As the spring semester draws to a close we take a moment to look back on the events of the past academic year at Thomas Library. It has been a busy year with changes taking place on a regular basis. Some of these changes you will read about in other articles in this issue of Notes From Thomas Library.

One of the changes has been the successful launch of this newsletter: Notes From Thomas Library. We hope it will continue to be a means for us to communicate with the Wittenberg community and that you find the articles to be informative and useful. This issue covers events such as Rita Osborne’s retirement, the closing of the Science Library, new developments at OhioLINK, an article about the SOCHE College and University Disability Access Collaborative (CUDAC) project, and a listing of our senior library student workers.

This past year has seen several updates to furnishings in Thomas Library. You may have noticed that the Science Library, located on the second floor of the Kuss Science Center, will be closing in May 2009. Due to low usage and difficulty in staffing the space, the decision to close the Science Library was reached by Thomas Library Director Doug Lehman and Provost Ken Bladh. A local company has put in a bid to move the collections housed in the Science Library to Thomas Library over the summer. Some items from the collection may be unavailable during the move. Extensive ongoing weeding of both the Science and Thomas Library collections will be done in order to make room for the interfiling of the two collections. Additional student workers will be hired to help unpack and shift collections to make room for the additional material. Plans for the space vacated by the Science Library are uncertain at this time. —Doug Lehman

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The library began administering the Research Practices Survey during the fall semester of 2008. The second administration window ended April 20th, 2009. We collected longitudinal data from the class of 2012 and cross-sectional data from the class of 2010. Preliminary data has shown that students’ beliefs about their research abilities do not always match their demonstrated abilities. This data will be analyzed to help determine some of the strengths and weaknesses of Wittenberg’s information literacy program. Contact the library’s instruction coordinator, Kristen Gibson, for further information about the data being collected. Thank you to everyone who participated! —Kristen Gibson
OhioLINK’s Budget Situation and Future Directions

Wittenberg University and Thomas Library joined OhioLINK in 1998, and library services at Wittenberg were forever changed. Participation in OhioLINK provides many services and resources that Wittenberg could not afford on an individual institution basis. For example, Wittenberg students, faculty and staff have access to many reference databases and a broad selection of electronic journals that we could not afford on an individual basis.

As OhioLINK approaches the twentieth anniversary of its founding, one of the projects the organization is undertaking is to look forward to the future of the central catalog. There are two groups working at the statewide level that are investigating options for a new central catalog and new ways of finding information. The first group is the OhioLINK Catalog, Cataloging, and Integrated Library System Architecture Steering Committee, known colloquially as CatArch Committee. The second is the Discovery Layer Task Force, more commonly known as the DLTF.

The CatArch Committee has been investigating ways in which OhioLINK may move forward and continue to provide the same services, but in a more efficient and effective manner. For example, currently there are approximately sixty libraries running their own library systems. We do this at Wittenberg. The future may look very different. There may be one large system that all OhioLINK libraries use, or there may be regional systems where private and public university libraries cooperate. How much the user will notice the changes is unknown at this time, as is the timeline when these changes will take effect.

The DLTF is investigating new systems that will impact how you conduct searches. The term “discovery layer” is fairly new in libraries, but basically it is an overarching piece of software that allows a user to search various systems with one search and retrieve the information for the user. For example, you could conduct a search and the search results might come from our local catalog, the OhioLINK Central Catalog, any number of local or OhioLINK databases and the World Wide Web. The possibilities are endless, but it does mean that users may need to be even more discerning and critical of the sources they find.

While OhioLINK is moving forward with these projects, I believe it is important to note that the budget situation for the state of Ohio is negatively impacting OhioLINK. Many of the state university libraries are projecting up to 10% reductions in their budget next year. Since the state universities provide the majority of dollars for the purchase of the shared resources (databases, full-text journals and electronic books), this has a negative effect on the rest of the state, including the private college members of OhioLINK. Even OhioLINK is expecting to make budget reductions next year.

OhioLINK has started a review process utilizing the expertise of the Collection Information Resources Management (CIRM) Committee under guidelines from the Library Advisory Committee (LAC) to effect a reduction of up to 10% in the OhioLINK

From the Library Director

Continued from Page 1

cube chairs along the windows were reupholstered earlier in the year. After many years of wear the previous fabric had literally reached the breaking point and something had to be done. A local vendor was hired to do the work and we think it came out pretty well. Many of the chairs had to have frames rebuilt and stuffing improved, but it was worth the time and money.

If you have used the large seminar rooms (Rooms 110 and 310), the Microlab or visited the Oral Communication Center (Room 210) this semester you may have noticed that the blackboards and have been replaced with large whiteboards. Markers, erasers and board cleaner are available for check out at the Circulation Desk.

In a continuing effort to improve lighting in the Library we made the switch to a brighter fluorescent bulb in the areas over the book and periodical stacks on the first and third floors. My observation is that this has much improved the lighting in these areas, especially at night, and makes it much easier to search for books on the shelves.

Finally, the library embarked on a strategic planning process at the end of Fall 2008. We are nearing the end of the process and expect to have a new five-year strategic plan in place this summer. This plan will provide direction for the library as we chart our course for the future.

These are challenging times for libraries and higher education. There are opportunities available to us, if we are ready to embrace them. —Doug Lehman
A New Face at the Library

Join us in welcoming Dave Ward to the library. During the years 1986-1990, Dave worked on the Wittenberg Campus as a Security Guard for ISS. He has returned to the Wittenberg Campus working for ABM. He is the main reason Thomas Library is in such shipshape condition these days. Dave is such a huge Cincinnati Reds fan that he has an entire room filled with Reds memorabilia. If you see Dave, let him know what a great job he is doing.

Librarian Lands Leading Role in The Music Man

Congratulations to Sarah Webb, part-time technical services librarian. Sarah will star in the lead role of “Marian the Librarian” in the upcoming production of *The Music Man* sponsored by the 2009 Summer Arts Festival. The Springfield Civic Theatre and the Springfield Arts Council will stage the production July 2-5 in Veterans Park. Sarah not only works for Thomas Library but she is also a reference librarian for the Clark County Public Library.

Rita Osborne Retires After Nearly 30 Years of Service

Recently retired after nearly 30 years of service, Rita Osborne reflects on her work at Thomas Library.

I came to Wittenberg in May of 1979. I was hired as AV Assistant in Audio Visual Services, which was and is housed in Thomas Library. Starting a new job at the end of a semester is not advisable (at that time the university was on trimesters—ten weeks of class and one week of exams). I really was overwhelmed and went home the first day thinking that I would never be able to fit into this department. Thirty years later I have retired from Wittenberg after serving in all three positions within the department.

Ron Weber was the Director of Audio Visual Services when I arrived, and remained so until 1980. The University was in the process of building a major addition to the library and remodeling the existing space, which was almost entirely located on the lower levels of the Chapel. Ron Cain was hired as the new AV director in January, 1981, and the department was moved one floor up, to its current location on the main floor of the library. I remained in the position of AV Assistant until my co-worker Loy Wenzel retired in 1983 when I was promoted to the position she had held. Ron Cain left Wittenberg in July of 1986. I then served as Acting Director of AV for two and a half years, until the position could be filled.

The Common Learning program was begun in the fall of 1988. I was responsible for working with Warren Copeland, who was then the director of the program, to prepare the classrooms with the video cassette players, monitors and other equipment that would allow faculty to show their own programs, and to obtain the appropriate media materials for their use. This involved much research into special licensing of multiple copies of titles and multiple purchases. Thanks to Betsy Dean, who came to AV in 1987, we were able to complete this large project. This was one of the many interesting challenges I faced during my time as Acting Director.

Lyn McCurdy joined the AV staff in November of 1988 as the new Director of Audio Visual Services. My position was Media Coordinator from then until my retirement earlier this year. During my remaining years in the department there were many technological changes that affected the function and the responsibilities of the positions in AV.

I feel good about the years that I have been able to meet the audio visual and media needs of the academic programs of Wittenberg. I had many very good relationships with faculty, staff and students. Those relationships will be what I will cherish in my retirement years.

In my retirement years, I want to spend more time with my grandchildren and do some traveling. I have already committed to volunteering in an after-school program at my church. I know there will be other doors that will open up to me and I want to be able to do all that I can. But I also want to have times of total retreat. I hope that happens as well. It is exciting to know that all things are possible. —Rita Osborne
Changes in the Periodical Collection

Have you ever been searching for an article and discovered it is in something called JSTOR? I’m sure you have, or if you have not, you will before your career at Wittenberg is over. But what exactly is JSTOR? JSTOR is a digital archive of scholarly journal articles. It was founded in 1995, but has journal articles going back much further than that. In fact, JSTOR strives to provide digital copies of entire runs of journal titles. One thing to remember about JSTOR is that it is unable to provide the most recent three to five years of journals due to their agreements with the publishers that have given permission to provide digital versions of their journals.

Wittenberg provides access to several of the JSTOR collections that are available to all students, faculty and staff. JSTOR is one of the most popular digital archives among colleges and universities. Because it access only scholarly journals, as a researcher you can be certain that you are retrieving only scholarly articles. Professors love it when their students use JSTOR.

You can search JSTOR directly through their search screen or you may find your way to it from any of the other library databases by using the “Find It!” option. You may even be able to find JSTOR articles via Google Scholar.

As JSTOR is among the most stable digital archives around, we have made the decision to weed the print volumes represented in it. The space gained from this process will be used when we move the Science Library to Thomas Library later this spring and summer. We will not be losing content, so rest assured that nothing is being lost.

This may seem like a dramatic step to take, but we know that the print journal collection is getting very little use, and to continue to use valuable space to house the print journals of materials duplicated in JSTOR makes little sense. The space we gain will continue to house journals as those from the Science Library will reside in the lower level of Thomas Library. —Doug Lehman

Faculty Discuss the Merits of Wikipedia

New technologies are often met with a mixture of interest and disdain in the academic world. We are intrigued by their power, and often concerned about their implications. Wikipedia, a free online encyclopedia that can be written and edited by nearly anyone, certainly evokes both of these reactions. Its limitations as an academic source have been widely discussed, but it is slowly gaining recognition for its merits as well.

Several faculty members at Wittenberg met recently to discuss how Wikipedia fits into their teaching and research. At a lunch talk sponsored by the Faculty Development Board, Alejandra Gimenez-Berger (Art), Ken Irwin (Library), and Chris Raffensperger (History) discussed ways in which they have found Wikipedia to be a useful tool in their work with students.

Among the topics discussed were: the ways in which Wikipedia can be used for research, how not to use it, pockets of high-quality academic information on Wikipedia, and how students and professors can be involved in improving the quality and content of Wikipedia. —Ken Irwin

CUDAC Provides Audio Books for Students with Need

In the fall of 2008 Thomas Library began providing audio files of course texts for students with documented learning disabilities. In the past, the Academic Services office could only provide books that already existed as audio files to students who needed them. Now books that are only available in print are scanned and digitally manipulated in the library and the Academic Services Office to create audio files. The files are then placed on MP3 players that students can borrow from the library. This new project, called the College and University Disability Access Collaborative, or CUDAC, is headed in the Library by Ken Irwin. A grant from the State Library of Ohio, funded by the Library Services Technology Act, and written by former Assistant Provost for Academic Services Lisa Rhine, on behalf of the Southwestern Ohio Council on Higher Education (SOCHE), provided funding for the scanning and audio conversion software for schools throughout Southwestern Ohio.

Currently, whether we lease or purchase audio books or convert print to audio, these books are made available on MP3 players and loaned by the library. The pilot project this year resulted in 23 books being digitized and dozens being downloaded and made available for nine students. It is hoped that in the future, the texts that are scanned and converted at SOCHE schools will be used to populate a database of audio books that any SOCHE school will then be able to use. —Alisa Mizikar
National Library Week Celebrated

April 12 through 18 was National Library Week and was observed in libraries across the country, including our own Thomas Library. The highlight of the week was the annual Story Time held on Monday, April 13. Library staff read some of their favorite books to a small, but happy crowd. Make Way for Ducklings; Where the Wild Things Are; and Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type were just a few of the many stories read. Ken Irwin’s captivating rendition of Jabberwocky concluded the event.

Thomas Library also had a can swap for fines from April 13 through 17. During this time, anyone with a Thomas Library fine could bring in a canned good and receive up to $5 off of their fine. The canned goods were donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank. Approximately 113 food items were collected. —Alisa Mizikar

OhioLINK’s Budget Situation and Future Directions

Continued from Page 2

budget for electronic resources for the coming fiscal year. The breakdown is as follows: Reference Databases: $1.9 million reduction; Electronic Books: $100,000 reduction; Electronic Journal Center: $1.5 million reduction.

This is not an easy task, but CIRM has completed the first suggested cuts. There are many databases on the list that I know faculty and students use at Wittenberg. There are also alternatives that may exist to some of these more well-known resources. CIRM has also made suggestions about what packages may be cut from the Electronic Journal Center. In several cases there are alternative resources available to OhioLINK libraries at a lower cost. Ultimately, the exercise undertaken by CIRM attempts to reduce the budget by nearly $3.5 million. I will remind everyone that this is what we think will be the worst case scenario, so the final reductions may be less than that amount.

An interesting side development of this has been that in the conversations among the OhioLINK library directors it was noted that many students do not begin their research with the various library databases, but rather in Google Scholar or similar web services. I have seen this in the inter-library loan requests from students here at Wittenberg where they list their source as Google Scholar rather than one of our databases. In the responses I received from Wittenberg faculty one of them recognized the fact that students tend to use Google Scholar as a starting point for their research. I am not advocating that we rely solely on Google Scholar, but our students are using it more than we may think and not utilizing the databases we provide for them as much as we may like. Does this mean I am advocating doing away with the databases? No, but we need to think through the implications of such behavior.

By the time we come back together in the fall the decisions will be made, and I expect that the resources available through OhioLINK will look a bit different. We should be able to maintain those resources that do not come through OhioLINK. Among them are 19th Century Masterfile, Ethnic News Watch, Gender Watch, Grove Dictionary of Art, Grove Dictionary of Music, Sport Discus, World Development Indicators, Early English Books Online, JSTOR (all components), New York Times Historical, Times of London, the various Wilson databases in Wilson Omnifile. There are additional resources we will continue to get that are not connected to OhioLINK. I wanted to make sure you understood these are not at risk.

These are not easy times for Wittenberg and they are not easy times for OhioLINK. One thing to keep in mind is that we cannot go our own way. Those who were here before we joined OhioLINK know the level of resources we had then, and no one wants to return to those days. Even if OhioLINK drops individual databases, it is unlikely that we can pick them up because the cost would be prohibitive for us as an individual subscriber. It has only been through our membership in OhioLINK that we have been able to provide so many resources. —Doug Lehman
Wittenberg University held its annual Honors Convocation on Friday, April 17, 2009, in Weaver Chapel, to recognize those students and faculty who have achieved honors in the classroom or as citizens of the University community. We are pleased to congratulate those Thomas Library student employees who were recognized at the Honors Convocation. We are very proud of the accomplishments of these talented students. If we missed anyone, the fault is ours and we will recognize them in the Fall issue of the newsletter.

Audio-Visual Department

Alpha Lambda Delta:
Trang T. Ha
Eshini A. Panditharatna

Mortar Board:
Eshini A. Panditharatna

Pick and Pen:
Haylee N. Barbo

Students with 4.0 GPA
Last 2 Semesters:
Haylee N. Barbo

Circulation Department

Alpha Lambda Delta:
Christy Gorman
Trang T. Ha
Caitlin M. Ruff

Departmental Awards
Art – Wittenberg Guild Award:
Kayla S. Snider

Sociology – The T. Edwin Boling Sociology Scholarship Award:
Emily G. Beavers

Gamma Sigma Alpha:
Heather A. Roscow

Ivy Ring:
Kayla Snider

Mortar Board:
Emily S. Nash
Heather D. Webb

Omicron Delta Kappa:
Emily S. Nash

Reference Department

Alpha Lambda Delta:
Abby R. Cengel
Lauren M. Cengel

Departmental Awards
English – The Award for Excellence in Literary Studies:
Ronald J. Ross

Philosophy - The Remsberg/Klive Award:
Ronald J. Ross

Mortar Board:
Emily M. Ellerman

Omicron Delta Kappa:
Emily M. Ellerman

Phi Beta Kappa:
Ronald J. Ross

Seniors Earning University Honors:
Ronald J. Ross

Students With 4.0 GPA
Last 2 Semesters:
Ronald J. Ross

Student Managers

Seniors Earning University Honors:
Jordan P. Moore

Technical Services Department

Alpha Lambda Delta:
Courtnay N. Dollinger

Phi Beta Kappa:
Brandon W. Bock
Lindsay Dollinger

Presidential Scholars

Baird Tipson Scholarship:
Brandon W. Bock

Graduating Senior Library Workers

Thomas Library would like to congratulate all graduating senior student library workers. Their loyal service to the library and its staff has been rewarding and is very appreciated. Good Luck to you all! You will be missed!

Reference:
Abby Crisp, David Donofrio, Ronnie Ross, Mallory Snyder, Cassie Trainer, Amanda Twardzik, Nichole Williams

Circulation:

Rebekah Anthony, Emily Beavers, Anthony Cain, Patricia Gillig, Mary Griffith, Kate Hubert, Kathleen Shields, Lauren Williams

Student Managers:
Molly Bogner, Dani Eller, Meredith Karg, Chad Kingery,

Jordan Moore, Andrew Tomko

Technical Services:
Mary L. Dollinger, Stephanie Maxwell

Audio/Visual:
Adam Beeler, Rachael Kraemer, Ken Njihia, Louise (Yuru) Niu

Thomas Library’s Hours of Operation
listed on
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The Director of Thomas Library, Doug Lehman, and Reference Librarians Ken Irwin, Alisa Mizikar, and I, traveled to Seattle, Washington, to attend the 2009 National Conference of the Association of College and Research Libraries held from March 13th through the 15th. My experience began with a pre-conference workshop entitled “Decision making: Is your expert opinion enough?”. The session stressed the importance of applying evidence-based practice, which involves asking a focused question, acquiring evidence, appraising the studies, applying the findings and assessing the impact, to every day decisions.

The conference included poster sessions describing collaborations between librarians and faculty from a variety of disciplines ranging from English to Chemistry, how one small library used a TrailTimer® model T-500 game counter as an inexpensive alternative to a gate counter, and a marketing campaign called “Library Secrets” that used Web 2.0 tools to teach students library related tips and tricks.

One interesting panel session I attended described the use of ethnographic research methods to determine library user needs. Librarians from the University of Rochester used a variety of ethnographic research methods to better understand how their undergraduate students viewed the library. Librarians from the University of St. Cloud described how they adapted some of these ethnographic methods to help determine which spaces to designate as quiet study or group study zones. Some of the methods described include: retrospective interviews, where students drew the steps in their research process and are videotaped while they describe their drawing; photo surveys, where students were asked to take 15 pictures of things like “the computer you use in the library” and “a place where you feel lost in the library”; and a mapping diary, where students mark on a map the different places they went on a certain day of the week.

The conference also featured a Cyber “Zed Shed” (naval slang for a classroom on a boat, which was fitting when the Cyber Zed Shed first debuted in Baltimore) where innovative uses of technology by librarians were showcased. Some of the projects described implementing text reference (answering reference questions via text message), using Twitter and Facebook to market library resources and services, and using Google Docs to collaborate with colleagues and as a tool in class.

Attendance at ACRL allowed us to reconnect with colleagues across the country, explore new technologies and let our imaginations run wild. Now that we’re back, we’re working on ways to incorporate some of these newly generated ideas.

—Kristin Gibson

Notice to all students: Please return all books and pay all library fines by May 15th. You may view your own Circulation record online or call Joan Pallant at 327-7512 for an accounting of how many books and/or fines are on your record.

**THOMAS AND SCIENCE LIBRARY END OF TERM HOURS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>END OF TERM</th>
<th>THOMAS LIBRARY</th>
<th>SCIENCE LIBRARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 3</td>
<td>Noon-1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Regular Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 4</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-1:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Regular Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 5</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-1:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Regular Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 6</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-1:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Regular Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 7 (Reading Day)</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-1:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Regular Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 8</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-1:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Regular Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 9</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-10:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Regular Hours</td>
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<td>Sunday, May 10</td>
<td>Noon-1:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Regular Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 11</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-1:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Regular Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 12</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-Midnight</td>
<td>Regular Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 13</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>By Appointment</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 14</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>By Appointment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 15</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>By Appointment</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 16</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
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<td>Sunday, May 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 18</td>
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**SUMMER HOURS BEGIN TUESDAY, MAY 19**

Monday-Thursday, 8am-8pm  
Friday, 8am-4:30pm  
Saturday, CLOSED  
Sunday, 5p-8p  
May 23, 24, 25, CLOSED  
for Memorial Day  
July 3 & 4, CLOSED for 4th of July  
**SUMMER TERM ENDS, AUGUST 7**  
August 8 & 9, CLOSED  
August 10-14 8am-4:30pm  
August 15-16, CLOSED  
August 17-21, 8am-4:30pm  
August 22, 10am-2pm  
August 23, CLOSED