

Focus

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Services 'inside' the library continue to grow

The current library literature contains all the latest buzz about services available "outside of the library building." However, there is still an awful lot that goes on "inside the building." This column will focus on services that continue to flourish inside the library.

A number of library patrons (actually over 21,000 during October) continue to physically come into the building. Of course, they come to do research, but they also come to find a quiet corner in which to study. Since it is that time of the semester when assignments are coming due, research papers have to be completed and oral presentations are being scheduled, the library has extended its hours (five additional hours each week) to help compensate for the after mid-term rush. Beginning December 6th, the library will extend the weekend hours (72 additional hours each weekend) for students preparing for exams.

Students are learning that not everything is on the Internet. Many of them need assistance with our electronic databases, reference materials and other resources. Therefore, the service desks have seen an increase in activity during October. The reference librarians assisted with over 1,800 questions. Some of the typical questions include how to find articles using

a specific database, useful web sites, company and industry information and articles if they are not available full-text.

The Circulation Department checked out over 5,000 books during the month of October. Patron breakdown was as follows:

- Faculty, 352
- Graduate students, 492
- Undergraduates, 4,077

Over 125 books were loaned out to other libraries on Interlibrary Loan.

Also, our copying services have been greatly enhanced with the addition of two new cutting-edge reader/printers for microfilm and microfiche. But the coolest printer is our color printer, a Tektronix Phaser 850. The prints are produced from four different colored wax blocks. The nicest thing about this printer is the price--only 20 cents a page (our black and white charges are still only 10 cents a copy). This is such a bargain price that people have been known to drive down from Charlotte to get color prints.

We have several special collections that can only be accessed within the library. The Archives has assisted numerous students this past month researching the history of campus buildings. Our Government Documents collection is over 100 years old and contains many excellent resources, such as *The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. And don't forget our heavily-used juvenile collection, which contains an outstanding collection of juvenile literature and nonfiction resources, including copies of all the Newberry and Caldecott Award winning books.

We have begun to add numerous videos to the collection. At last count we had added over 500 videos. We have two TV/VCRs available in the



Students use workstations in Reference

library to view this collection. The videos are also available for checkout.

The library will soon have a total of ten wireless laptops with Internet access available for patrons to use in the library. Students can save material to the "Z" drive, save on disk or print out in the library. The laptops have been extremely popular with the students—it's great to be able to get comfortable on one of our new sofas or chairs with Internet access at your fingertip.

While it's wonderful to be able to dial up the databases from your dorm room or from home, the library is a great place to visit to receive personal attention, use a classy laptop, peruse the *Journal of the Congress of the Confederate States of America, 1861-1865*, or the 1908 edition of the *Winthrop Tatler*, watch a video, find a quiet place to study or make a gorgeous color print. Check it out at your library.

Susan Silverman
Head of Public Services

Nathan Asch collection source for research

Initially, the average researcher will assume that the Winthrop Archives has only information concerning the school. Upon closer inspection, he realizes that there is a wealth of information on many other topics.

While most of the holdings pertain to the Catawba Region and other areas of South Carolina, there are a number of collections that have little, if anything, to do with the state. One such collection is the Nathan Asch papers.

Nathan Asch was a writer associated with the expatriate colony in Paris in the 1920s who knew and corresponded with a number of well-known writers. His papers are a fascinating collection of stories, articles, correspondence and musings of a man who struggled to make a living at what he enjoyed.

Asch was born on July 10, 1902, in Warsaw, Poland, the first child of the great Yiddish writer Sholem Asch and his wife Mathilda Spira Asch. At the age of ten, Nathan and his family moved to Paris and three years later, in 1915, after the beginning of World War I, they moved again to America. They settled in Staten Island where Nathan attended the public schools of New York City. He studied at Syracuse University and Columbia University but never graduated.

Asch returned to Paris in the early 1920s and began his writing career with the publication of three stories in the *Transatlantic Review*. With this accomplishment, he entered into the expatriate colony and counted among his friends Josephine Herbst, Ford Madox Ford, Ernest Hemingway, Malcolm Cowley and Morley Callaghan. Nathan published his first novel, *The Office*, in 1925. While in Paris, he met and married an American named Liesl Ingwersen and they had a son. They returned to the United States in 1926 where he published his second novel, *Love in Chartres*, in 1927. The Aschs lived in a "frozen farmhouse" in Preston, Connecticut, near John Herrmann and his wife Josephine Herbst for a year and then stayed in a

boardinghouse in Patterson, New Jersey. Hart Crane boarded there at the same time and became a friend. By 1928 they had moved to Sherman, Connecticut. His novel, *Pay Day*, was published in 1920 and appeared simultaneously in the United States and Germany. The next year the Yiddish version was published in Warsaw.

Asch's papers are a fascinating collection of stories, articles, correspondence and musings of a man who struggled to make a living at what he enjoyed.

Asch, along with some of the other less successful former expatriates, felt that the New York publishers had rejected them. He commented in the early 1960s, "I do think it's a crazy situation that the elimination was so brutal, that of all the writers in Paris then, Hem [Hemingway] is holding the world by the handle; and everybody else is either obscure or dead. But you can't blame Hem." However, the manner in which his work was received in Germany pleased Asch. His novels and short stories continued to be sold in Germany until Hitler came to power. Hitler banned the works because Asch was a Jew.

During the 1930s Asch was a scriptwriter for Paramount Pictures in Hollywood and worked in Washington, D.C., for the Works Progress Administration, all the while keeping up with his writing. He published two more books during this time: *The Valley* in 1935 and *The Road: In Search of America* in 1937. Asch never felt as if he belonged anywhere and often complained of a feeling of rootlessness. In 1937, in a paper titled "Statement of Record of Career as a Writer" Asch wrote, "If in a sense a great part of America finds its roots on this continent, some part of it was born else-

where, began its conditioning elsewhere. The writer wishes to find these foreign roots, better to understand some part of America, better to write of it." *The Road: In Search of America*, which came in part from material gathered while on a cross-country bus trip and depicts people and places from across America, was an attempt to find a sense of where he belonged.

In 1939 Asch married again and moved to Saratoga Springs, N.Y. During World War II Asch joined the United States Army Air Force, even though he was over 40 years old and could be deferred. He served in the states and overseas. The letters he wrote to his wife are fascinating. He is quite descriptive of his experience, and he wrote to her nearly everyday so the reader gets quite a complete picture of his experiences. He wrote on December 2, 1942, from Miami, Florida:

But the ones who are out of luck are those who are not prepared to like Army life and make something good out of it. They resent everything, the food, the crowded rooms, the restrictions, the discipline, the useless standing around and waiting. They feel that these indignities are directed at them, when the fact is that they are failures of organization, impersonal and perhaps inherent in organization itself.

Asch served as an interviewer of new draftees and recruits to the Army while in Florida. He was later transferred to Atlantic City, N.J., where he awaited orders to go overseas. He went to England in the spring of 1943 where he, among other things, served as an Army War Correspondent. He wrote to his wife on September 30, 1943:

...I'll tell you about the Red Cross Clubs. Many of the boys in my office have managed not to live in billets at all, but have instead taken apartments in town. . . . They also have, if they could, lived in Red Cross Clubs. If you can imagine a vision of paradise, that is the upstairs of a Red Cross Club.

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D-Day, 1944

Granted, the beds are hard as all hell, but dearest, they actually have two sheets on them, and two pillows, with pillowcases. . . . But let me give you a picture of myself waking up at the Red Cross Club. I have a room in which there are two beds. I open my eyes for the first time about six, open my eyes lazily, and make sure I'm not at the billet, and light a match to see that it is surely six and

I can surely sleep longer between the lovely sheets. I turn over about seven, and from then until seven thirty, I consider rising and pulling apart the blackout curtains. At seven thirty I have done so, and have lit a cigarette. Alone, mind you, perfectly alone, nobody screaming, yelling, banging, swearing, cursing; just alone with my little whimsies. I then rise, brush my teeth, shave and step into a perfectly wonderful hot bath, yes, believe me, with hot water and everything.

After World War II Asch and his wife moved to Mill Valley, Calif., where he wrote and published short stories, taught occasional adult writing classes and took up the hobby of furniture making. Most of his short stories appeared in the *New Yorker*, but he sold a few of them to *Commentary*, *Forum* and the *Virginia Quarterly Review*. Of the novels he wrote following the war, none were published. Asch died of lung cancer in 1964.

The Winthrop Archives and Special Collections acquired the papers through the late Dr. Eva Mills, Winthrop Professor of English. In 1979 she was asked to write a biographical sketch for a dictionary titled *American Writers in Paris, 1920-1940*. The publishers sent Dr. Mills a list of writers from which to choose and she chose Asch. Her research led her to his home in Mill Valley where Carol Asch still resided. She was given access to his papers stored in the attic and eventually convinced Mrs. Asch to give them to Winthrop. The collection consists of personal and business correspondence, legal and financial papers, published works, book reviews, unpublished manuscripts, notes, photographs, clippings and a tape recording of Asch. Anyone in search of a topic for a paper or thesis is encouraged to come by and take a look at this fascinating manuscript collection.

Gina Price White
Archives

Library adds more wireless laptops, computer hardware

Winthrop students have checked out the laptop computers so often that the university has purchased seven more for the library, bringing the total to ten. The "wireless" laptops, added to the list of library services last year, allow students to borrow a computer for use anywhere in the library without the inconvenience of cords. They even connect to the campus network via radio waves. The library also recently enabled printing from the wireless laptops. Printers used for the library's desktop workstations are now also accessible from the laptops.

Students have used them constantly to search the library's resources, the Internet and the full complement of Microsoft Office programs. "I usually see all three of the [distinctively black and yellow] laptops being used every time I walk out of my office," says Dean Mark Y. Herring. "The additional seven machines will be enthusiastically welcomed by our students."

Delivery of the new laptops is expected shortly, and they will be available as soon as they can be prepared for users.

The library's classroom also has a new look. The 25 personal computers in the "electronic classroom" have been upgraded as part of the regular campus-wide refreshing of computer laboratories. The new PC's have black, flat-panel monitors, giving the classroom a state-of-the-art look to go with the state-of-the-art performance of the computers.

Laurance R. Mitlin
Associate Dean of Library Services



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Mary Rose Adkins, Editor
Jackie McFadden, Co-Editor
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Meet the staff Pam Garrison Government Documents offers educational materials

If everything is to be done decently and in order, then Pam Garrison is the one to call. Pam is one of our catalogers extraordinaire, working busily at this



meticulous task since February 1999. In other words, Pam has your number. Or your classification scheme.

Or both.

When not scheming and numbering, Pam, an active Tirzah ARP church member, keeps up with 9- year-old Zachary and 4-year-old Audrey. Husband Jimmy keeps up with Pam when he can. Zachary, a MERIT student at Hunter Street Elementary, will soon appear on the program's televised "Morning Show." Audrey taps and pirouettes when not learning at the Hunter Montessori School. The Garrisons have one Chihuahua and two Labs, Hershey and Nestle. It's a good bet that someone in the family is also a chocoholic.

The new exhibit in Government Documents was designed with educators and education majors in mind, according to Jackie McFadden, Coordinator of Government Documents, and Patti Stafford, Documents Assistant. It features curriculum guides, training manuals, classroom displays and kits.



Visitors to the exhibit are invited to take free coloring books on display. There has been increased checkout activity and inquiry concerning the teacher kits, especially following the e-mail sent to all faculty and staff announcing the opening of the exhibit.

The Government Documents department is also responsible for the reader printers for microfiche and microfilm. While some of the equipment is suffering through the aging process, two new Minolta 6000 reader printers were purchased and are now in operation. They are connected to a new laser printer. The printer will eventually have an attached card reader for patrons to

use, but at the present time printing charges are handled on an honor system.

Jackie and Patti have been very busy since this summer rearranging the reference area of their department. New storage units for microfilm have necessitated a major shifting project, and the move is nearing completion. The cabinets will be labeled as soon as possible to provide access to patrons. The microfiche cabinets were moved into the reference area with the efficient help of Facilities Management.

You are invited to visit Government Documents to see firsthand the exhibit and new look of the area. If you need assistance, look for Jackie or Patti. The Government Documents office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. When the office is closed, go to the Reference Desk on the main floor. If you want more information about government resources, call Jackie McFadden at 323-2322.

Mary Rose Adkins
Editor

For more information:
<http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus> to **About Dacus**, to **Library Publications**, to **Dacus Focus** or **Dean's Corner**. Also be sure to check our **Goals** under **Library Fund Raising**.