

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Theresa Byrd, Director of Libraries
cc: Public Services Staff
From: Tom Green, Associate Director of Libraries and Head of Public Services
Date: September 7, 2007

Re: **SUMMER 2007 PUBLIC SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS**

In order to qualify as a private network under CALEA (Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act), we now require a login for open access computers. Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) students, faculty, and staff can enter their e-mail username and password to use the public access computers. Individuals without an OWU e-mail account will need to register with a reference librarian or adult Circulation Desk staff member for Internet access.

Six new computer workstations and a printer are being added to the Information Commons on the main floor of Beeghly Library. New cabling and electrical outlets were added, including additional infrastructure work for the Computer Help Desk. Ten other computer workstations in the Information Commons were upgraded with IBM/Lenovo computers similar in appearance to the twenty-four added last year. Students now have the use of 40 computers and six printers in this one area. Another ten computers and printer are available 24/7 in the library café. Four more computers and a printer in the entry way to Beeghly are specifically for use with printing. Also, laptop computers can be checked out from the Circulation Desk for use in the library or checked out from the AV Center for use outside the library.

A new scholarly, multi-disciplinary full-text database, *Academic Search Complete*, contains 5,300 full-text periodicals, including 4,400 peer-reviewed journals. In addition to full-text, this EBSCOhost database offers indexing and abstracts for more than 9,300 journals and a total of 10,900 publications. It has content going back as far as 1865 and provides searchable cited references for 1,000 journals. This is one of more than 150 databases available for OWU students, faculty and staff.

Early American Imprints: 1639-1800, the definitive source for researching every aspect of the seventeenth and eighteenth century, has been added to our collection. Dr. Karen Poremski, Assistant Professor of English, discovered that Oberlin College made their microfiche version of this collection available to the highest bidder. She submitted the winning bid and we now have the advertisements, almanacs, bibles, broadsides, catalogs, charters and by-laws, contracts, cookbooks, elegies, laws, maps, narratives, novels, operas, pamphlets, plays, poems, primers, sermons, songs, speeches, textbooks, and treaties published in America over a 160-year period.

Rare Books Librarian Hilda Wick has identified 3,525 books that need to be reclassified so that scholars will better know some of the unique resources available at Ohio Wesleyan. Xudong Jin has developed a plan for his staff to work on this project. We will contract with OCLC's TechPro staff to perform some of the original cataloging.

StART OWU's second year expanded to four two day sessions held over three weeks in June with a fifth session held the week before the beginning of the academic year. The Bayley Room was where new students met with faculty registration guides and where the Registrar's staff relocated to make the pre-registration process as smooth as possible. Patty Bisker and Paul Burnam provided an hour-long informational session about LIS for parents.

We hired Julie Albert as a temporary, part-time reference librarian after the search to hire a public services librarian failed. In addition to working at the Beeghly Reference Desk, she is the librarian liaison to the Education and English Departments. We revised the qualifications and requirements for the public services librarian position and are reviewing applications. We plan to invite candidates for a campus visit later this fall.

Gene Spencer, the former CIO at Bucknell, facilitated this year's LIS retreat which was held at the Worthington Inn. Mr. Spencer elaborated on Bucknell's experience with a merged organization. He offered this advice toward an "appreciative inquiry": "If we continue to search for problems, we will continue to find problems. If we look for what is best and learn from it, we will magnify and multiply our successes." Chuck Della Lana, Jason LaMar, and Harold Wiebe shared information that increased our knowledge of the Audio Visual Center and computing resources and operations.

The following in-service training sessions were held:

- Patty Bisker explained how to backup our work files.
- Tom Green provided an update on MetaLib and OhioLINK database changes.
- Bob Wood, Director of Public Safety, presented tips for dealing with problem patrons.

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

- Chuck Della Lana served on the Reclassification Committee.

Consortia activities included:

- Paul Burnam provided chat reference services for approximately two hours per week.
- Joy Gao hosted Xin Wong, a visiting scholar from the Reference Department of Shanghai Jiao Tong University Library.
- Tom Green, representing the independent colleges, attended an OhioLINK User Services Committee meeting and served on the OhioLINK coordinated book buying task force. He also attended meetings of the CONSORT Colleges MetaLib installation team. He hosted three representatives from the College of Wooster who were making site visits to see examples of Information Commons.
- Marsha Zavar hosted two Ohio Northern University staff members for a demonstration of ILLiad.

Professional meetings and workshops included:

- Paul Burnam participated in a webcast concerning public access to National Institute of Health publications and he received LexisNexis training via the web on using their new interface. He attended a Library 2.0 seminar sponsored by The Ohio State University. He participated in Academic Library Association of Ohio (ALAO) board meetings as the representative of the Government Relations Team.
- Paul Burnam and Joy Gao attended an OhioLINK sponsored IM workshop.
- Carol Holliger attended the North Central Jurisdiction Archives and History Conference in Des Moines, IA. She also attended the Sixth Historical Convocation in Washington, DC that focused on Charles Wesley.
- Marsha Zavar attended a PCirc Conference.