books may be dropped off at the Circulation Desk, or you can make other arrangements by calling Penny Lochner at x3561. Please remember that you must fill out a gift form if you want to receive a letter of acknowledgement.

Thanks for your help. We hope to see you at the book sale!

New VHS and DVD Purchases

Below is a small sampling of recent video purchases. A complete list can be obtained at:

www.muhlenberg.edu/library/media/new_media.html.

VHS

The Africans	Beijing
Biruma No Tategoto	Beloye Solntse Pustyni
La Boda (The Wedding)	Bertolt Brecht's Galileo
Bubbeh Lee & Me	Between Two Worlds
The Crusades	Bill T. Jones: Still/Here
The Devil's General	Bojangles
Dreamchild	Born Into Brothels
Egypt: Quest for Immortality	Buying the Spirit
First Person Plural	Classic Comedies
Fuori (Outside)	Clueless
The Gate of Heavenly Peace	The Congress
The Global Assembly Line	The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover
La Guagua Aerea	The Cranes are Flying
Haiti: Waters of Sorrow	The Crying Game
If the Mango Tree Could Speak	Distant
The Island	Dogma
Julia	Don JuanTenorio
Kuroi Ame (Black Rain)	Double Indemnity
Lest We Forget	Downfall
The Miracle of Birth	The Dream
The Overcoat	Easy Rider
Papapapa	Enemy at the Gates
Las Papas Del Papa	Fighting Rats of Tobruk
The Plot Against Hitler	Um Filme Falado
Pote Mak Sonje	The Firebird & Les Noces
Public Memory	Forbidden Planet
Robert Coles: Teacher	Gattaca
Role of Play	Gimme Shelter
Sisters of the Gion	Gitano
Subyan Wa-Banat	Good Bye Lenin!
Tango 73	Le Grand Voyage
Toddlin	The High and the Mighty
Train Boys	Hope and Glory
The Van	The Human Face
Women & Men: Stories of Seduction	In the Time of The Butterflies
The World in Claire's Classroom	Island in the Sky
Young Aspirations Young Artists	Kandahar

DVD

The 400 Blows	The Killing Seeds
A Bout de Souffle	Kingdom of Heaven
Alexander	Kinsey
Alice in Wonderland	Liberia: An Uncivil War
Alila	The Longest Day
And That's How A Bill Becomes a Law	The Lost Battalion
Anna Karenina	Lost Boys of Sudan
Art 21	Man with a Movie Camera
Attack and Retreat	Mas Fever
Au Hasard Balthazar	Moon Water
The Aviator	My Own Private Idaho
Bakush	No Direction Home
Band of Brothers	Open City
Battle of the Bulge	Our Hospitality
Battleground	Rana's Wedding
	Revenagers Tragedy
	Run Silent, Run Deep