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February 2002: Futures, Part III, Cooperative Ventures and Services

Dacus Library

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Focus

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Futures, Part III: Cooperative Ventures & Services

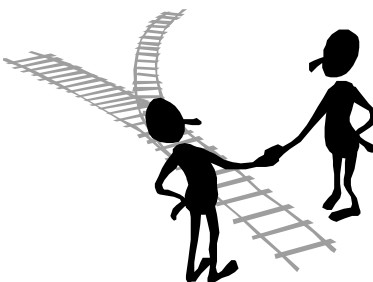
For a number of years – perhaps as long as lending has been around – libraries have cooperated with other entities, some of which included other libraries, of course. For example, one well-known cooperative venture includes interlibrary loan. Dacus, along with literally thousands of other libraries, shares its materials with others as they share them with us. This allows us to have access to materials that we could not possibly ever own, nor would we ever want to.

The phrase “ever want to” is well-chosen for it underscores the nature of libraries to collect in some areas and not in others. In the days when materials were cheap, the Internet not even yet dreamed of, and ‘publish or perish’ not yet a mantra, library budgets covered a multitude of materials. In fact, nearly every library of any size could supply most needs. Large research libraries contained not only these materials, but materials so esoteric they might not be used even every decade but were present “just in case” someone – anyone – wanted them.

We are a few light years from those days, of course, as you’ve heard opined in this space before. What hasn’t changed,

however, is this library’s need to involve itself more with cooperative ventures.

We believe the future of library services will include much more of this kind of sharing, not only of resources, but of other services.



For example, Dacus has had discussion with other libraries about the sharing of well-known speakers or exhibits. Other areas where we see possible future sharing could include ... well it *could* include *any area where sharing would make more sense than duplication*.

Our Collection Management Policy states, “*The central goal of Dacus Library is to collect material which will support the current curricular needs of the library’s primary clientele.*” **We will not divert our gaze from this worthy goal but will seek ways that we can expand and augment the achievement of it.** For example, you’ve read much about P.A.S.C.A.L.,

Partnerships Among South Carolina’s Academic Libraries in this space. This new cooperative venture will, if successful, greatly expand Dacus’s reach (and successful grasp) of more academic materials in the future.

This expansion of cooperative ventures and services, however, will also create more burdens on faculty. For example, we suspect that by 2004, very few, if any, multi-volume reference works will be printed. Already *this year* we are seeing a considerable constriction of multi-volume print materials. This means that many encyclopedia sets will be available *only through web-based access*. This in turn means that faculty will have to know how to get to these materials and, further, have back-up measures should access to the web-based materials fail.

We hope the future means either a new or renovated library in which case we intend to provide a space wherein faculty can test out all sorts of software, whatever its origin. We feel such a space would allow faculty to learn how to use these materials, provide them with a

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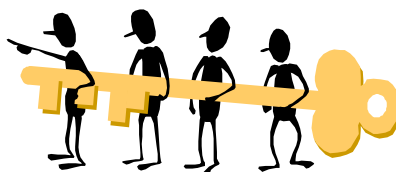
setting in which both familiarity and expertise could be acquired, and also give them a place where other non-library owned software could be demonstrated.

Unfortunately, cooperative ventures will *not* mean a decrease in cost. For example, whether we buy the print version or the web-based version of the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, the price remains \$8,000. Publishers are not likely altruistically to take a cut in profits, nor would those who write for them want them to. It simply means that all of us will have to become more proficient in accessing web-based materials.

We also expect that library liaisons and what we have referred to as “techno-gurus” will play a more meaningful role. Last year we identified a number of faculty in each department

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who had enough familiarity to be the library-designated techno-liaison. We plan to work more with these individuals in order to better serve faculty and students.



We will continue to communicate with our clientele via e-mail, newsletters, etc., to inform them of new acquisitions and of the external trends which affect library services. We will also solicit faculty opinion on products in order to make well-informed collection management decisions. What we hope to get from you is not only reports of resources that do not work, or do not work well, but also reports of how well some

resources are working, and how well they supply the research needs of students. Without this, we cannot make informed decisions.

Finally, the library dean has made, and will continue to make visits to departments and to individuals – at least until you tell us you’ve had enough. We want to make sure we hear from all you and we want to hear from you, not when it’s convenient for us but when it’s convenient for you; hence, current individual faculty visits will be ongoing.

Obviously the future will look somewhat the same now as then. But we also foresee significant changes, and we are trying to report them to you now as they unfold. As always, your opinions, praises, complaints and ululations are welcomed.

Mark Y. Herring
Dean of Library Services

Authority Control -- A Behind-the-Scenes Service

What do daily reports and author and subject headings have to do with services and cooperative ventures? These things are the work of the Database Management Librarian (often called Authority Control Librarian). With the assistance of a Library Technical Assistant and two student workers, the database is continuously updated.

Authority work allows the user to retrieve everything in the library’s collection when doing a search. For example, the authority record for Mark Twain lists his name in various languages and his real name of Samuel Clemens. This authority record, which the user will not see, directs him or her to all the listings no matter what form of the name is entered.

The method is the same for subject headings. When the Library of Congress decided last year to change the heading “Afro Americans” to “African Americans,” the new authority record ensured the user of retrieving titles when either heading is entered.

This effort to maintain the integrity of the Dacus Library database with authority control is just one more example of our commitment to our patrons. The authority work done behind the scenes is vital so that users will have access to all available resources.

Mary Rose Adkins
Cataloging/Database Management Librarian

Meet the Staff

Carol A. Mapp
Library Specialist



Walk in any day and you'll see Carol (Dacus, 1985) watching television ... or listening to head phones ... or turning a book over and over in her hands. That's because Carol is another one of the library's pancatalogers: a portmanteau word meaning a cataloger of anything, whatever its format. Normally a job reserved for a professional librarian, Carol has undertaken to learn – and learned well – the intricacies (and, at times, absurdities) of cataloging rules and regulations. Carol is also our expert non-print cataloger and de-selection coordinator. Carol handles all these tasks in style, with just the right amount of care to make sure anyone can find them. Carol holds a Masters in Counseling (from Winthrop). When she is not cataloging materials, she lovingly cares for her grandchildren whose mother was lost tragically in a car crash some years ago.

Gina Price White
Archivist

Gina is the library's assistant archivist. On any given day, Gina might be seen scurrying about the archives finding that needle in our haystack when needed by a student, or publicity, or the mayor who just called and needs it next hour, or even some scholar in Sweden who happened on our site and wants X because she now knows we have it. Further, when you do not see Gina in the archives, chances are she's in the community spreading the archives word both near and far. Finally, on the weekends, Gina plays Martha Stewart, Chester-style, in her family owned restaurant, Russell & Company, the delectability of which is known throughout York County. Wife, author, public speaker, restaurateur and, oh yes, Dacus archivist—that's our Gina.



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*Mary Rose Adkins, Editor
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New Technology in Interlibrary Loan

Dacus Library's Interlibrary Loan department has changed the way they are receiving loans due to new technology, and the library plans for even more changes in the near future.

The Interlibrary Loan System, a beneficial and helpful resource to Winthrop students and faculty, allows its patrons to "check out" materials that Dacus does not own from other libraries.

"Books and articles can be checked out from nearly 1,000 libraries and universities across the country by filling out a request card at the Reference Department," said Anne Thomas, Interlibrary Loan Assistant, "and other universities and libraries also notify us for books and articles they don't have."

This is done through a computer program called OCLC (Online Computer Library Center). Requests are logged into the database that numerous libraries are a part of and are sent out nationwide. These requests are then filled and mailed.

Fortunately, technology has allowed this process to

become faster, allowing patrons to receive their articles in as little time as one day of the request, said Jackie McFadden, Interlibrary Loan Coordinator and Reference Librarian. This process is called Ariel. "It's like a fax machine, but it allows you to monitor the status of the documents being sent and the ones received," McFadden said.

There is a fee for requesting materials determined by each individual library; therefore Dacus Library must charge a fee for the service. "Undergrads are required to pay \$1.00 per article at the time of the request but not for books," Thomas said. However this service is free for graduate students and faculty, and they are also given the option of requesting articles online.

In the near future, Interlibrary Loan is adding more technology to the service, enabling patrons to receive requested articles via email. The service is already installed, however there are still a few bugs that need to be worked out, McFadden said.

Jessi Elswick
Student Worker
Interlibrary Loan

Students are Using the Laptops!

The latest addition of technology to Dacus, the laptops with wireless Internet access, has been of great service to Winthrop students. Susan Silverman, Head of Public Services, said, "The laptops were used heavily during exams; students seem to really like them." The laptops have been used 45 times since they were made available on Nov. 27, 2001, and 4 times just this January. Silverman added that students have been using the laptops primarily for PowerPoint and word processing.



Shameka Nickens, Student Worker in Circulation, has been a steady laptop user since the service began.

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