

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

### ANNUAL REPORT 1996-1997

The digitalization of information is changing academic research libraries profoundly and raising questions about their future. Because much of this information is distributed on the Internet, we cannot answer these questions without understanding the implications of the Internet. Paradoxically, it is both revolutionary and not so different from other technologies that their lessons cannot be instructive. Historically, research libraries have found that new technologies have augmented, rather than replaced, traditional library services and collections. What is revolutionary about the Internet is that it offers the possibility of interaction between authors and readers. This difference makes it difficult to predict how the Internet will change things. We learn slowly, by trial and error and by observation.

We know that the new information technologies have increased library use and efficiency and not, thus far, at the expense of traditional use of the print collection. Specifically, library use per FTE student rose from 51.14 items in 1989 to 79.85 items in 1997, or 56%. Yet, attendance dropped almost 16%. Put another way, each person entering the library used 1.61 items this year as compared with 1.03 in 1989, also a 56% increase.

The case of the library's full-text database, EBSCOhost provides additional insight. Since it became operational in the fall, use increased to the point where students, by the end of the year, were using three times as many articles from that source as from the library's print collection. From this, it is an easy leap to the conclusion that the library no longer needs paper subscriptions. Quite the contrary, it comes as a surprise to note that use of the print collection declined only slightly. About three-quarters of EBSCOhost's use this year (101,473) is new use.

Nothing on the horizon suggests that electronic access will spell the demise of academic research libraries. If anything, just the opposite is the likely outcome. The chaos of the bewildering array of electronic information that we face lends itself ideally to the library's traditional role of selecting, organizing and teaching the use of this growing deluge of information.

This year was noteworthy in other ways. The Library for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Campaign helped stave off further acquisitions cuts for next year, made possible a number of technological advances and allowed the library to make progress toward repositioning itself to meet the information needs of students and faculty in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The library looks back over the year with a sense of considerable accomplishment.

### AUTOMATION

As libraries become more dependant on computers for everything they do, automation becomes more deeply imbedded in every unit and every individual in the library. It is the responsibility of the automation unit to install and maintain hardware and software. In that capacity, it accomplished a great deal during the year, setting up computers, printers, card readers, a CD-ROM tower and many new bibliographic databases. Automation also finally resolved long-standing difficulties with the NOVELL LAN and made it possible for EBSCOhost to be available to students at dorms, computer labs and outreach centers. This heavy load necessitated additional staffing, and a position was reallocated to add another micro computer support technician.

## CIRCULATION

From the implementation of the Shocker Card to the movement of stacks to accommodate new terminals, 1996-1997 was a year of change. This was a year when plans were made to migrate to a new circulation system and to begin formally to measure the use of electronic products. This new use resulted in an overall 13% rise, an all-time high, in the number of items used per student.

As Ablah Library accommodates more and more equipment and as collections continue to grow, space is increasingly a problem. A detailed report on space use and needs was presented and evaluated, and the process of implementation was begun. This involved, among other things, a major shift of materials and the addition of 166 sections of shelving.

Reserve began experimenting with electronic reserves. During the spring semester, over 190 pages of class notes and 179 pages of printed articles were scanned. An informal survey of students indicated they liked the concept but would prefer sharper image resolution. The evolution of electronic reserves will be a major priority for the coming year.

## COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

In addition to the normal routines of selecting and evaluating materials and maintaining contact with departments, Collection Management worked with other Regents University libraries and the State Library to develop a cooperative program to acquire key electronic databases. This effort produced agreements for consortial licensing of three key databases: a full-text package of general academic journals, as well as specialized indexes in the field of psychology and medicine. The result was a major breakthrough in state-wide library cooperation that reduced the cost for participating libraries and extended electronic access to small libraries that could not otherwise afford it. A second important project was the introduction of a document delivery service that enables faculty members to electronically access articles in journals that the library has canceled or cannot afford. Collection Management established procedures for using this service, publicized its availability and trained faculty to use it. By year's end, 232 faculty members had registered and ordered 1,176 articles (at an average cost of \$17.46) and 76 of them signed up to receive via e-mail tables of contents for journals they use. Both of these important efforts will be expanded in the coming year.

## INTERLIBRARY LOAN

In seeking ways to use technology to operate more efficiently, Interlibrary Loan adopted two new software packages. One enables staff to quickly identify preferred lenders for specific items. The other reduces paper work. This year's figures show that the library lent 11,995 books, articles and other materials and borrowed 9,560 items. Both of those figures decreased from last year, but this does not reflect less research activity so much as the success of the library's new products that provide electronic access to document delivery services for many thousands of journals that are not locally owned.

## REFERENCE

Reference has been profoundly affected by the advent of information technologies. While it continues to provide traditional reference and instructional services to students and faculty, demand for those services declined. Reference handled about 12% fewer questions. These questions were replaced by many, more time-consuming questions about electronic resources.

This year's major project was to reduce the reference collection from approximately six to three ranges in order to make room for additional networked work-stations that accommodate Netscape Navigator 3.0, Internet delivered bibliographic and full-text databases and the LAN with 16 locally-run databases. Currently, there are 60 public access computers in the reference area and plans to upgrade or replace many of the existing units and add still more. Reference also continued the evolution of its Web-based reference service. In the coming year, the Reference Department will focus on promoting its new products and providing instruction in their use.

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Special Collections entered the digital age with the development of its Internet home page, which affords researchers everywhere electronic access to finding aids and makes existing resources more usable. With funds from the Tihen Family Endowment, work progressed on transcribing and editing notes for the *Wichita Eagle* and the *Wichita Beacon* from the 1920s to the 1980s. By the end of the year, the majority of these notes had been transcribed and could be searched in response to patron queries. This huge project involved over 4,000 hours of work. Partly as a result of these efforts, there were increases of 24% in the number of patrons and over 80% in number of items requested.

Collection building progressed successfully with the addition of the Lavand Family archives relating to the history of the *Wichita Beacon*, the Robert Hest papers concerning his work as the City of Wichita's director of water and sewage treatment, the Helen Hartston collection of early Swallow Airplane Company materials and the Sheldon Kaman papers. Other acquisitions include a civil war chaplain's diary; a quartermaster's ledger from Jefferson Barracks, Missouri covering the period of the years 1844-1851; numerous Kansas maps and plat atlases; records documenting the Wichita Blues history project; a rare, early Kansas gazetteer and business directory; and a complete microfilm copy of the Wichita labor union's newspaper, *The Plain Dealer*. Special Collections also inaugurated a joint venture with Larksfeld Place retirement community to develop an Internet web site dedicated to recording oral histories of its residents.

## TECHNICAL SERVICES

Technical Services had another good year; the music retrospective and recataloging project was completed ahead of schedule, and book acquisitions remained close to last year's level because of increased discounts and the Library for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Campaign. A key retirement in acquisitions and the loss of a position in cataloging to automation, made it a challenge to keep up with current acquisitions and still make good progress on other special projects, particularly documents cataloging.

Next year, Technical Services plans to move ahead with the serials claiming project, continue developing databases for monitoring the cost effectiveness of the library's journal collection, control government publications and review subscription agents. Other projects include cataloging electronic resources and approximately 3,700 recordings in the music library.

## PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Publications

DePetro, Thomas G. and Ted E. Naylor, compilers. Selective Guide to Literature on Aerospace Engineering, Engineering Literature Guides, Number 24. (Washington, DC: American Society for Engineering Education, 1997).

Moore-Jansen, Cathy "What Difference Does It Make? One Study of Student Background and the Evaluation of Library Instruction," *Research Strategies*, 15 (Winter, 1997): 26:38.

Moore-Jansen, Cathy "National Archeological Database (NADB)," *ANSS Currents*, 12 (May, 1997): 5-7.

Naylor, Ted E. "The Cost of Interlibrary Loan Services in a Medium-Sized Academic Library," *The Journal of Interlibrary Loan, Document Delivery and Information Supply*, 8(2), In Press.

Schad, Jasper G. "Scientific Societies and Their Journals: Issues of Cost and Relevance," *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 23(5):406-407, In Press.

### Reviews

Howze, Philip C. Review of *Pan-African Chronology: A Comprehensive Reference to the Black Quest for Freedom in Africa, the Americas, Europe and Asia, 1400-1864*, by Everett Jenkins, Jr. *Multicultural Review*, 5 (September, 1996): 82-83.

Howze, Philip C. Review of *Global Voices, Global Visions: A Core Collection of Multicultural Books*, by Lyn Miller-Lachmann. *Multicultural Review*, 5 (September, 1996): 83.

Howze, Philip C. Review of *The Day the Bronx Died*, by Michael Henry Brown. *Multicultural Review*, 6 (March, 1997):74.

Howze, Philip C. Review of *The Fact of Blackness: Frantz Fanon and Visual Representation*, edited by Alan Read. *Multicultural Review*, 6 (June, 1997): 74.

### Papers and Presentations

Brown, Janet D. and J. Ruthenbeck. "The Internet as a Tool for Student Success in the Job Search," Tenth Annual Student Success conference, Wichita, March 13, 1997.

De Petro, Thomas G. "Airfoil/Aerofoil Information and Data: Identifying and Locating Relevant Sources in Print and on the Internet," American Association for Engineering Education Annual Conference & Exposition, Milwaukee, June 16, 1997.

Eaglesfield, Jean and Mary Anthes. "Document Delivery at Wichita State University," Kansas Library Association, College and University Libraries Section Fall Conference, Emporia, October 25, 1996.

Eaglesfield, Jean and Ted Naylor. "Document Delivery: What it is, A Brief History and Recent Experiences at WSU," Eastern Kansas Technology Conference, Emporia, March 13, 1997.

Eller, James. "WebPac," Computing and Higher Education in Kansas Conference, Lawrence, May 29, 1997.

Hancock, Brian. "Site and Subject Specific Web Robots: How to Install and Configure Harvest," Canadian Library Association Conference, Ottawa, Canada, June 17, 1997.

Hendricks, Arthur. ".:/httpd.: Installing NCSA HTTPd as User, Not Root," Notis User's Group Meeting, Chicago, September 18, 1996.

Hendricks, Arthur. "Breaking Out of the Library: Internet Resources for Technical Services." Panel presentation, Kansas Library Association, College and University Libraries Section Fall Conference, Emporia, October 25, 1996.

Hendricks, Arthur. "Transforming Technical Services at Ablah Library: From Island to LAN," Kansas Library Association, College and University Libraries Section Fall Conference, Emporia, October 25, 1996.

Myers, Nancy. "Government Documents in Transition," Panel presentation, Kansas Library Association, College and University Libraries Section Fall Conference, Emporia, October 24, 1996.

Myers, Nancy and Ted Tyler. "Managing the Depository Database: Some Opportunities With Shared Technology," Federal Depository Library Conference, Washington, D.C., April 14, 1997.

Wolff, Michelle. "Evaluating the Approval Plan: A Case Study," Mountain Plains Library Association Academic Libraries Section Research Forum, Shangri La Resort, OK, May, 1997.

### University Committee Service

Academic Affairs Administration Group, Jasper Schad

Academic Affairs, Distinguished Professor and Endowed Chairs Committee, Michael

Kelly, Jasper Schad

Academic Operations Council, James Eller

Academic Success Team, Janet Brown

Council of Deans and Directors, Jasper Schad

Council of Deans and Directors, Curriculum and Recognition Task Force,

Jasper Schad

Faculty Senate, Jean Eaglesfield (Secretary), Nancy Deyoe

Faculty Senate, Curriculum Committee, Jean Eaglesfield

Faculty Senate, Executive Committee, Jean Eaglesfield

Faculty Senate, Faculty Affairs Committee, Cathy Moore-Jansen

Faculty Senate, General Education Committee, Maralyn Schad

Faculty Senate, Honors Committee, Mary Anthes

Faculty Senate, Library Committee, Kathy Downes, Jean Eaglesfield, James Eller,

Phil Howze, Jasper Schad

Faculty Senate, Scholarship and Student Aid Committee, Philip Howze

Library for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Campaign Committee, Jasper Schad, Mike Kelly

North Central Association Accreditation Steering Committee, Michael Kelly

North Central Association Accreditation Sub-Committee Criterion 2B,

Kathy Downes

President's Ad Hoc Committee for Programmatic Review, Kathy Downes

University Alumni and Faculty Club Board, Thomas DePetro

University Cabinet, Jasper Schad

University Exceptions Committee, Brian Williams

University Grievance Panel, Kathy Downes

University Tenure and Promotions Committee, Michael Kelly (Secretary)

## Professional Services

American Library Association, Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, Council of Regional Groups, Central Kansas Periodicals Database, Nancy Deyoe (Kansas Representative)

American Library Association, Association of College and Research Libraries, Anthropology and Sociology Section, Bibliography Committee, Cathy Moore-Jansen, Chair

American Library Association, Association of College and Research Libraries, Instruction Section, Glossary Project Task Force, Philip Howze

American Library Association, Association of College and Research Libraries, Instruction Section, Instruction for Diverse Populations Committee, Philip Howze

American Library Association, Association of College and Research Libraries, Instruction Section, Membership Committee, Maralyn Schad

American Library Association, Government Documents Roundtable, Cataloging Committee, Nan Myers

American Library Association, New Members Round Table, Minorities Recruitment Committee, Philip Howze

American Society for Engineering Education, Engineering Libraries Division, Thomas De Petro (Conference Session Moderator)

Kansas Library Association, College and University Section, Nominating Committee, James Eller

Kansas Library Association, Government Documents Roundtable, Nan Myers (Chair)

Kansas Library Network Board, Kansas Union Catalog Advisory Committee, Kathy Downes

Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas Disaster Recovery Assistance Network, Steering Committee, Michael Kelly

Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas Disaster Recovery Assistance Network, Disaster Recovery South-Central/Southwestern Kansas Division, Michael Kelly (Coordinator)

Music Library Association, Mountain-Plains Chapter, Program Committee, Paul Gahn

North American Serials Interest Group, Regional Council and Membership Committee, Nancy Deyoe (Kansas Representative)

Regents University Libraries, Council of Dean and Directors, Jasper Schad (Chair)

Special Libraries Association, Engineering Division, Thomas De Petro (Archivist)

Wichita Area Librarians Association, Executive Board, Jean Eaglesfield

### Grants

*Library Without Walls: South Central Kansas Electronic Library Implementation*, Wichita State University and Cowley County Community College Libraries Grant Proposal for Cooperative Database Purchases. National Science Foundation. Jasper Schad, Philip Howze and Connie Bonfy. (Pending)

*National Digital Library competition*, Ameritech/Library of Congress, Michael Kelly. (Not funded)

### Consultation

Kansas Humanities Council, Heritage Program

Kelly, Michael

National Historical Publications and Records Commission

Kelly, Michael