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January 2001: Experts Debate Cyberage Issues; Civil War Letters

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Focus

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Experts debate cyberage issues

Perhaps more than any other materials in the library today, documents in the humanities are being digitized and cast willy-nilly into cyberspace.

During the Fall of 2000, Dacus Library sponsored four forums as part of a symposium on "Libraries in the Cyberage." Perhaps more than any other materials in the library today, books, periodicals, manuscripts and other documents in the humanities are being digitized and cast willy-nilly into cyberspace. This creates special problems and raises new concerns for accessing, archiving and researching humanities materials in libraries.

Funded in part by a South Carolina Humanities Council grant, the symposium addressed four key issues regarding the impact of the cyberage on materials in the humanities: Censorship and the First Amendment; Electronic Publishing and the Future of Scholarship; Copyright: Who Owns What in Cyberspace; and The Impact of Digitized Collections on the Humanities. The first forum sparked a lively debate between Carrie Gardner, Chair of the American Association of School Librarians' Intellectual Freedom Committee, and

Carol Clancy, Senior Counsel of the conservative National Law Center. Gardner defended the American Library Association's intellectual freedom viewpoint by arguing that all expression is protected under the First Amendment. She defended the library's right to present information by stating that libraries are the last non-commercial enterprise engaged in supporting our right to receive information. Clancy defended the opposition viewpoint, claiming that not only does the First Amendment "not protect the obscene and/or pornographic" but that South Carolina law also forbids the trafficking in "pornography."

The spirited debate showed well the Great Divide existing over the forum's topic. The second forum examined the current state and future direction of electronic publishing. Ron Chepesiuk, Professor and Head of Special Collections at Winthrop University and a freelance writer, outlined the current state of e-

publishing and noted that, "while the industry is in its infancy and experiencing growing pains, it won't go away so librarians should begin experimenting with the new medium." He summarized some of the interesting experiments with e-books at such libraries as North Carolina State University and the Alquonquin Area Public Library in Illinois.

Angela Adair-Hoy, the owner of BookLocker, a successful e-publishing company and the co-author of the best-selling e-book, "The Secrets of Our Success," made an enthusiastic case for e-publishing. "Not only are e-books easy, quick and inexpensive to publish, they represent an exciting opportunity for authors to get their works before the public." She took the audience through a tour of her own success in e-publishing and predicted that e-publishing will become the dominant form of publishing within a few years. John Muchniki of Questia Media Inc., an Internet company with the mission of being the source for humanities and

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Focus

Sex, lies and videotapes in the library

Okay, I was just kidding about the sex and lies. But the videotapes in the library have come in at floodstage. In the spring of 2000, the library began concentrating on acquiring video tapes to support the instructional endeavors of Winthrop's faculty. As today's college students have grown up with television and the movies and have thereby become visual learners, videos are, for faculty, an effective supplemental teaching tool.

Included in the library's collections are videos on such diverse subjects as: traditional arts of Japan, reading and children, cooking, date rape, child abuse, the Black press, vocational guidance in social work,

inflation in the former Soviet republics, Ken Burns' The Civil War, and the history of America's Apollo moon program.

The library also receives free videos through the South Carolina and the Federal Depository Library Programs. Television programs produced by South Carolina Educational Television cover topics such as the Sea Islands Gullah dialect, reapportionment in South Carolina, drug abuse, first-year teachers, and the Santee Canal. From the Federal Government came a set of seven tapes from the Millennium Evenings at the White House, a series of celebrations designed to "Honor the past – imagine the future." Presi-

dent and Mrs. Clinton hosted these evenings, which were broadcast over satellite downlinks and simultaneously over the Internet, and explored America's history, science in the next millennium, American poetry, jazz, the meaning of the millennium, women in public life, and the Holocaust.

Take a look on the Web at the Dacus Online Catalog's Featured Lists at: <http://library.winthrop.edu/ftlist>, and choose a video, or even a whole series, to check out. Pop a big bowl of popcorn, drop the video into the VCR, and enjoy!

Pat Ballard
Head of Monographs Cataloging

New faculty discover the library

When I attended the new faculty orientation at Dacus Library in August, I was intrigued by the variety of programs the library offers to assist faculty. With the technology and information explosions, I have become keenly aware that we must broaden our efforts to help students access, evaluate, and synthesize new knowledge from an array of sources not available even a few years ago. With these concerns in mind, I decided that I would integrate some of the library instructional services into my class on educational assessment.

One goal was to acquaint my students with the range of tests already in print and available critiques of them. I contacted Claire Clemens, Coordinator of Library Instruction, to describe my goal and the accompanying assignment. She gathered all the library resources on tests in print, as well as relevant websites, and developed a refer-

ence handout describing them. She then met with my class and explained the process for finding tests addressing particular subject matter. She also helped them individually search for information on tests that interested them for their class assignment. In a relatively short period of time, my students learned to use these resources and incorporate a new dimension of information about tests into their understanding of assessment. Many students commented that the experience broadened their horizons—they had had no idea that so many tests in so many areas had been developed and analyzed.

Later in the semester the class again visited the library. This time, our goal was finding research articles related to student assessment in each student's area of interest. Claire took us to the computer lab in the lower floor of Dacus and walked us through

procedures for locating and using the various databases available through Dacus, and she helped students zero in on specific articles. Most students left class that night with a couple of articles in hand and a new appreciation of the capabilities of the databases available there, which include nearly 100 indexes and full-text sources, as well as the Internet and the Dacus Online Catalog.

Students enjoyed both of these sessions. They have since told me they developed new skills and knowledge that they have already used in other contexts, both personal and professional. We all appreciated this service that the very capable staff at Dacus provides.

Susan Green
Center for Pedagogy

Focus Civil War letters open doors to the past

The trial has come at last. My husband has gone to the war; he left me yesterday afternoon...How long to be without him, how long for him to bear the privations and hardships of the camp and oh how I shudder to think I may never see him again. A load of responsibilities are resting upon me in his absence but I shall be found trying to bear them as well as I can.

Emily Harris wrote these lines on November 20, 1862, in the farm journal her husband David asked her to keep in his absence. The Harris lived on a 500-acre farm near Spartanburg. He marched off to war in 1862, leaving her to care for seven children and ten slaves. The journal relates the hardships of mid-nineteenth century farm life as well as Emily's fears and triumphs. It is one of many journals in the Winthrop University Archives that document the Civil War.

About 10 o'clock the battle was fairly commenced, after an hour or so we was ordered up, in a short time we was under fire and became engaged...Fighting a while, I received a wound through the hip, in a few minutes another on top of the head, our line soon fell back. Being unable to get back, I was left under the fire of the enemy where I remained until about midnight. During the evening two other Brigades came up just on the ground where I lay and engaged the enemy most desperately, my only shelter being a small tree.

Thomas Belue joined Company F, 15th South Carolina Volunteers, at Union Courthouse on August 29, 1861. His diary describes both the everyday experiences of a soldier and the horrors of battle.

In addition to diaries and journals, the Archives has a fascinating trove of Civil War letters, including the William W. Mills Letters. Mills served in the 9th Regiment of the South Carolina Volunteers in Manassas, Virginia. Upon becoming ill, he was stationed at the arsenal in Charleston, S.C. His letters contain details about the war from his friends stationed elsewhere and about his family in Mayesville, S. C. The following is from a letter to Mills from Lt. F. C. Brickner at the Charleston Arsenal:

The enemy are now furiously shelling Fort Sumter and the general expectation is that we will have warm work here...we have orders to move in case the enemy throw shells anywhere in the vicinity of the Arsenal and this may cause us to decamp at any moment.

Lest you think we have only material pertaining to the South, the following is an entry dated July 17, 1863, in the diary of Daniel Webster Terry of Albany County, New York: *I was to David's till after dinner. Fixed their clock, swing, etc. Went after the paper afoot and rode up with David who had been*

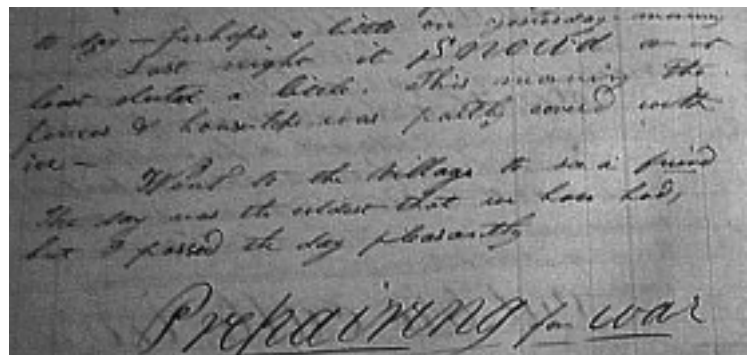
to Baltimore and told us that John's family was there. I stopped at his house and read in the paper about the Riot in New York.

Terry is referring to the July 1863 Draft Riots in New York City when the poor rioted over a provision allowing draftees to hire a substitute or purchase an exemption.

These are but a few of the Civil War history sources in the Winthrop Archives. Sources can also be found in the Government Documents department of the library. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (126 volumes) and the newly-published *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (95 volumes). Both provide a wonderful record of the war as recorded by dispatches from the field.

To learn how Emily and David Harris fared or if Thomas Belue lived to see the end of the war, come and take a look at the resources available in Dacus Library.

Gina Price White
Assistant Archivist



An excerpt from the 1862 journal of Emily Liles Harris, wife of confederate soldier David Golightly Harris from Spartanburg County. The large script at the bottom reads "Preparing for war."

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social science research on the Internet, startled librarians in attendance with his revelation that his company will launch 50,000 books as a digital library in January 2001. The books will be searchable by word for free, while access to the full text will be available through annual subscription either by the year, month, day, hour, or even minute.

The third forum brought together copyright experts from three different vantage points: the U.S. Copyright Office (Marybeth Peters, Register of Copyright); the author (Sara Bewley of the National Writer's Union) and the Copyright Clearing House, the world's largest licensor of reproduction rights

(Edward Collieran). The highlight of Peters' talk was her explanation of the recent contentious ruling the Library of Congress made at her recommendation. The ruling gives copyright users more control over the way people use books and other media by endorsing a new federal law that makes it illegal to break technical safeguards for such works. "The library community disagrees with me, and I'm not saying that their arguments aren't reasonable," Peters explained. "It's just that, in our opinion, it wasn't what the law provided." Bewley portrayed writers as allies of librarians on the copyright issue and explained why freelance writers, who are generally underpaid, were forced into the landmark law suit,

Tasini versus The New York Times. Collieran wrapped up the forum by explaining how the Copyright Clearing House works to support writers and authors while protecting copyright.

The last forum addressed the future of paper in the age of digitization. Both Dr. J. Edward Lee (Associate Professor of History at Winthrop) and Dr. Ravi Sharma (Director of the West Virginia State College Library Institute) agreed that digital collections may be the future of libraries, but that there will always be a place for brick-and-mortar libraries and seeing "materials in the raw." "I can assure you that books won't be replaced in your or my lifetime, and humanists will continue to view the printed book as the

supreme embodiment of the text," Sharma said. Those who missed these timely forums, can purchase a copy of the complete proceedings, which will be published by the College of Charleston this Summer (2001). For further information contact Ron Chepesiuk at chepesiukr@winthrop.edu, or Mark Y. Herring at herringm@winthrop.edu.

Ron Chepesiuk
Head of Archives & Special Collections



Dr. Mark Y. Herring addresses the crowd at one of the "Libraries in the Cyberage" forums.