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December 2006: New Dacus Online, DOC Greet Campus

Dacus Library

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Focus

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New Dacus Online, DOC greet campus

While you were away for the summer, Dacus Library was busy putting on a new face. The two major ways you use the library on your computer were totally redesigned to improve the way we provide information to you.

Jean Wells and Carrie Volk, reference librarians and web gurus, revised every web page in the Dacus Library Online (DLO) web site. Before they were finished, nearly 900 new pages were ready to greet the campus in August.

Our goals in this massive undertaking were many. Foremost was a desire to make it easier to find what the library has to offer. The old library homepage had served Winthrop in the same basic form for nearly ten years. Advances in web design over that period were analyzed to see if they could help us improve your experience when you search for library resources.

Another goal was to make the pages compliant with the latest standards for accessibility for persons with disabilities. They needed to be easily interpreted by a person with vision problems using a screen reader or magnification

program. That meant the old drop down menus had to go.

We also wanted to minimize the number of “clicks” it takes to reach the page you want. We attempted to reach this goal by grouping the information available on DLO into major categories: “Find Resources,” “How Do I...?” “About the Library,” etc., and then listing the pages which let you find out about those things.

A new feature added to DLO is “Library News.” Through a technology called “RSS,” (Really Simple Syndication), we can deliver information automatically to you through your email. But if you don’t want more messages in your inbox, you can always find out what’s going on at Dacus by clicking on the home page.

Dacus Online Catalog

Like DLO, the Dacus Online Catalog (DOC) had not changed in years. While still very functional, it didn’t have a contemporary look. It also was missing some functions that we felt would be popular with Winthrop students and faculty.

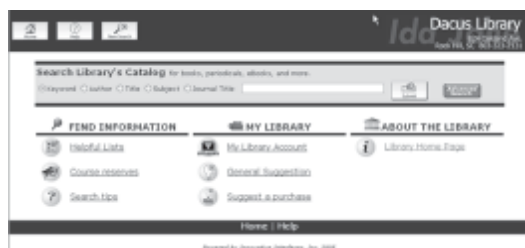
In cooperation with our library system vendor, Innovative Interfaces, we undertook a “freshening”



of the DOC. All the pages were redesigned and given a more attractive look. The main search page was modified to make it easier to choose the type of search you want to perform. A small image of the book jacket has been added to most records. And a link to “Other Resources” lets you transfer your question directly into many of our online databases.

Another new feature is “My Library Account,” found on the DOC search page. Every student, faculty, and staff member automatically has a library account page. It can be viewed by logging on with your last name and Winthrop ID number. Through this page you can find out what you have checked out, if any are overdue, and if you owe any fines. You can also renew books online.

Probably the most useful feature of “My Library Account” is the ability it gives you to keep up with new books in your areas of interest. You can set up “preferred



Continued on Page 4

Pettus endows Archives with largest gift

Louise Pettus, professor emerita and Winthrop alumna, Class of 1946, has given the Archives a kind and generous gift of \$400,000. She also donated her papers consisting of a wealth of historical information accumulated through a lifetime of meticulous research. President Anthony DiGiorgio announced the gift during his annual opening address to faculty and staff on August 16. The Archives staff is pleased and greatly honored with the announcement of this gift and our new name. Louise Pettus is one of the Archives' favorite and most respected researchers as well as a knowledgeable and excellent resource for historical information concerning the Catawba Region and South Carolina. Her support of the Winthrop Archives and Special Collections' mission is greatly appreciated.

From 1967 to 1985, Pettus taught secondary social studies and teacher training in the School of Education. From 1985 until she retired in 1989, she taught in Winthrop's History Department. Pettus received the university's Alumni Professional Achievement Award in the Spring of 2006. Pettus now lives in her native Lancaster County. A



Louise Pettus and library dean Mark Herring at the announcement of the naming of the Archives after Professor Pettus

recognized scholar of South Carolina history and recipient of a number of historical awards, Pettus has written historical columns for the York section of the Charlotte Observer for 21 years. She recently retired from editing the York County Genealogical and Historical Society Quarterly after 16 years of service. She has written eight books, the most recent one titled "Leasing Away a Nation: The Legacy of Catawba Indian Land Leases."

Library Dean Mark Herring noted, "This is one of the most significant gifts ever given to the Archives or to Dacus. Louise Pettus has done more to make our archives more widely known than any other single individual through her teaching and her writing. It is most fitting that the Archives bear her name as a testament to all she has done for Dacus, for Winthrop and for all of York County. This gift will open up to us new vistas of archives access and

preservation by making certain that what is here now will be here in perpetuity. Hers is a most generous gift from a remarkable and beloved colleague and friend."

A portion of the monetary gift will be used for some much needed equipment. The majority will be placed in an endowment in part to fund future fellowships in the Archives for students interested in pursuing a career in archival studies.

For more information about the Archives and its programs and policies, contact Gina White, Director at (803) 323-2334; Andrew Johnston, Assistant Archivist at (803) 323-2302; or email: archives@winthrop.edu. You may also consult the Archives newly refurbished Web site at www.winthrop.edu/dacus/About/Archives/archivesdept.htm.



President DiGiorgio and Ms. Pettus

Gina Price White
Director of Archives and Special Collections

Focus

Corridor of Shame exhibit draws crowd

Dacus Library recently hosted the “But What About Us?” exhibit, a display of photographs from the “Corridor of Shame.” The travelling display showcases 60 student photographs that bring to light the awful conditions in elementary, middle and high schools in the state’s rural communities

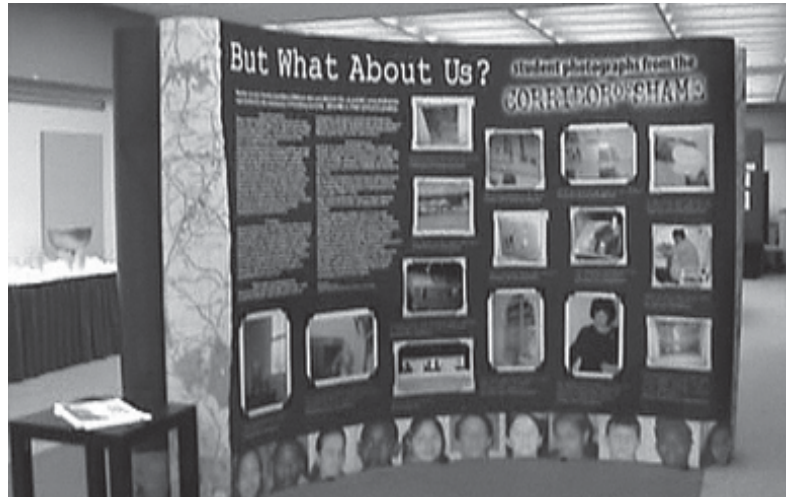
More than 200 students in middle and high schools in seven rural school districts participated in this project. They photographed images in their schools during March and April of 2006. The exhibit depicts the conditions that over 132,000 students must endure in the state’s rural schools along the I-95 corridor.

Some of the execrable conditions include: raw sewage in the halls of schools during rainy season, text-books more than 50 years old (or too few to distribute to students), falling plaster, malfunctioning toilets, old or no equipment and more.

According to the exhibit, these schools struggle “with the effects of reduced funding from the State of South Carolina in recent years and declining support from local governments due to plant closings and diminishing tax bases, these school districts are hard pressed to provide a minimally adequate education to their students.”

Some who viewed the black and white photographs thought the photographs showed conditions at the turn of the *last* century, and were shocked to learn young people attended schools in such horrible conditions *today*.

The exhibit drew more than 100 students, faculty staff and community members into the library. But seeing the exhibit isn’t enough. You can do more: call your legislator and ask them why these conditions remain, visit one of the communities,



Winthrop viewed four panels like this one

or purchase the videotape, “Corridor of Shame.”

After spending a week in Dacus the exhibit spent two days in Columbia, S.C. It is scheduled in October for Clemson and Furman

universities. For more information or more that you can do, see <http://www.corridorofshame.com/whataboutus/index.php>.

Mark Y. Herring
Dean of Library Services

Volk already contributing

Carrie Volk became the newest member of the Reference Department when she transferred from Circulation to Document Delivery in fall 2005, following in the footsteps of her predecessor, Doug Short. Holding a Winthrop University diploma in history, Carrie completed her library degree from the University of South Carolina on May 5, 2006.

While new to the profession, Carrie has already made significant contributions to Interlibrary Loan and to Dacus Library. She completed the automation of the department’s operations, put in motion by Doug, including designing and implementing the new totally online Interlibrary Loan request system. In addition, she assisted in the development of the new Dacus Library

Online Web page, which was introduced this summer.

Carrie’s enthusiasm and can-do attitude are infectious, and will serve her in good stead as she continues to put into operation further improvements in Interlibrary Loan. We are very pleased that she is a member of the library faculty, and congratulate her on earning her master’s degree in librarianship.

Bob Gorman
Head of Reference

Dacus Focus

is published by the faculty and staff of Dacus Library, Winthrop University.
Pat Ballard, Editor
Carrie Volk, Co-Editor
<http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/>

Dacus' active people share expertise

Mary Rose Adkins, Cataloging/Database Management Librarian, and **Pat Ballard**, Head of Monographs Cataloging, presented a day-long workshop on June 15 entitled, "Diving into DVDs," which dealt with various issues in cataloging DVDs and included hands-on practice. Twenty-eight participants came from Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina for the workshop.

Gloria Kelley, Head of Technical Services, is a Member at Large of the Innovative Users Group

(IUG) Steering Committee, and serves as Co-Coordinator of the IUG Clearinghouse. Innovative Interfaces, Inc. is the vendor of the library's online catalog. **Gloria's** term ends in May 2007.

Jackie McFadden, Government Documents Librarian, and **Jean Wells**, Web Page Manager, spoke to the Friends of Dacus Library on October 16 about their book, *The Civilian Conservation Corps: a Bibliography*, and presented a program on the history of the Corps.

Jackie McFadden, with Jan Comfort, Clemson University, presented "Increasing Access to Electronic Documents as Well as Older Print Materials – A Tale of Two Projects" at the Fall Federal Depository Library Conference and Depository Library Council Meeting, Washington, D.C., on October 23. In addition, **Jackie** will present "Searching the New Catalog of U.S. Government Publications" at the South Carolina Library Association's Annual Conference at Hilton Head on November 29.

Adkins leaves for UNCC

We said a fond farewell in August to **Mary Rose Adkins**, Cataloging/Database Management Librarian, who has moved on to serve as Head of Cataloging at the University of North Carolina—Charlotte. A search is now underway to fill the position.

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

New Dacus Online, DOC debut. . .

Continued from Page 1

searches" of the library catalog, and DOC will email you a list of new books by that author or on that subject as they arrive in the library.

What Do You Think?

Dacus Library is always trying to improve its service to you. We want to know what you think about our new web pages and online catalog. Please go to <http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus> and click on

"online survey." Give us your reaction and suggestions.

Laurance R. Mitlin
Associate Dean of Library Services

*Happy
Holidays
from
Dacus
Library*