

Center explores digital libraries' potential

The Texas A&M University Board of Regents approved the establishment of the Center for the Study of Digital Libraries at the Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES). The center will build upon the work of the Hypermedia Research Laboratory (HRL) at Texas A&M.

"I see the Center for the Study of Digital Libraries providing expertise and experience to help the Texas A&M community transfer its collections of books, journals, bugs, plants, animals and so forth into useful digital libraries," said John Leggett, codirector of the HRL. Leggett and others from HRL are expected to be part of the new center.

Leggett added, "The new center already has research projects in the areas of computer system architectures for the storage and retrieval of digital libraries materials, user-interface and client software for digital libraries, and collaborative scholarship within digital libraries."

UnCover Reveal adds features

UnCover Reveal, an electronic table of contents alert service, has added new subscription options. Its users can receive current information direct to their e-mail addresses in two ways—by creating and storing a list of journal titles or by creating and storing special search strategies (author or topic searches). Libraries can now get a site license for the service. UnCover Reveal allows users with profiles to create a list of journal titles in which they are interested. When the next issue of any of those titles is entered into the database, the table of contents is automatically e-mailed to them. Users who stored search strategies will have the results of those searches e-mailed to them when new articles are entered into the database.

Everything you ever wanted to know about L.A.

The University of Southern California (USC) will launch the first multimedia database dedicated exclusively to the city of Los Angeles. The Information System for Los Angeles (ISLA) will



plot images and information on a grid system, allowing researchers instant connection to historic resources for the study of Los Angeles, including census data, newspaper accounts, and photographs with the sites they describe.

"ISLA will be the first database dedicated exclusively to the history, geology, geography, economics, sociology, and culture of a single city," said historian Philip Ethington,

who headed the USC team—a joint librarian and faculty team—that conceived the database.

The ISLA project is housed in USC's Center for Scholarly Technology (CST), a part of the USC library. Lucy Wegner, director of CST, is a member of the ISLA team.

Major funding for the project is coming from the RCL Foundation, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization dedicated to educational research, that has budgeted \$250,000 over the next five years to develop the project in collaboration with USC and a \$500,000 gift from the estate of Lucy Doheny.

The database is expected to be fully operational by the year 2000, but it will be accessible on the Internet via the World Wide Web by the end of 1995. A demonstration version will be available in June. While the address for the demonstration was not available at press time, it may be found at the USC homepage: <http://cwis.usc.edu/Library/CST/index.html>.

English & American Lit Section starts listserv

ACRL's English and American Literature Section has recently established a listserv. Topics for discussion will include collection development, electronic texts, user education, literary reference work, humanities databases, and administrative issues necessary to managing the section.

To subscribe to the list, send a message to: listserv@gwuvm.gwu.edu. The first (and only) line of the message should read: subscribe ealsl <your name>. Example: subscribe ealsl Linda Miller

Riggs named *College & Research Libraries* editor

Donald E. Riggs, dean of the University Library and professor of information and library studies at the University of Michigan, has been named to a three-year term as editor of *College & Research Libraries*, the bimonthly refereed journal of quality research articles from leading authorities in the field published by ACRL. His term as editor will commence in June 1996, after a one-year apprenticeship under current editor Gloriana St. Clair.

Richard Hume Werking, chair of the ACRL Publications Committee and chair of the search committee for the new editor, stated, "In a time of enormous transformation and change in the profession, Dr. Riggs has the skills, experience, and vision to ensure that *College & Research Libraries* continues to be an essential resource for academic librarians."

Riggs is completing his 25th year as a dean/director of academic libraries. Prior to his tenure at Michigan, he served as dean of University Libraries at Arizona State University, director of libraries at the Auraria Higher Education Center in Denver, and director of the Central Colorado Multi-type Library System. He has taught library science at both the

undergraduate and graduate levels for over 20 years, and designed a new course called Advanced Library Management at the University of Michigan. Riggs brings a solid background in editing and publishing to the position. He is the author/editor of eight books. He has authored 52 journal articles/technical reports and 31 book chapters. He was the founding editor of *Library Administration & Management*, is currently editing *Library Hi Tech*, and serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Library Administration* and *College and Research Libraries*.



Donald E. Riggs

Riggs was a senior fellow at UCLA in 1989, and was the 1991 recipient of the Hugh Atkinson Memorial Award. He has served on various national groups including the ALA Council, the OCLC Users Council, and the Research Libraries Group Board of Governors.

In accepting the appointment, Riggs said he "looks forward to continuing the fine work that current editor Gloriana St. Clair has done with the journal and to keeping the quality of the research in the journal at the highest level." He "welcomes comments from the membership about how to improve the journal."

Inquiries should be directed to the list moderator, Scott Stebelman, at e-mail: scottlib@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu.

Call for sci/tech abstracts

Science and technology librarians and information specialists take note—here is an opportunity to present your preliminary original research results or ALA committee findings by submitting an abstract to the Forum for Science and Technology Library Research. ACRL's Science and Technology Section Forum Committee invites abstracts describing recent research or work in progress of interest to science and/or technology librarians. Committee members will select individuals to present reports of their research at the 1996 ALA Annual Conference in New York.

Proposals will be judged on the basis of timeliness, evidence of scholarship in methodology, and relevance to science and technology librarianship. Proposals should be limited to one page and contain an abstract of not more than 250 words, as well as the researcher's name, institution, phone number, and e-mail address. The deadline for submission is January 3, 1996. Papers will be selected at ALA Midwinter 1996. Send abstracts to: Sheila Johnson, Oklahoma State University Library, 204 Library, Stillwater, OK 74078-0375; sheila@okway.okstate.edu; fax: (405) 744-7579; phone: (405) 744-5271.

IBM launches digital library initiative

IBM has launched the IBM Digital Library, an initiative aimed at helping owners of information content in all its forms—including films,

music, text, art, and rare manuscripts—become electronic publishers able to make their information available on networks around the world. The IBM Digital Library will consist of an array of products and services aimed at helping customers transform information into digital multimedia that can be shared via networks. The initiative will give customers the tools to manage, present, and protect that information. The five functions of the Digital Library are: storage and management, search and access, rights management, content creation and capture, and distribution.



This is a digitized image of a world map from Ptolemy's *Geography* as it appears on an IBM display terminal. IBM's Digital Library is making available to scholars replicas of selected Vatican manuscripts.

Readmore sponsors Backserv

Backserv is a listserv devoted exclusively to the informal exchange of serials back issues and books in all subject areas sponsored by Readmore, Inc. The Backserv archives are publicly accessible. They are also part of a gopher and are fully searchable using built-in WAIS indexing. In addition to the searchable archives of the Backserv list, the gopher will provide access to back issue dealers' catalogs in browsable and searchable formats, including online order and information request forms which may be e-mailed directly to the dealer. The Jerry Alper catalog is now available as a prototype. There is no cost to the library for using any of these services and they are not restricted to Readmore clients. To subscribe to the list send the message "subscribe backserv first name last name" to listserv@sun.readmore.com. To access the gopher: gopher.readmore.com.

ECLSS seeks researchers

Providing library services to extended campus students is a fertile field of research concluded the Research Committee of the ACRL Extended Campus Library Services Section (ECLSS) after analyzing the results of a comprehensive survey of extended campus librarians across the U.S. and Canada. The committee hopes that by offering key research topics as identified by professionals working in the field, interest will be stimulated among library school faculty, graduate students, and others seeking problems and issues for original research.

Respondents to the survey itemized a total of three dozen research topics they would like to see addressed. Here are the top five:

- Bibliographic instruction for extended campus students. What techniques are being used to deliver bibliographic instruction to distant learners and what is their relative effectiveness?
- Use of new technologies to enhance library support for distant learners. How can emerging digital resources best be integrated into library services for extended campus students? How do we measure their effectiveness?
- Perceptions of campus administrators regarding the value of extended campus library services. Do campus administrators view library services to extended campus students an important and justifiable use of resources? If so, why? If not, why?
- Funding extended campus library services. What are the cost components of providing library services to extended campus students? What funding models and formulas are being used and how adequate are they?
- Providing library services to independent learners who are not able to use an academic library in person. What are the essential library services off-campus students should be provided? What models are in place for providing these services and what are the factors that contribute to their success?

Other topics identified which merit research include: how does copyright law affect delivery of library services to distant learners? and how are library schools preparing aspiring academic librarians for serving the remote, non-traditional student in an electronic environment?

ACRL collecting information literacy data

This fall ACRL was approached by the Middle States Association Commission on Higher Education to enter a cooperative research project for the purpose of collecting data on existing information literacy programs in higher education institutions across the U.S. The address files of the six regional accrediting agencies were used for the mailing to campuses, which was addressed to the accrediting agencies' campus contact (usually presidents, provosts, and deans) with instructions that the instruments were to be distributed on campus to the unit best suited to respond. In some cases the campus identified the library as the appropriate unit to respond.

More than 3,000 surveys have been mailed; over 1,000 responses have been completed. We are trying to obtain the clearest and most complete picture possible of current state-of-the-art information literacy programs at institutions of higher learning across the U.S. If you have a program at your library and have not completed the survey, we invite you to use the form below and respond. Please attach any documentation (course syllabi, text, worksheets, or goal statements) that provide further clarity about your program. If you have any questions, call Althea Jenkins at (800) 545-2433 ext. 3248 or e-mail: althea.jenkins@ala.org.



Data Collection on Information Literacy Programs

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, in cooperation with ACRL, is expanding a list of state-of-the-art information literacy programs. The results will be published and will be used to identify programs for highlighting at regional and national conferences and in professional publications. *Data collection is on information literacy ef-*

forts which bring about the integration of information resources and technology into the curriculum rather than traditional library instruction efforts.

Information Literacy is defined as a subset of critical thinking skills which consists of individuals' abilities to know when they have an informational need and to access, evaluate, and effectively use information.

Circle one for each question

1. Yes No Does your campus have a functional information literacy program? (If so, please attach documentation on the program or briefly describe its goals and objectives and how it fits into the curriculum.)
2. Yes No Does your campus offer a course that focuses on the development of information literacy abilities? (Please attach syllabus.)
3. Yes No Are information literacy learning experiences integrated into courses in all majors? (Please attach some sample syllabi.)
4. Yes No Are there formal assessments of students' information literacy performance? (Please attach documentation or briefly describe.)
5. Yes No Are there faculty and staff development efforts provided to undergird the information literacy program on your campus? (Please attach documentation or briefly describe.)

Institutional Information

Contact person for further details on information literacy program.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Telephone number: _____ Fax number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please return by 9/1/95 to Information Literacy Study, ACRL, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

The survey also identified people who are interested in collaborating with others on research. There is not only considerable interest in seeing the results of that research, but also in working with others to carry out and report it. The committee will be pleased to provide

the names and e-mail addresses of respondents willing to collaborate, as well as detailed results of the survey, to anyone interested in researching topics in extended library services. Please contact Alexander Slade at e-mail: libext@uvvm.uvic.ca.

Colleagues and friends honor Bill Moffett

On a sunny Saturday morning, First Church in Oberlin, Ohio, was the scene of a memorial service. The event was held on May 6 in celebration and thanksgiving for the life of William Andrew Moffett, who served as library director at Oberlin College from 1979–90 and then as librarian of the Huntington Library until his untimely death last February. On Saturday afternoon, the auditorium at the college library was named in Bill's honor.

Eleven speakers at the service offered remembrances, including Bill's two daughters and one of his sons. Coworker and friend Marlene Merrill recalled the time when, just before the school year began, she saw Bill placing gold and purple chrysanthemums near the library's entrance and asked him what the big event was; "Our students are coming," he replied.

ACRL executive director Althea Jenkins said that Bill Moffett was a national and international figure, and she read a memorial resolution that had been passed by ACRL's executive board and read at an earlier memorial service held on February 28 in San Marino, California. (See the April *C&RL News*, p. 232.)

Ray English, Bill's successor as director of the Oberlin College Library, passed along the comment of an alumnus who had been a student editor in 1979 when the new director arrived at the college: "Bill stole the show on campus." Ray noted Bill's obvious charm and intelligence, but emphasized another characteristic—his courage, whether confronting a physically imposing book thief; standing up to persons in power; risking his career over principles he believed in; or facing death with

grace, humor, and equanimity. Richard Werking (U.S. Naval Academy Library) read the concluding lines of Tennyson's "Ulysses," which Bill had recited at the end of his remarks when accepting the ACRL Academic/Research Librarian of the Year Award in 1993.



William A. Moffett

Alison Ricker, science librarian at Oberlin, told the congregation how she had come to work at the college in 1983 on her way to "something big," and Bill had shown her how being in a small place did not mean that one couldn't do big things.

William Andrew Moffett Jr. read Robert Burns's poem, "O, Wert Thou in the Cauld Blast,"

observing that his father and Burns shared January 25 birthdays. In introducing the hymn "Morning Has Broken," Stephanie Moffett Hynds said that the tune had originated on the Isle of Mull, where Bill's maternal ancestors came from. At her request, the congregation provided a rousing version of the song in order "to break the morning." Reverend John Elder characterized Bill as energetic, creative, and courageous, and he reminded the group that Bill's persona reflected a combination of the conscientious and the whimsical.

At the conclusion of the benediction, a bagpipe played the recessional. Its sound mingled with the fainter sound of rock music from Tappan Square across the street, produced by the annual Mayfair Festival. As the Reverend Douglas Long noted, Bill would have enjoyed that combination too.—(This report was compiled from information provided by Ray English, Althea Jenkins, Alison Ricker, and Richard Werking) ■

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