



Ex Libris: The WVU Libraries Magazine

WVU Libraries

Fall 2001

Ex Libris, Fall 2001

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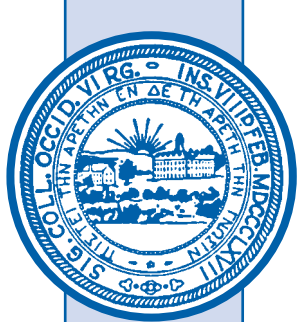


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Ex Libris

Newsletter of the West Virginia University Libraries

Fall 2001

www.libraries.wvu.edu



Library of the Future Boasts Latest Technology

A student takes a break from reading to gaze out a picturesque, curved glass facade at a busy University Avenue, shade trees swaying in the breeze and the Morgantown skyline beyond.

Nearby, another student types quietly on a laptop computer.

A few feet away yet another student searches for a book among the many shelves while a fourth studies in a computer-equipped carrel.

Welcome to the library of the future under construction at West Virginia University: a five-story, 124,000-square-foot brick building that will integrate four branch libraries under one roof and meet the technological needs of the 21st century.

The new library sits in front of the Charles C. Wise Jr. Library on WVU's Downtown Campus; a glass-encased atrium with a skylight joins the two buildings.

Plans call for completing the structure late this semester. Wise Library employees will then begin moving into the new facility, and workers will commence with a one-year renovation of Wise. The cost of both the new construction and renovations is \$36 million.



The new Downtown Library opens to students Jan. 14, 2002.

"Libraries across the country are reinventing themselves," said Dean Frances O'Brien. "Our primary role remains that of a cultural repository for knowledge in books, journals and reference materials, but our means of making these materials available is changing thanks to the Internet. The new facility at WVU is at the forefront of this transformation - the library as both a quiet place to read and study and an on-line resource.

"Wise Library, WVU's main library, was built in 1931 when we had 3,500 students and a collection of 300,000 volumes," O'Brien added. "Today, 10 libraries around campus provide 22,000 students with access to more than 1.4 million volumes. Wise has served WVU well, but providing for the needs of

a new generation of students raised on technology demands that we upgrade our facilities."

The new library will feature a primary service floor, complete with a circulation desk and reference materials; one floor for periodicals; two floors of stacks that will hold 348,000 books; and a multimedia floor that will house government documents, electronic classrooms, and rooms for viewing videos or holding teleconferences. Technology available to library users will include 180 computers, 35 media-equipped workstations and 32 wireless laptops.

The top two floors with the stacks exemplify the project's overall goal of combining the traditional use of a library with technological changes. The bookshelves will occupy the center of the floors. About them will be reading tables with outlets for laptop computers, carrels with desktop computers, group study rooms and lounge seating. The two floors will also offer a spacious view of the Downtown Campus and Morgantown's waterfront.

Nowhere will the library's technology capabilities be more apparent than on the multimedia floor. There will be group study rooms with a 42-inch high-definition television screen, keyboard and Internet connections to allow users to participate in e-conferences, view films and prepare presentations. Internet and cable connections on this floor will enable the library to deliver live video, network news and digitized video archives through its web site.

"It's a quantum leap from anything we've ever done before," said Dennis Newborn, head of library systems.

Structurally, the new building will have a lot of glass on the facade and back, a restored Scholar's Wall outside the main entrance and a lobby made possible by a \$250,000 gift from the WVU Alumni Association. A wheelchair ramp and three elevators will make the facility accessible to the handicapped.

Wise Library, meanwhile, will be restored as a quasi-cultural center, with space set aside for the West Virginia and Regional History Collection and WVU's art collections. The facility - which will retain its original limestone facade - will also house general book collections, "wired" reading rooms and offices.

The downtown library complex made possible by the new construction and renovations will consolidate library services now available in Wise, the Chemistry Research Building, and Colson and White halls.

In conjunction with the ongoing construction, the library is embarking on a campaign to raise

funds to furnish the new and renovated facilities. Donors to the WVU Library Special Initiative will have their name linked to the furniture their gifts enable the library to purchase. Naming opportunities range from \$150 for reader chairs to \$5,000 for study carrels and information kiosks.



Crews apply the finishing touches to the face of the library.

Several rooms and galleries will bear the names of people who have already made substantial gifts to the campaign. They include the James V. and Ann Pozega Milano Reading Room, named for couple who met while attending WVU more than 60 years ago; and the James A. Robinson Reading Room, named for the former president of the WVU Foundation.

The new library is one of four construction projects included in the first phase of WVU's facilities master plan, a 10-year campus renewal program totaling more than \$250 million. Other projects include a \$26 million office complex the University has been leasing from the WVU Foundation since June, a \$34 million Student Recreation Center that opened in July and a \$43 million Life Sciences Building scheduled to open in May 2002.

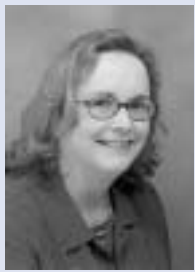
Save This Date

WVU Libraries will celebrate the grand opening of the new downtown library during a ceremony April 10, 2002.

The date has historical significance as the state celebrates the completion of a facility designed to enhance learning opportunities and resources for students and state residents.

In April 1902, members of the WVU Board of Governors met on campus to commemorate the completion of Stewart Hall, which was built to house the University's library.

Message From the Dean



In January 2002, WVU students will come back to campus for second semester to a new downtown campus library. They will see new group study spaces, new library classrooms, and new media facilities. Perhaps more important, they will enjoy a new library facility where students, faculty, and scholars can meet, talk, discuss ideas, reflect and study, and find both the historic and the newest information in their field.

I think most of us have an image in our minds of the library. In Elizabeth Berg's new novel, *Never Change*, her characters visit a library and speak of the familiar atmosphere we all know. They speak of "... a weighty richness in the air. A rough equivalent to the sound the pendulum of a large grandfather clock makes, swinging. Or to the sight of someone's head bowed over a book, a wash of late afternoon sunlight illuminating the pages."

The WVU Libraries have always been distinguished by high quality service to our users. Last year we responded to more than 37,000 in-person requests for reference and research information. This year we have added new services for WVU distance learners, and are experimenting with live, real-time reference assistance online. We are investigating ways to improve our inter-library loan services, and we are learning new ways to use our online public access catalog so library users can search not only our print collections, but also our growing electronic full text journal collections. Our Electronic Course Reserve, and Electronic Theses and Dissertations services continue to grow. We are taking the first steps toward digitizing some of our unique West Virginia and Regional History Collection materials so citizens throughout the State can see some of our history.

The new downtown campus library represents the ideas of many innovative and dedicated people at WVU. It is an extraordinary commitment to serving library users. Our mission will continue to be to find the best ways to provide information to the WVU community and the state, using both in-person and virtual library services. We will provide the needed books, journal articles, reference sources, electronic texts, images, manuscripts, maps, and audio-visual media. In the midst of a changing world for library and information services, excellent library service and the success of our varied library users will continue to be our goals.

Is the nostalgia still there? Yes, and I hope it never goes away. Libraries have always been more than just warehouses for books. Like Elizabeth Berg's characters, come visit the WVU Libraries and experience the distinctive joy of a library for yourself.

Frances O'Brien

West Virginia Digital Library

Current, reliable information is one of the most valuable resources of the 21st century.

Providing such information to the residents of West Virginia is the goal of the West Virginia Digital Library.

West Virginia University students or anyone who walks into a WVU library can sit at a computer and access a myriad of electronic resources. Similar tools are available at other institutions of higher education around the state.

But despite all the wonders of the digital age, its reach is sometimes limited to those who visit a library on campus. Although almost every public library and K-12 school in the Mountain State is connected to the information highway, many resources aren't available to them.

"The infrastructure is there to get information to all the people of West Virginia, but there's not enough content," WVU Libraries Dean Frances O'Brien said. "It's like a library with only a few books on the shelves."

West Virginia Digital Library wants to change that. WVDL is a consortium of libraries from throughout West Virginia, committed to providing statewide access to books, magazines and other online resources.

"Our goal is that anyone, anywhere in West Virginia, can walk into their public library, school library, or academic library have access to a core group of important electronic resources," O'Brien said.

Currently, every college and university in the state signs its own agreements with database providers to serve their student, staff and local communities. WVDL is asking the state to step in

to widen the net and bring everyone under one umbrella. Under the WVDL's plan, K-12 school and public libraries would also become access points.

Barbara Winters, Marshall University Library dean, sees the need for looking beyond one's campus to serve the state. She supports the WVDL mission because it would connect people in rural parts of the state to resources they are currently unable to afford.

"Public library use in rural areas is high," Winters said. "The demand is there, but there has never been the ability to supply."

Filling the need requires new agreements with database providers that would cover all libraries in the state. WVDL put the price tag at \$1.7 million for the first year.

"We don't need additional buildings, we don't need more equipment, we don't need more computers," O'Brien said. "The infrastructure is there. We need the content to deliver."

Continuous funding is necessary, but O'Brien encourages lawmakers to consider this an investment in the state and consider the dividend.

"Think what this could do for a young mother who needs child care information. Think about the person on Main Street who has a bright idea and wants to know how to do a business plan," O'Brien said. "People have all kinds of information needs, and this would bring it all to them."

O'Brien, along with Penny Pugh, head of the library reference department, represent WVU on the WVDL steering committee.

For more information, see the West Virginia Digital Library Web Site at www.wvdl.org

Dear Dean O'Brien,

Congratulations on the opening of your magnificent new building. I know that the planning and construction process has been arduous, but the results are well worth it. Your commitment to providing quality library service - both to your community and the entire state - is evident with every part of the design and construction.

We join you and your staff in celebrating what you have accomplished and what you will accomplish.

Sincerely,
Barbara Winters
Dean of Libraries
Marshall University



Electronic Reserves Allow Students to Study From Remote Locations

It's a long weekend and a student travels home to Beckley. Between visits with his family, he plans to study for an upcoming physics exam. He knows every available resource will be necessary for success. Unfortunately, he forgot to stop by Colson Reserve Library before leaving Morgantown to copy materials his professor encouraged the class to study.

A remedy, though, may only be a few clicks away on the keyboard if his professor uses the WVU Electronic Reserve System.

"Our e-reserve system allows students to read assignments, study homework solutions, and view lecture notes from their classes at any time of the day or night without coming to the Libraries," said Carroll Wilkinson, head of Downtown Access Services. "I like the idea that the Libraries can go to them. We are using technology creatively to improve services that we have offered for many years."

Colson Reserve Library serves as a depository for homework problems, past exams and required and supplemental readings provided by faculty. The Libraries have worked with faculty on this service to students since the opening of the University Library in the early 1930's.



Photo provided by the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. In the past, students would gather in a reading room in Wise Library to study material placed on reserve by their instructors.

Since Wise was built in 1931, students have been able to visit the Library to obtain assigned resources and study them. After photocopy technol-

ogy arrived in the 1960's, students had a new option of copying the assignments and taking them out of the library to a location of their choice for further study.

The Electronic Reserve System merges the assigned reading service with cyberspace allowing students to access the same information, no matter where they are, via a computer. A link to the e-reserves is found on the WVU Libraries website.

Getting the material from the familiar manila folders and books to digital form is a simple, but time-consuming process.

Library staff scan tests, homework problems, book pages and other items on to a secure server. They create websites for the faculty requiring a user name and password to get to the readings. The Libraries' Systems Department maintains the system of user names and passwords. Last year, the Reserve staff scanned more than 24,000 pages to support the teaching faculty's assignments. The bulk of the work occurs weeks before a new semester begins but continues as the semester progresses and professors add new assignments and exams.

The innovative system began at West Virginia University in 1998 as a pilot program with less than 20 faculty participating. WVU Libraries joined approximately 140 other academic libraries around the country offering electronic reserve services.

Participation since has almost doubled every semester, Wilkinson said. Today, 330 professors still use the traditional reserves at Colson, and nearly 240 others choose to place materials on electronic reserve.

Wilkinson attributes its popularity to the convenience it provides students.

"Faculty members are just happy their students can get access to the material they want them to read morning, noon and night, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and even holidays," Wilkinson said. Physics professor Dr. Carl Rotter considered the e-reserves an excellent service since its inception, noting the timesaving benefit.

A student studying at home for a test can access the material immediately instead of driving onto campus, finding a parking space, locating the material, copying it and returning home

"Students have busy lives," Rotter said. "Time is an essential element to most students' success. This makes it easier."



A student searches for material posted on the Electronic Reserves.

Along with past tests and answers to homework assignments, he uses the website to post computer-animated applications that enable students to test the concepts they are learning in class.

Biology professor Dr. Elizabeth Thomas finds the e-reserves work well with her practice of using Power Point presentations during her lectures. She posts the presentations on the website so students can print copies to bring to class.

The service cuts down on the amount of notes students have to take during class and enables them to get more out of the lecture. Rather than scribbling copious notes to keep up with Thomas speaking and what they're viewing on the screen, they can pay more attention to Thomas.

"There's a lot of material to cover, and we go through it quickly," Thomas said.

"Students are a little bit better prepared in class and can get more out of it."

Wilkinson doubts the university will see the end of the traditional reserve anytime soon, but she expects to see use of e-reserves increase over coming semesters.

"Access to information is what WVU Libraries is all about," Wilkinson said. "Technology is helping us deliver information quickly to support the educational process that goes on in the university."

Electronic Reserves



Health Sciences Goes Online to Serve Patrons

Internet chat rooms have fast become a meeting ground for people with similar interests to share ideas and develop new friendships. The West Virginia University Health Sciences Library sees the technology as an ideal prescription for connecting with people seeking medical-related information.

"You can email the reference desk, can call on the phone or can drop in personally," said Terrance Burton, director of the Health Sciences Library. "We'd like to be able to provide another option."

The Health Sciences Library plans to add to its website a link to a chat room to improve its line of communication to the public.

Currently, a variety of people from students and faculty members to doctors and others in the general public pose questions to librarians at the Health Sciences Library.

The query could be from a woman in Logan County who just received a diagnosis from her physician and wants to learn more about her ailment or a doctor in Elkins who recently heard about an article revealing a new treatment.

As the National Network of Libraries of Medicine resource library for West Virginia, the Health Sciences Library is responsible for all health care professionals who are not linked to a hospital or one of the state's academic medical centers, in addition to its responsibility for WVU and WVUH patrons.

"A doctor in Summersville is our problem, as is a dentist in Beckley, an nurse in Wheeling, a pharmacist in Keyser, or a physical therapist in Kingwood," Burton said. "On occasion, there's going to be a situation where they will be unable to find a particular piece of information. We've got a larger range of resources available to us."

Interest in such a service is also high among public librarians who daily receive questions from patrons about health care. The chat room would enable a librarian or anyone with an Internet connection to pose the question to someone with access to the needed materials.

Burton considers the chat room superior to the phone and email because it doesn't require a long-distance call but provides the same immediacy of

communication. And email may require additional exchanges to identify the actual question.

"The classic is the patron who comes in asks where books on France are located. The real question is, 'I want to know where Napoleon died.' The question coming in may not be the question being asked," Burton said. A chat room provides immediate and direct communication between both parties. Burton expects the chat room open for business by the end of 2001. It will operate 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily, the regular hours for Health Science Libraries reference desk.

"As more people are getting on the Internet, more people are making connections with each other that way," Burton said. "More people are seeking health information that way and they need to be able to use that to get to good information."

WVU Health Sciences Library website:
www.hsc.wvu.edu/library

Grant Increases Online Resources for Students

West Virginia University Libraries will soon be able to better serve students studying for biology courses.

The WVU Research Corporation directed a \$5,000 grant at expanding the collection of online Biological Abstracts available through the libraries' website. Currently, the online abstracts run from 1989 through present. This gift increases the database to 1980.

"The Research Corporation is interested in supporting research at the University, so we are very pleased that we can invest money into the library," said John Weete, Director of the Research Corporation.

The investment will help students like biology senior Danielle Frabutt. She has been a regular user of the electronic database during her time at WVU. In writing frequent papers, she has to identify at least 10 sources for each assignment.

A child of the digital age, she has grown accustomed to the ease and convenience of using the electronic database.

"That's one of the most important things when you're a student — what's easiest and fastest," Frabutt said. "I think most students find there aren't enough hours in the day."

Electronic Posting Promotes Research

WVU crossed a milestone in August as its Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) collection surpassed 1,000 documents.

The University made history in 1998 when it became the second school in the world to require students to submit their theses and dissertations digitally. A number of colleges and universities have since followed.

"WVU serves as an example to other universities and colleges in electronic theses and dissertations," said Ruth Nellis, chair of the task force that helped shape WVU's ETDs policy. She considers one of the greatest benefits of the requirement is the boost it provides to researchers by increasing access to their materials.

"Cutting-edge research is usually done to be

shared, peer reviewed," Nellis said. "ETDs are a way to get the research out there. It's been sort of hidden away in libraries on campus."

Nellis credits an ETD for connecting a student in the University's Department of Geology and Geography with a group in Australia doing the same work. The Australian researchers learned about the WVU student's efforts through his online dissertation.

John Hagen, WVU Libraries technical consultant, helps students get their work online, reviews their submissions for technical approval, and analyzes trends of the website's traffic. He calculates that ETDs are accessed 5,000 times more often than print.

During the year prior to going online, printed theses and dissertations were only borrowed 813 times. But after the first year of implementation,

people from all over the world downloaded ETDs 43,540 times, cumulatively over a quarter of a million times to date. In fact, since January 2001, one dissertation has attracted more than 13,000 hits.

"The ETD program is proving to be a highly effective research marketing tool for students, faculty and the institution," said Hagen. "By engaging in electronic scholarly publishing endeavors, WVU is experiencing the profound effects of information technology. The rapid transfer of culture and technology is transforming West Virginia's economy by providing research access to the world."

Cuthbert Honored

John Cuthbert, curator of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection, joined the ranks of Sen. Robert C. Byrd, writer Denise Giardina and Harvard professor Henry Louis Gate Jr. during an Oct. 12 ceremony in Charleston.

The distinction came when the West Virginia Humanities Council presented him with the Charles H. Daughtery Award in the Humanities, the council's highest honor. Cuthbert is the 15th West Virginian to receive the prestigious award.



John Cuthbert displays the Charles H. Daughtery Award in the Humanities.

Executive Director Ken Sullivan said the selection was based on Cuthbert's contributions to the state through his duties at WVU to preserve West Virginia's past.

"John is a one of a kind resource," Sullivan said. "I don't know of anyone more knowledgeable about West Virginia's art history."

While the Daughtery Award recognizes lifetime achievements, Sullivan credits a recent accomplishment for catching the attention of the council. He said Cuthbert earned their admiration with "Early Art and Artists in West Virginia: An Introduction and Biographical Directory," a book penned by Cuthbert and published last fall by WVU Press.

Sullivan applauds Cuthbert for introducing West Virginians and others to a bountiful heritage few know about.

"I think he's surprised us with the depth of West Virginia art history," Sullivan said. "West Virginia has a rich history of folk art, but it also has a rich history in the fine arts."

Cuthbert came to WVU in 1979 as a musicologist tasked with the responsibility of cataloging and transcribing the rich folk music collection at the West Virginia and Regional History Collection.

Over the past two decades, the job has changed and his commitment to the mission has continued to strengthen.

Cuthbert maintains a high level of enthusiasm as he works to enhance the University Libraries' West Virginia and Regional History Collection and research the history of items added to the collection. He said he's grateful for the opportunities he's had to study uplifting subjects and people that belie the cultural stereotypes that have so long plagued the state.

"I look forward to playing a continuing role in bringing about a reconsideration of what West Virginia culture really is," Cuthbert said. "To me, this award represents not only a recognition of progress made to this date but also a hearty dose of inspiration with which to forge ahead."

Library Friends Group

As workers add the final touches to the interior and exterior of the new library, West Virginia University Libraries is concentrating on building a Friends Group to assist in the continued success of all libraries on campus.

While West Virginia University is a state-funded institution, it relies on additional financial support from private sources to operate its numerous programs. WVU Libraries is no different.

When the new library opens its doors in January, the generosity of hundreds of friends will be evident.

Plaques near the entrances of many rooms bear the names of contributors who have made large gifts to the library. Donors will also be remembered through name plates attached to chairs, desks and tables throughout the building.

The latter effort is part of the WVU Libraries Special Initiative, a recent effort that generated more than \$100,000 to purchase furniture. The support is appreciated.

Although the university is about to celebrate the opening of a new, fully furnished building, the needs of students filing into the library daily continue to increase. As new discoveries are made and knowledge advances, students must have access to new books, journals and other research materials.

As detailed in this first issue of the newsletter, WVU has made great strides in making reserve material available online to students and providing students and faculty 8,500 titles of electronic journals.

Keeping this momentum requires help from outside.

WVU Libraries is counting on friends who understand our commitment to students and the state of West Virginia and believe libraries are central to the university's mission to best prepare future generations of leaders.

The goal of the Friends Group is to establish a tradition of active support for the WVU Libraries.

For the initial year, everyone who made a donation during 2001 will be considered a friend of WVU Libraries. Donations made in 2002 will be counted toward 2003 membership.

Donors will be welcomed into the Friends Group at various financial levels:

Individual: \$50.

Couple: \$90.

Patron: \$100.

Sponsor: \$250.

Benefactor: \$500.

Champion: \$1,000.

In return, members of the WVU Libraries Friends Group will receive a quarterly newsletter and invitations to campus for events and receptions.

WVU Libraries will assemble a schedule of interesting and inspiring speakers who hail from the ranks of librarians, educators and writers from the state and nation.

For more information about the WVU Libraries Friends Group, contact Monte Maxwell, development representative, at (304) 216-6826

Donors Can Remember WVU Libraries in Wills

Helping the WVU Libraries remain a strong educational resource for students, faculty and the university community is a high priority for many. Supporters can make future growth of the Libraries possible through a special gift included in a will or revocable trust. That is easy to do by having your attorney specify to the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of the WVU Libraries in your will.

If your will has already been prepared but you would also like to help strengthen the Libraries' future, a codicil can accomplish what's needed. However you choose to help the WVU Libraries, it will be greatly appreciated.



Shelf Space

Friends of West Virginia University Libraries can demonstrate their support by taking an active role in filling our on-site and electronic shelves with needed materials.

West Virginia University Libraries seek help
in purchasing the following items:

The Conservative Press in Twentieth-Century America,
Greenwood, 1999, ISBN: 0313213909, \$125.

Women in World History: A Biographical Encyclopedia,
Gale Group, ISBN: 078763736X, \$995.

The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, vols. 25-30,
Yale University Press, each volume \$85.

The Papers of Jefferson Davis, vol. 1, revised, and vols. 2-9,
Louisiana State University Press, vol. 4, \$70; vol. 5, 7, 9, \$75; vol. 1, 3, 6, \$80; vol. 8, \$85;
vol. 2, \$90.

The Frederick Douglas Papers, Vol. 1-4,
Yale University Press, each volume \$100. Vol. 2 is out of print.

Encyclopedia of Literary Critics and Criticism, \$285.

Women's Studies Encyclopedia in print and electronic form, \$495.

Encyclopedia of Modern Middle East,
Macmillan Reference USA, 1st edition in four volumes, 1996, \$425.

Encyclopedia of European Social History from 1350-2000,
Charles Scribner's Sons, 1st edition in six volumes, 2001, \$650.

Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History,
Macmillan Library Reference, three volumes, \$325.

The Holocaust and World War II Almanac, Gale Group, three volumes, 2000, \$235.

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December 2001 * West Virginia University

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