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November 2001: Scryers, Crystal Balls, and the Future

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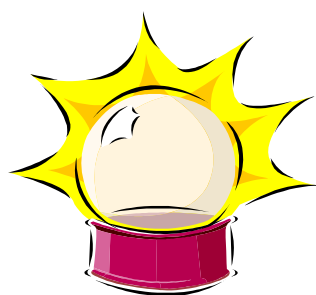
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Focus

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Scryers, Crystal Balls & the Future



Our commitment to students, faculty, staff, administrations and community patrons, however, remains unchanged.

If there's anything worse than living in the past it's predicting the future. From scryers who gaze into crystal balls, to Miss "Leo" who reads tarot cards at www.showmethemoney.com, predicting the future is easy to do if you don't have to worry about being right. Unfortunately, those of us in library services not only have to live with the past, we also have to be able to predict the future. Since June, that's just what the Dacus librarians have been doing. And while we cannot promise 100% accuracy, we can promise we'll make every effort to do what you read about here.

In the last Focus, we talked about the future of library services, and those six areas integral to that future. Over the next few months I'll highlight what we hope will be a reasonable facsimile of the "lay of the land" for libraries in general and for Dacus in specific. In this issue we'll look at Collections and Technology.

Collections

Collections are really the heart and soul of any library. A library with a weak collection will not have much to offer its users. Dacus has a strong collection, offering students, faculty, staff and patrons more than 400,000 volumes to choose from. In recent years, Dacus has stepped up its purchase of academic titles, buying about 6,000 titles annually with another 1,000 being donated from various sources. Of course with 50,000 academic titles being published each year, acquiring only 7,000 might not seem like very many. But it does represent an increase in the number of titles in the past. Books cost more these days so even if our book budget had doubled (it did not), we would not have overtaken publishing costs. Indeed, no library kept up with the pace of inflation.

As we look into our crystal ball, it appears that access will be more important than ownership. Not only is this fast becoming a reality (already publishers of multi-volume

encyclopedias and other reference works tell us they will be web-based from now on, so no more print volumes), it is also becoming a standard in accrediting bodies. If you provide access, that equals owning the item. In the future, Dacus will, among other things, continue to:

offer access to e-books; establish the Dacus website as the main information portal; annually evaluate databases; seek aggressively consortia relationships with other entities; market more aggressively Dacus offerings; develop creative financing for all services.

Lamentably, all of these things have budgetary implications and we will work hard not only to seek outside funding but also to present our case as aggressively as possible in budget hearings.

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Future

Technology.

It comes as no surprise that if access is going to equal, if not surpass ownership, then some means must be taken to provide that access. Technology is key to that access. Dacus now maintains over 100 computers in the library. All of these will have to be replaced from time to time. Add to that servers and the other accoutrements of technology and pretty soon you're talking about real dollars! Students also demand new outreaches. This is why we have undertaken to provide e-books along with wireless technology and laptops that may be checked out for use in the library.

Additionally, with only one Internet Provider, network redundancy becomes increasingly important. If our network goes down, many access points will be shut off to all. While this is not a critical problem, it will become one as more and more items are shifted to web-based access only. With one Internet Provider, we offer students one chance, however reliable, to get to materials that are only available through the web.



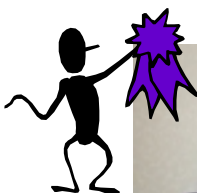
Finally, there is the so-called "cutting edge" technology (named so because it will bleed a budget dry?!) that we must at least take notice of for possible future use. At one time, of course, all the technology we currently use was "cutting edge."

Our commitment to students, faculty, staff, administrations and community patrons, however, remains unchanged. Our mission statement says it best:

The Winthrop Library is the primary campus provider of scholarly information in all forms from print to electronic. To fulfill its mission, the Library will provide information quickly, efficiently, and in sufficient depth to promote the excellence of all academic programs offered by the university. It will provide the teaching that will guide students through the intricate maze of expanding information resources. It will maintain depository status for federal and state publications. It will provide digital education, encourage equity in access to all resources, and serve as a center in South Carolina for inter-institutional cooperation in the sharing of library resources. It will measure and evaluate its efforts through comparison with regional and national standards, surveys of patrons, and the evaluation reports of discipline specific accreditation teams. It will work closely with and seek the support of students, faculty, and the administration. It will continue to serve the community as an information resource.

Mark Y. Herring
Dean of Library Services

Meet the Staff



Read about **Ellen Owens**, Library Specialist, Serials, and her 31 years of service to Dacus Library in the August 2001 *Dean's Corner* at www.winthrop.edu/dacus/About/deanscorner.htm



Brenda Knox, Library Technical Assistant V, is a Jill of all trades and a mistress of many more in her more than fifteen years of service. Brenda verifies our serial order (amounting to more than \$450K),

maintains the records associated with that order, reviews claims on more than 800 titles, oversees student workers in the area, and whatever else may be on the agenda in Serials. The old saw about Serials is that if you don't like them, wait a minute and they'll change. Brenda manages to keep up with all the changes (both in titles and format) along with numerous other issues related to our automated serials files. If you've ever picked up a magazine (virtually or no) then you'd be the recipient of Brenda's work.

Focus

New Grove Second Edition—an Interdisciplinary Source

If you happen to read the title *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, Second Edition*, you would immediately categorize it as a source about music and for the use of music historians, teachers, and performers. As a musician and music historian, I looked forward to the publication of this new edition for several months. It is considered the most comprehensive English language source on music. But the *New Grove* goes far beyond music and is a valuable source in such areas as history, religion, art, dance, theater, literature, and even business.

This new edition has been expanded by 50% from the 1980 edition. (The original “New” Grove was a revision and expansion of the first publication by Sir George Grove in 1879.) and includes more contemporary composers and musicians in classical and popular music fields. New features include articles on gender-associated topics (such as feminism), countries, regions, movements (such as Nazism and Nationalism), recording companies, and record labels. As in past editions, the *New Grove Second Edition* has maintained the excellent standard of closing each article with a bibliography and most composer articles with a complete list of works. Each article begins with a contents list, so that a quick look will inform the reader if this article covers the needed subject.



Try out the *New Grove* online at www.grovreference.com/GroveMusic/ with a free trial subscription.

Now let me support my claims and list a few of the specific articles in this 29-volume set and show their relationship to other areas of study:

Arab music: covers all types of Arab music and includes photographs and maps (History, Religious studies, Ethnomusicology, Geography)

Islamic religious music: legal status, calendar, instruments, and order of service (History, Religious studies, Sacred Music)

Dance: Western dance music from antiquity to the 20th century, with artwork depicting the costume and environment of each period (Dance, Theater, Art, History)

Acoustics: (Design, Architecture, Physics, Music)

Biographies of stage designers and directors (Theater)

Various countries and cities, such as Sudan, Italy, Indonesia, China, London (History, Geography, Political Science)

Recording companies and record labels (Marketing, Advertising, Popular Music)

Volume 29 is the Index, and numerous articles are listed under such topics as African American music and musicians, World War II, American Civil War, and United States

In this time of interdisciplinary focus, the *New Grove* can be a very valuable source in a wide variety of subject areas. In studying the past, historians must consider all aspects of the period. The arts and literature of that period reflect the mood of the

people and give us insight into their response to the events of their time. To quote George Gershwin: “*True ... music must repeat the thought and inspirations of the people and the time.*”

Whether you are researching the French Revolution or successful recording companies, the *New Grove, Second Edition*, may help. Dacus Library is fortunate to have this valuable resource. It is located in the Reference Collection on the main floor. Look for the following call number: **REF ML100.N48 2001.**



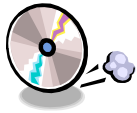
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Cataloging/
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*Mary Rose Adkins, Editor
<http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/>*

The effects of rapidly changing technology on library services are unclear. The only thing that is clear is that there will be effects. Libraries have experienced a sea change since 1990 as



they have adopted one new form of computer technology.

CD-ROM's, now ubiquitous in every household, found their first non-music application in libraries. Periodical indexes on CD-ROM greatly facilitated library research and liberated students from clumsy printed indexes. Online catalogs also began to replace card catalogs in the early 1990's.

Since then, the World Wide Web has had the greatest impact on library research. Delivery of library materials via the Web, notably full-text of magazine articles, has made 24-hour

Impact of Changes in Technology Unclear

remote access to many library materials a reality.

Two developments seem likely to have an impact on delivery of library information. Portable devices are already moving past their infancy, and new display technologies may liberate electronic resources from clunky hardware platforms. Palm and Portable PC devices are already used by many to replace pocket calendars and notebooks. Libraries are beginning to experiment with ways to deliver content directly to such gadgets within and outside of library buildings.



Some universities are requiring students to have a portable PC-type device, and this fact will drive even more efforts to find uses for them.

So far, electronic versions have had little success

replacing the book (as opposed to periodicals). Advances in display technology, including "electronic paper," could make "e-books" more acceptable to readers. This flexible display, which can be bent and folded, may lead

to e-book readers that are less clumsy and more book-like.

The only truism is that technology will advance in ways yet unseen and libraries will adopt innovations in ways we can only vaguely imagine.

Laurance R. Mitlin
Associate Dean of Library Services

Meet the Staff

Library Specialist
Tesfaselassie Sebhatu toils



away at his computer relentlessly. Tesfa, as he's known in Dacus, is our cataloger *extraordinaire*, with more than two decades of experience. He, along with three other staff catalogers, makes sure every jot and tittle are in place before

materials head to the shelves. Tesfa is why all Dacus users ever find anything when they come in the building. While you may never see this quiet and retiring gentleman, you always see his work. His fingerprints are on just about every book in the building. When you consider that most catalogers have spent graduate level course work learning the intricacies of the selcouth world of classifications and cutters, Tesfa has acquired it over time, osmosis-like. Without him, we would be like fish without fins.

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