THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

by Alice Bahr, Dean of Libraries and Instructional Resources

A ny book, journal or database that enhances research is significant, but occasionally significance is under-scored in other ways. BioOne, a database of 51 full-text biological, ecological and environmental journal titles, rightly describes itself as “a revolu-tion in online access to bioscience research journals.” It is one of a handful of emerging new resources—journals, databases, initiatives, preprint servers—sig-naling a dramatic change in how information is created, distributed and priced. Referred to as scholarly communica-tion initiatives, these efforts offer cost-effective alternatives to high-priced com-mercial journals, guarantee access to earli-er journal issues and support the valuable work of non-profit scholarly societies. At present, the scholarly communication process is held hostage by expensive license fees that strain both univer-sity and faculty research. Then they are forced to buy it back from commercial publishers and faculty research is under-scored.

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Dr. Polly Stewart Donates Books to Library

by Kathryn Kalmanson, Head of Reference

Dr. Polly Stewart learned that she had been awarded hundreds of dollars in free aca-demic books, she immediately decided to make a lasting contribution to the SU commu-nity by donating them all to the library. Because of her generosity the library now has an impressive selection of new titles in the areas of religion and cul-ture, folklore and mythology, and ethnic and gender studies.

Stewart received these books in com-pensation for her review work for Oxford University Press. Having been given the choice of any books in Oxford’s enor-mous catalog of current titles, Stewart worked with colleagues in the English Department and members of the library Reference Department to select the most appropriate titles. Several of these selec-tions, including the Oxford Companion to African American Literature, the Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World (4 vols.) and the Dictionary of Buddhism, were added to the general collection. Other titles, primarily in folklore and mythology, are available for checkout in the general collection.

A long-time supporter of the library, Stewart has frequently contributed books from her own collection and has served on several library committees. An exhibit highlighting her many cultural interests and scholarly accomplishments is now on display in the library as part of the library’s ongoing effort to celebrate faculty achievement.
FIRST BLACKWELL ONLINE STUDENT SURVEY, MAY 2003 AND PERDUE SCHOOL STUDENT SURVEY

by Alice Bahr, Dean of Libraries and Instructional Resources

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hortly before classes ended, the library’s Student Advisory Committee asked fellow students how frequently they used the library, whether a break area or café would be useful in the library, and several questions about the library’s popular and scholarly journal collections. As a result of this survey, the library added or deleted journals, including what popular titles the library should add or delete.

Eighty-seven percent thought a snack area or café would be useful in the library. Eighty-nine percent indicated business and finance courses include assignments that require use of outside resources, and 67 percent of students rely on the library for these resources. Eighty-four percent indicated business courses include assignments that require use of outside resources, and 67 percent of students rely on the library for these resources. Eighty-nine percent are aware of the library’s online databases, and 62 percent use them at least once a month.

Eighty-nine percent came to the library to read or study, 61 percent for group work, 33 percent for reserve materials and 30 percent to use computers. All of this information helps the library understand student library needs better and make changes. We’ve made small changes to improve students’ ability to locate journals and started a subscription to Cosmopolitan beginning January 2004.

TERRY DAENZER IS RETIRING

Terry Daenzer, the assistant head of reference building and facilities manager, will retire in December 2003. Terry began working in Blackwell Library in 1988. He has been the library liaison to the Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics/Computer Science departments.

IRIS J ENKINS, SERIALS ASSISTANT

Iris Jenkins began working in Blackwell Library in July 2003 in the Technical Services Department. She is the serials assistant. Iris was a secretary in the Biology Department in the Henson School before she came to work in Blackwell Library.

PROMOTIONS

Audrey Schadt, head cataloging/specials librarian, was promoted from Librarian II to Librarian III in July 2003. Audrey has been working in Blackwell Library since 1989. Susan Brazer, reference instructor librarian, was promoted from Librarian I to Librarian III in July 2003. Susan has been the library liaison to the Biological Sciences Department. Due to the retirement of Terry Daenzer, Susan will become the library liaison to the Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics/Computer Science Departments in addition to being the liaison to the Biological Sciences Department.

LIBRARY’S STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2003-2004

Student members of the library advisory committee this year are Ashley Rogers, Trisha Foisy, Devon Weltborn, Ian Weinstock, Katherine Samuels and Andrew Hart.

STAFF NEWS

STUDENT ASSISTANT PRESENTS PAPER

What does silent-film star Buster Keaton have to offer for modern audiences? Michael Hansen, student assistant in the Reference Department, explored this question in a paper he presented at the 11th annual Buster Keaton Celebration held in Iola, KS, September 26-27.

Michael’s presentation, “Silence and Comedy: Why Buster Keaton Matters More Than Ever,” discusses perspectives of time and the adolescent student in Keaton’s films to show how young people today can find meaning in these silent comedy classics. Michael first became interested in Keaton’s work after buying a copy of his biography at a Blackwell Library book sale last year.

Michael’s paper was part of an impressive lineup of presentations by faculty members and students in film studies across the United States as well as a representative of the British Buster Keaton Society. The Buster Keaton Celebration is a two-day event held each year near the small town where Keaton was born in 1895 while his parents were with a traveling medicine show. It is sponsored in part by the Kansas Humanities Council.

Additional information about Buster Keaton and the annual celebration is available at the official Web site for the event, www.iolaks.com/keaton/index.htm.