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## November 2005: Library's Technology Updated

Dacus Library

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# Focus

DACUS LIBRARY / WINTHROP UNIVERSITY / November 2005 / NO. 59

## Library's Technology Updated

Libraries depend on computers more and more to deliver information. Recent updates to Dacus's technology stock will enable students and faculty to retrieve research information in an even more timely manner.

DOC, the Dacus Online Catalog, is working faster than ever with a new server. An ancient, by computer standards, at least, Compaq Alpha server was replaced this year by a new Sun Microsystems model. DOC now has the horsepower to do all the new things we have added to it in recent years, and will be able to take on even more powerful features in the future.

The library's electronic reserves system also joined the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a server upgrade. The e-reserves, as well as the public printing system, had been running on an old Dell server. The trusty old Dell had enough miles on its odometer to qualify for one of those "look how long I've kept it running" commercials. Now those big PDF reserves files load noticeably faster on the new Dell server just installed.

One of the most popular services offered by the library has been the circulation of laptop computers to students. Library users have gotten used to having to wait in line to use one of these wireless wonders. With the assistance of Winthrop's Information Technology (IT) division, the number of laptops has been doubled, to 20, and wireless access has been extended throughout the library. The new PCs are lighter, smaller and connect to the wireless network more smoothly, much to the delight of our patrons.

IT has also enabled us to upgrade our desktop public computers. Computers which have outlived their usefulness in computer labs are still adequate for accessing library databases and the Internet. IT rotates them out of the labs and into the library, giving us more capable workstations for student research.

***"DOC, the Dacus Online Catalog, is working faster than ever with a new server."***

And speaking of labs, the library's "Electronic Classroom" is part of the campus lab system and received a refreshing this past summer along with the other computer labs at Winthrop. The E-classroom is home to classes totaling more than 3,000 students per year learning how to do library research. Even though Winthrop's library instruction program is one of the oldest in the nation, it keeps up with the latest trends in research and information technology.

**Laurance R. Mitlin**  
Associate Dean of Library Services



### **New Vendacoder Makes Life Easier**

Making copies and printouts in the library has become a little more convenient. The more than fifteen-year-old vendacoder on the main floor has been replaced with a newer, sleeker, more reliable model. Patrons may purchase copy cards from the machine for one dollar (a 50 cent charge for the card which comes with 50 cents worth of copies already encoded), add money to an existing card or to a formatted Winthrop identification card. The new vendacoder accepts 1, 5, 10 and 20 dollar bills, but neither gives nor accepts change; change for larger denominations is available at the Circulation Desk, as is card formatting and assistance with all photocopying equipment. The old vendacoder has been placed in the Microforms Reader/Printer room.

**Nancy White**  
Head of Circulation

*Den of Antiquity*

**Daniel Webster  
Terry Diaries**

People who keep a diary or journal know how valuable it is for keeping track of daily activities as well as recording the major events of life. For historical researchers, diaries and journals can be excellent sources of information on everyday life. The Winthrop Archives and Special Collections has a number of interesting collections of diaries from different eras that give glimpses of life in the past. The Daniel Webster Terry Diaries is a collection of journals kept by a farmer/teacher/salesman from Albany County, New York. The diaries begin in 1860 and end in 1900. There are no diaries for the years 1867 to 1878, 1888 to 1890, 1892 and 1896 but, despite the gap, the researcher will get a good picture of Terry's life.

Especially interesting are the diaries that were written during the Civil War. The diaries begin in 1860 when Terry is a teacher and farmer residing in Coeymans, Albany County, New York. He taught school in Adamsville, New York, from January 3 to March 20, 1860, when classes ended for the school year. He farmed on his family's farm until November 12 when he began teaching school in the Van Slyke mill school district. He writes on Tuesday, January 3, 1860:

*I commenced teaching school at Adamsville Dist. No. 10 Bethlehem. Had a small school. [Have] but one stove and trouble with that. I stayed at Mr. Jackson's all night.*

We find from reading his entries that he repaired clocks, was a voracious reader, worked hard on the farm, enjoyed attending church and singing schools, was elected Sunday School Superintendent in 1863, often visited friends and family, and attended

a "continuing education" seminar each fall before his teaching duties began in November.

A fascinating aspect of Terry's journal entries during the Civil War is how little the war affected him and his family. He rarely mentions anything about the war. It occasionally intrudes on his life and is mentioned in passing. On Wednesday, November 5, 1862 he writes:

*I copied the returns of the election this morning and got to the Hollow at 9 o'clock and met the other Inspectors and signed them. I then went to Albany and got exempt from the draft. Got Marvin a cap etc. Came back by way of Baltimore, took tea at Jane's and got home in the evening.*

And on May 10, 1863, Terry writes:

*Charlotte and I went to the Hollow to Sunday School this morning and had a large attendance. This being our first Sabbath for the season, it took most of our time to form classes, appoint teachers, etc. Charlotte and I went to Coeymans to the funeral of Stephen McCulloch who died in the army near New Orleans. Collier preached. We got home early. I went over to the Rock, this P.M. A few met at the School House but did nothing.*

Terry's life changed dramatically in February of 1864. He went to New York City to work in his brother John's dry goods store. His first day was on March 1, 1864. He wrote:

*I went to the store with John this morning. It snowed nearly all day. I looked through the stock in the wholesale room and got acquainted with the placement of goods in the rest of the store. It snowed very hard when we went over home to Hoboken.*

We learn from his journal that his work days began as early as 8 a.m. when the store opened, and ended as

late as 10p.m. when they closed. His job appears to have been managerial in nature although he never really lets us know what his position was. He seemed to have had quite a social life in spite of the long hours at the store. He writes on Monday, April 11, 1864:

*Emma & Charlotte came to the store this morning and I went with them to the fair. We got 3 season tickets, got our dinner in the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Saloon, and went up to the Union Square Department before dark. Had a Dutch tea in the Knicker-Bocker Kitchen. Got good seats in the Concert Room and stayed there till it was out. Got home on the 1/4 past 11 Boat.*

The war seems to have intruded on his life in the city even less than it did in the country. He seldom mentions anything to do with the whole conflict. The major battles, events, and even the end of the war pass by unchronicled. He does mention an event on Saturday April 15, 1865:

*Fine morning, rainy afternoon. I got a bell for the Sunday School. Commenced cutting drapery for the banners but changed my mind. We got the news of the assassination of President Lincoln this morning and draped our store in mourning as did nearly all the other in B. W.*

The diaries go on from there. Daniel Webster Terry eventually left New York and returned to teaching. Later he became a salesman. At some point he married and had a son named Daniel. Because of Terry's diligence in recording his thoughts and activities, these diaries give us a fascinating look at one man's life in the latter half of the 19th century.

**Gina P. White  
Director of Archives & Special  
Collections**

# Focus

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## Do You Know....?

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Do You Know.... that the library has online access to Dissertation Abstracts? Do You Know ... that the library has a designated library carrel with all the latest technology for the visual-impaired? Do You Know... what the library has to offer? A new library committee has the task of making sure that you do.

Earlier this summer, a committee of four library faculty and staff, David Weeks, Carrie Volk, Andy Johnston and Susan Silverman, was created to “explore ways to increase the visibility of the library and further promote its wealth of resources to the Winthrop community.” The committee has identified three avenues to explore so far with this objective in mind.

The first suggestion is to use the exhibits to attract people into the library. We hope to have a traveling exhibit, *Fractals: Mathematics and Science as Art*, from the South Carolina State Museum for a month during the spring semester. A reception will be held to open the exhibit.

The second area the committee is investigating is a mail-based marketing idea, with a series of postcards following a “Do You Know...?” theme. These postcards will be distributed on campus, and each one will highlight one specific fact about the library.

Lastly, the committee is working on a revision to *Dacus Library Online*. This new look to our homepage will list more of our resources, provide a new “How Do I?” section, eliminate the drop down menus and have a daily updated column of library news.

Coming to your mailbox soon.... Do You Know.....?

**Susan R. Silverman**  
**Head of Public Services**



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## Dacus Luxuriates in PASCAL's Alpenglow

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PASCAL has been much talked about over the last two years and for good reason. It has boosted the holdings of every academic library in the state, including our own. PASCAL has not only provided access to databases we never had, but it has also provided access to journals we would never have been able to purchase otherwise.

PASCAL does this in two ways. The first and most obvious is its selection of databases for statewide delivery. PASCAL has added *Academic Search Premier, Business Source Premier, MLA Bibliography, CINAHL, MEDLINE, ERIC, Health Source Nursing Academic Edition, Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Computer Source, MAS Ultra, and Literature Research Center* to Dacus's holdings. Moreover, through the PASCAL Buyer's Club (a volunteer program that requires participants to share the costs), Dacus has been able to secure other databases at a much-reduced rate. In some cases, the discounts are so significant that we are able to secure the other databases simply by shifting funds.

To give you some idea of the fabulous changes PASCAL has wrought, consider the following. At the height of our print subscription days (in the mid 1970s) Dacus took just over 3,700 titles, counting everything possible. This would have been considered a significant number for a collection and institution our size. With the addition of PASCAL's newest offering this September, Dacus now

lays claim to electronic holdings of more than 35,000!

Just think. Even compared to our heyday, we now have access to ten times the resources we once did. So, when you have occasion to chat with your congressperson, please tell him or her thank you. And by all means please tell them to keep up the good work!

**MY Herring**  
**Dean of Library Services**



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## Active People

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**Jackie McFadden** recently attended the Fall Federal Depository Library Conference & Depository Library Council Meeting held in Washington, D.C. Her Disaster Preparedness group presented its newly developed Chapter Fourteen of the Electronic Federal Depository Library Manual. This manual is being prepared to replace the outdated 1993 manual. Jackie was the only depository librarian from South Carolina who was invited to participate in writing a chapter of the new manual.

**Continued on page 4**

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## Dacus Focus

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*Pat Ballard, Co-Editor*  
*Jean Wells, Co-Editor*  
*www.winthrop.edu/dacus/*

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In the spring, **Bob Gorman** will attend the 13th Annual Spring Training Conference on the Historical & Sociological Impact of Baseball held in Tucson, AZ.

**Gloria Kelley**, as member of the PASCAL search committee, has assisted in identifying the best candidate for the Academic Resources Coordinator position. The announcement of the new hire will be made in the next few weeks.

**Jackie McFadden** is the chair of the Government Documents Roundtable and conducted a business meeting for all depository librarians at the South Carolina Library Association Annual Conference in October.

**Mark Herring** has submitted the final draft of his new book, *Genetic Engineering*. Herring's book also features original contributions by two individuals, one from the left, and one from the right. Peter Singer and Robert P. George wrote original essays looking at the matter from their very different views. Greenwood Publishing Group will release the book (Herring's sixth and his third since coming to Winthrop in 1999) in late November.



HAIL AND FAREWELL

New faces on the staff this summer included **Andy Johnston**, former student employee in Archives & Special Collections, who is now the Assistant Archivist. The Dean's Office is now home to **Genevieve (Jenny) Sparacin**, Administrative Assistant. And Serials Acquisitions and Cataloging has a half-time Library Technical Assistant, **Letroy Gardner**. The new face in Circulation belongs to **Linda Walrod**.

Some familiar faces on the library staff have changed departments. **Charlene Drummond** has moved from Serials to Monographs Acquisitions. **Carrie Volk**, Circulation, has become the Document Delivery Librarian. Carrie is currently attending the University of South Carolina's School of Library and Information Science and follows directly in the footsteps of Doug Short, proving that "we grow our own."

We were saddened to say farewell to the following staff, but wished them well in their future endeavors. **Sandy Pakozdy**, Monographs Acquisitions, retired after 27 years at Winthrop, and we occasionally receive e-mails from her on her travels around the U.S. **Bessie Meeks**, Administrative Assistant in the Dean's Office, left us to return to her first love – teaching. She teaches high-school English in Gaston County. **Doug Short**, Document Delivery Librarian, now faces an exciting opportunity as a Reference Librarian at a just-built branch of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. The Mountain Island Branch replaces the Coulwood Branch, tripling its size and expanding opportunities for its clientele of all ages.



For more information: [www.winthrop.edu/dacus](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**.