

# News @ your library®

The Saint Michael's College Library & Information Services Newsletter

## Staff News

On September 30th, **Bernadette Jones**, *Periodicals Senior Specialist*, celebrates her 35th anniversary at the Saint Michael's College Library. Bernadette began as a cataloging typist in 1968. After two years, she moved to the serials department,



*Bernadette Jones*

and later served as head of serials.

**Joanne Schneider**, *Director*, moderated a panel, "Leadership, Higher Education, and the Information Age: A New Era For Information Technology and Libraries," at Wellesley



*Joanne Schneider*

College in July. The meeting was sponsored by the North East Regional Computing Program, an affiliate of EDUCAUSE.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCEEDS

by **Joanne Schneider**, *Director, Library & Information Services*

**L**ibrary & Information Services (LIS) is halfway through its Strategic Planning for Services and Assessment begun in September, 2002. Why plan now? The President's Strategic Vision 2010 (focused on teaching and learning), the looming NEASC Five-Year Self Assessment, staff reductions, and a new director are all major factors. Library funding that trails behind inflation, and fast-paced, technological change are some others. All compel us to develop a long-term approach to delivering high-level services and content to students and faculty. Our end goal is to develop outcomes that tell us the ways in which library users are changed as a result of their contact

with our many library resources and programs.

So far, our environmental scan has reviewed key documents on student and faculty current and future needs; gathered comparative benchmarks with selected peer and aspirant libraries; conducted a "for students only survey" to tell us

how we are doing; and mapped curricular data to our budget.

Already, several services have been improved. A new reference help desk is staffed most hours library is open. A redesigned LIS Web page (see below) is task-driven,

*Continued on page 4*



**Library & Information Services is in the midst of long-range planning.**

## WEBSITE PUTS ON A NEW FACE

Our LIS **website** has a new look, with plenty of user-friendly features. "**Task-driven**" is our mantra, so commonly used links (such as course reserves) are now available on every page. A new **faculty services page**, available as a link from every LIS webpage, provides information pertinent to copyright, online book ordering, **course reserves**, library liaisons, online forms, and more. We'll be adding content in the months ahead, while conducting **focus groups** and usability studies to test if the redesign is meeting its goals.—*Steve Burks*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <i>Staff News</i>          | 1 |
| <i>Strategic Planning</i>  | 1 |
| <i>New Databases</i>       | 2 |
| <i>Harry Grows Up</i>      | 2 |
| <i>Magazine Survey</i>     | 3 |
| <i>Periodicals Project</i> | 3 |
| <i>Library Changes</i>     | 4 |

## Library Staff

### Administration

Joanne Schneider, *Director*  
Tina Ryan, *Executive Assistant*

### Access and Circulation Services

Mark McAteer, *Associate Director for Access and Systems*  
Michael Arena, *Circulation Senior Specialist*  
Kathleen Godlewski, *Circulation Senior Specialist*  
Jim Kelty, *Circulation Specialist*  
Naomi King, *Circulation Specialist*  
Warren Schultz, *Circulation Specialist*

### Archives

Elizabeth Scott, *Archivist*

### Bibliographic Services

Robert Bouchard-Hall, *Associate Director for Bibliographic Services*  
Bernadette Jones, *Periodicals Senior Specialist*  
Sandra Roy, *Cataloging Specialist*  
Michele Shea, *Cataloging Senior Specialist*

### Collection Services

Laura Crain, *Associate Director for Collection Services*  
Amy Abare, *Acquisitions Specialist*  
Karin Eade, *Interlibrary Loan Specialist*  
Kristen Hindes, *Interlibrary Loan/Collection Services Librarian*  
Joyce Stowell, *Acquisitions Senior Specialist*

### Reference and Instruction

Steven Burks, *Reference and Instruction Librarian*  
Michele McCaffrey, *Reference and Instruction Librarian, Team Leader*  
Marilyn Scoville, *Reference and Instruction Librarian*

## NEW DATABASE ACQUISITIONS

Here are a few recent database acquisitions that we're excited about.

**AccuNet / AP Multimedia Archive.** Winner of the *Best Unknown Database Award* in 2000, this resource contains over 700,000 photographs from the Associated Press collection. Students and faculty are free to use the images for their projects without having to restrict access to only those students in a class, as is commonly required by copyright provisions.

**Expanded Academic ASAP/INFOTRAC by Gale Corp.** This collection has replaced Proquest with its more extensive coverage. Data-

bases in the set include Business and Company Resource Center, Computer Database, Health and Wellness Resource Center and Alternative Health Module, and several




supporting primary school age children's resource needs.

**American Chemical Society: Chemical Abstracts STN service.** This bibliographic database from Chemical Abstracts Service covers international journals,

patents, technical reports, books, conference proceedings, and dissertations from all areas of chemistry, biochemistry, chemical engineering, and related sciences from 1907 to the present.

**The Transatlantic Slave Trade Database Cambridge University Press.** A team of scholars at the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research compiled this CD-ROM data set on more than 27,000 transatlantic slave-trading voyages between 1650 and 1867.

See the LIS web page, *Electronic Indexes and Full Text Databases* for more information. 

## BOOK REVIEW: SPELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT

*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, Rowling, J. K. Scholastic, 2003

Harry Potter is now in his fifth year at Hogwarts, and Rowling resumes her *bildungsroman* with a novel that is much darker than her other works. She plumbs deeper into Harry's character, showing us an angry, sullen adolescent, consumed by fury and self-hatred, whose battle against the dark has almost stripped him of his innocence. The Wizarding World is split between those who believe Harry's account of Voldemort's return, as described in *Goblet of Fire*, and those who insist that Harry is merely a boy with delusions of grandeur, who tells stories to

gain attention. This division is shown in the Weasley family, whose son Percy, always an officious boot-licker, repudiates his family's belief in Harry, and sides with the Ministry of Magic and its spineless Minister. Harry's simmering anger prompts him to disregard Dumbledore's insistence that he close off his mind from Voldemort's, and Harry unwittingly precipitates the death of the one person he most respects and trusts.—Sandra Roy



### News @ your library®

Published three times per year by the staff of the Durick Library. Editor: Warren Schultz



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# GOING, GOING... GONE

## The Periodical Cancellation Project

By Laura Crain, Associate Director for Collection Services

Rising costs of journal subscriptions requires that LIS regularly reviews the periodical titles to which it subscribes. Saint Michael's faculty is central in making decisions regarding retention or cancellation of journals. Therefore, in conjunction with Saint Michael's College academic departments, the library launched a journals cancellation project in late May for fiscal year 2004 (FY04), with a goal of canceling periodical subscriptions totaling \$22,000.

Though the figure of \$22,000 may seem shocking to some, it approximates our annual journals inflation of 11 percent. In FY04, the Library's overall materials budget (for all materials—databases, periodicals, monographs, A/V) increased by *less than one percent* (.75 percent) from FY03.


Over the past five years, in fiscal years where the materials budget was level-funded or did not keep pace with inflation, the library has made up for journals inflation rates by trimming its periodicals budget in creative ways: by eliminating print subscriptions for which the library provides an appropriate or archived electronic counterpart; by requesting departmental input and review of subscriptions; and by purchasing microform back issues without benefit of a current print subscription. Over the years, we have also used money that is normally reserved for the book budget to cover part of journals inflation. However, we have reached a point where, in order to maintain even the most basic collection of books to support our curriculum, we can no longer encroach upon the monographs budget, and must trim our journals subscriptions at the rate of periodicals inflation, minus any budget increase we may receive.

Unfortunately, trimming serial titles has become standard procedure in the annual budget allocation process of many academic libraries. A five-year journal price increase history shows an average annual inflation rate on print periodicals as between eight and eleven percent. Journal increases in the sciences are skyrocketing, sometimes above an 11 percent annual increase.

### An Overview of the Periodicals Cancellation Project

In late May of 2003, all department chairs received a memo, with an attached list of titles in each department's subject area, outlining the process for recommending cancellations. Each department was to send a recommended list of title cancellations by August 15th, in order to allow time for us to post recommended title cancellations to the LIS Web site. The deadline also allowed for a short window of time for faculty to give input and, in some instances, appeal certain recommendations (particularly for those titles which are multi-disciplinary in nature). We set this ambitious date because LIS must pay for all of its annual print subscriptions in the September prior to the January renewal month.

The task of annually culling our journals subscriptions is rather disheartening. However, on a more positive note, it has allowed faculty to continually discuss and rate those journals which are essential to the curriculum. We in LIS greatly appreciate faculty's participation and concern for this process, however dreary.

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions about the Journals Cancellation Project, please contact Laura Crain, Associate Director for Collection Services (lcrain@smcvt.edu) or Joanne Schneider, Director of Library & Information Services (jschneider@smcvt.edu). 



### Survey Stickers

You may have wondered about the bright orange stickers on current periodical issues in the library. They are part of a journals-use survey, spanning July 2003 through May 2004. We are asking all faculty, staff, and students to mark the sticker on a periodical each time they use it.

Our goal is to gain a clearer understanding of which titles are most heavily used, and which ones are of lesser value. For some years now, inflation and budgetary limitations have diminished our subscriptions through cancellations—despite the fact that we have witnessed an explosion in the number journal titles in both traditional printed and electronic formats. Now we fare poorly against peer libraries regarding the number of journals to which we subscribe and journals expenditures.

While this study will not yield the precise degree of usage of any one periodical, it will indicate which titles should be closely examined for their usefulness. By conducting this survey, we hope to create a periodical collection that will be more relevant to the rapidly changing needs of faculty and students.

We cannot do it without your help. Please mention this project to your students.

Compliance is simple: **For current journal issues** record a slash mark on the sticker to indicate your use. **For bound periodicals or microforms** place materials on return shelves or on top of microform cabinets. **Please do not re-shelve or re-file.**—Joanne Schneider

## Where Is It?

Many Saint Michael's publications have been moved to the Special Collections Room, where they may be used by researchers. Items available there include student newspapers (*The Michaelman*, *The Defender*), yearbooks (*The Shield*, *The Hilltop*), the Saint Michael's Catalogue, Saint Michael's College Magazine, and others. Check the online catalog for availability. Patrons should check at the circulation desk for access to the Special Collections Room. Archival material is available in the archives department, located on the bottom floor of the library. Please e-mail the archives at [smcarchives@smcvt.edu](mailto:smcarchives@smcvt.edu) or call x2408 for access appointment.

## Planning

*Continued from page 1*

based on student comments and use data. We've applied information literacy standards to library instruction; and launched a year-long periodicals use survey.

Several steps remain. We plan to conduct a faculty survey. We will also construct a planning matrix that sets priorities, and develop outcomes assessment to "close the assessment loop."

Finally, I intend to meet with faculty representatives from each department through the coming year. Please feel free to contact me with any comments you may have via e-mail or x2401.

# The Big Shift

By Robert Bouchard-Hall, Associate Director for Bibliographic Services

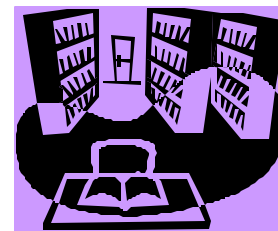
Even in this age of electronic information, the library acquires over 6,000 volumes of books and bound periodicals, filling an additional 750 ft. of shelf space each year. (That equals the distance between the library and the chapel.) In recent years, when some sections of the library's five-and-one-half miles of shelves became overcrowded, it was possible to shift volumes into uncrowded sections—which was easier for us to do than, say, the Library of Congress, which claims to have 530 miles of shelves! But this year it was apparent that virtually all sections of shelves had become overcrowded.


So this summer we installed 3,700 linear feet of shelves in various areas of the lower level of the library.

Some shelves were newly purchased and some were moved from a storage room on North Campus. This enabled us to

move the main-level bound periodicals (titles A-M) to join the lower-level bound periodicals (titles N-Z). So now all bound periodicals are on the lower level, with titles A-Po shelved in the round part of the building, and titles Pr-Z shelved in the front part of the building (the side facing the McCarthy Arts Center.)

To complete this project, during this semester, all of the circulating collection will be spread out by shifting some volumes (call numbers A through DD) from upper-level shelves to the main-level shelves, formerly holding bound periodicals. When this shift is complete, each shelf devoted to the circulating collection will have gained, on



average, an additional 8.34 inches of unfilled space, improving the library's "filled up" percentage from the current 95% to a much more comfortable 76%. This "breathing room" is important because new volumes must be shelved where they belong in the call number (classification) sequence, not simply where shelf space is available. Eventually, further expansion options, such as compact moveable shelves, will have to be considered. 



## Saint Michael's Library Showcase

From July through September, the library maintained an exhibition of publications from Saint Michael's faculty from the 2002-03 academic year, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and scholarly articles. Departments represented included biology, business administration, chemistry, classics, education, English, fine arts, history, mathematics, modern languages, physics, political science, psychology, sociology/anthropology, theology and more. A similar exhibit is planned for next summer.

—Mike Arena

**In honor of the Harold Bloom** collection, soon to reside on the Saint Michael's campus, a new library display features publications edited and authored by Professor Bloom. His *The Western Canon: The Books and School of the Ages*, examines 26 key canonical authors from Chaucer and Cervantes to Kafka and Beckett.

—Sandra Roy

