

InfoConnect



The newsletter of WSU libraries

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UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES WELCOMES NEW DEAN

Pal Rao, Dean of University Libraries since September 2003, promised the faculty and staff to not make any major changes until the new fiscal year begins on July 1, 2004. In the meantime, Dean Rao has been getting to know faculty and staff at the libraries and across the campus, meeting donors and library supporters, and learning about WSU resources.

Dean Rao was the Dean of Library Services at Central Missouri State since 1988. He holds a Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University in Educational Media, a Master of Science in Library Science from the University of Illinois, a Master of Science in Educational Media from Southern Illinois University, a Diploma in Library Science from Osmania University, and a B.A. in English Literature from Andhra University. He also has a Certificate in Data Processing from the Institute for Certification of Computer Professionals and a Certificate from the Harvard University Leadership Institute. Before becoming Dean of Library Services at Central Missouri State, he developed and headed the Information Systems and Media Services Department at Eastern Illinois University.

Dean Rao is dedicated to promoting collegiality and developing harmonious working relationships among divergent professionals. He received the Ronald Bohley Award from the Missouri Library Association in 1998 for his contributions to the development of a statewide consortium for sharing information resources. At Central Missouri State he served on the Academic Planning Committee, the Information Technology Policy Council, and the Council of Deans, where he was chair of the academic deans group. His record of leadership there includes mobilizing academic community support for a new building program that resulted in the construction of a \$26 million library building, which was dedicated in 1999. He also collaborated with the University Development Office to raise additional funds from private donors to furnish the new building.

Kathy Downes, Associate Dean for Information Services, served as Interim Dean between Dean Ruth Jackson's departure for The University of California—Riverside in 2002 and Dean Rao's appointment.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK April 18-24

First organized in 1958, National Library Week is an annual observance sponsored by the American Library Association. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support.

As part of National Library Week, University Libraries will celebrate National Library Workers Day on April 20. National Library Workers Day is a time to honor the contributions of all library workers, including librarians, support staff, and others who make library services possible. Library workers are responsible for a wide variety of services that patrons come to expect. They catalog and shelve materials; handle requests and send them to other libraries; answer phone calls and emails; organize programs and events; administer computer networks and update the library's Website; select and obtain books, CDs, videos, and databases; and much more. They insure that all people have access to the information and library resources they need when they need it.

UPCOMING LIBRARIES EVENTS

WSU Scholarship Festival

The WSU Scholarship Festival will be celebrated from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, in front of Ablah Library. The annual event, which is sponsored by the WSU Libraries, Research Administration, and Graduate School, honors the research, publication, and performance activities of the WSU community. Refreshments will be served prior to remarks at 2:30 p.m. by President Don Beggs, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Research Robert Kindrick, Dean of Libraries Pal Rao, and Louis Medvene, Associate Professor of Psychology and one of the authors who is being honored. A bibliography of the 2003 publications and performances honored at the Shocker Scholarship Festival is available at <http://library.wichita.edu/shockersholarship/htm>.

Brown vs. Board of Education

University Libraries plans to recognize the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Brown vs. Board of Education decision in May. A special exhibit will be displayed at the Rhatigan Student Center and a guest speaker will be featured at a short program at Ablah Library. Watch for your invitation to this event.

Wichita Community Celebration Day

Mark your calendars for a Wichita Community Celebration Day at Ablah Library on July 21. Plans are still being formed but the date is set to celebrate the association of University Libraries and the Wichita community.

DONORS FUND LIBRARY ENHANCEMENTS

Page Fund purchases Book Scanner for Special Collections

Special Collections is now able to produce laser prints from fragile books as a result of a gift from Marge Page. She funded the purchase of a scanner-photocopier that allows books to be placed in an upright position for scanning. This eliminates pressure on the spine of delicate books.

Riley Fund sponsors improvements to Music and Chemistry Libraries

Thanks to the Riley Fund, the Music Library in the Duerksen Fine Arts Center has been refurbished for the first time in 50 years. New carpeting, painting, and rearrangement of some shelving has been accomplished, resulting in a quieter and brighter environment. The Science Library, which has been moved to a new location in McKinley Hall, has been furnished with new work tables, reading chairs, and accessories from the Riley Fund.

KGS Net Library Seminar Rooms and eBooks

Work is proceeding on developing seminar rooms in Ablah Library 224 and 225. This project is funded by Kansas Gas Service, a division of ONEOK, Inc., and includes new furniture and state-of-the-art technology. Acoustic wall panels are being installed and wireless laptops, a ceiling-mounted projector, smart board, and video conferencing equipment will be installed before the fall 2004 semester. In addition to funding these seminar rooms, Kansas Gas Service has provided funding for over 700 additions to the University Libraries eBook collection this year. An acknowledgement has been added to each of these eBook bibliographic records in recognition of the contribution.

New display cases are donated to Special Collections

Dr. and Mrs. James Mershon recently donated two locking display cases to Special Collections. The cases are custom designed and made to match the style of existing furniture in the Special Collections reading room. They will be used for rotating displays that highlight the collection.

The "beat movement"

Glenn Todd of San Francisco has donated the David Haselwood and Auerhahn Press collection to Special Collections. The collection comprises 40 years of books, manuscripts, pamphlets, and broadsides of this important press that witnessed the entire literary revolution in the San Francisco Bay Area known as the "beat movement."

Yingling Leisure Reading Collection

University Libraries now has a Leisure Reading Collection of recent, well-received fiction and non-fiction works intended to support the recreational reading needs of WSU faculty, staff, and students. The collection has about 100 best-selling fiction and non-fiction books and is added to regularly. It is not intended to duplicate collections found in bookstores or public libraries, but to provide a sampling of diverse titles with recreational and educational value that are being read and discussed by members of the WSU community. The Leisure Reading Collection includes donations from the community as well as books purchased by the Catherine Conklin Yingling Endowed Fund, a fund that was set up by the donor to support this type of collection. The books are displayed in the Reading Room of Ablah Library and can be checked out for four-week periods by all patron groups. A complete listing of books in the Leisure Reading Collection can be found at <http://library.wichita.edu/colldev/leisurereadingcollection.htm>.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

- Michael Kelly, long time Curator of Special Collections and University Archives at University Libraries, has accepted the position of Director of the Center for Southwest Research at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, effective July 1, 2004. The Center focuses on Southwestern and Western Americana, houses the Albuquerque Historical Society's collections, and has important art and art photography collections. Kelly's last day at WSU is May 7.
- Toni Forrester, temporary part-time Reference Librarian resigned to spend more time with her family in Oklahoma.
- Sheryl York replaced Ellen Oberle as the Administrative Assistant in the Reference and Research Department.
- A search committee has scheduled interviews with three applicants for the Life and Health Sciences Librarian position that was held by Connie Dalrymple before her resignation.
- Mike Son replaced Richard Watson as System Technician in the Library Systems Unit.

NEW AT THE LIBRARIES

The following electronic resources have been available to WSU students, faculty, and staff since January 2004:

- **Current Research @** now provides full-text access to all WSU dissertations.
- **HeritageQuest Online** is an online library of research materials for tracing family history and American culture. The collection of over 25,000 books, the entire U.S. Federal Census, and other materials allows users to tap into one of the largest collections of genealogy material in the country. Use is available through KAN-ED and the Kansas State Library.
- The number of **netLibrary** e-books in WSU's collection has expanded by 718 new titles in business, computers, reference, and other disciplines. The books may be browsed and/or checked out online by registered users at all hours of the day or night on any PC connected to the Internet. The collection now totals over 9,000 electronic book titles. On-campus and off-campus library users may access the eBooks at <http://library.wichita.edu/colldev/ebooks.htm>.
- **ProQuest Nursing Journals** provides complete information from leading nursing and related publications and is designed to meet the needs of researchers at health-care facilities as well as students enrolled in nursing programs at academic institutions. All source publications are available in the ASCII full-text format. Nearly all of them also offer articles in the full-image and text+graphics formats.
- **World Book Online** is based on the World Book Encyclopedia and includes full-text articles, dictionary entries, tables, special reports, maps, atlas, pictures, sounds, videos, animation, and 360-degree views.
- The Special Collections Department of University Libraries contributed digitized 19th century travel guides and James R. Mead's Towanda trading post records to a collaborative digitization project that brings together archives, historical societies, libraries, and museums from Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming. View the **Western Trails** collection at http://specialcollections.wichita.edu/western_trails/index.asp

Wichita State University Libraries: <http://library.wichita.edu>

InfoConnect, the newsletter of WSU Libraries, is designed to keep you up-to-date on University Libraries events, donors, resources, and personnel and is produced by Wichita State University Libraries. To unsubscribe from this list, please send an e-mail to gwen.alexander@wichita.edu and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line. If you have comments or suggestions, send them to Gwen Alexander, Associate Dean and editor of *InfoConnect*, at gwen.alexander@wichita.edu.

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