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September 2001: The Future of Library Services

Dacus Library

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The Future of Library Services

We know that whatever we do in Dacus affects everyone because the library does not touch one student or one program, but every student in every discipline, every career.

If you had told me five years ago that I would have to be making a case for libraries to *exist*, I would never have believed you. Now, five years later, we're having to explain to well-meaning individuals why libraries are important, and why the Internet has not made them obsolete! You'd think that when, after a three year study to construct a fully electronic facility, Cal Poly, with the largest collection of computer geeks and engineers, decided on a \$42 million dollar traditional library, that would settle it. In many ways the argument feels like having to explain the obvious: yes, we have shoes, but feet are still pretty important.

Because change has now become the life of those of us in library services, your Dacus staff has spent the last ten weeks or so in meetings and consultation about the future of library services at Dacus. Using the familiar strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analyses (SWOTs), we identified more than 50 aspects about library services that pose one or more of those four possibilities. In the end we grouped them in the following six areas.

Collections, Cooperative Ventures, Human Resources, Financial Resources, Services, and Technology.

Each area has its own main concerns. For example, under financial resources the key ingredient to future success will not only be the annual budget but also external funding. This will include the Friends support, of course, but with the addition of the Library Advisory Board, capital, book and non-book (technology, specialized equipment) items can now be pursued more vigorously. (For more on the Library Advisory Board, go to the library homepage, click on "Library Fund Raising" and you'll see the needs we've identified so far.) It's common knowledge in library services that increasing the number of personnel are less important than the in-depth training (and retraining and retooling) of staff already on board. Cooperative ventures will continue to be especially important. Often such ventures may be merely the alliance of three or four libraries to purchase an especially expensive database. The academic library directors and deans

of South Carolina (*both* public and private institutions) have recently formed PASCAL (Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (see <http://web.presby.edu/pascal/> for more), a cooperative venture that we hope will grow into a collaborative utility like Galileo in Georgia, Viva in Virginia, or NCLive in North Carolina. (South Carolina is one of the few southeastern states without a large scale cooperative venture for academic libraries.)

Finally, collections will continue to change and evolve. E-books (Dacus offers more than 13,000), about which much is heard but little is seen, will continue to develop. To what extent, and how significantly, is anyone's guess. While companies spend huge amounts, e-books as a return on investment, range from low to abysmal. Electronic access to periodicals will only escalate. In a recent survey of SC deans and/or directors, all believe electronic costs will increase at least 20% over the next 3-5 years. Very soon,

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Globalization & the Internationalism of the Curriculum

To see the changing face of our world, we do not need to look very far. More and more people from all over the globe are moving into the area.

Even our most rural corners are becoming increasingly multi

cultural and cosmopolitan. The need for cultural know-how in conducting international business and cross-cultural education has become increasingly important.

Winthrop=s programs include many internationally-oriented and language studies courses, and opportunities for international travel are provided. For those of us fortunate enough to have friends from various cultures, or opportunities for travel, Dacus Library provides an extensive and vibrant international collection. The following is just a small sampling of wonderful new books on language, culture, and global economics & politics that recently arrived at the library:

Entre dos Américas : narrativas de latinas en los '90s / Guillermina Walas. Lanham, Md. : University Press of America, c2000, General Collection, PS153.H56 .W35 2000.

This literary analysis portrays Hispanic American women writers' unique place between two cultures: that of linguistic heritage and cultural tradition, and that of new place of residence in North America.

Diccionario Bilingüe Hamel de americanismos = Hamel's dictionary of Latin American Spanish. Los Angeles, CA : Bilingual Book Press, c1996, Reference Collection PC4625 .H36 1996. This

book comprises a handy mix of Latin American Spanish vocabulary, Spanish-English translations, an extensive glossary, and explanations written in English. To communicate without misunderstandings, to know for sure you're really cutting that international business deal you *think* you're cutting, don't leave home without knowing the language's regionalisms!

Business leadership and culture : national management styles in the global economy / Björn Bjerke.

Cheltenham, UK; Northampton, MA : Edward Elgar, c1999, General Collection HD57.7 .B536 1999. This book provides a discussion and comparative analysis of five major cultures - American, Arab, Chinese, Japanese and Scandinavian - and how they reveal themselves in business practice.

Brazil's second chance : en route to the First World / Lincoln Gordon.

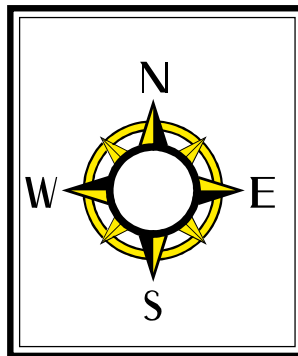
Washington, DC : Brookings Institution Press, c2001, General Collection, F2538.2 .G76 2001. This book offers an insightful analysis of the social, economic, and political dimensions which have historically contributed to Brazil's positioning in diplomacy and the global marketplace.

Searching for peace in Africa : an overview of conflict prevention and management activities /

edited by Monique Mekenkamp, Paul van Tongeren, and Hans van de Veen. Utrecht : European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation, 1999, General Collection,

DT30.5 .S455 1999 A survey of societal and political conflicts and resolution efforts, this extensive volume takes on Africa's events by describing the issues important in each region, followed by situation analysis of each country in the region.

Down and out : labouring under global capitalism / text, Jan Breman and Arvind N. Das ; photographs, Ravi Agarwal ; design, Brinda Datta. New Delhi ; New York : Oxford University Press, 2000, General Collection, HD5819 .B7 2000 This book takes a penetrating look at conditions among those in the informal sectors of the developing nations' economies and presents a powerful portrait of globalization's underbelly.



Transitions : Russians, Ethiopians and Bedouins in Isreal's Negev Desert / edited by Richard Isralowitz, Jonathan Friedlander ; photography by Ron Kelly. Aldershots, England ; Brookfield, Vermont : Ashgate, c1999, General Collection, DS110 .N4 .T74 1999. This photo-journalistic masterpiece walks the

reader through the conditions among displaced, transplanted immigrants to Isreal's Negev Desert.

The history of Iran / Elton Daniel. Westport, CT : Greenwood Press, 2001, General Collection , DS272 .D36 2001. Very timely, this comprehensive "recap" of Iran, a volume in the *Greenwood Histories of the Modern Nations* series, takes the reader on a crash course through the long history of this culturally rich nation.

The history of Spain / Peter Pierson. Westport, CT : Greenwood Press, 1999, General Collection, DP66 .P53 1999. Another volume in the *Greenwood Histories of the Modern Nations* series and structured in a manner similar to *The History of Iran*, Pierson's book takes the reader through Spain's social, cultural, and political history.

The logic of economic reform in Russia / Jerry F. Hough. Washington, DC : Brookings Institution Press, c2001, General Collection, HC340.12 .H68 2001. This book takes the reader through the economic reforms undertaken since the official 1991 departure from communism.

The market system : what it is, how it works, and what to make of it / Charles E. Lindblom. New Haven, Conn. : Yale University Press, c2001, General Collection, HB501 .L512 2001 This book is an insightful analysis of the market as economic system and is an excellent theoretical reading to accompany Jerry Hough's *Logic of economic reform in Russia*.

Antje Mays
Head, Monograph Acquisitions

Look Mom, No Wires!

While at the library, students can now sit in one of the comfy chairs, while writing a paper on a laptop and not have to get up to look up sources on the online catalog or to connect to the Internet.

Does that sound too good to be true? It's not! Dacus received 3 Dell laptops for student use to pilot our Wireless Access Windows connection.

"Students can use them for word processing, or to hook up via a wireless connection to the library system and connect to the Internet about anywhere in the building," said Dr. Mark Y. Herring, Dean of Library Services.

The laptops can be checked out for two hours and were courtesy of the Division of Information Technology, located in the basement of Tillman, as part of the wireless pilot test program. They received a bulk shipment of their own and gave two of the bright orange and gray laptops to Dacus, Dr. Herring said.

Many believe the laptops will be useful for students and a step toward increasing the library's user-friendliness.

"The wireless access to the Internet and online catalog is almost like going back to the ease of use of library materials," said Laurance Milton, Associate Dean of Library Services. "You can find a book you want, and go find a comfortable place to sit and now you can research and read without having to be tied down to one particular area."

The laptops allow this freedom by accessing the Internet through signals that are emitted from a device that is installed in the ceiling of the first floor of Dacus, and received through a wireless Ethernet card installed in the laptop.*

"This allows students wireless access anywhere on the first floor, and in some areas on the basement and second floors," said Dr. Herring.

There are still glitches with the

technology that will be worked out with time, such as slow access when used by large numbers of people, Mitlin said.

"Wireless is the newest and latest trend in technology," said Mitlin, "and within a year or two after all the kinks are worked out, most laptops will be built with a wireless communicator."

The plan eventually is to have a completely wireless library, where students can access the library from wireless laptops anywhere in the library and anywhere on campus, said Mitlin.

Students with the same Ethernet card and program can access the Internet through the library. However, those without can check the laptops out at the Circulation Desk. "Students will be responsible for the laptops however, if they are damaged or broken they are expected to pay," said Nancy White, Head of Circulation. "So they are strongly urged to tell us when they experience problems."

Jessi Elswick

Student worker, Interlibrary Loan

* Students who own laptop PC's with Ethernet cards may also connect to the campus network through three outlets located in three library carrels at the back of the main floor near the restrooms.

Meet the Staff



Dot Barber

Dot Barber
Executive Support Specialist
Dean's Office

It's hard to think of enough superlatives to heap upon Dot Barber. Dot has been the heart and soul of Dacus for more than thirty years. Coming to us in the summer of 1970, Dot has since specialized in everything we do here.

While her main responsibility is making sure every invoice (and their number is legion!) submitted is both legitimate and correct, Dot hardly does only that. Mothering our student workers, 'deaning' the deans, and keeping up with professional and nonprofessional staff is enough work for half a dozen people. Yet Dot does

all this by herself, and always with a smile and a kind word. When you call our main number, you'll likely hear her winsome voice first. We're glad, too, because it always leaves a lasting, good impression.

Dacus
Focus

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

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

Future

From Page 1

electronic access will be the *only* serial access available.

We know that whatever we do in Dacus affects everyone because the library does not touch one student or one program, but every student in every discipline, every career. Because of this, we want to plan ahead, to stake a claim for the future of these services and that's exactly what we're doing in our "Futures" meetings. In a few weeks we'll complete our study and release a "white paper" on these areas. Then we want to hear from you. While some things, such as the delivery of information, are out of our control, we want to hear from you, our



constituents as it were, where the fine tuning needs to be.

Winthrop is a learning-centered university. I do not think it hyperbole to argue that the key ingredient to Winthrop's remaining a *successful* learning-centered university resides in the future of her library and its services. For more than 100 years, Winthrop's library has always remained central to its educational outreach. Although the future looks uncertain amid a plethora of technoflux, now is not the time to ignore library services. *Now* is the time to secure those services in a context where the change does not overwhelm us but where we convert the change into a mutually serviceable and satisfactory library for *all* its patrons in whatever the formats they desire.

Mark Y. Herring
Dean of Library Services

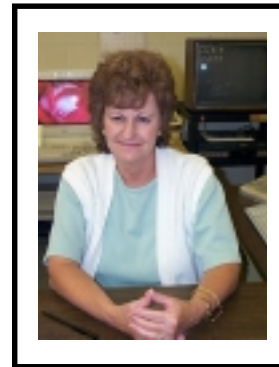
Meet the Staff

From Page 3

Sandra Pakozdy
Library Technical Assistant V
Technical Services

If you've ever ordered a book, chances are you've met, vicariously anyway, Sandra. Sandra weeds through the thousands and thousands of book orders, sorting them out, checking them against invoices, and making sure what we ordered is what we actually have.

You'd be surprised how often it can go awry: books printed upside-down, books that look complete but are missing gatherings, books that were bound in the right cover, just the wrong text, and on and on. Since 1978, Sandra has been making right what comes to us wrong, and passing all of it on quickly to others. She's one of the many reasons what we order gets to the shelf as soon as possible so it can be used.



Sandra Pakozdy