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Fall 2002

## Simon Says (Fall 2002)

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### Recommended Citation

Banks, Erma; Lomarcu, Diana; McGinnis, Callie; Ligon, Julie; Hoft, John W.; and Grimsley, Reagan, "Simon Says (Fall 2002)" (2002). *Library Newsletters*. 11.  
[https://csuepress.columbusstate.edu/library\\_newsletters/11](https://csuepress.columbusstate.edu/library_newsletters/11)

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# SIMON SAYS

The Newsletter of the Simon Schwob Memorial Library of Columbus State University  
<http://library.colstate.edu>

Volume 5, Number 2

November 2002

## The Information Commons is Here!

By Diana Lomarcán & Erma Banks

The Schwob Library has introduced its new Information Commons, housed in the Reference Area of the main floor of the library. The new Information Commons is a one-stop-shop for students who want assistance finding and using information.

Students, faculty, and staff may now use any of our 15 new computer workstations to find information and use it in correspondence, papers, and presentations. All workstations give access to library systems such as

GIL and GALILEO, the World Wide Web, and to the entire Microsoft Office Suite. Library employees provide assistance finding information using a variety of on- and off-line sources as well as assistance using software such as MS Word and Pegasus Mail. CSU patrons also have access to their campus network space (H drive) so they can save their work and have access to it campus-wide.

A limited number of workstations are available to the general public. Members of the Columbus community may use these computers, but are required to be logged in by library personnel. These computers provide access to GALILEO, GIL, and the WWW. Basic word processing and graphic software are also available.

Because we want to make sure these workstations are available for researchers working in the library a one hour time limit on computer use has been established at all full-service Information Commons computers. Patrons receive pop-up warnings beginning 5 minutes before their time is up. This warning should give patrons enough time to complete or save their work before being automatically logged off. If no other patrons are waiting to use the computers, patrons may immediately log-in for an additional one-hour session. Several Quick Use stations are available without login for GIL searching. These stations have a 10 minute time limit on use.

While working to improve the utility of library computers, we have had to make a few cutbacks as well. Due to continuously high print demands averaging nearly 7,000 sheets per week, we have been forced to eliminate free printing in the library. Student printouts will be counted against their campus allocation of 300 pages per semester. Public users and students logging in to the public workstations will be charged 10¢ per page for printing.



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### Welcome Aboard!

**Gretchen Cearley Hill**, Music Library Assistant; **Katrina Culpepper**, Government Documents Assistant; **Julie Ligon**, Information Services Librarian (Humanities Liaison/Instruction Coordinator); and **Steven Roach**, Distance Education Specialist.

### Faculty Research Forum Series continues...

Make a note to keep your Tuesday & Thursday lunch hour free early next semester as you won't want to miss any of the 12 stimulating presentations scheduled for the *2nd Annual University-Wide Faculty Research Forum Series* sponsored by the Schwob Library.

Roberta Ford, editor  
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A Word from the Director ~

## The Library's Budget Crisis

In *Simon Says* we try to provide our readers with information about library resources, programming, staff, etc. in a tone that is upbeat and positive. After all, the newsletter is a way for us to "sell" the library. However, every once in a while, we have a not-so-pleasant situation that needs to be mentioned. This is one of those times. We need to let you know that the library has fallen on very hard times--financially speaking.

We are not alone. Given the shape of the nation's economy, things are bad all over for university libraries:

- In August, university libraries in Montana's state system gave up \$1.6 million dollars for library materials.
- As part of its share of the University of Utah's budget cut, the Marriott Library had to trim \$300,000 in order to meet budget requirements. With the budget decrease, the Marriott Library will have to let go of eight unfilled full-time job positions, along with decreasing its collection of periodical subscriptions.
- At Massachusetts' 29 public colleges, funding for new books, journal subscriptions and online research programs was recently slashed by 64 percent
- North Carolina State University started significant layoffs in anticipation of budget cuts in the 2003 fiscal year, which began July 1, 2002. Among those being laid off are 27 library employees.

In that same vein, at CSU's Schwob Library budget cuts for the current fiscal year amounted to around \$105,000. As result, the library has had to take a number of drastic actions:

- Cancelled 58 journals for 2003 (see the library's website at [library.colstate.edu](http://library.colstate.edu) for a complete listing of titles)
- Cancelled \$23,000 worth of standing orders, including the *Federal Reporter*, the *Southeastern Reporter* and the *US Code Service* (complete listing of titles on website)
- Cancelled all orders for magazines on microfilm
- Stopped binding journals
- Stopped ordering books (i.e., newly-published

monographs)

In addition to the \$105,000 budget cut, the Schwob Library also had two unfilled positions frozen--one for a reference librarian (Education Liaison), the other for a multimedia specialist in the Instructional Technology Services area. The responsibilities of these two positions are being handled by other members of the library staff.

According to Dr. Thomas C. Meredith, the new chancellor of the University System of Georgia, who spoke to CSU faculty in early October, the picture for next fiscal year will be just as dismal as this year's. Meredith added that by the following year (FY05) things should pick up.

The Library has been assured that the CSU administration will be looking for ways to increase funding for the library during the year. We are confident that this will happen--although we are not sure of the amount we'll get. Also, on the horizon is a million dollar book endowment that is being included as a project in CSU's Capital Campaign. Funds from this project would certainly help--although relief from this source will not be available immediately.

Meanwhile, the Schwob Library will be "hanging on." We will continue to provide services to assist students and faculty in obtaining the information resources that they need (probably via electronic resources or interlibrary loan). We will also continue to offer programs that stir those intellectual juices (such as our recent book discussion and our upcoming Faculty Research Forum series). We will continue to teach subject-specific library instruction to various classes upon request of the instructor. And while we will not be purchasing new books for the library, we will gladly consider gift books (as well as monetary donations!) in order to enhance the size and quality of our collection. Please bear with us.

By Callie B. McGinnis

## Information Literacy:

### What is it?

By Julie Ligon

One of the most important services that a library provides is assisting users in finding information. Librarians have been involved since the late 1800s with teaching users how to access resources that they need for research papers, projects, other assignments, and personal information needs. Over the last decade, a shift in the focus of library instruction has been occurring. It is no longer enough to teach users how to meet their immediate information needs. Now the focus is on life-long learning and helping users become information literate.

What is meant by life-long learning and information literacy? The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) has defined information literacy as "the set of skills needed to find, retrieve, analyze and use information." As you think about the definition, remember that being "information literate" is not the same thing as being "technologically literate." In reality, technological literacy is only a small part of information literacy. The definition of information literacy implies skills that go beyond college on in to our professional and personal lives. We are all consumers of information with needs that extend throughout our lives. In addition to preparing lectures, writing research papers, and completing class assignments, we need information about careers, investments, buying homes and vehicles, voting, and a host of other things. Information literacy helps us deal with the wealth of information that is available by providing us with the necessary skills to determine when we need information, how to locate and evaluate it and then effectively put that information to use. Information literacy skills are critical for us to become independent life-long learners and to improve our quality of life.

In order to ensure that students of higher education were being given the opportunities to become information literate, the ACRL Board and Task Forces initially created and approved two key documents related to information literacy. *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education*, defines information literacy, its role in higher education, and how the standards are to be used. The second document, *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education: Standards, Performance Indicators, and Outcomes*, provides the approved stan-

dards, performance indicators, and outcomes for an information literacy program. These documents build on competencies that had previously been developed for K-12 students. As a result of these combined efforts, there is now a continuum of expectations for students at all levels. There are five standards and within each standard are performance indicators and expected outcomes. The **five standards** are as follows:

1. The information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed.
2. The information literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently.
3. The information literate student evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system.
4. The information literate student, individually, or as a member of a group, uses information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.
5. The information literate student understands many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally.

The complete listing of the standards, performance indicators, and outcomes are available at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/ilcomstan.html>

The library faculty at CSU realizes the importance of information literacy. They have begun the process of reviewing all of their instructional activities to insure that the standards are being incorporated into all aspects of library instruction. They will continue to work toward a more comprehensive plan to integrate information literacy across the curriculum and make it part of CSU's educational goals.





## The Schwob Library held its first ever book sale

on October 1 and 2, 2002. The book sale was a rousing success, raising over \$200 to be used toward the purchase of new library books. Patrons and staff alike had a great time browsing through the items up for sale.

Material for the sale came to the library through various donations given to the CSU Foundation. The Foundation regularly receives donations of books, scores, and media designated for the library. Librarians evaluate each gift for its appropriateness for the collection. Many items are added to library collections, but unfortunately there is simply not enough room to keep everything we are given. Items such as textbooks, duplicate titles, or materials that may not survive repeated use because of poor physical condition are not generally added to library collections.

The CSU Foundation allowed the Libraries to gather these un-added materials together for sale to the general public. Paperback books, scores, journals and magazines were sold for 10¢ per inch. Hardcover books were sold for 25¢ per inch. Many patrons were astounded at the values they found at the sale, and more than one was heard to exclaim over an entire box of books purchased for under \$10. Several LP collectors also expressed delight in the selection of LPs that was available.

Due to the success of our first book sale, the Libraries are considering holding more sales in the future.



No dates have been set, however, as the frequency of sales will be determined in large part by the number of donations received.

Book donations to the CSU Foundation are always welcome. Items will be added to library collections in accordance with the Schwob Libraries Gift Policy (available at <http://library.colstate.edu/info/gift.shtml>). Any materials not added to the collections may be sold at the next book sale.

*By Diana Lomarcan*

### **NO RULES:** The CSU Browsing Library

By John Hoft

With Chemistry upsetting my stomach and Business Law giving me a headache I needed a break. So, I tucked a bottle of Maalox under my arm and headed for the campus library (drinks in approved containers, okay). A little Shakespeare, I thought. Then, much to my surprise, I came upon a little Browsing Library on the main floor of the library. What is this? A bunch of hardbacks and paperbacks with alluring covers and interesting titles. I stopped to look. On the Browsing Library book shelf I found some popular non-fiction and fiction titles obviously chosen for their rainy day appeal. Whoa, this is something new! More importantly, this is something non-academic. It's something I can enjoy for a minute. Intrigued, I inspected the offerings in more detail. Sure enough, there were action books by Dale Brown and Tom Clancy with some John Grisham for good measure. For the fairer sex I saw books by Patricia Potter and Tami Hoag and numerous others. The non-fiction shelf covered topics from football to Star Trek. Hmm, pretty interesting. I wonder how I can check out a couple of these books and get rid of my Maalox? I noticed a little container affixed to the browsing shelf. It had some bookmarks entitled "CSU Browsing Library Rules." Oh no, I groaned. Just what I need, more "Rules." But I looked anyway. How about this, no "Rules." You can borrow as many books as you want. You do not have to check out the books through the circulation desk. You can just stuff them into your book bag and go. And, there is no time limit. Bottom line, the Browsing Library at the campus library is a repository of light reading set up for NO cash, but you can carry. Donations of your old paperbacks are appreciated, and the donation and return container is located adjacent to the browsing shelf as a state of the art cardboard box. This is really low key, I thought, perfect for mid-semester relaxation. A good book, some cookies and milk, and it doesn't get any better than this. So, I took a couple of action books including a private-eye Spencer novel and strolled out of the library without any red tape. Later, I told some of my friends about the CSU Browsing Library and suggested that they go over and get some light reading to relieve mid-term exam stress. My suggestion wasn't purely selfless. I think I left my bottle of Maalox over there.

## Library Hosts Book Discussion on *The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter*

By Callie McGinnis

The Schwob Library hosted a book discussion on Carson McCullers' *The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter* at 12:30 pm on Thursday, October 3. Dr. Carlos Dews, a CSU faculty member who is director of the university's new Carson McCullers Center, led the discussion. Approximately forty-five people--students, faculty, staff and community members--attended the discussion session.

The book discussion was scheduled as part of "The Valley Reads Carson McCullers Project," the brainchild of the Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library, which coordinated a long string of McCullers-related events in the month of October with the support of numerous local organizations. The purpose of the project was to celebrate the novel and McCullers, its Columbus author. As part of the project, hundreds of Columbus area residents read *The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter*. "The Valley Reads Project" also sponsored a number of related events, including a screening of the film adaptation of the novel, followed by a discussion led by actor Stacy Keach, who was in the movie. There was also a keynote address by Dr. Dews and an all-day symposium at the Columbus Museum and a tour of Carson McCullers' Columbus, sponsored by the Historic Columbus Foundation.

The Schwob Library's book discussion began with Dr. Dews explaining "The Valley Reads Project" and highlighting some of its events. He also gave information about the Car-

son McCullers Center, which will open in January 2003 in the Stark Avenue McCullers home, which has been donated to CSU by former English faculty member Dr. Thornton Jordan.

Dr. Dews opened discussion of the novel by reading certain passages from the text and from the original outline that McCullers had submitted to Houghton Mifflin Publishers. He discussed her keen interest in race relations through her characterization of Dr. Copeland, the novel's African-American doctor. Dr. Dews also read passages from correspondence between McCullers and the administration of the Columbus public library back in the 1950s. At that time the library was interested in acquiring McCullers manuscripts. However, she made it very clear in response to their requests, that she would not donate any manuscripts to a public facility that was segregated. As a result, the University of Texas wound up with the majority of McCullers' manuscripts.

Dr. Dews also told an interesting story about McCullers being paid \$1500 to write an article for a travel magazine about Georgia. Because McCullers had a love-hate relation-



Dr. Carlos Dews, at podium, leading book discussion of *The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter*.

ship with Columbus and the south in general, the article did not exactly show the region in a positive light, and the editors decided not to publish it. This, after all, was someone who said she had to make occasional visits to the south, "to renew my sense of horror."

Following Dr. Dews' remarks, he asked for questions and comments from the audience, and a lively discussion ensued. Before and during the hour-long event attendees were treated to light refreshments. Based on comments from the audience, the book discussion was both enlightening and entertaining, and did, indeed, accomplish its goal of celebrating the novel and its author.



## CSU Archives Awarded Two Grants to Enhance Digital Access to Collections

The CSU Archives has been awarded two grants to enhance digital access to its collections. In September, The Historic Chattahoochee Commission Matching Grant Program awarded Columbus State University a \$2025.00 grant to provide enhanced access to the Louise Gunby Jones Collection, the Anne Fannie Gorham Diary, and selected oral history interviews with local millworkers through the compilation of digital finding aids available via the World Wide Web. The grant will also allow the archives to establish an archival digitization lab, which will enable completion of this endeavor. The completed project will consist of a finding aid tagged and coded using Encoded Archival Description (EAD), digital images of selected documents in the collections, and the text of selected documents in the collections, all of which will be available to online users. This project will be expanded to other manuscript collections in the CSU Archives at the end of the grant term.

By Reagan Grimsley



Also in September, The Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board (GHRAB) Grant Program awarded Columbus State University a \$3639.00 grant to preserve and enhance access to the Chattahoochee Valley Photograph Collection. The grant will allow the archives to properly preserve nearly 2,000 photographs which focus on the history of Columbus and the surrounding valley region. In addition, access to the materials will be facilitated by an electronic database. When completed, users will be able to access the database from a terminal inside the archives or from home via the archives website.

Researchers will be able to search historical photographs by proper name, subject, or full text, then request to view the item in the archives reading room.

Established in 1975, the CSU Archives serves as a repository for records documenting the history of Columbus State University and the greater Columbus region. Located in the Simon Schwob Memorial Library on the main campus of CSU, the archives contains local history materials in a variety of formats, including but not limited to manuscripts, photographs, maps, and oral histories. The Archives is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Friday from 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. For further information on the CSU Archives, contact Archivist Reagan Grimsley at (706) 568-2247 or visit the archives website at <http://library.colstate.edu/archives.shtml>

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