

Fall 1999

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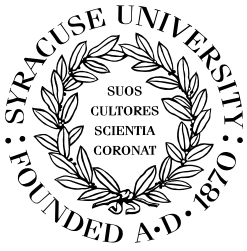


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Recommended Citation

Syracuse University Library, "Fall 1999" (1999). *Library Connection Newsletter*. Paper 6.
http://surface.syr.edu/lib_newsletter/6

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THE **Library**

News from the Syracuse University Library

C O N N E C T I O N

FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

Scholarly Journals in Crisis

THE SCHOLARLY JOURNAL

as we have known it may be disappearing. New technologies, new business strategies, and new intellectual property laws are changing the face of publishing. They permit enormous improvements in speed and accessibility of information. They also allow cost increases beyond what we have already seen, and carry the threat of constraints on teaching and research. The challenge for the whole university community, including Syracuse, is to control costs while improving access to scholarly information.

COST AND THE JOURNALS CRISIS

Journal costs have been rising dramatically. The accompanying graph, prepared by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), shows the effect of such price increases on the budgets of North American research libraries over the past dozen years. Though universities are spending 142 percent more for journals of all kinds than they were 11 years ago, they actually get 6 percent fewer titles. Because of this cost pressure on budgets, libraries are buying far fewer books, even though they are spending about 30 percent more than they used to. At Syracuse 13 years ago we subscribed to 20,000 printed journal titles. We now subscribe to just over 10,000—but we pay almost 60 percent more for them (that is, about \$2.3M).

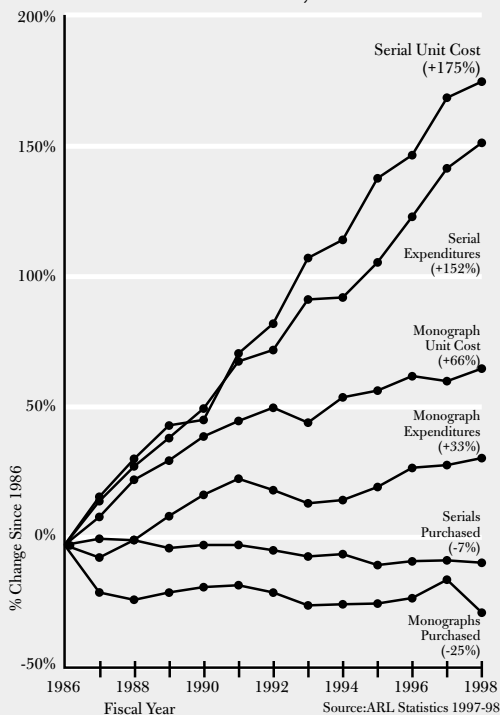
The graph shows the average price increase for all journals. But the rates for scientific journals are much higher than this average. Scientific journals

are increasingly consolidated in the hands of a few publishers (for example, of 1,100 biomedical titles, three publishers—Elsevier, Harcourt and Kluwer—own 55 percent). There is persuasive evidence that scientific publishing is now seen primarily as a cash cow, rather than as a means of disseminating information, by publishing conglomerates who cite very impressive journal profits in their annual reports (a typical ARL library buys 3.5 percent of its journals from Elsevier, for which it expends 21 percent of its serials budget; for the past several years this publisher has reported profits between 36 percent and 42 percent). Elsevier alone, said *The New York Times* in 1997, owns 15 percent of the scientific publishing market (it also owns Lexis/Nexis, Congressional Information Services, and Butterworth/Heinemann).

It is not the case that publication has become cheaper on the network, and it is far from free. Because of editorial and layout work, more than 70 percent of a journal's cost is incurred before the first copy is printed, and this work remains in electronic journals. When libraries later buy subscriptions to digital journals, it is often at a surcharge over the print cost (sometimes with print included in the subscription, but sometimes not). Meanwhile the work that researchers and faculty do in writing, editing, and reviewing continues to be given away for free to publishers who sell it back to libraries at considerable cost.

A final point: the price increases of library materials are on an insupportable curve. No university can be expected to provide the funding necessary to match the buying patterns of 15 years ago at current pricing, and none does. While books and journals must be supported at higher levels than they are, a blank check can't be asked for and won't be given. We will all have to make choices.

Monograph and Serial Costs in ARL Libraries, 1986-1998



Courtesy of the Association of Research Libraries.

TECHNOLOGY AND THE JOURNALS CRISIS

Observers speak of the “crisis” in scholarly journals not only because of the costs, but because technology is beginning to change the way information is distributed—particularly, but not only, in the sciences. The classic scholarly communication model describes the successive participation of the researcher, the author, the editor and reviewers, the publisher, the distributor, the library, and the

es; about 15 percent of our acquisitions budget this year will go for digital materials, or about \$575,000.) E-journals are now mostly created as replications of existing print. Many offer new features: not only searchability, but added information in the form of charts and raw data, multimedia content, and linkages to citations. But even with these enhancements they are traditional journal formats, appearing regularly with contents pages, the usual departments, peer review, illustrations, and advertising.

A significant new development is the rapid distribution of research results in non-journal contexts. In fields that have depended on preprints (research articles distributed before review and publication), their networked distribution evolved naturally. The well-known successful case is the Los Alamos preprint database for physics (<http://xxx.lanl.gov/>); for the past several years scholarly communication in high-energy and related fields has taken place digitally through this database rather than in print journals. The digital preprints are not peer-reviewed, and practitioners, interestingly enough, don't much care. The National Institutes of Health have recently proposed a similar national database, “PubMed Central”; in this case, there are concerns that the public might give unwarranted credence to some information that lacks peer review (<http://www.nih.gov/welcome/director/pubmedcentral/pubmedcentral.htm>).

In most fields peer review remains a *sine qua non* for assuring quality. Readers depend on it as a means of winnowing wheat from vast fields of digital chaff. However in some disciplines peer review, while ultimately essential, can wait—the fields are so small and dynamic that report quality can be judged quickly and reliably enough for immediate purposes. By the time peer review takes place, the research may be history. Such fields are moving more rapidly than others to new means of speedier networked publication.

From the time the Royal Societies of France and England issued the first scholarly journals in 1665, research reports have appeared as articles in periodically produced collections. A trend is now developing toward publication of individual papers, perhaps as preprints or on Web pages of authors or organizations. When searching for information on a particular topic, there is no need online to locate a research report in the context of a time-constrained issue of a named journal; it is easier to search for it in a large, coherent database.

Brokers or “aggregators” are beginning to provide such collections (at present mostly

Intellectual property:

Who owns the information in the Library's journals? The answer until now was relatively simple: the Library owns the physical copy, while the publisher controls the copyright. The “first sale right” means that we can lend the journal, throw it out, sell it, or do whatever we like with the physical copy. Copyright law constrains copying, but Constitutionally-based “fair use” provisions allow selective and appropriate copying for teaching, citation, and research.

In the digital arena, information ownership is more complicated. There is no physical information artifact on the network, which means that use, lending, preservation, and citation practices are solely matters of how intellectual property is defined. Publishers have discovered that digitally it is possible to control all uses of information and that it is more profitable to do so through contracts than through the publishing procedures we are used to. Contract law and copyright law differ considerably. Thus the Library now must purchase “site licenses” for most digital publications; the license means we do not own the information in any form whatsoever, but only have purchased limited access to it. In the contract regime “fair use” does not arise; all use and copying are subject to negotiation with the information owner, in this case the publisher. Interlibrary loan may not be available in the digital environment, and the ability to maintain an archival copy beyond the length of the license term is in question.

Selected commercial interests (e.g., Elsevier and Thomson) are now pressing for broad database legislation in Congress that would further protect their ability to control information use. Their wish is to protect information databases in perpetuity, to make any unauthorized use illegal, and to make facts themselves intellectual property, not simply the interpretation of facts. Such protection, intentionally outside the scope of copyright law, would overturn 200 years of U.S. information policy holding facts to be in the public domain. Databases now are protected by copyright if they manifest creativity and originality, while the facts themselves are not copyrightable. The proposed legislation seeks to bypass copyright law (and its privileges and exemptions) and create a new protection based on the financial investment in the gathering of fact. The implications for exchange of research information are chilling. Further information is available at the ARL site (<http://www.arl.org/info/frn/copy/database.html>).

reader (who then becomes the researcher in a repeated cycle). Digital technology—desktop publishing and the Internet—allows this cycle to be shortened considerably at the same time everyone is trying to reduce costs. As one observer noted, technology permits us to eliminate the middleman and everyone knows the middleman is someone else.

In addition to our 10,000 print journals, the Library now receives more than 800 electronic journals. (We also subscribe to more than 400 bibliographic and full-text databas-

made up of articles from existing journals). Aggregators are of several kinds: some are publishers offering collections of their present journal portfolios, and some are library organizations such as OCLC and the Research Libraries Group, which provide access to journal databases across disciplines (the Library subscribes to some of these). Scholarly societies are beginning to do the same (see page 9), and to speak of “knowledge environments.”

These changes now affect mostly the scientific disciplines, but similar steps are beginning to be visible in the social sciences (e.g., the CIAO database in international affairs at Columbia University) and even in the humanities.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

The present journal publishing model will offer additional digital capabilities of great value to researchers and students, but with no decrease in the rapid escalation of costs to universities. Changes in the scholarly communication model have the potential to offer further enhanced services. It will be the responsibility of all of us in the academic community to become familiar with the changes. The commercial publishing and technological environments are driven by economic engines having different goals from those of the academy; if we do not assert our own goals, we will be subject to theirs.

Building on academic strength can lead to the best return on our scholarly investments. Until the availability of resources and the modes of scholarly publication come into line, there will necessarily be disappointment. But with your help, we can ensure that the Library has the ability to provide the teaching and research tools that are necessary to support the leading student-centered research university we wish to be.

WHAT CAN THE FACULTY DO?

Individual faculty members can take a hard look at the journals for which they serve as editors and reviewers, asking questions about pricing and owners’ goals. Faculty can use their influence to change unhelpful pricing or copyright policies; they can consider moving to other journals; or, as has already happened, they can create new journals. They can, as authors or editors, support the evolution of new publication models. Faculty can consider the implications of giving away copyright for free, and also the mechanisms possible for retaining copyright on campus while allowing first publication in scholarly journals as at present.

Faculty can be supportive of the Library’s need to shift our balance of expenditures further to digital materials rather than print, especially in the sciences. Most of all, faculty, like all those in the scholarly community, can continue to keep themselves informed about this changing information environment.

WHAT CAN THE UNIVERSITY DO?

We know the administration will continue to support the scholarly needs of our students and faculty through funding for information resources. Our University leaders can continue their work with peer institutions in developing shared academic and collecting programs, in developing new intellectual property strategies, and in supporting alternative

For Further Reading:

Butler, Declan, “The Writing is on the Web for Science Journals in Print,” *Nature* 397:195-200 (January 21, 1999).

Waters, Donald and John Garrett, *Preserving Digital Information, Report of the Task Force on Archiving of Digital Information* (Washington, DC: CLIR, 1996).

“Scholarly Communication and the Need for Collective Action,” ARL Discussion Paper, October 1997 (www.arl.org/sparc/discuss.html).

“To Publish and Perish,” special issue of *Policy Perspectives* (March 1998), cosponsored by ARL, the Association of American Universities, and the Pew Higher Education Roundtable.

“Measuring the Cost Effectiveness of Journals: The Wisconsin Experience,” *ARL: A Bi-Monthly Report*, 205 (August 1999); also at (www.arl.org/newsltr/205/index.html). Continues the 1988 Barschall study demonstrating cost-effectiveness of not-for-profit journals over commercially published ones in physics, economics, and other fields.

“View of the Current Marketplace for Scholarly Journals,” a special issue of *ARL: A Bi-Monthly Newsletter*, 200 (October 1998), including articles on publisher mergers, competition in scholarly publishing and profits, and possible non-commercial alternatives; also at: www.arl.org/newsltr/200/200toc.html.

publication modes. Most helpfully, the University can endorse faculty and Library efforts to identify the academic and teaching strengths of the institution that will be best served through scholarly resource support.

WHAT CAN THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY DO?

Research libraries have for several years been gathering information and exploring options, often with significant partners such as scholarly societies and the AAU. Out of these discussions three predominant strategies have emerged:

Separation of peer review and the publishing process: This strategy suggests that the credentialing function of scholarly publi-

cation be separated from its archival function. In such an academically-managed model, peer-reviewed digital articles could be put into circulation faster and more cheaply than in the current publication process, and print publication would not be necessary for tenure and promotion review purposes.

Rethinking ownership of intellectual property: In this strategy, universities and their faculties would reconsider how intellectual property (copyright) is owned so that it need not always be bought back at high prices. Perhaps the faculty would be asked to retain ownership and license their work to publishers; perhaps the university would retain copyright on behalf of the researcher. At the least, faculty could be advised to reserve certain rights in their publishing agreements, such as the right to make copies for the author's use in the classroom or within the author's institution (not now always taken for granted in contracts).

Developing affordable alternative publishing modes: This strategy looks to create competition in the publishing marketplace by encouraging organizations that more closely share the values of the scholarly community to enter it. An outstanding example is SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing and Research Coalition, which has already helped the American Chemical Society, the American Institute of Biological Sciences,

and others initiate cheaper journals in direct competition with existing higher-priced commercial ones. Syracuse University is a founding member of SPARC, an ARL initiative.

WHAT CAN THE LIBRARY DO?

We in the Library will continue to make selective additions and cancellations of journal acquisitions, responding to disciplinary needs and to the goals and strategies of the larger University. We will continue to urge additional funding for library acquisitions, both from the University and from our good friends among our alumni and elsewhere.

We will continue to work with national and regional library consortia to share resources and to negotiate group purchases of digital information; and we will continue to participate in joint strategies like SPARC to encourage alternative publication modes. We will continue to support interlibrary loan and document delivery services so students and faculty can get what they need from wherever it is located. We will increasingly eliminate print subscriptions when publications are available in digital form. With faculty consultation and support, we will emphasize the scholarly and teaching strengths of the University by making the best choices of content and format we can.

— Peter S. Graham, *University Librarian*

Upcoming Library Associates Events

HOLIDAY RECEPTION

December 10, 1999
Friday, 5 – 7 p.m.
Chancellor's Residence
300 Comstock Avenue

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND ARCHIVES

Joseph Downing Thompson Jr., Archivist
John Hope Franklin Research Center,
Duke University
February 17, 2000
Thursday, 4 p.m.
1916 Room, Bird Library

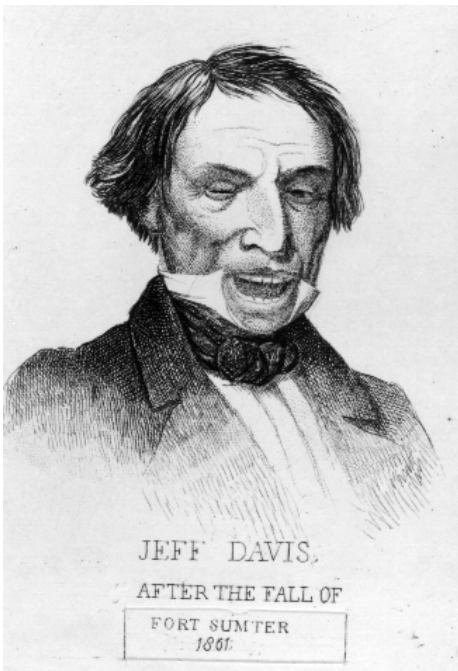
THE FUTURE OF THE 19TH CENTURY

Jim Neal, Sheridan Director of Libraries
Johns Hopkins University
March 30, 2000
Thursday, 4 p.m.
1916 Room, Bird Library

SPRING LUNCHEON

Robert Phillips, John and Rebecca Moores
Scholar
University of Houston
May 19, 2000
Friday, noon
Goldstein Student Center
South Campus
For information about Library Associates
programs, call extension 2130 or 9763.

Recent Gifts and Acquisitions



D. C. Johnston political cartoons.

THE LIBRARY has acquired two rare political cartoons by David Claypoole Johnston (1798-1865), American lithographer and engraver. One cartoon was made for the Martin Van Buren-William H. Harrison campaign of 1840. It shows a smiling man holding a drinking glass on which are the initials MVB. The caption reads, "A beautiful goblet of White House champagne." By means of a pull tab, the smile vanishes, the glass becomes a mug with the initials WHH, and the caption changes to, "An ugly mug of Log-Cabin Hard Cider."

The other cartoon is an engraved portrait of Jefferson Davis, president of the Southern Confederacy (1861-1865). That portrait also has two expressions (see accompanying photos): satisfaction when Fort Sumter fell in 1861 and unhappiness when it fell again in 1863. Professor David Tatham, a leading authority on D. C. Johnston, writes: "D. C. Johnston's satiric caricatures with moveable parts represent a high point in the history of 19th-century American comic art. A product of the Jacksonian taste for robust humor, Johnston's metamorphosing faces still amuse their viewers." *Purchased through the Sol Feinstein Library Fund.*

RITA AND GUS HAUSER were looking for a good home for a collection of discs. Their friend Edward Bleier (SU '51) suggested Syracuse University. Bleier is president of Domestic Pay TV, Cable, and Network Feature Film Sales for Time Warner, Inc. The Hausers gave a group of 120 discs, nearly half of them on the New World Records label. New World was founded in 1975 with a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to record a representative array of American popular and classical music for use in schools and public libraries.

Record companies and private collectors alike became sources for this sometimes rare material. In this case Rita Hauser had served on the board of trustees of New World Records.

Rita Hauser, president of the Hauser Foundation, is an international lawyer known for her public service and philanthropic work.

Gus Hauser, a pioneer in the cable television industry, is chairman and CEO of Hauser Communications. He has introduced many innovations, such as MTV and Nickelodeon television networks, pay-per-view, and other interactive services. Hauser Communications is a private investment and operating company in cable television and international satellite and other electronic communications.

The remainder of the Hauser gift includes discs of classical content on several other labels. These recordings are fine resources for teaching and research.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS were purchased with funds from the William C. Petty endowed Library Fund, as part of Syracuse University's Commitment to Learning campaign. These resources illustrate the continuing benefits of endowment income.

The Library has recently purchased the 10-volume *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (1998). It contains more than 2,000 entries written by some 1,200 authors, and it treats Anglo-American philosophy as well as philosophies of India, Africa, Latin America, China, etc. There are entries on new concepts, developing schools and systems, and new thinking about older themes. Reviewers have called the encyclopedia "definitive" and "outstanding."

The *Bibliography of American Imprints to 1901* is a 92-volume set compiled from the databases of the American Antiquarian Society and Research Libraries Group and published by K.G. Saur. It contains about 400,000 records of the products of American presses from 1640 through 1900 and covers all literary genres.

The 24-volume *American National Biography* was published by Oxford University Press in 1999 under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies. The *ANB* is intended to be the successor to the *Dictionary of American Biography*, first published between 1926 and 1937. The *ANB* contains current knowledge and views about the significant figures of our national past.

Medieval Manuscripts Receive High-Tech Treatment

THIS FALL the Library's medieval manuscripts will make their debut in the world of high technology. During the summer Jennifer Casten, a graduate intern from the School of Information Studies, spent 300 hours in the Department of Special Collections preparing those manuscripts for online access. She developed detailed cataloging descriptions and took 200 photographs of 10 manuscripts from the 13th through the 16th centuries, including five books of hours, a volume of papal decretals (decisions on canon law), a partial Old Testament including a complete Book of Judith, a psalter, a Dominican gradual of saints, and an apocalyptic work by Telesphorus of Cosenza (Pope from about 125 to 136).

Casten brought to the task a knowledge of Latin, acquired while pursuing bachelor's and master's degrees in history and medieval studies at the University of Toronto. Latin, combined with technological sophistication, made her an ideal candidate for the job.

"Although I studied medieval history, this was my first opportunity to examine medieval manuscripts firsthand," Casten said. "In doing so I came to appreciate the painstaking work of the medieval scribes and illuminators. It was a great privilege to work with their beautiful masterpieces of art and craftsmanship."

As a result of her work, SUMMIT catalog records for these manuscripts will be enhanced, and SU will report its holdings to several internet databases, including Digital Scriptorium, a project based at the University of California at Berkeley and at Columbia University. A Web page containing



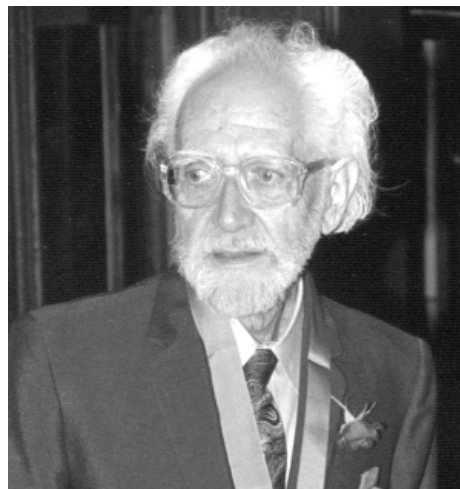
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with a border of monkeys.

detailed descriptions of the manuscripts and digital images of the illuminations is under construction and will soon be available.

Mark Weimer, curator of Special Collections, said: "By allowing users to study the illuminations in our medieval manuscripts on the Web, we can avoid exposing them to repeated handling, while providing much more detailed descriptions of these works."

Jennifer Casten is pleased to be able to share her enthusiasm with the world. "I hope that through the Web site exhibit, others will learn to admire and respect the culture and legacy of the Middle Ages as much as I do," she said.

Library Benefactor Turns 90



PROFESSOR WILLIAM FLEMING

recently celebrated his 90th birthday. The Library is grateful to him for his many years of support, both as a board member of Library Associates and as a donor of funds and manuscripts. Most recently, he gave the Library two letters, one written by Johannes Brahms and the other by Ignace Jan Paderewsky.

Donations Bring Continuing Benefits

THE CHARLES A. DANA FOUNDATION, through the sponsorship of William Safire, annually supports a library assistantship. The current occupant of that position is Shannon Williamson, a doctoral student in history. Williamson studies medieval intellectual and legal history with Professor Kenneth Pennington of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Among her duties is introducing students to the holdings in the Department of Special Collections and coordinating an exhibition to highlight those holdings.

Like many of her predecessors, Williamson has a great interest in the Leopold von Ranke collection. "Ranke not only professionalized the study of history, but he also demonstrated the need to pursue it with a surgical precision," she says. "I want

to be able to use the Ranke materials and the other treasures in Special Collections to show students how history can come alive in a variety of ways."

TWO GOOD FRIENDS of the Library recently left significant bequests to further the Library's collections. Jean P. Goodrich (SU '46) left more than \$200,000 for acquisitions and conservation of Library collections. Goodrich died October 24, 1998.

Donald E. Van Dyke left the Library \$125,000. Van Dyke, who headed a public relations company in New York City before retiring to Florida, was married to an alumna, Virginia Casey '38. He died on February 21, 1998.

The Library and its future users will long be grateful to Jean Goodrich and Donald Van Dyke.

IMLS Funds Library's Radius Project

LATE IN SEPTEMBER the Library was notified that it would receive major grant funding for a project to preserve and re-record the early wax cylinders in the Belfer Audio Laboratory and Archive. The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a federal agency, will fund the project with a one-year, \$158,076 grant effective December 1, 1999.

The Belfer Archive houses more than 20,000 deteriorating wax cylinders, containing music, interviews, and other evanescent sounds from the first part of this century. In a quest to preserve the cylinders while capturing their sounds, in 1996 Belfer staff, headed by Martha Hanson, forged a partnership with a student/faculty team from the University's L. C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science (ECS). They explored the feasibility of developing a nondestructive playback system for cylinders using an optical heterodyne system based on a focused laser beam.

"We are proud of Marty Hanson's work in obtaining an IMLS National Leadership Grant," said University Librarian Peter Graham. "The project enables us to preserve our own valuable cylinders, while helping other institutions to do the same."

The "Radius Project" [from the Latin phrase *radii solis* (beam of light)] includes two goals:

- To complete developing a cylinder playback system that reproduces historically

accurate (that is, sonically correct) sound in a nondestructive, robust, flexible, and cost-effective manner.

- To demonstrate the success of the system by reproducing sound, from two-minute wax cylinders, that is equivalent or superior to the sound produced by a mechanical playback system. These fragile two-minute wax cylinders represent approximately one-third of the Library's collection of cylinders.

The Radius Project team includes project director Martha Hanson, the Library's preservation administrator and director of Belfer; project coordinator Susan T. Stinson, curator of Belfer; and project consultant William A. Penn, adjunct professor, ECS. In addition Penn will guide a team of senior optical and audio consultants. Successful completion of the Radius Project will enable the Library to begin providing, for the first time, nondestructive sonic access to fragile cylinder recordings from one of the two largest cylinder collections in the country. Further, Belfer also will be able to provide, to sound archives throughout the United States, a cost-effective service for re-recording their own fragile collections of cylinders onto more physically stable polyester-based tape.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is a federal grantmaking agency located in Washington, D.C., that fosters leadership, innovation, and a lifetime of learning by supporting museums and libraries.

Library Welcomes New Collection Development Librarian

ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1999, Peter McDonald became the Library's new associate University librarian for collection development. Previously he was director of the library at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, part of the Cornell University library system.

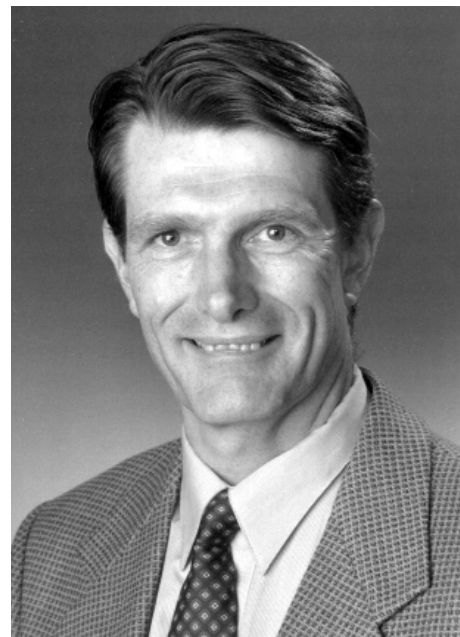
"Peter McDonald comes to Syracuse with a reputation both for scholarship and for energy in getting things done," said Peter S. Graham, University librarian. "His understanding of research library collection building, his ability as a change-maker, and his articulate formulation of the major issues in scholarly communication are skills that will serve us well at Syracuse."

Graham noted that "McDonald brings the necessary understandings of print and electronic information resources to our University. He has written prize-winning publications, and he has experience in providing digital resources to a major library. He also has authoritative book-preservation training. I look forward to his assistance in developing our collections to match the needs of our students and the strengths of our faculty."

"I am honored to have been chosen for this position," said McDonald. "Syracuse is an excellent university with a distinguished collection. I am particularly excited by working closely with the Library's fine staff. These are heady days for librarianship, so it will be an exciting challenge to work with the University librarian, my new colleagues, and faculty to help lead this fine library into the 21st century."

McDonald's responsibilities at the Syracuse University Library will include managing the acquisitions budget of more than \$3.5 million, coordinating the work of the Library's selectors, negotiating contracts and licenses with digital and book vendors, and maintaining an effective balance of print and electronic information resources. To gain the most for SU's acquisitions money he will continue our development of effective consortial relations with peer and regional libraries.

McDonald was the chair of the science selectors team at the Cornell University Library and a member of the library's Electronic Resources Council and Collection Development Executive Committee.



Peter McDonald

From 1990 to 1993 McDonald was a bibliographer for the Core Agricultural Literature Project at the Mann Library of Cornell University. In prior years he worked as a reference librarian and Mellon preservation intern at the New York Public Library, and as assistant to the director of the Grolier Club, the oldest antiquarian book club in North America.

In 1994 McDonald edited *The Literature of Soil Science* for Cornell University Press, and in 1997 co-edited *The Literature of Forestry and Agroforestry*, also for CUP. The series won an award in 1997 from the National Agricultural Library. McDonald received an award from the American Library Association for his co-authorship of "the most significant publication on collection development in 1995," "The Internet and Collection Development: Mainstreaming the Selection of Internet Resources," in *Library Resources and Technical Services* (July 1995).

Peter McDonald obtained a bachelor's degree in English literature at McGill University, an M.L.S. from the University of Washington, and a Preservation Administration Certificate from Columbia University.

SciFinder Scholar (by Chemical Abstracts Service)

SCIFINDER SCHOLAR, the Library's newest science database, is the online version of *Chemical Abstracts* (CA, a product of the American Chemical Society). It includes journal articles, book chapters, patents, conference proceedings, technical reports, and dissertations. Because of its breadth, *SciFinder Scholar* will be useful not only to chemists, but to a wide range of scientists in related subject disciplines. University students, faculty, and other researchers can have rapid and efficient access to this database from their desktops and laboratories, on or off campus.

The database is designed so that infrequent searchers can explore the chemical literature without having to learn the intricacies of searching *Chemical Abstracts* in print or via the currently used pay-per-search system. Because the Library pays an annual subscription fee, students and faculty need not be concerned about the cost of individual searches. As a result, searches are more likely to be done as part of teaching and research, and students can learn to search CA as part of their work as scientists.

SciFinder Scholar relies on client software loaded on individual computers, and it searches computers at Chemical Abstracts Service in Columbus, Ohio. There are versions of the client software for both Windows and Macintosh computers. The Windows client is provided at workstations in the Syracuse University Library. In addition, both versions of the client can be downloaded from University servers to individual workstations in laboratories and offices on

campus. In the near future the Library's proxy server will be configured to accommodate users who wish to use the product from off campus.

Users can explore the literature in four ways: (1) CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE or REACTION to explore chemical substances by chemical names, structures, formulas, or Chemical Abstracts registry numbers, or to retrieve chemical reactions starting from structures of interest; (2) RESEARCH TOPIC to search by subject using natural-language questions; (3) AUTHOR NAME to find works by a given author; and (4) SPECIFIC REFERENCE to find journal articles by CA abstract number or patents by patent number. Although searches are performed via the Internet, they are completed quickly because references begin displaying as soon as they arrive at the searcher's computer rather than after all records have been retrieved.

SciFinder Scholar is unique among database programs in that it allows searchers to actually draw the structure of a chemical compound, atom by atom and bond by bond, and then execute searches against that structure to find bibliographic citations or reactions. *SciFinder's* structure-drawing capability has been the most highly praised feature of the system and is a familiar interface for chemists used to desktop publishing structure-drawing programs such as ChemDraw. The drawing software is easy to learn and works extremely well. Templates are available for many common substances, as are shortcuts for common functional groups. Structure searching can be performed in either the bibliographic file or against the chemical reactions database.

One additional functionality of *SciFinder Scholar* is the ability to link directly to the full text of cited articles through an associated *Chemical Abstracts* Web site called ChemPort. ChemPort acts as an aggregator for scientific publishers (see pp. 2-3), providing a unified interface to the contents of scientific journals and patents. ChemPort provides the linkage to the abstracts but does not necessarily enable the user to access the full-text content. However, the Library already has subscriptions for many of the journals aggregated in ChemPort.

With the installation of *SciFinder Scholar*, the Library fills a large gap in its access to chemical information as well as to a wealth of such related topics as toxicology, environmental sciences, and biotechnology.

The screenshot displays the SciFinder Scholar application window. On the left, a search panel shows a chemical structure of aspirin (benzene ring with a carboxylic acid group and an acetoxy group) and the text "Sample structure search for the compound 'aspirin'". Below the structure, it indicates "50-78-2" and "References REGISTRY ~12450". A "Get References" button is visible. The main window shows a list of search results. The first result is: "Pinkus, A. George. **Tablets or biologically acceptable implants for long-term antiinflammatory drug release.** 20 pp. CODEN: USXXAM US 5855915 A 990105 CAN 130:100667; AN 1999:34378 CAPLUS". The second result is: "Olmsted, John, III. **Synthesis of aspirin: a general chemist experiment.** J. Chem. Educ. (1998), 75(10), 1261-1263. CODEN: JCEDA8 ISSN:0021-9584. CAN 129:330223; AN 1998:634447 CAPLUS". At the bottom, there are buttons for "Refine References" and "Back", and a status bar indicating "References 7-10 of 220".

Consortial Agreements Advance Libraries' Interests

THROUGHOUT THE 1990s more and more library materials have become available electronically, resulting in an increasingly chaotic marketing situation, with each vendor setting prices and marketing its electronic products in a different way. A few years ago, in an effort to provide more coherence to the buying process and to reduce the costs to the University, the Library helped found a consortium with 17 other libraries in the Northeast to form the Northeast Research Libraries consortium (NERL). The participants include Boston, Columbia, Cornell, and Harvard universities, among others.

NERL has two main goals: to negotiate jointly for favorable prices, and to negotiate sound contracts that protect our interests, preserve the rights of the participating libraries, and serve as model contracts for other libraries and organizations. We have had numerous online discussions in an attempt to identify what issues are essential in any contract we sign.

SU Library acquired needed resources at a cost that we would not have been able to

negotiate individually (see chart).

Thus, in the past year participation in NERL has saved SU Library more than \$80,000. Included in the products listed below are a number of products from Chadwyck-Healey, which produces high-quality specialized data in the humanities and social sciences. In the past SU Library could not afford these very expensive products. But when Chadwyck-Healey approached NERL offering discounts if certain levels of new business were generated, the participation was so great that discounts reached 50 percent.

To guide both NERL and individual institutions as they negotiate with vendors, NERL is developing a set of licensing principles. The licensing principles will guide libraries nationwide in their negotiations to license electronic resources.

The consortium continues to look at additional products of interest to its members and seeks to negotiate advantageous contracts. Syracuse University Library will continue to participate actively in NERL and to seek additional consortial opportunities.

Electronic resource	List price	SU price
Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe	\$65,005	\$23,568
Congressional Universe	8,870	6,151
Statistical Universe	16,495	9,333
Literature Online	12,700	11,000
Biography of American Literature*	3,000	1,500
Goethes Werke*	6,320	3,160
Patrologia Latina*	45,000	22,500
Digital National Security Archive	4,500	4,050
African American Biographies	1,395	1,166
Total this year	\$ 163,285	\$ 82,428

* Items having a one-time cost. The others have an annual cost.

New Electronic Resources

GROVE DICTIONARY OF ART ONLINE

The Library has recently acquired the *Grove Dictionary of Art Online*. This is the electronic version of the 34-volume print edition of the dictionary, also owned by the Library.

The online version of the *Grove Dictionary of Art* provides access to more than 41,000 articles on worldwide art. A great advantage over print are the 15,500 links to images and supplementary information available from museum and other art Web sites. These are further supplemented by 30,000 images from the Bridgeman Art Library, which serves as a licensing agent for more than 750 museums and other collections around the world. There are plans to

add 70,000 more images to the Bridgeman database.

Currently the Library has a subscription for five simultaneous users of the *Grove Dictionary of Art Online*. It is available to the University community both within the Library and through remote access from home or office. One can search the dictionary by subject or full-text keyword. To access this resource go to the Library's home page (<http://libwww.syr.edu/>), click on Catalog/Databases, then click on Databases Main Menu.

ART THEORISTS OF THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

The Fine Arts Department of the Library recently acquired a new electronic publica-

tion that will be of great interest to scholars and students of the Renaissance. Issued in CD-ROM format by Chadwyck-Healey, *Art Theorists of the Italian Renaissance* brings together for the first time more than 80 important 15th- and 16th-century treatises on art and architecture by such renowned individuals as Alberti (*L'architettura*), Aretino, Bellori (*Le vite de' pittori*), Boccaccio, Castiglione (*The Courtier*), Cellini (*Vita*), Colonna (*Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*), Condivi, Ghiberti (*I commentari*), Leonardo da Vinci (*Trattato della pittura*), Palladio (*I quattro libri dell'architettura*), Sansovino, Scamozzi (*L'idea della architettura*), Serlio (*Regole*), and Vignola. At the center of the collection are three different editions of Vasari's complete *Lives of the Most Eminent Painters, Sculptors, and Architects*.

These Renaissance theorists are supplemented by relevant writings by Vitruvius (1st century B.C.) and Baldinucci (17th century). Vitruvius's ideas were important to Renaissance architects exploring the classical past, and Baldinucci's biographies of Italian artists supplement the work of Vasari. No single library holds the originals of all these texts in its collection, so this assembly on one CD-ROM places these diverse resources at the fingertips of the researcher.

Art Theorists of the Italian Renaissance will appeal especially to researchers in art, architecture, history, cultural studies, and Italian language and literature. Fine Arts Library staff will be happy to help you get started using this database. For further information call 443-2440 or e-mail artdesk1@syr.edu.

PATROLOGIA LATINA DATABASE

The *Patrologia Latina* database encompasses the works of Latin Christianity from Tertullian in A.D. 200 to the death of Pope Innocent III in 1216. The database is an electronic version of the 217-volume first edition of Jacques-Paul Migne's *Patrologia Latina*, published between 1844 and 1855; it includes prefatory material, notes, and appendixes, as well as commentaries published after 1216.

Kenneth Pennington, a history professor at SU, says, "The *Patrologia Latina* preserves the cultural heritage of the first 1,200 years of European history. To have this remarkable source in cyberspace is an answer to a scholar's dream."

According to Shannon Williamson, the

Library's Dana Foundation-sponsored graduate assistant, "The ability to use this collection of materials—including theological, legal and philosophical texts—online means greater ease of use for the scholar as well as an opportunity to expose more people to the treasures of late antique and medieval history. Of course, one must be able to read Latin, but we expect the computerized format will attract many students and professional scholars. One of my goals is to show students how to unlock the *PL's* secrets."

To find this database, go to the Library's home page (<http://libwww.syr.edu/>), click on Catalog/Databases, then click on Databases Main Menu.

GOETHE'S WERKE—THE WEIMAR EDITION ON THE WEB

This article is a special contribution from Professor Gerlinde Sanford.

"How did Goethe actually spend his birthdays? A colleague has just impressed you with a pithy Goethe quote—but where can you find it? What remarks did Goethe make in his works on the subject of wine? What do we know about Goethe's relationships with women? The right Goethe quote is on the tip of your tongue—but how does it go exactly?"

Answers to such questions are now readily available because our Library has purchased a permanent license for the use of Goethe's works in the Weimar Edition. For students and scholars this is a great new addition to the traditional library holdings.

Goethes Werke im World Wide Web contains the complete text of the 143 volumes of the Weimar Edition of Goethe's works, originally published between 1887 and 1919 by Hermann Böhlau (and Nachfolger) under the patronage of Großherzogin Sophie von Sachsen and hence often referred to as the *Sophien-Ausgabe*. Every word of Goethe's literary and scientific works, his diaries, and his letters are contained in the Weimar Edition. Furthermore, all illustrations of the Weimar Edition have been scanned and added to the database. It includes the entire scientific apparatus, text variants, paralipomena, as well as an index of subjects and persons. The database is supplemented by material not found in the Weimar Edition, namely *Goethes Gespräche*, edited by Woldemar Freiherr von Biedermann (Leipzig, 1889-1896), and all the letters discovered since the completion of the Weimar Edition: *Goethes Werke, Nachträge zur Weimarer Ausgabe*, edited by Paul Raabe

"THE PATROLOGIA LATINA PRESERVES THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE FIRST 1,200 YEARS OF EUROPEAN HISTORY. TO HAVE THIS REMARKABLE SOURCE IN CYBERSPACE IS AN ANSWER TO A SCHOLAR'S DREAM."

(München, 1990). *Goethes Werke* may be accessed through the Library's home page (<http://libwww.syr.edu/>). Click on Catalog/Databases, then click on Databases Main Menu.

ONLINE REFERENCE SHELF OFFERS A VARIETY OF WEB-BASED REFERENCE SOURCES

Online Reference Shelf, a service of the Library's Reference Department, allows researchers to access a wide variety of reference sources, day or night, from their own computers. The sources are organized into such categories as Facts, Figures, Events; Statistics and Demographics; Biographical Sources; Syracuse and Central New York; Dictionaries and Encyclopedias; Directories; Citation Style Guides; and Career Resources.

Here are some examples of what you can find through the Reference Shelf:

- Need the percent change in consumer prices from 1990 to 1998? Check Consumer Prices Indexes under the

Statistics and Demographics category.

- Wondering what a Russian ruble looks like? View the beautifully scanned images of paper money in the Currency section of the Facts, Figures, Events category.
- Looking for a distribution list on distance education? Use the Discussion/Listserv lists under the Directories category.
- Want a quick biography of Madeleine Albright? Try the Biographical Sources category.
- Selling your car? Want to know what it's worth? Take a look at the *Kelley Blue Book* or the *Edmund's Guide* under the Hot Links category.
- How can you tell if what you have found on the Web is accurate or reliable? See the Evaluating Web Material category.

Take a look (go to <http://libwww.syr.edu> and choose Reference Shelf from the Catalog/Databases menu) and let us know what you think. As we are always updating these pages, we also welcome suggestions for useful, new sites. You may contact us through Elaine Coppola (emcoppol@library.syr.edu).

The Library Connection provides the University community with information about Library collections, services, and activities. The newsletter is supported by Syracuse University Library Associates.

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