

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Byrd, Chief Information Officer & Director of Libraries
cc: Public Services Staff

From: Tom Green, Associate Director of Libraries and Head of Public Services

Date: April 21, 2008

Re: **SPRING 2008 PUBLIC SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS**

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 cooperative digitization projects through the Five Colleges of Ohio.

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) 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." 20 students took advantage of this opportunity. Chuck Della Lana offered a large format printing workshop.

The following in-service training sessions were held:

- Stephen Baker, from TIAA-CREF, explained our retirement benefits. He also met one-on-one with individual staff members.
- Jean Brown from Modern Office Methods demonstrated the features of our public and staff copiers.
- Xudong Jin reviewed how to create lists on the Innovative Interfaces Inc. (III) Millennium integrated library system.

Public services library staff members are involved in many professional activities. Some activities within the University community included:

- 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 Music Department music theory faculty search. He is contributing articles to *The Trident*, a newsletter of the Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies program.

Consortia activities included:

- 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 & 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.

Professional meetings and workshops included:

- Paul Burnam presented at a 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 & History. She attended a meeting of the East Ohio Commission on Archives & History and the United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio Convocation & 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.