

Ex Libris: The WVU Libraries Magazine

WVU Libraries

Spring 2002

### Ex Libris, Spring 2002

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Spring 2002

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## New Downtown Gampus Library Welcomes Students

tephen Beckwith, an accounting graduate student, has found a perfect place to study. Between classes, he claims a spot at a study carrel on the sixth floor of the new Downtown Campus Library. Almost daily he stacks his books next to a Dell computer with a flat-screen monitor, checks sports scores from the previous night and then begins working.

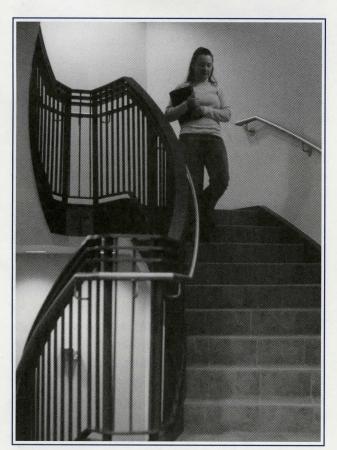
The new facility is a pleasant change from what was available to him in the Charles C. Wise Jr. Library during his four years as an undergraduate.

"It's great," Beckwith said. "It's a nice modern place to study. I like the colors, and the layout is nice. The atmosphere makes it enjoyable to come here."

The new Downtown Campus Library, constructed directly in front of Wise Library, welcomed students back to Morgantown on Jan. 14, the start of the Spring semester.

After years of planning and construction, seeing the facility in use has been a fulfilling reward for WVU Libraries Associate Dean Myra N. Lowe.

"It feels even better than I had hoped," Lowe said. "The building is so spacious and full of light, and then there is all the beautiful new furniture and the up-to-date technology. It is very exciting to be



One of the many interesting architectural features of the library is the main staircase that ties the lower level with the second floor.

able to offer all of this to the students and faculty."

Service and technology serve as cornerstones of the new library. Before this year, services were spread among Wise, Colson Hall, Clark Hall, and White Hall. The circulation desk was located in the lobby of Wise and the reference desk was one flight up. Students needing specific materials set aside by a professor had to cross University Avenue to reach the reserve collection in Colson Hall.

Now, materials from the Physical Sciences Library, which was located in Clark Hall, are integrated into the circulating, reference, reserve, and periodicals collections. The maps housed in White Hall have a home on the lower level of the new library.

The most noticeable improvement is the centralized service desks at the main entrance. A staffed reference desk greets users as they walk through the Alumni Lobby into the library. To the left, Access Services staff assist in checking out books and retrieving material from the reserve collection.

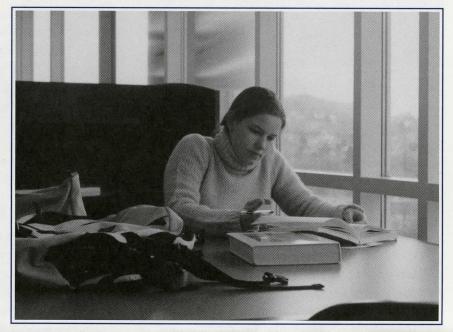
Seeing someone there when he walks in the door is a relief for senior John Oliver.

He admits to spending many afternoons wandering around Wise Library in search of the books he needed. His first stop now is the reference desk.

"If you just run around with your head cut off you can't find anything. I get frustrated after a few minutes," Oliver said. "The librarians know where everything is. They can direct you to the right place."

On the technological front, users can search the Internet or write a paper on 180 Dell desktop computers located throughout the five-story building. People can also go to the lower level to check out one of 22 laptop computers that access the Internet via a wireless network. Another option is for someone to bring his own computer and connect it to one of the many network drops available on each floor.

Freshman Casie Coughlan appreciates the increase in technology from what was available in Wise. She likes not having to wait in line to work on a computer.



With a spectacular view over her shoulder, a student tackles her homework at a table on the top floor of the new Downtown Campus Library. Studying space is plentiful in the new facility.

### Congressional Librarian, Alumnus To Make Keynote Address At Library Dedication

Nancy Davenport, Director of Acquisitions for the Library of Congress, will offer the keynote address during the dedication ceremony for the Downtown Campus Library on April 10.

Davenport, an alumnus of WVU and a 30-year veteran with the Library of Congress, began her career on the Morgantown campus. As a student worker, she assisted patrons at the circulation desk in the Charles C. Wise Jr. Library.

Davenport earned a bachelor's degree in political science and economics from WVU in 1969 and her Master's of Library Science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1971.

She has held numerous posts within the Congressional Research Service and has been active in the American Library Association, where she currently serves as chair of the Editorial Board of the journal Library Administration and Management.

The dedication ceremony begins at 2 p.m. in the library, followed by a reception.

The libraries chose April 10 for the event because of its historical significance to the University.

On April 10, 1902, members of the WVU Board of Regents met on campus to accept three newly completed buildings – Mechanical Hall, the Armory and the University Library.

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Continued on page 5...

# ExLibris

### Message From the Dean



Since the new Downtown Campus Library opened in January, the library staff and I have especially enjoyed seeing students and faculty make use of this important educational environment. While the facility itself is impressive, seeing our

users doing their own research at the new workstations, asking questions at the reference desk, finding a current periodical, looking up their class assignments on reserve, enjoying the view from the sixth floor, and meeting colleagues in a study room truly makes the library come alive.

In June 2001 the Association of College and Research Libraries issued A Student's Guide To Evaluating Libraries in Colleges and Universities, intended to be part of the process for selecting the college or university a student chooses to attend. The Guide's premise is that given the increasing acceleration in the amount of information available, locating and evaluating information are critical skills in becoming an educated individual. Students are asked to make one factor in their college choice how well the library will help them succeed in this complex and chaotic information age.

The Guide considers three critical areas for an academic library: facilities, services, and resources. I can say with confidence that most of the questions the Guide presents are answered strongly positive in the WVU Libraries. Many of the questions are answered by our ongoing informal surveys of what users like best about our newest facility, the Downtown Campus Library, but the same statements are also true of our other campus libraries. The Guide asks "Can you easily find your way around the library?" "Is the library space inviting?" "Is there a variety of study spaces?" "Is there adequate space for users and collections?" "Are multimedia facilities available for your use?" When we talk to our student users, they tell us what they like best about the new library is the availability of high speed workstations, the openness and light of the building, and the variety of study spaces from tables and carrels to lounge furniture and group study rooms. They also notice the technology available on the lower level in Media Services. The renovated Evansdale Library with its laptops

and wireless network is a popular place to study. Plans are being developed for a new Health Sciences Library based upon our recent experience and relevant to the particular interests of health care providers, researchers, teachers, and students.

Our users tell us that it is very important to them to have library staff available to assist in locating the right information. The Guide's section on evaluating library services begins with questions about library staff, instructional programs available, remote access to electronic library resources, and electronic help. It ends with questions on support for distance education and library support for newer technologies such as laptops, PDAs, and e-books. Again, the WVU Libraries would all score well.

The Guide's section on evaluating library resources is prefaced with a stunningly simple and true statement: "A quality library collection consists of information in a variety of formats and requires sustained support over many years for adequate development." The array of electronic and printed information available in the WVU Libraries is dependent upon financial resources available each year, on a continuing basis, with inflationary increases. acquisitions budget is derived from University appropriations and private support. Libraries today offer 1.4 million volumes, 130 electronic databases, and 9000 full-text electronic journals. Our online catalog is web-based and user-friendly. Theses and dissertations, and reserve readings are available electronically. The last question in this section is "Will the library readily obtain materials for you that are not owned by the library?" Interlibrary loan and document delivery services are certainly among the WVU Libraries' strongest programs, and are frequently praised by users.

The Libraries contribute to the level of educational opportunities provided to every WVU student during an academic career -- undergraduate, graduate, and professional. We have long been known for friendly, knowledgeable, and helpful public service. We have up-to-date technology and a user-centered innovative spirit. We are proud to be a part of the WVU learning community. In the next issue of Ex Libris we will look more closely at our faculty users and their essential relationships with the Libraries. The ACRL A Student's Guide to Evaluating Libraries in Colleges and Universities is available on the Association's web site.

Francis O'Brien

### -WURHG Gurator Named-Benedum Distinguished Scholar

est Virginia and Regional H i s t o r y Collection Curator John Cuthbert is among three WVU researchers to receive the 2002 Benedum Distinguished Scholar Award.



C.B. Wilson, associate provost for academic personnel, credits multiple achievements by

Cuthbert that earned his selection. Chief among Cuthbert's work is his recent book "Early Art and Artists in West Virginia: An Introduction and Biographical Directory."

"It's clear John Cuthbert's long-term contributions have been significant," Wilson said. "These three researchers have contributed greatly to the research mission of the University by performing outstanding work in their respective fields of engineering, the humanities and medicine."

The endorsement is gratifying for Cuthbert, who has served at WVU for more than two decades.

"I am greatly honored by this award," Cuthbert said. "Above all, to me it represents a recognition and an endorsement of the value of my effort through the years to broaden perceptions of West Virginia's cultural heritage which is too often narrowly defined.

"Considering the breadth and significance of the research that takes place at WVU, it is heartening to know that scholarship in this field is so highly appreciated."

Cuthbert and the other two award recipients will present individual lectures related to their fields in March and April. They will accept their \$2,500 award at a special convocation at 7 p.m. April 12, in the Mountainlair Ballroom as part of WVU's Weekend of Honors. Both the lectures and convocation are open to the public.

Cuthbert presented a lecture titled "A Brief Introduction to West Virginia Art History" in the Mountainlair Rhododendron Room in April.

The Benedum and Distinguished Professors of WVU established the Benedum Distinguished Scholar Awards in 1985-86 to honor and reward University faculty for excellence in research, scholarship or creative endeavors.

The awards recognize either a single recent achievement of note or a long, distinguished career that is still ongoing. The program is funded by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and coordinated by the Office of Academic Affairs and Research.

This recognition comes on the heels of another honor for Cuthbert. Last year, the West Virginia Humanities Council presented Cuthbert with the Charles H. Daughtery Award in the Humanities, the council's highest honor.

# 1

### - Mountaineer Parents Glub Helps Fill Leisure Reading Gollection Shelves

chemistry student takes a break from studying theorems to climb the stairs of the new Downtown Campus Library to the sixth floor.

He pauses while searching the shelves for a new book to occupy his mind. Eureka! He finds it.

A comfortable mission-style chair in the corner of the Davis Reading Room offers him a picturesque view of Morgantown. The scene is set for a brief escape from pages of numbers and chemical equations to a John Grisham tale.

The Leisure Reading Collection offers a unique dimension to the academic resources that fill the new library.

"It truly is a leisure reading collection," Libraries Dean Frances O'Brien said. "It is predominantly current fiction, the kind of thing you'd find on The New York Times Best Seller List."

Supported by the Mountaineer Parents Club, nearly 1,000 new book titles, including fiction, non-fiction and biographies, are available at the Downtown Campus Library and another 1,000 at the Evansdale Library.

After a tour of the Charles C. Wise Jr. Library a few years ago, Susan Hardesty, WVU Mountaineer Parents Club chair, began to contemplate how the Parents Club could play a role in the University's libraries.

The Leisure Reading Collection seemed a perfect fit. Hardesty explains that a parent could read a book that he or she finds interesting or enjoyable and then donate it for students and others to read.

"Every parent who has donated a book feels they have directly contributed to the education of a student," Hardesty said. Since its inception, parents have embraced the project and donated 1,750 books to the collection through the Parents Club. Donations have also come from individuals & other organizations.

Circulation records show that students, faculty & staff are adding books from the collection to their reading lists. O'Brien expected the popularity of such a collection to readers and donors. "When you send your son or

daughter off to college,

I'm sure you would be interested in something that would make their college experience a bit happier," O'Brien said.

Guidelines require books be hardback and less than three years old. A constant flow of new books from the Parents Club and other sources allows librarians to regularly replace older books and ensures a current collection.

Books can be donated through the chair of the Parents Club or at the new WVU Visitors Center at One Waterfront. Books donated through a Parents
Club are eligible for bookplates.
Once retired from the Leisure Reading

to read.

For more information about the Mountaineer Parents Club, go to the website:

Collection, books are donated to the Mon County

Literacy Volunteers, a program that teaches adults



WVU Mountaineer Parents Club Chair Susan Hardesty, Dean Frances O'Brien and WVU President David C Hardesty Jr. stand in front of the Leisure Reading Collection on the sixth floor of the Downtown Campus Library

# Parents Glub Establishes Movie Gollection

new agreement between WVU Libraries and the WVU Mountaineer Parents Club will establish a Leisure Viewing Collection.

The collection, to be housed in the Media Services Area on the lower level of the Downtown Campus Library, will offer standard video/DVD fare found at the local video rental store.

As with the Leisure Reading collection, movies will come through donations from the Parents Club and other sources.

To ensure an up-to-date selection, the library and Parents Club expect to cap the collection at 150 items. Titles will be replaced regularly as new movies arrive.

Unlike most library offerings, the collection will be open only to students, staff and faculty. And the movies will be for in-building use only.

The new Media Services Area has several viewing options available with new equipment.

### Ex Libris, Friends Group Hit the Internet

he new Downtown Campus Library is a showplace for the latest technology, so it's appropriate WVU Libraries have a newsletter to match.

With one issue of Ex Libris under our belts, we recently launched an online version of our quarterly publication.

The current and maiden issue of our quarterly newsletter can be found at: www.libraries.wvu.edu/exlibris

The online version will have most of the same articles as the print newsletter but offer additional information and pictures not seen in the print version. The electronic edition will allow us to better inform our friends about developments and changes at our libraries.

We'll continue to mail a print copy of our newsletter to our friends and copies will be available at our libraries.

Another benefit of the online version of Ex Libris is a link to our new Friends Page:

www.libraries.wvu.edu/friends

www.wvu.edu/~parents

This website contains information about our newly formed Friends Group. It offers us a permanent forum to explain the importance of financial support and to share our current needs. The page will also allow prospective donors to make gifts online.

For more information, contact Monte Maxwell, Libraries Development Representative at: monte.maxwell@mail.wvu.edu

# T

### Professor Emeritus Donates Toy Soldier Gollection

n the early 1930's, Urban Couch bought his first toy soldier from a dime store in downtown Minneapolis. That soldier, which cost 10 cents, was the first of many purchases that would eventually form a collection of more than 1,600 toy soldiers and other miniature figures.

After gathering this collection over several decades, Couch, a Professor Emeritus from West Virginia University's art department, recently donated his toy soldiers to the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. Most of the figures in the assemblage are military replicas made from lead, but other pieces represent civilians, including a London "bobby," Victorian ladies in elaborate dresses and farm laborers working with a tractor and crane.

The civilians in the collection are colorful and charming, but the military figures are even more striking. Among the most vivid soldiers are the Bengal Lancers, the Scottish Highlanders, the Sudanese Dervishes and Prince Albert's Hussars.

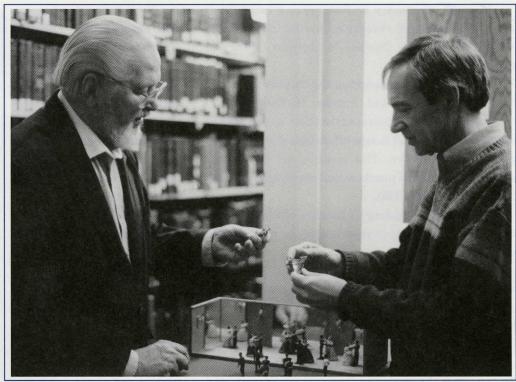
Patterned after armies that existed in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the toy soldiers' uniforms are remarkably detailed. Buttons gleam and sashes are perfectly positioned as these members of the cavalry and infantry attend to their duties. Some earry rifles, swords or flags, while others sit astride their noble steeds.

Complete with accoutrements such as wooden barrels and crates, bulldog mascots and mules carrying wagon wheels and ammunition, this colorful army of wart soldiers enhances the West Virginia and Regional History Collection's diverse holdings.

"Like all museum artifacts, these characters, the forerunners of today's 'action figures,' capture the imagination and invite us to delve deeper into history," said John Cuthbert,

WVRHC curator. "They add a wonderful new dimension to the WVU Libraries special collection."

This article was written for Ex Libris by Kathleen Kennedy, a library associate. Kennedy



John Cuthbert, curator of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection, and WVU Professor into history," said Emeritus Urban Couch discuss pieces from a collection of iron soldiers Couch donated to the WVRHC.

goes more in depth with the toy soldier donation in an article to appear in an upcoming newsletter for the West Virginia and Regional History Collection.

### West Virginia & Regional History Collection Seeks Equipment to Preserve Recordings

est Virginia and Regional History Collection has an unparalleled collection of field recordings of authentic folk music.

Help is needed to maintain that claim. The future of thousands of hours of music is threatened because the music was recorded on audiotape, which has a limited lifetime.

"It needs to be reformatted now," WVRHC Curator John Cuthbert said. "Its existence is threatened by fragility of the medium it's currently on."

Cuthbert wants to obtain a reel-to-reel tape recorder that can be connected to a CD recorder.

The equipment would enable workers in the WVRHC to copy hours of music on fragile audiotape into digital format.

Along with preserving the historical audio, the digital format will improve public access to the recordings.

"This would enable us to ensure the preservation of our leading folk music archives for generations to come," Cuthbert said.

For more information about the West Virginia and Regional History Collection, go to the website: www.libraries.wvu.edu/wvcollection/index.htm

### Donors Making Their Mark On Library

t April's dedication of the new Downtown Campus Library, the generosity of many of our friends will be evident.

The Alumni Lobby, funded by the WVU Alumni Association, greets every patron.

Stroll through the five floors and you will find plaques commemorating numerous giving individuals who share our desire to provide the best resources available to our students.

Plaques honoring Joseph Gluck, longtime Dean of Students, and his late wife, Margaret; Provost Gerald E. Lang; and Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Robbins mark three large group study rooms on the top floor. Another on the fourth floor honors library friends Clyde and Mary-Jane English.

On the first floor is the Kenneth Miller Government Documents Collection, and on the second floor are the Bennett Periodicals Area and the Ladwig Newspaper Reading Area.

Visit the Davis Reading Room on our top floor and enjoy the panoramic view of downtown Morgantown, Westover and portions of the Evansdale Campus. The space fast became a favorite location for students to study, write a paper or relax.

The generous support from these and other individuals enables us to better serve students and is greatly appreciated.

Many additional donation opportunities remain. For more information about existing naming opportunities, check our Friends Group website: www.libraries.wvu.edu/friends/donations.htm

#### Congressional Librarian, continued from page 1...

The former University Library is the current administrative building, Stewart Hall.

An article appearing in that year's edition of The Monticola offered a brief history of libraries on campus. WVU's first library was housed in a single room in Martin Hall until outgrowing its dimensions and moving to a room in University Hall. Soon, this space was also found inadequate, and WVU began work on a new building to house the library. "The new Library is another case of growth which has been met by the people of the State in a magnanimous manner," the writer explained.

Interestingly, funding was an issue at the time. The Daily New Dominion reported in April 1902 that the

state Legislature appropriated \$1,000 to furnish the \$100,000 building. According to the author of the article, it would take \$12,000 to "furnish it properly." The Morgantown Evening Post later reported that the Board of Regents provided \$6,000 to furnish the library.

Another ceremony is planned for Spring 2003 to mark the opening of the renovated Wise Library.

### New Library, continued from page 1...

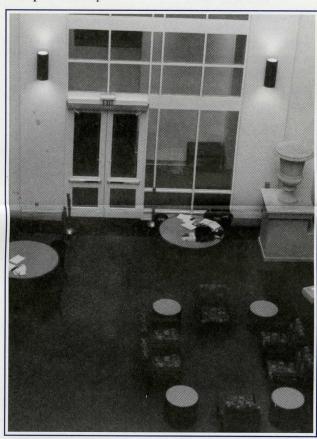
Ryan McCracken, a sophomore, agreed. He transferred from Marshall University, where a new library opened recently. He was worried at first that he'd have to settle for less once arriving on WVU's campus. He was pleasantly surprised.

"It's a great set up. It's designed very nicely, and it's easy to get around," he said. "And I've never had to wait to use a computer."

Beckwith likes that the large study carrels provide users adequate space to read through notebooks and books and take notes while searching the Internet.

"For a lot of classes, I combine my studying with Internet use," Beckwith said. "It helps a lot when I'm studying to have the Internet right next to me."

Study space is plentiful in the Downtown Campus Library.



An atrium connects the new library with Wise Library. The space integrates the original facade of Wise Library.

While Wise Library lacked study rooms, the new library has 15 group study rooms. On the lower floor, there are four additional rooms containing computer and 42-inch HDTV monitors to enable students to work on multi-media projects in groups. Additional seating also enhances the new building. Each floor has rows of tables and study carrels, and lounge furniture is placed on the second, fourth and sixth floors.

"If you need a quiet place to study, you should not have any trouble finding it now on the downtown campus," Lowe said.

When doors opened in January, the sixth floor quickly became a popular study spot for students. A window-lined front wall bathes the area in light and provides a panoramic view of downtown Morgantown, Westover and Evansdale.

Senior Ben Costante often heads to the sixth floor between classes and relaxes in one of the mission-style chairs in the corner of the Davis Reading Room.

"When you're sitting there reading, it doesn't even seem like you're inside a building," Costante said. "You can tell they put a lot of time and thought in designing the library."

The view captured Cheryl Torsney, a member of the English faculty. Fifteen years on campus, she tried to avoid frequent trips to Wise Library. But in January, she strolled through the new library, stood on the sixth floor and soaked in the view and the sunlight.

"Libraries are supposed to open minds to the world, and that's what that library does," Tornsey said. "It makes me proud to be affiliated with this university. It's everything a library should be."

Kristen Gaydos, a junior, also has labeled the top floor her favorite place to work on a computer. She expects to spend more time in the new library than she did in Wise.

"The environment is nicer. It's modern," she said. "It inspires me to want to study." Senior Jen Eichenmiller found a table to spread out her books and concentrate on her assignments. She prefers the new library to the Wise Library she visited for the past three years.

"I always went up to the stacks. It was dark. It feels more open here," Eichenmiller said. "I think it makes it easier to study."

Those feelings are not unique. Students immediately took ownership of their new library at the start of the semester. As soon as a worker installed a new piece of furniture or computer, a student followed eager to put it to use.

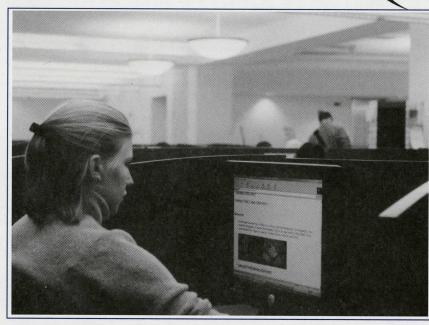
In slightly more than a month of operations, more than 43,000 users passed through the doors.

"I try to walk through the library each day, and I find students on every floor using computers, using the study space or enjoying the lounge furniture," Lowe said. "Just as we predicted, our usage has increased."

#### Connecting the New With the Old

An atrium on the second floor connects the new library with Wise Library. The bright space, enclosed by a glass roof, rises above the sixth floor of both buildings.

The atrium is especially popular because architects were able to preserve the facade of Wise Library and integrate it into the design of the new space. Windows on the fourth and sixth floors of the new library offer a unique view of the architectural features of Wise's stone facade.



A student works on one of 180 desktop computers in the library.

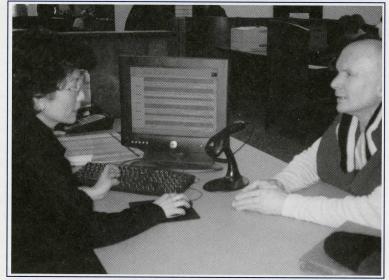
Many regular users of Wise Library have commented that for the first time they can actually look at the State Seal above the entrance to Wise that they missed over the years.

Four round tables and two clusters of mission-style chairs allow students and others to take advantage of the sun-drenched room.

Wise Library closed in late January to allow workers to begin a massive renovation project. It will reopen at the start of the Spring 2003 semester.

Restoration is the emphasis of the renovation effort. Among the projects, workers will preserve the attractive marble prominent in Wise's lobby and return the reference and government document rooms to the way they looked when Wise opened in 1931. In their new lives, the rooms will serve as reading rooms.

"One of the nicest aspects of this whole construction project of the Downtown Library Complex is we are able to combine a brand new modern library with a restored historic library," Lowe said. "We will have the best of both worlds."



The human element is still key at the new library. A reference librarian assists a patron with a research need.



### 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:

Something about the Author, Gale Research Group, volumes 23-30, 32-34, 37, 39-103, 105-135, each volume \$124.

Subject Guide to Books in Print 2002, Bowker, \$199.

Garland Encyclopedia of World Music, entire set of 10 volumes \$2,500.

Encyclopedia of American Education, Facts on File, 3 volume set, \$225.

Lichens of North America, \$69.95.

Encyclopedia of Software Engineering, Wiley, \$595.

Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine, Olendorf, 5 volume set, \$499.

Encyclopedia of Cell Technology, Wiley Biotechnology Encyclopedias, \$795.

Biochemistry, Lubert Stryer, author, \$340.50

Grieve's Modern Manual Therapy: The Vertebral Column (2nd ed.), Churchill Livingstone, \$361.

Encyclopedia of Genetics, Academic Press, \$995.

Ex Libris the Newsletter of the WUU Libraries
Spring 2002 \* West Virginia University

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Myra N. Lowe/Associate Dean

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