

LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES

After the completion of a Request for Proposal process, Ohio Wesleyan is installing a campus-wide wireless network system that involves several hundred access points deployed throughout every OWU campus facility. The campus-wide Wi-Fi project is a collaborative effort that also involves Aruba Networks (the hardware and software supplier), NeTeam (the wireless configuration group), and Network9 (the hardware installation company). Jason LaMar is OWU's project manager. Harold Wiebe (networking services) — with assistance from Kirk Turner-Rustin (programmer) — is providing technical and logistical coordination for the project. The Wireless Implementation Team (Jason LaMar, David Henderson, Sue Cooperider, Dr. Byrd, the Elert consultant, Network9 reps, and Aruba reps) meets weekly to review the progress of the project. The 802.11n wireless solution incorporates technology that transfers data at speeds up to six times faster than previously possible. The technology also provides a greater connection range and more reliability than its predecessors. OWU will be among the first institutions in the country to install 802.11n. This Wi-Fi project will be completed by August.

In Administrative Systems, the staff is installing IBM's Cognos 8 Business Intelligence platform in parallel to OWU's Jenzabar administrative institutional database system. The Cognos integration, which promises to provide drastically improved Jenzabar data reporting functionality to many departments around campus, is being spearheaded by Joel Kroliski — our most recent programmer/analyst hire — in collaboration with John Topping, Kirk Turner-Rustin, and Doris Yang in the Administrative Systems group as well as Rob Arnold, our systems administrator.

In User Support, LIS welcomed David Soliday as our new Help Desk Manager and Technology Trainer in late January. Prior to coming to OWU, David worked for nearly a decade as a help desk agent, support specialist, and call center project manager with SARCOM, a technology services and solutions company. At the University, David's primary task is managing both the Faculty/Staff Help Desk and the Student Help Desk campus operations — including the management of student workers — to ensure technical support calls are addressed and work orders are assigned to technicians. Depending on the nature of the question, he may work with the caller to solve the problem over the phone. David's other major task will focus on individual- and group-based technical training, which could include everything from demonstrating how to use Outlook's personal calendar features to creating a complex Excel data spreadsheet for departmental use.

In early 2008, work on the Campus Data Infrastructure Upgrade Project (CDIUP) focused on the installation of an emergency diesel power generator for the Corns Building data center to facilitate IT business continuity in the event of an electrical service outage. This is a significant achievement for OWU computing operations, as the generator will ensure that the campus' primary networking and server resources will remain online even during a major, prolonged campus power event. Combined with the construction of a secondary (backup/failover) data center in the Conrades-Wetherell

Science Center, OWU Information Services is developing a robust disaster recovery IT infrastructure that should mitigate all but the most catastrophic data scenarios.

A Branch Rickey digitization project is underway. Emily Haddaway, a recent M.L.I.S. graduate of Kent State University with an undergraduate B.A. degree in the History of Art from The Ohio State University, was hired in a temporary capacity as a Digital Librarian. By this summer we plan to mount a Branch Rickey web site. Initially, the focus will be on Rickey's connection with Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) from 1904 when he graduated with a Bachelor of Literature degree, his return two years later to earn his Bachelor of Arts degree and his position as athletic director until 1909. Rickey, well known for signing Jackie Robinson to a contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, remained active in the OWU community throughout his life. He returned frequently for speaking engagements and served as a trustee, president of the Annual Fund, and national chairperson of a University capital campaign.

Additionally, with the Delaware County Historical Society we are preparing a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Innovative Technology grant proposal to create an online digital collection that documents and celebrates the close historical relationship between the early City of Delaware, the formation of Ohio Wesleyan University, and the Methodists who were central to the development and continued prosperity of both institutions. We are also exploring the possibility of participating with the Five Colleges of Ohio in applying for money from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Hidden Collections Grant to identify and catalog our Special Collections that are not accessible to the public. For OWU, such collections would be the Methodist, Walt Whitman, and Adam Poe collections.

In July, a new Public Services Librarian, Jillian Brandt, will begin her professional career with us. She is a recent M.L.I.S. graduate of the Kent State University, who did her undergraduate work in English Literature *cum laude* at Bowling Green State University. For the last three years she has been a Document Delivery Specialist at The Ohio State University. Her librarian liaison assignments will include the Education, English, and Theatre/Dance departments.

KnowItNow Academic is moving from a pilot project to a permanent service because of a commitment by librarians from 12 OhioLINK libraries, including OWU, to staff the service and KnowItNow's willingness to continue the collaboration. The pilot launched in January 2008 and has been well-received by both librarians and users. The service hours will be expanding to 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Fridays until 5 p.m. Outside of these hours those using the service are directed to the regular KnowItNow queues and public librarians and After-Dark librarians (independent librarians coordinated by the Northeast Ohio Regional Library System) to answer the calls. KnowItNow, funded through a federal Institute of Museum and Library Services grant awarded by the State Library of Ohio, is a service of the State Library of Ohio and local public libraries.

The fifth annual OWU LIS Celebration of Scholarship was held during National Library

Week on Friday, April 18. Graduating senior Amanda Masters received the \$500 Library Research Paper Award from the Friends of the Libraries for her paper “Pollinator Decline, Colony Collapse Disorder among *Apis mellifera* and Implications for American Agriculture.” Deb Carter Peoples coordinated this year’s event that received sixteen papers. The judges were Tom Burns, David Johnson, Ed Kahn, Ulle Lewis, Akbar Mahdi, Paul Burnam, Tom Green, Deb Peoples, Pete Szabo, Danielle Clarke and Dr. Byrd, ex officio. Also, 40 faculty and staff authors were recognized at the event for their scholarly work during the 2007-2008 academic year. Lastly, three faculty members - Jeremy Baskes, Amy Downing, and Justin Kronewetter - posed for READ posters that are now on display above the Beeghly Circulation Desk.

Four faculty workshops (24 participants) were offered this semester. Doug Thompson, Manager of Web and Electronic Communications, presented “OmniUpdate and the OWU Web Sites.” Public Services Librarians Paul Burnam and Joy Gao shared “LexisNexis: Business and Legal Information.” Staff from the University of Cincinnati instructed new users on how to use Blackboard and were available to answer technical questions about this course management system in an afternoon session. Tom Green spoke on “Federated Searching: What It Is and Why Should I Care?”

Carol Holliger and Hilda Wick opened the doors of Special Collections for three one hour sessions on two days to share “What’s Special in Special Collections.” Twenty students took advantage of this opportunity. Chuck Della Lana offered a large format printing workshop.

UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES AND COMMITTEES

- Paul Burnam presented a Faculty Brown Bag workshop on “A New Model for Scholarly Communication and the Role of OhioLINK.”
- Dr. Byrd, Tom Green, and Carol Holliger attended the semi-annual meeting of the Joint Archives of Ohio United Methodism.
- Chuck Della Lana served on the Reclassification Committee. He was instrumental in the 4th Annual OWU Documentary Film Festival held at the Strand.
- Joy Gao served on the President’s Commission on Racial and Cultural Diversity.
- Tom Green completed his second three year term on the Executive Committee of the Faculty. He is in the second year of a three year term on the Committee on Honorary Degrees. He was the administrative representative on the University Appeals Board and continued as co-advisor of the Bishops Chess Club.
- Pete Szabo served on the Music Department music theory faculty search. He is contributing articles to *The Trident*, a newsletter of the Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies program.
- Dr. Byrd continued to serve on the Teaching, Learning, and Cross-Cultural Programming Committee and the Martin Luther King Committee. She also attended the Office of Admission’s Multicultural Recruitment and Slice of Life events.

BOARD, CONSORT, FIVE COLLEGES, AND OHIOLINK

- Paul Burnam continued serving on the OhioLINK Digital Resource Center Steering Committee. He also attended meetings of the OhioLINK Lead Implementors and the OhioLINK User Services Committee. He is helping plan a workshop on “Scholarly Communication” at Kenyon College late in May sponsored by the Five Colleges of Ohio Reference and Instruction Subcommittee. He provided two hours of reference service per week for KnowItNow.
- Joy Gao and Clint Baugess hosted one Five Colleges of Ohio Government Documents Subcommittee meeting and attended another. Joy completed her term as Secretary-Treasurer of the Ohio Government Documents Round Table (GODORT).
- Tom Green attended OhioLINK User Services Committee meetings. He served on the OhioLINK catalog enrichment task force.
- Tom Green and Xudong Jin attended a Five Colleges of Ohio Collection Development and Management Subcommittee meeting.
- Emily Haddaway was selected to serve a one year term as an independent college representative on the newly developed OhioLINK Digital Resources Management Committee.
- Xudong Jin attended a CONSORT Cataloging Subcommittee meeting.
- Dr. Byrd attended the Five Colleges of Ohio Library and IT meetings, the OhioLINK Independent Library Directors meeting, and the Ohionet Board meeting.

PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

- Paul Burnam presented at a National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education (NITLE) conference on “Scholarly Communication and Small Colleges in the Digital Age” at Pomona College. He participated in the Academic Library Association of Ohio (ALAO) board meetings as the representative of the Government Relations Team.
- Dr. Byrd, Tom Green, and Xudong Jin attended the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter meeting in Philadelphia.
- Dr. Byrd, Tom Green, and Deb Carter Peoples attended a presentation at Kenyon College by David Lewis, Dean of the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis Library, on “A Strategy for Academic Librarians in the First Quarter of the 21st Century.”
- Carol Holliger hosted meetings of the United Methodist History Society of Ohio (UMHSO) Executive Committee and the West Ohio Commission on Archives and History. She attended a meeting of the East Ohio Commission on Archives and History and the United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio Convocation and Annual Meeting. She spoke on the “Life of Charles Wesley” for a Delaware Asbury United Methodist Women (UMW) meeting.
- Pete Szabo is contributing reviews to Baker & Taylor’s CD Hotlist.
- Marsha Zavar attended an OHIONET Interlibrary Loan workshop.

- Clinton Baugess published an article, "Silent Spring and Environmental History" in Docs Prescriptions.
- Judy Orahood and Joyce Laurence attended Ohio Library Council (OLC) Technical Services Retreat.
- Judy Orahood attended the Academic Library Association of Ohio Support Staff Interest Group (ALAO SSIG) Program Planning Committee workshop.
- Dr. Byrd, as Chair of Budget & Finance (B&F) Committee for the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), attend ACRL Board meetings and chaired the B&F meetings while attending the American Library Association's Annual Conference.
- Dr. Byrd represented the University at the National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education (NITLE) Summit.
- Dr. Byrd presented at the 2008 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Special Interest Group on University and College Computing Services (SIGUCCS) Management Symposium. Her presentation was entitled "The Merged Organization: Is it Nimble and Strategic?"