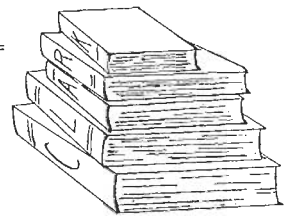


# NEWS:

FROM THE CLARK UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



SPRING 2006

## From the University Librarian

*Gwen Arthur*

Last spring, with the University's Fall 2005 New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation on the horizon, I looked back on five years of Library accomplishments in instruction, technology, facilities, and collections. Since then we have continued to see developments in our key service and collections programs.

**Services and Collections:** In collections, we filled in recent monographic gaps with support from the Friends of Goddard Library and started on an ongoing de-selection project – our first in the history of the Library – under the leadership of Mike Olson. In addition, we added the *New York Times* online archive and additional *JSTOR* full-text journal titles to our electronic resources.

In public services, our reference librarians continue to experience a busy year of activity at the Reference Desk as well as a record year of library instruction sessions: 118 group sessions and 274 individual research consulting sessions.

**New Staff:** Since June 2005, we have hired several new people. *Mike Olson*, formerly of Widener Library at Harvard, joined us as Head of Collections Management in September. He replaces *Diane Dolbashian* who left Clark to assume directorship of the Rakow Library at the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, NY. *Enid Karr*, a recent MLS graduate from Simmons, who has a BA and MA in geology, joined us as our new Science Librarian in January. Enid's predecessor, *Guiyun Wang*, moved back to Chicago so that she could be closer to her family; and she is now the Reference/Instruction Librarian & Webmaster at the Mary Green Library (Roosevelt University). Finally, *Melanie Soter* and *Ann Sefton*, both of whom worked for us previously, are now our Evening/Weekend Supervisors.

**Facilities:** Working with architects from Perry Dean Rogers, we have continued to plan for a major Goddard Library renovation which the University anticipates will be funded primarily by gifts and donations raised over the next few years. We are expecting to have a variety of new and improved library group and individual study spaces as well as a much needed update for our aging HVAC system. As for current spaces, the newly renovated 24/7 study room, which opened last year on Goddard's first floor, continues to attract students throughout all hours of the day.

**The Future:** Just as we have campus centers where "Clarkies" come together for social, cultural, and recreational activities, we believe that the Library should be an "intellectual commons" for the University community. Paraphrasing colleagues at Santa Rosa in California: the library should be a welcoming place where ideas, people, collections, services, instruction and technology can converge. With plans for an improved, renovated Library, we are moving closer to having that kind of facility – with both individual and group study space; print collections and online access to new resources; comfortable places for students and faculty –where "people and ideas interact" (ARL, 1999). But a lot of hard work, including fund-raising and planning, lies ahead before our aging library building can become the new "beacon" on campus.



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## Libraries' Collections Update

*Michael Olson*

As a new arrival on campus, I've discovered that it's a great pleasure being a librarian at Clark. The Libraries' historical collections and their current collecting scope are clearly more modest than those at Harvard and UCLA, where I worked from 1990 to 2004. Whereas Harvard and UCLA have the luxury of being archival libraries, or libraries of record, our Libraries are use-driven and succeed to the degree that we meet the everyday demands of users. In aiming to be fiscally responsible, we work to acquire and make accessible the best set of ideas within our means. Doing so is fun and challenging.

During the last several months, the Libraries have begun a multi-year project to weed, or de-select, a limited number of titles from the collection at Goddard. We have never done a weeding project of any significant size, while our peer libraries regularly weed their collections. To date, librarians have examined almost 16,000 titles on the 5th Floor (call numbers B-BX, excluding BF) for possible de-selection. All Clark professors may request to retain any title nominated for withdrawal. Of the 16,000 titles reviewed, only a small fraction have been designated by the faculty and the librarians for withdrawal.

We are very grateful to the Friends of the Goddard Library for a special one-time grant of \$10,000 designated for the Libraries to acquire retrospectively dozens of "best books" from the past five years which were not purchased when they were originally published. Organizations such as the Friends, as well as individuals, do much by giving to the Library.

For its part, the Library will be looking for attractive grant opportunities which, if successful, will preserve important subsets of the historical collections, most notably the archives of Dr. Robert Goddard, the "father of modern rocketry" and a Clark professor during the first half of the 20th century.

The Libraries have also recently acquired a noteworthy collection of Armenian books and journals, a gift from Mr. Robert Kaloosdian. After de-acidifying and cleaning the collection, we will catalog the contents and announce its availability to the Clark community, which has a growing interest in Armenian studies.

Finally, the Libraries have formulated and implemented several policies regarding gift collections and the Library's "Pre-1850 Room," where older materials are stored. Please contact a member of the library staff for additional information.

I look forward to working with you to build the Library's collections.



## Electronic Resources: expanded full-text and citation access

*Ed McDermott*

Since last spring, four new, exciting electronic resources have been introduced to the Clark community. In brief, here is a description of each one. *Scopus*, which the library is in the midst of an 18-month trial of, is a new science and social science abstract and indexing database from Elsevier. Scopus contains an impressive 27 million records from 1966 to the present, covering articles from over 14,000 peer-reviewed titles from more than 4,000 international publishers. Scopus also includes a powerful citation tool which lists references and indicates how many times an article has been cited within journals covered by the Scopus database. Our trial will last until December 2006, so please give Scopus a try and let us know what you think of it.

Another new electronic resource now available to "Clarkies" is the expanded and updated *John Hopkins Online Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism* (JHGLTC), a comprehensive historical survey of the field's most important figures, schools, and movements. It is an indispensable resource for scholars and students of literary theory and discourse and includes entries on critics and theorists, critical schools and movements, and the critical and theoretical innovations of specific countries and historical periods. JHGLTC is a compilation of more than 240 alphabetically arranged entries, which were written by 275 specialists from around the world.

The *New York Times Historical Archive* and the *JSTOR Arts & Sciences Complement* collection are two other recent additions to our expanding full-text electronic resources. The *NYT Archive* provides a searchable interface to the full image of the NYT from 1851 to 2002. The *JSTOR Complement*, one of JSTOR's collections, will include (when completed in 2008) an additional 150 journal titles. Some notable titles already available are *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, *Foreign Policy*, and the *Southern Economic Journal*.

## ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF GODDARD LIBRARY

The Friends of the Robert Hutchings Goddard Library is an active, informal organization of people who share an interest in books and reading. They support a variety of programs that contribute to Worcester's cultural life and that enhance the collections and services of the Library.

The Friends sponsor four events each year that are open to the public. These programs provide an opportunity to hear interesting and stimulating speakers talk about books, writers, their own work, and other book-related topics. In addition, every fall their book sale enables Clark students and the public to buy books at affordable prices; all proceeds help to fund our programs.

Another way that the Friends support the Library is that each Fall they provide special grants to new Clark faculty members to purchase materials for the Library in their own individual areas of research and teaching. This year they are also providing support for a retrospective acquisitions project which will add "best books" to our collection that were missed when they were initially published. They also continue to provide support for the Library's leisure reading collection, databases, and technology.

On a different note, but in-tune with their mission, the Friends recently provided a grant to the neighborhood's nationally-recognized University Park Campus School for resources for their science classroom library.

If you are interested in joining the Friends or want additional information about them, please call 508-793-7573 or go to the Web at <http://www.clarku.edu/research/goddard/friends.cfm>

***Reminder: Friends of the Library memberships paid through the University Clark Fund must indicate that the gift goes to the Friends by writing "The Friends of the Library" on the gift card, envelope or in the space provided for "other" on the online form.***

### New Faces at Goddard

In the last few months the University Libraries have welcomed no fewer than three new staff members. **Melanie Soter**, a 2004 Clark graduate with a BA in International Development and Social Change, returned to Clark in August as one of the Evening/Weekend Supervisors. Upon graduation she worked at Borders in Providence, RI. Prior to graduating, Melanie was one of our student assistants at the Circulation Desk.

**Michael Olson** joined us in September as Head of Collections Management. Mike, who previously worked at both Harvard and UCLA as Germanic languages librarian/bibliographer, brings extensive experience to the Libraries. He holds both his MLS and his Ph.D. in Germanic languages from UCLA. Mike is also an active fundraiser for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and has run the Boston Marathon since 2002.

**Enid Karr** joined the staff as the Science Librarian at the beginning of January 2006. She received her MLS from Simmons College, but her interest in science dates to her days at the Bronx High School of Science. Her undergraduate degree is from Bryn Mawr and she holds a Master's in marine geology from the University of Miami.



Winners of the Nicholas Basbanes Book Collecting Contest 2006

**Graduate Division**

1st Place - Jeff Koerber , Holocaust History - Tuberculosis sanatoriums

2nd Place - Ben Munro, IDCE - Nepal

**Undergraduate Division**

1st Place - Ryan Arruda - Ghosts and the supernatural

2nd Place - Shawn Goodspeed - Philosophy

**Congratulations  
to the  
Class of 2006!**

**The Library staff wishes you  
all the best with  
your future endeavors.**

