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September 1999: "Nous Avons Change Tout Cela;" New Services

Dacus Library

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FOCUS

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‘*Nous avons change tout cela!*’*

Dacus has experienced a tsunami of change in recent years.

The great English statesman Edmund Burke said a number of memorable things, nearly all of them profound. Indeed, he even said one thing very apropos of libraries for this time and this place: “When it is not necessary to change,” he wrote, “it is necessary not to change.”

Essentially, Burke argued against the current mainstream of thought, indeed of all thought of the past two centuries, when change and progress became Messiah. While Burke’s apothegm is self-evidently true, its obverse may also be inferred: when change *is* necessary, it is essential, imperative, that one change.

The fact of the matter about change is this: we often love to *observe* it in others, *witness* it around us, or *discover* it about us. Few of us, however, like *participating* in it, and that is true even for the changeling generation known as Baby Boomers, of which many of us are now the (rapidly) greying

*We have changed all that!

—Molière

remnants. In real ways we like, even love, change so long as nothing about what we do, or how we operate, or the way we get along in life, well, changes.

Libraries are still that last refuge

For better or worse (we’d argue for the better), libraries have been on the cutting edge of change. Once the last bastion of conservatism, libraries have now become synonymous with Molière’s famous line which serves as our headpiece: We’ve changed all that! Libraries now have a myriad of books *and* computers *and* electronic resources; in short, libraries have indeed become, as the Dacus mission statement points out, “the primary provider of (scholarly) information in all forms....”

Of course, libraries are still that last refuge in the world of change where you can go in and sit down with Plato, or spend a reflective moment with Traherne. You can still laugh uproariously with Chesterton, cry with Zola,

or get in high dudgeon with Dickens. That much is *still* true, and perhaps in this age, our most modern one, all of us need to remind each other that sitting down with a book, that most unelectronic of all resources, is something we all need to do more of, not less.

The latter part of the 20th century, however, has witnessed a startling change in libraries. With the advent of the computer, libraries have been busily changing everything from their looks to their access. Not a few have bewailed the subsequent losses, your correspondent among them. But as time changes everything, so has it transformed libraries inside out. Information is now at your fingertips, literally. Of course, it may well be, as one wag has it, that as information doubles, knowledge halves and wisdom quarters. That philosophical question, however, must be answered after the modern library has figured out a way to maintain traditional services while taking on a

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Keeping up will be easier with new service

Dacus Library will begin providing a Table of Contents (TOC) Current Awareness Service to Winthrop faculty beginning fall, 1999. Notification of this service will be made by the Dean of Library Services, Mark Herring, to all faculty members by September 1, 1999.

This service will allow faculty to receive up-to-date information in their particular academic discipline based on their

research needs. The library staff will provide faculty with copies of the table of contents for the latest issue of a journal.

Faculty members can request a maximum of three titles from the Table of Contents service. Faculty members should only request publications the library receives in paper format (as opposed to electronic databases available through the online catalog). To determine if the library

receives a particular journal, please search the library's online catalog. If faculty members are still not sure what journals the library receives, please call the Serials Department at 323-6200.

Based on the availability of journals in the TOC service provided by the library, a faculty member will receive notification either by e-mail or standard mail delivery. Each faculty member will be

contacted directly about their TOC service.

In addition to the upcoming TOC service, faculty members currently have direct access to two Table of Contents Services through Carl Uncover and Contents First. Both online services are available through the library's home page by selecting those databases.

Gloria Kelley
Head of Technical Services

Library welcomes new dean

On July 1, Mark Herring joined Dacus Library as dean of library services.

He was formerly dean of library services at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla.

Dr. Herring earned his B.A. in English and M.L.S. from the George

Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, and his Ed.D. from East Tennessee State University.

He has taught courses relating to teacher certification, written grant proposals, and worked in libraries at

King College in Bristol, Tenn., and Vanderbilt University, as well as the public library of Nashville and Davidson County in Tenn.

"The talented library faculty and staff I've joined assure me that the future will be limited only

by our imaginations," Herring said. "I look forward to applying our collective knowledge and doing whatever is necessary to continue the tradition of excellence that has marked Winthrop University."

Faculty can request ILL online

Winthrop faculty now have a new option for requesting materials through Interlibrary Loan (ILL).

In the past, requesting ILL materials entailed filling out a paper request form and bringing the form to the library. These forms can still be used, but now requests can also be made online. This new service was introduced the first of August and faculty are already taking advan-

tage of it. Currently, only books can be requested online but this fall an additional form will be added for journal articles. To access the new electronic form: Go to the Dacus Library web page at www.winthrop.edu/dacus/, click on "About the Library," then "Interlibrary Loan." Choose "On-line ILL Requests," fill out the form, and

click the "submit" button. It's that simple.

Those who use the new electronic form have a choice of being notified by email or phone when their requests arrive. Please remember that the electronic request form is for faculty only. Students and staff must still turn in their forms at the reference desk.

David Weeks
Interlibrary Loan Coordinator

Dacus

Focus

is published by the faculty and staff of Dacus Library, Winthrop University.

Lois Walker, editor

The Dacus Online Catalog is available on the Internet via Telnet at

"library.winthrop.edu. and on the WorldWide Web at "http://

library.winthrop.edu"

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Closed library no excuse for not completing reserve reading assignments

Oh, no! Tillman Hall tower clock has just struck midnight. The library is closed and your students have not read the reading material you placed on reserve. The assignment is due tomorrow. Is there any hope for your students?

There could be if you have taken advantage of a new library service.

Dacus Library has always maintained a reserve collection consisting of texts, class notes, previous exams, copies of journal articles or book chapters. These items are placed there by faculty for their students to read. Unfortu-

nately, there are problems with the conventional reserve collection. First, it is labor intensive and it is not always possible to enter all of the reserve materials before students need them. Because of high demand, there is often a time limit on the use of these materials. There is also a problem with theft and vandalism of the reserve collection.

The library is attempting to solve many of these problems by the use of electronic reserves. Starting this fall it will be possible to make reserve materials available through DOC. Initially, this service

will be available for photocopies of articles and book chapters. Faculty simply provide the library a clean copy of the text to be scanned in. To ensure compliance with copyright laws, a password (Winthrop I.D. number) will be needed to access the copy.

Your students need only log into Dacus Library's online catalog, before or after Tillman's clock strikes midnight, to complete their assignment.

Susan Silverman
Head of Public Services

Dacus databases now available off-campus

Living off-campus is no longer a disadvantage when it comes to using Dacus's online databases. Any registered Winthrop student or employee can now use *FirstSearch*, *Disclosure*, *ERIC*, or any of the other 80-plus databases provided by the Winthrop library from anywhere in the world.

The library system can validate the identity of an off-campus user. Until now, the electronic publishers required the library to limit use to on-campus computers. With this new service, all Winthrop people can use the databases, even if they are not on campus. Now a commuting student has the same access to electronic library resources as the dorm student. "Distance education" students, who may never set a foot on campus, will find greatly expanded library resources available to them.

Students will automatically have access from off-campus. Faculty and staff must have visited the

library and activated their ID card to take advantage of this new service. Detailed instructions on how to set up a web browser to take advantage of off-campus access are on the Dacus Library Online website: <http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus>.

Dacus's databases span the range from general to specific—popular to scholarly. Some, like traditional indexes, identify printed sources to be retrieved from the library collection or borrowed on Interlibrary Loan. Others include the "full-text" of the resources they index. The researcher can print or download a copy of the complete article or document right at his workstation. Some even let you e-mail the information to yourself.

While all this information can be used without coming to the library, many will still find it useful to consult a reference librarian when doing research. The wide variety of sources and search methods re-

quired often make navigating the "electronic library" problematic. Dacus's librarians are knowledgeable and skilled in retrieving that "perfect" resource that often seems so elusive.

Laurance R. Mitlin
Associate Dean of Library Services

Research Fact:

May I have this dance?

Feminist protocols have changed dating very little according to researchers Mary Riege Laner and Nicole A. Ventrone of Arizona State University. Men still do the asking, the driving, and the paying. According to the researchers, going Dutch, or the woman paying, is still as odd as a three dollar bill.

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From Page 1

Nous...

myriad of expensive electronic ones. It is neither easy nor simple.

Dacus has experienced a tsunami of change in recent years. That tidal wave will continue to rise and fall, leaving awash all who must endure its wake of innovation. Many things about Dacus will change this year, and in the years to come. Later on in these pages you'll read about two such changes. We are embarking on a new and exciting e-reserves service that will place most reserves online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Now students will be able to get at those pesky reserve readings no matter where they are. Of course, this poses its own set of problems. No longer will the contention that the library's doors were closed serve to excuse missed reserve reading assignments! We're also offering to

faculty a new way to keep up with changes and innovations in their areas of speciality. Our Table of Contents Service, devoted primarily to paper titles held in Dacus, offers but a small window on the ever-changing world of research.

Change is the fate of libraries. New services must be implemented while old services are augmented. No doubt, too, there will be breezes of change that will blow away old ways of doing things for new ways of accomplishing tasks, new ways that are better and more efficient. Without a doubt, Dacus staff must think harder and smarter about the coming millennium if we are to meet its financial challenges head on. We librarians must face the fact that our traditional roles will, in the face of change, require us to take on nontraditional challenges.

One such new role—that librarians *must* be at the vanguard of descrying new, external funding

resources—is one that most librarians are neither familiar with, nor very comfortable about. But it is a role which we must embrace and in which we must succeed if Dacus is to enter the new millennium in better shape than it entered this one. Such change has been the fate of libraries for centuries: we change when we must in order to meet the information challenges the culture we serve proffers.

While all things change in libraries, however, one thing must remain the same. In the end, Burke was right after all. Change may be inevitable, but some things must never change.

Let's return to the library's mission statement for a moment. In it we promise you, our clientele if you will, that we will provide information quickly and efficiently, and that we will teach patrons how to ferret out answers from the maze of information resources. In other words,

we promise *service*. One thing that cannot, that must not ever change is our commitment to serving you. That promise of service must remain paramount. In the midst of so many changes, so many innovations, so many challenges, we are today as fully dedicated to you and your academic pursuits as at any other time in our history. Our jobs are, by and large, meaningless if we are not serving you—students, faculty, staff, administration, alumni, friends, and the greater Rock Hill community—to the best of our abilities.

As we face the challenges of the future, let's work together to do for Dacus what has, to this newcomer's mind, always been the benchmark of Winthrop University over the years: turn the challenges of the moment into opportunities for new and better service in the future!

Dr. Mark Y. Herring
Dean of Library Services

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