



Fall 2007

LIBRARY CONNECTIONS

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION WORKSHOPS

Melville Library's Instruction Team provides many opportunities throughout the semester for students and faculty to learn about our resources and how to use them better. For the list of workshops, or to schedule a customized session for your class or group of 5 or more, please see our webpage:

www.sunysb.edu/library/services/instruction/

Call 632-1217 or e-mail:
Janet.Clarke@stonybrook.edu

CONTACT THE LIBRARY

Library Hours 632-7160

Circulation 632-7115

Reference 632-7110
on-campus only 2-0530

Administration 632-7100

For complete information:
www.sunysb.edu/library

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Publications and Publicity Team,
Melville Library, 632-7100.

Read *Library Connections* online:

<http://www.sunysb.edu/library/newsletter/>



POLICIES FOR WEEDING THE COLLECTION

Daniel Kinney

Weeding is the process of examining library materials for possible withdrawal from the collection or relocation to offsite storage. The process is also known as "de-selection," but the term "weeding" provides a good analogy with gardening. Gardens must be continually weeded to prevent the weeds from choking out the flowers. Librarians weed their collections to remove items that are out-of-date, inaccurate, in poor condition, etc. Weeding improves the condition and appearance of the collection and makes it easier to browse and find up-to-date information. No library is large enough to keep everything and still have room for new materials. Space constrictions often determine the need to weed areas of the collection. For example, parts of the collection that are no longer relevant to the university's curriculum are weeded to make room for items needed to support new programs and new faculty research interests. Duplicate copies of superseded editions are another example of materials that are weeded. These duplicate titles may have been purchased for course reserves and are no longer suitable for that purpose. The library will retain one copy of each edition for historical reasons. A weeding program is part of a library's systematic plan for stack maintenance and it contributes to cost-effective use of staff and space.

MAJOR WEEDING PROJECT IN REFERENCE COLLECTION



Research libraries are highly selective in what they weed from the collection. Like many libraries, the Melville Library has a written policy to guide subject specialists in weeding their collections. The Circulation and Cataloging Departments have developed set procedures for withdrawing items from the collection and the STARS database, which also serves as an inventory of the library's collection. The display of the catalog record for a withdrawn item is suppressed on the public side of the catalog; however, the record remains in the database. In this way, the library maintains records for all items that are or once were in the collection. In addition, a program can be run to generate lists of withdrawn items, if needed. At the end of every fiscal year, the library submits a "Library Acquisitions and Retirement Survey" to SUNY Systems Administration. The survey has a section for the number of volumes retired (i.e., withdrawn from the collection).

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Most materials removed from the collection are not permanently withdrawn. Rather they go to an offsite facility in Patterson, New York. The storage facility is climate controlled and designed to create an ideal preservation environment for library materials. Materials in the offsite collection can be retrieved through an interlibrary loan request and are usually received within one day. The library has developed guidelines for identifying broad categories of materials to be sent to offsite storage (<http://sunysb.edu/~library/about/policies/offsite.html>).

Weeding is an essential element of collection maintenance. Weeding and offsite storage enable the library to develop the collection through the addition of new material; at the same time, they are important tools for preventing the library from bursting at the seams.

Daniel Kinney is Associate Director of Libraries for Collections & Technical Services

Music Library

Gisele Schierhorst

For the past months the Music Library has been very active. A major accomplishment was the creation of a network server upon which can be downloaded music course listening assignments. The playlists are accessible only in the Music Library and the Music Department's SINC site, in order to comply with copyright regulations. Students can use one of the fifteen Mac Mini computers available in our listening carrels to call up any audio selections that are on reserve for a particular course. The selections have been streamed for listening only and cannot be copied or manipulated.

Cataloger John Andrus is working to provide detailed bibliographical access to the Music Library's recordings of concerts of the Stony Brook Contemporary Chamber Players, one of the Music Department's most prestigious and characteristic concert series. The collection of original recordings and programs extends from 1983 to the present. Work on the project involves collaboration with John Amrhein, the Music Library's sound engineer, who is making digital copies of the recordings for the inhouse collection.

Two shipments of 100 reel-to-reel recordings of Music Department concerts were sent to an outside agency in Baltimore for preservation. We prioritized selections of reels by the Bach Aria Festival, Contemporary Chamber Players and the Stony Brook Symphony. Our long-term goal is to provide digitized access to these performances. We are grateful to our Preservation Librarian Richard Feinberg for his ongoing support of this project.

Purchased in June 2007 is a copy of George Frideric Handel's (1685-1759) opera, "Xerxes." It is a first edition dating from 1738, or during Handel's lifetime. Harvard and the University of Cincinnati are the only other music libraries in WorldCat listed to own such an edition.

In our efforts to maintain our status as a "Green" university, student employees packed 20,000 audiocassettes that were picked up by the company GreenDisk, a national recycling company. If you have "technotrash" go to www.greendisk.com to find out more.

A New Undergraduate Library at Stony Brook Southampton

Susan Lieberthal and Aimée de Chambeau

Last winter we began working on a theoretical project about planning flexible spaces in libraries. We did a thorough literature search and started looking at images of newly designed spaces in college and university libraries around the country and around the world. Many libraries are creating an Information Commons geared predominantly towards undergraduates. The new millennial "NetGen" student has incorporated technology and working in groups into their every day lives and these information commons-type spaces are heavily used by them.



South Face of New Building

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As we gathered more information we realized that this theoretical exercise could become practical by using it to plan the new library for Stony Brook Southampton. The Dean of the Libraries, Chris Filstrup, brought us on board to show our work, especially the PowerPoint presentation showing images of other new flexible library spaces to the stakeholders involved in planning the new library at Southampton. When completed the library building will be a multi-use learning hub with spaces for computing, a writing center, coffee shop, books, videorecordings and spaces to read and study. Included in the furnishings will be the ever popular “comfy” seating, which, in the laptop-rich wireless world of the 21st century has become the prime space for students to flop down and work online.

The frame of the library building at Southampton was already constructed and is an attractive space. The university has continued to work on the internal space with Mitchell | Giurgola Architects, LLP, the original architects of the building. The three story multi-use facility will house the Writing Center on the mezzanine and computing spaces on the lower level. The library will occupy the first floor. Included in this first floor space will be a coffee shop and the Pollock-Krasner archives. Furnishings that we have recommended have the flexibility to be re-arranged at a moment's notice. The group rooms will have glass walls and doors and in general the building, when occupied, will maintain its open airy feel with lots of glass letting in the light and providing a wooded view of this attractive campus.



STONY BROOK
SOUTHAMPTON

A copy of the presentation is available online at

<https://dspace.sunyconnect.suny.edu/handle/1951/41603>

(Save the presentation to the desktop before opening it as it is a large file.)

From the Desk of the Director—Library As Place

Chris Filstrup, Dean and Director of Libraries

About ten years ago, the following story, maybe apocryphal, circulated among library directors. During a discussion of the library building, the president of a large university pulled out a credit card and stated that in the future the university would not need a library building because all recorded knowledge would fit on a small card. That's all students and faculty would need. Dramatic, but wrong -- for at least two reasons. The first is that information is distributed in many different packages and access to that information requires a mix of shelves, flat file cabinets, computer workstations, viewing and listening stations, and the like. Libraries provide the full range of these organizing and access “tools.” Secondly, however much information students find on the Internet -- and it is an enormous and growing, if scruffy, corpus -- they still favor public spaces in which to do their school work. Across the nation and at Stony Brook, student use of library reading rooms is booming. Here students find expert staff and an ambience conducive to study. As Dan Kinney's article indicates, we are moving rarely used materials off campus. We are converting space formerly dedicated to storing print materials into spaces that accommodate more computers and more seating. At Southampton, we are designing a new space afresh and can look forward to more reports from Susan Lieberthal and Aimee de Chambeau as plans are finalized and construction commences. So, library as place is changing dramatically, but I know of no script which calls for a final curtain.

Special Collections

Kristen Nyitray

The department has created a new website for the University Archives in celebration of the Stony Brook University's 50th Anniversary this year. The site includes a history and timeline of the University, information about print, photographic, and multi-media collections, and links to newly digitized collections. You can now read the digitized versions of publications created by SBU's faculty, staff and students. Collections are fully keyword-searchable and include: the campus newspapers Statesman, Stony Brook Press and Blackworld; reports from Administrative Departments; material created by University Governance; technical reports from College of Engineering and Applied Science; and the Long Island Historical Journal. Issues of the Specula (the University's official yearbook) can be browsed beginning from 1961. A wide array of videos can also be viewed ranging from archival footage of Poetry Center events to faculty authors discussing their recent publications.

The department acquires material in all formats that document the history of the University, including faculty papers, photographs, and memorabilia. Visit www.stonybrook.edu/libspecial/ for more information.

Library Happenings

Kristen Nyitray

SAVE THE DATE—Friday, October 5, 2007 Long Island During the American Revolution "From Captivity to Freedom" Conference from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Charles B. Wang Asian American Center, Stony Brook University

Featured Speakers: Edwin Burrows, Brooklyn College, Natalie Naylor, Long Island Studies Council, Alan Singer, Hofstra University, John Staudt, Hofstra University & Wheatley School, and Gerard Sztabnik, School of Visual Arts

Sponsored by Stony Brook University Libraries and the Long Island Historical Journal. This conference is FREE but registration is required. Seating is limited. For more information, contact Kristen Nyitray at 631-632-7119 or kristen.nyitray@stonybrook.edu or visit www.stonybrook.edu/libspecial.

Join the Mapping of Long Island!

Cynthia Dietz

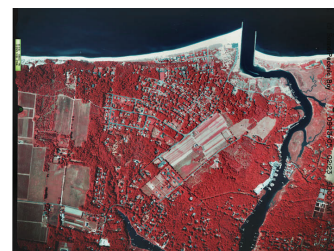
Maps are not just a record of going from one place to another. They often display a spatial pattern. Our map collection patrons use our historic U.S. Coast Surveys, detailed parcel level maps, and aerial imagery to research locations and/or spatial patterns. Some of our researchers have studied the wandering dunes at Napeague and the shifting of local tidal wetland boundaries over decades.

Other patrons research the development and demise of shipping, businesses, habitats and communities. They track changes in the location and density of docks, factories, roads, residents, parcels, and woodlands

As Science/Map Librarian, I guide users to maps found in books, on microform, in folios, atlases and sheets. I suggest ways for finding maps which are not cataloged by map title. Also, I direct users to maps and remote sensing imagery held in map repositories by local, state and federal agencies. On occasion, I direct patrons to geographic information system (GIS) programmers having the expertise for a special research project.

More and more requests are made for digital access to maps, aerial photography and geospatial data. Stony Brook is in the process of providing web access to georeferenced historic maps and aerial photos, and other special maps. This academic year patrons who we train in the use of our new GPS receiver may borrow the unit to conduct mapping related to Stony Brook research on concerns as storm surges, polluted water or bridge safety. They will be able to display/compare site locations with those on digitized maps or remote sensing imagery. **Come join the mapping!**

*2005 Color Infrared Photo
of Mattituck Inlet
provided by NYS DEC*



Recollections of Barbara Brand

Upon Retiring from
Stony Brook
University . .



While I don't recall many specific events, the library has changed in major ways since I arrived as head of reference in late 1978. The library was just entering the computer age. Library staff interacted with a large mainframe computer in Ohio to catalog our material but since online catalogs did not exist, a small army of women filed catalog cards in our card catalog all day every day. Reference librarians educated in Boolean logic and the arcane commands of the BRS and Dialog systems searched computerized indexes. Patrons were given dot matrix bibliographies printed on paper with holes on the sides.

I became head of interlibrary loan in the mid 1980's at the time research librarians began to recognize that even very large libraries could not own everything students and faculty needed. We needed to be able to access material we did not own. Adopting new methods and arranging ways of doing this has been the continuing thread throughout my Stony Brook career. I am grateful that I have been able to do other things as well. I have enjoyed working with faculty in Women's Studies and Africana Studies as selector in those fields. In the 1990's I found that I liked to teach. I was Master Learner for the Federated Learning Community in spring 1997. In this role I took a group of courses united by the theme of human reproduction along with undergraduates and taught a weekly seminar linking the courses. I also coordinated the program of introductory library school courses offered by Queens College and SPD. Joe Branin, the library director in the late 1990's, asked me to design and teach an online course as a way of learning more about this method. Dana Antonucci-Durgan and Janet Clarke, now on the library staff, were two of the guinea pig students in my Fundamentals of Library and Information Studies class. Joe also asked me to serve as a copyright resource person. I have found this to be a complex and fascinating area. I was Assistant Director for Access Services for three years before deciding that I needed to scale back my professional commitments. I feel fortunate to have been able to have such varied and interesting experiences in my career at Stony Brook. Now I'm ready for kayaking on Peconic Bay and picnicing at Tanglewood!