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February 2003: Juvenile Collection Serves WU Community

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Focus

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Juvenile collection serves WU community

In the December issue of the *Focus*, Susan Silverman, Head of Public Services outlined the services and collections available “inside the building.” This column will focus more closely on the Juvenile Collection, especially its purpose and use, and the criteria for selection.

A university library is always associated with resources to support the research needs of the students and faculty. Where does a collection appropriate for children fit into this function, especially since our Mission Statement opens with a commitment to “scholarly information”? Just go further into the Mission Statement for the answer: “to promote the excellence of all academic programs offered by the university” and “to serve the community as an information resource.”

There are several courses on literature for children and young adults offered by Winthrop University in fulfillment of the requirements for teacher training in the undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Students are required to read a variety of books to learn about style, genre and appropriate content. Their research also involves the authors and illustrators of juvenile literature. Dacus Library is, therefore, committed to maintaining and expanding the juvenile collection to support these courses and thus provide the students with the necessary resources to complete their assignments.

Dacus Library divides the Juvenile Collection into four categories:

Juvenile Biography designates books with real information about a person or group of people.

Juvenile Easy books are suitable for preschool through grade 3 or age 9. This category includes “picture books” and can be fiction, folk tales or concepts

such as the alphabet. The illustrations are an important part of the books and enhance the story.

“Dacus Library is, therefore, committed to maintaining and expanding the juvenile collection... and thus provide the students with the necessary resources to complete their assignments.”

Juvenile Fiction contains books suitable for grade 4 and up. Educators often call these books “chapter books.”

Juvenile Nonfiction refers to books that provide factual information and some literature, such as folk tales. Dewey Decimal Classification numbers are used for the Juvenile Nonfiction books, while all the other categories are classified by the last name of the author.

The selection of books for the Juvenile Collection is a responsibility shared by the library staff and the education faculty. At this time there are over 12,000 titles in the collection, and an important portion of the collection includes two copies of every book that has received the following selected awards. (The American Library Association sponsors the majority of the awards. The criteria for each award, lists of winners and other helpful suggestions about children’s books are available on the Web site at <http://www.ala.org>.)

The **Randolph Caldecot Medal** was awarded for the first time in 1938 by the American Library Association. Named in honor of British illustrator Randolph J. Caldecott, this award is given to “the artist of the most distinguished American Picture Book for Children published

in the United States” each year. The selection committee usually awards honor recognition for 2 or 3 additional illustrators each year. The first Caldecott Medal was given to the illustrator Dorothy P. Lathrop, for *Animals of the Bible, A Picture Book*. The 2002 winner was David Wiesner for *The Three Pigs*, and Eric Rohmann received the award in 2003 for *My Friend Rabbit*.

The **John Newbery Medal**, awarded since 1922, was named in honor of English bookseller John Newbery. The American Library Association chooses “the most distinguished American children’s book” for this award. Honor recognition is also given to authors and titles that the committee selects. The first Newbery winner was Hendrik Willem van Loon for *The Story of Mankind*. Linda Sue Park received the 2002 Newbery Medal for *A Single Shard*. The 2003 winner is Avi for *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*.

The English counterpart to the Caldecott Medal is the **Kate Greenaway Medal**, instituted in 1955 in honor of this popular 19th century artist. This award is presented for an “outstanding book in terms of illustration for children and young people” by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. The first award was given to Edward Ardizzone for *Tim All Alone*, and the 2001 winner was Chris Riddell for *Pirate Diary*.

More recent awards have focused on multicultural topics for children’s literature, and the Juvenile Collection includes the winners of the **Coretta Scott King Award** for African-American authors and illustrators and the **Pura Belpre Award** for Latino/Latina authors and illustrators.

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The **Coretta Scott King Award** began in 1970 as a regional award, and in 1982 the American Library Association designated it as one of the organization's awards. Each year an author and illustrator are given the award, and honor recognition is often given as well. The 2002 author award was given to Mildred D. Taylor for *The Land*, and Jerry Pinkney received the illustrator award for *Goin' Somplace Special*. The 2003 winners are author Nikki Grimes for *Bronx Masquerade* and illustrator E. B. Lewis for *Talkin' About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman*.

The **Pura Bepre Award**, established in 1996, is awarded biennially to an author and an illustrator "whose work best portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth." The 2002 winners are author Pam Munoz Ryan for *Esperanza Rising* and illustrator Susan Guevara for *Chato and the Party Animals*.

In 1982 author Scot O'Dell established the **Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction** to encourage other writers, particularly new writers, to focus on historical fiction. The first winner of this award was Elizabeth George Speare for *The Sign of the Beaver*, and Mildred D. Taylor received this award in 2002 for *The Land*. (This author also won the Coretta Scott King Award for this title in 2002.) The 2003



winner is Shelley Pearsall for *Trouble Don't Last*.

Dacus Library provides excellent resources for students training to be educators, but the Juvenile Collection

also serves the community in a broader way. Faculty, staff and students often select books for their children or young friends. One parent regularly visits the Juvenile Collection to choose titles for her son from the Accelerated Reading List provided by his school. Whether the use is for course assignments, children's school assignments or pleasure reading, the Juvenile Collection is heavily used and appreciated. That is evident by the fact that books from this collection circulated 4,898 times in 2002.

The Juvenile Collection is located on the ground floor and grouped by the four categories mentioned in the article.

Mary Rose Adkins
Cataloging/Database Management Librarian

Dacus solves IB, AP dilemma for high school libraries

This past fall over 100 classes came to Dacus Library for formal research instruction. A handful of these classes were not made up of Winthrop students. In fact, they were not college students at all – they were high school juniors and seniors. Why, you might ask, are high school students learning to use Dacus Library?

These students are participating in the International Baccalaureate program at their high schools. The IB program gives students the experience of taking college level coursework while in high school. The students often face a challenge when working on their assignments because their high school media centers do not have the college level resources the IB courses require. Recognizing this dilemma, Dacus Library invites these students to use our resources and provides them with library instruction. The library also provides this service for high school students taking Advanced Placement and Honors classes.

So far this academic year six IB classes with a total of 87 students have come to Dacus Library for bibliographic instruction sessions. Schools represented by these students include Rock Hill, Northwestern and Blacksburg high schools. These groups have included a German class, a French class, and a group of seniors working on their senior research project.

While these IB students have access to our resources, they do have limitations that Winthrop students do not have. For example, IB students are not issued a borrower's card. In order to check out books, they must use a special interlibrary loan agreement we have with the York County Public Library. They also cannot access our databases from off campus. Licensing agreements require us to limit this privilege to Winthrop students, faculty and staff.

Providing resources and instruction for high school IB, AP, and Honors students is one way in which Dacus Library supports the local community. These students will enter college having already been exposed to the "college environment." In fact, some of these students may even be Winthrop freshmen in the near future and will already know what a great resource Dacus Library is.

David Weeks
Coordinator of Bibliographic Instruction

SCCTP Courses in Serials Cataloging: Advanced Serials (2 days) and Electronic Serials (1 day)

May 20 – May 22, 2003

Registration fee: \$250.00.
Includes 2 training manuals.

Access information and registration form at:
<http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/Workshops/serialscataloging.htm>

Contact Mary Rose Adkins
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adkinsm@winthrop.edu

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News from the past:

Antebellum weekly informed area farmers

The Archives has a wonderful collection of old newspapers. We have copies of newspapers from the 19th and 20th centuries such as the *Augusta Chronicle*, dated Aug. 30, 1806; the *Charleston Observer*, dated Aug. 19, 1843; *The Daily Dispatch*, published in Richmond, Va., April 13, 1861; *The Lancaster Ledger*, March 6, 1878; *The Lantern*, published in Chester, S.C., Sept. 6, 1898; *The Press Democrat*, published in Santa Rosa, Calif., Feb. 5, 1924; and the *Carolina Afro Weekly*, published in Columbia, S.C., Nov. 3, 1972, just to name a few.

The *Carolina Planter* is a good example of a fascinating weekly agricultural newspaper that covered all of South Carolina and much of the Southeast. The *Planter* was first issued on Jan. 15, 1840, and continued until Jan. 12, 1841. Our bound volume contains the first issue through the Nov. 11, 1840, issue. A. S. Johnston published the newspaper in Columbia, S.C. Dr. R. W. Gibbes was the editor. Agricultural publications were a welcome addition to any household in the first half of the 19th century because most households (at least in South Carolina) engaged in some type of agricultural pursuit whether it was a vegetable garden or hundreds of acres of cotton.

The *Carolina Planter's* purpose was to disseminate "practical knowledge in agriculture and rural economy" and to "communicate to our people, in a popular way, the practical experience of our Southern planters and farmers..." according to its first issue. They purposely left out any references to politics because they felt that politics was taking up too much of rural people's attention and that they should be devoting this time to improving agricultural methods. A subscription cost \$ 2.50 per year if paid in advance; if not, the cost was \$ 3.00 per year.

The first issue contains information on the price of livestock, growing cotton, the importance of agricultural papers and successful harvests of

various farmers. This issue also contains the proceedings of the newly formed Agricultural Society of South



Carolina, of which Dr. Gibbes was secretary.

In a letter to the editor dated Dec. 30, 1839, Mr. Caleb N. Bement writes, "Farmers should visit more. By that means they could profit by others' experience, for they are not so selfish or sordid as to wish to keep any new improvement 'under a bushel.' I contend there is no farmer, whether good or bad, but what something may be learned from him by an observing mind." According to the *Planter*, farmers who consulted agricultural publications were sometimes criticized as being "book farmers," meaning they did not know enough to farm on their own. To this statement, the editors answered this accusation with the following: "Show me a thrifty, practical and experimental farmer, and I will show you a man who reads works on agriculture, or who borrows his hints from a neighbor that takes an agricultural paper. Show me a farmer whose fences are decaying—whose half-starved cattle are strolling over a brush field—and I will show you a man, who, if he is not retrograde, takes too little interest in agriculture to patronize an agricultural paper."

The *Carolina Planter* printed articles with such titles as: "Ditches"; "Breeding Horses and Mules"; "Should Corn Be Ploughed In Very Dry Weather?"; and "Prices of Durham

Cattle." Weather was, of course, a popular topic among farmers. Every two months they would print the weather conditions for the previous two months. In Jan. 1840 in the Columbia area, the lowest temperature was 13° and the highest temperature was 78°. In February the lowest temperature was 19° and the highest 85°. There were three days of snow and sleet in the first two months of 1840 and only six days of rain. The writer commented that, because of the dry weather, there were many fires in the woods and wells were failing. Later in the year, in the June 3rd issue, the front page contained a story concerning too much rain. Under the headline "Extraordinary Freshet" is the following: "A most unexpected, rapid and devastating rise in our river took place on Wednesday last—in less than 24 hours, the Congaree 'rose 37 feet.'" The water under the Columbia Bridge came within 15 inches of the floor and the Canal was destroyed. The floodwater washed away one of the piers of the Broad River Bridge and Hamburg, S.C., further down river from Columbia, was completely flooded.

Some issues printed recipes such as: "Isinglass Jelly—Two ounces of isinglass to a quart of water; boil till it is dissolved; strain it into a basin upon a slice of lemon peel pared very thin, six cloves and three or four lumps of sugar; let this stand by the fire for an hour; take out the lemon and cloves and add four table spoonfuls of brandy."

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<http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/>

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“*Making Vinegar*-Vinegar (an indispensable article in housekeeping) may be easily made by observing the following simple rule, viz.: procure a clean oaken cask, of the size of a common barrel, or wine cask, place it in a warm room, if in the summer time, the garret near a roof which is exposed to the warm rays of the sun; put in, say one or two gallons of clear, fermented cider, leave the bung out so that the air may have free circulation; in the course of two or three weeks it will become sharp vinegar fit for use.”

[Note: Isinglass is a semitransparent, whitish, very pure gelatin prepared

Most issues also contained several humorous tidbits: “THE GALLON LAW—An old fellow lately made the following argument against this law. ‘I’m agin it, because suppose a man’s got two dollars, and he wants some sugar and coffee for his wife and children. Now, he can’t buy less than a gallon of whiskey, and that costs two dollars. Well, what’s his wife and children to do for sugar and coffee?’ There’s no getting over that logic.” In another issue: “A farmer in the neighborhood of Dunfermlin was thus accosted by his landlord:—‘John, I am going to raise your rent.’ John replied, ‘Sir, I am much obliged to you, for I canna rais’t myself.’”

The *Carolina Planter* also contained information about South Carolina railroads, geological surveys, and some historical items. In every issue there was a page of advertisements hawking everything from wagons to medicine.

Under the masthead, the *Carolina Planter* printed this quote in every issue: “What signifies wishing and hoping for better times? We can make the times better, if we bestir ourselves.” —Dr. Franklin. This statement was a good motto for the 1840s and would make a good one today.

If you never thought you would find something interesting in an agricultural publication, be pleasantly surprised and take a look at the *Carolina Planter* in the Winthrop Archives & Special Collections.

Gina Price White, Director
Archives & Special Collections

Meet the Staff

Newcomer **Bessie Meeks** assumed the role of Secretary to the Dean of Library Services in July of this year.



Bessie is no stranger to Winthrop, having completed her M.A.T. here in 1977. It’s been a

whirlwind orientation for Bessie, who has handled everything in stride. In another life, Bessie held the red pen of death in her hand as she corrected tens of thousands of English papers for high school students at Northwestern. These days she tries to harness the dean’s persiflage. Many of our readers will recognize her name, if not her corrections!

Northwestern honored Bessie as Teacher of the Year in 1991. Bessie’s husband, Grady, works at US-Cotton, in Charlotte. The couple have two grown children, Ty, 29, and Joyce, 21.



from the air bladders of fish and used especially as a clarifying agent and in jellies and glue.]

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