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April 2008: PASCAL Delivers...and How!

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Focus

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PASCAL Delivers ... and How!

PASCAL (Partnerships among South Carolina Academic Libraries) is turning in another banner year for the state's 57 institutions of higher learning and, more importantly, its more than 300,000 students.

PASCAL is the Palmetto State's higher education electronic information highway, so to speak, and mirrors, in its delivery and formation, those consortia in neighboring states, VIVA in Virginia, Galileo in Georgia, and NC Live in North Carolina.

With just \$2 million annually in funding from the state, PASCAL delivers back to participating institutions \$8 dollars for every \$1 it spends. It is today – and perhaps ever in the state's history—one of the most effective, most collaborative, most fiscally frugal programs on the books.

It also faces one of its toughest uphill budget battles to date in a very tight and shrinking economy.

This year PASCAL delivered to Winthrop 33 databases, increased its electronic holdings by almost 300 titles and provided access to more than a million articles!

Combined with Discus, a similar state-supported database delivery mainly for general public and K-12 use, Winthrop now offers students unprecedented access to holdings we could never have considered owning due to cost.

Just think of it: right at a student's fingertips or a faculty member's tweed-coated elbow are untold riches of electronically delivered information—information, mind you, to which Winthrop faculty and students have never had access before.

And the gamut of information is just as impressive, covering subjects from Anthropology to Zoology, with Biology, Yachting, Chemistry, English and History, and everything else—literally—in between. Winthrop gets all this for the amazing low price of its membership fee, \$6,000. Ronco products never had it so good!

But that's just the beginning, just the P part of PASCAL. Its other programs are also mind-boggling. PASCAL Delivers and its statewide digitization initiatives are just more of this *embar-rass de richesses!*

PASCAL Delivers allows any student at any one of the 57 institutions in the state to borrow from another institution any of its circulating materials. These materials are delivered—hence, the name—in 72 hours or less, using a statewide courier service.

Altogether, the state holds about 12 million titles in its academic libraries, of which about 75% are unique to only a few libraries.

If a student or faculty member at Winthrop sees a title she needs on Monday, she'll likely have it in her hands by Wednesday of the same week.

When I arrived in 1999, not even a decade ago, this same process would have taken about ten days. Now any student or faculty member can research any topic and have access to the materials in a matter of minutes or a matter of a few days. Subjects that would have been out of reach because time and distance made them impossible to acquire are

now the subject of research projects by undergraduates.

The digitization program is also beginning to make available online the rich repository of materials held in the state's more than 75 archives.

In terms of dollars, what does PASCAL mean to Winthrop? If the state does not fund PASCAL, Winthrop must have a quick infusion of more than \$125,000 over and above its current budget just to get *close*—not match—where we are today. Close would not include millions of items plus either the delivery

or digitization service, not to mention other important research amenities.

Is PASCAL popular? Not a day goes by that our students or faculty are not using some PASCAL-delivered material as they go about their daily academic lives. This is doubtless true of the more than 300,000 other students in South Carolina's institutions of higher learning.

And hardly a day goes by that someone doesn't thank us for having these extraordinary services. And to think we get all this for a mere \$2 million. It boggles the mind that such a program may fall on the budget cutting room floor; if anything it should be increased!

Let's hope—and even pray—that next year at this time I am writing about an even better PASCAL service than ever before, and praising our state's trenchant foresight and brilliant innovation.

M.Y. Herring
Dean of Library Services



World War I Through the Eyes of Albin O. Bauer

Den of Antiquity

Reichenbach [Germany] Dec. 27, 1914

“Dear Friends of R [ock]-H [ill],

Your few lines and the paper received. I am not surprised that you are anxious about Germany, for nothing but English are you getting to read. Do not believe such stories but have faith in the German people; they are all right and not scared a bit. We are on top on both sides, east and west, and not the least bit afraid about the outcome of this affair. We must conquer and we shall conquer. Of course it is hard work for our enemies are many and powerful too. But they are lacking the righteousness of their cause and the valor and discipline of our army. The Germans know that they are fighting for their divine right to live and have a place on earth like any other people, they are fighting for their homes and families and last but not least for German culture and all what it stands for.”

When Albin O. Bauer wrote this letter to Edward Fewell of Rock Hill, S.C. in December of 1914, World War I had been raging in Europe since mid August.

Albin Bauer, a native of Germany, came to Rock Hill in 1907 as Professor and Director of Music at Winthrop. He taught at Winthrop until he resigned in 1913 to return to Germany.

Bauer rented a room from the Edward Fewell family for most of the years he lived in Rock Hill. His musical specialty seemed to have been the piano.

Winthrop president D.B. Johnson wrote in 1914 that “he is a very fine piano performer.” Aside from this and the letters he wrote to the Fewells, the records do not provide



Albin O. Bauer ca 1913

much personal information about Bauer.

Bauer’s description of trench warfare, which was a new battle tactic, is quite interesting:

“In the West there is at present slow but sure progress. No open battle as in the late wars. The soldiers dig big ditches now and approach each other this way. Big cannons weaken the opposing position and then the bayonet, knife, and hand grenades do the rest. According to the descriptions of those that have been in it, it must be awful work. For weeks those poor fellows are staying in those ditches, sometimes not more than 60-100 yards from those of the foe.”

Bauer has little to say about the actions of the United States until May 21, 1915 when he writes Mr. Fewell from his home in Leipzig:

“The main cause for the long duration of the fighting is— America! Yes, do not look surprised. If America were to keep neutral in a true, honest way, we should have defeated both

England and France some time ago but while Wilson orders weekly prayers in all the churches, he allows on the other hand, the export of billions worth of ammunition and other war goods to England and France and Russia. It is not fair and by no way worthy of such a great cultured country it professes to be. Business is business! Yes!—but the United States ought to act in a broader way. America will gain a good many millions of \$ but lose the good name it had up till now for fairness and honesty. You have no idea how hard it is for me here not to uphold the integrity of the U.S. of A. All my friends call me (fortunately for me in jest) a “perfect American” who cannot be trusted any more.”

The last letter in the Archives’ possession from Bauer to the Fewells before the end of the war is dated March 12, 1916. Bauer is a little more pessimistic but not much:

“War is awful anytime and while we people at home do not see with our own eyes the slaughter and devastation, still the many wounded and what they tell, etc., etc., speak to everyone who will hear. . . .Otherwise we fare pretty well. Of course, a good many things have become scarce but German ingenuity and organization have found substitutes or has arranged the use of those articles so that as little waste as possible may take place. . . .If it were not for America this war would have been ended long ago. But Mr. Wilson and those big bankers and trust owners insist upon helping England morally and otherwise. It is hard work to overcome all those influences but you may rest assured Germany will come out on top.”

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Dacus Upgrades Print/Copy System

After 20 years of loading Vendacards® with cash, Winthrop students returned from Christmas break to find a new way of paying for printing and copying in Dacus Library.

When counting large piles of change became too burdensome in the late 1980's, the library replaced its coin-operated copy machines with a card system. The Vendacards had a magnetic stripe which could be encoded with a cash amount. When a student made a photocopy, the cost was deducted from the amount on the card.

Many years later, with the advent of the Internet, the system was extended to printing from personal computers installed in the library.

While the system worked well for many years, it was plagued with

equipment problems as it aged. At times, students could not add money to their cards, or the copiers or printers would not accept the cards.

Faced with expensive repairs and equipment replacement costs, Dacus decided to switch to a simpler system which does not suffer from the weaknesses of the Vendacard.

"What we have done," says Laurance Mitlin, library associate dean, "is come up with a system that doesn't have so many 'moving parts.' The card readers, which were installed on each copier and printer, were the biggest problem with the Vendacard system. They were unreliable, mainly due to their complexity. This new system is much less complex and, thus, more reliable."

"Instead of keeping track of money by reading and writing directly on the Vendacard or ID card, the new system records additions and subtractions from a student's account in a database on the library's server," Mitlin said.

Once a student creates an account on the "add-value station" near the Circulation Desk, paying for printing is as easy as using a debit card at a fast-food restaurant. "You just swipe your ID card at a copier or the Print Release Station, type in your password, and out come your copies," Mitlin explained. Adding money to your account is just as easy. After swiping her card and entering her password, the user just inserts money into the bill-acceptor at the Add-Value station. No change can be given in the library, so patrons who do not want to have large amounts on account should remember to bring a dollar bill or two with them to the library.

Students who have money left on their ID cards from last semester can receive credit by presenting the card to the Circulation Desk on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. No credits will be given after May 30. Students may also charge copying to their Cashier's account (\$5 minimum) during the same hours.

Larry Mitlin

Associate Dean of Library Services

Wilcox Cardboard Art Exhibit at Dacus

Dacus Library celebrated Black History Month in February with a display of the Wilhelmina Wilcox Cardboard Art Collection. For this collection, Wilcox created insightful cardboard pieces replicating some of the inventions credited to African Americans.

On February 19th, Wilcox came to campus to talk about the roots of her project. The artist also explained how she, a 38-year veteran teacher with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, North Carolina school corporation, uses this exhibit to inspire young and old generations to appreciate contributions by African Americans.

The exhibit featured replicas of the washing machine, refrigerator, egg beater, lemon squeezer, horse shoe, bridle, record player, cell



Pieces of the Cardboard Art Collection

phone, telephone, computer, light bulb, mailbox, mail drop box, pencil sharpener, shoes, table, player piano, stop light, lawn mower and golf tee.

More information about the Wilhelmina Wilcox Cardboard Art Collection can be found by viewing the artist's Web site at <http://www.wilcoxcardboardart.com>

Gloria Kelley

Head of Technical Services

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We have no records of what happened to Mr. Bauer. The last in the collection is dated December 1934. Bauer was in his 70s by then and was living with the adult daughters of a friend. In a letter to the Fewells dated July 1920, we get a glimpse of what his life was like just after the devastating war. He writes:

"You want to know how I am getting on, what I am doing etc., etc. Well, you will surely be surprised when I tell you that I am now working as cashier with a very good friend of mine who owns a very large wholesale business. . . .Of course, I do not neglect my art. I even give a few private lessons, which besides my own practicing keeps me pretty busy. Work is the best now to help one to get over all that has befallen poor Germany. It keeps one from thinking about it."

Gina Price White
Director of Archives and Special Collections

For more information:
<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**.

Active People at Dacus

Larry Mitlin, associate dean, attended the Innovative Leaders Forum in Berkeley, Calif., on April 3-4. The invitation-only session on "Driving the User Experience" brought together senior-level university library administrators to discuss technology and technology-related issues.

Bob Gorman and David Weeks, reference, will have their book *Death at the Ballpark: A Comprehensive Study of Game-Related Fatalities of Players, Other Personnel and Spectators in Amateur and Professional Baseball, 1862-2007*, published this summer by McFarland.

Jackie McFadden, government documents, has been appointed chair of the SCLA Government Documents Roundtable.

Spiro Shetuni, database management, presented "Albanian Traditional Music : Toske Music" at the 77th Annual Meeting of the Music Library Association on November 11, 2007.

Andy Johnston, archives, attended "Disaster Recovery and Response: an Exercise in Disaster and Planning," in Greenville, S.C., on April 16. The workshop was sponsored by the South Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board.

Dean Appointed to National Board

Another recent item that has put Dr. Herring in the news is his nomination by President George W. Bush to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board.

This nomination, along with three others for this board, have been approved by the Senate. Dr. Herring's first official meeting with

this group was in April where he and his fellow board members were administered the oath of office by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts. The oath is the same one taken by the President and Supreme Court Justices. This is quite an honor for Dr. Herring, as well as for Winthrop University.