

1-1-2008

Outlook, Winter 2008

Wayne State University Library System

Recommended Citation

Wayne State University Library System, "Outlook, Winter 2008" (2008). *Library Publications*. Paper 4.
<http://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/libpub/4>

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OUTLOOK

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SYSTEM

A LOOK BACK ON THE PAST 10 YEARS AT THE UGL: A HISTORY AND REFLECTIONS

David Adamany faced a lot of adversity when he first came up with the idea of an undergraduate library in 1982. Just settling into his first year as president of Wayne State University, Adamany proposed the idea of a library focused on the needs of first-time college students. It would be a place where freshman and sophomores would have the opportunity to master the skills necessary for academic success.

Adamany looked at the libraries that existed at Wayne State. Not only did he see a need for additional space and further collection development, he saw an opportunity. A library just for undergrads was a new concept and not one seen vital in the eyes of the Wayne State University Council. Adamany recognized that it was going to be a hard sell but he wanted to take a chance in creating something that was new to Wayne State, but even newer in the world of libraries. "The catch line for the library ended up being 'A Library Like no Other,'" said Mary Beth Lock, former manager of Access Services and one of the founding staff members of the UGL since its opening until October 2007. "I don't think any of us realized how unlike libraries it would be at the time."

Because there were already four libraries on campus, there was resistance in the Wayne State community to constructing a new library. The Wayne State University Council (in 1984) recognized the need for space and collection expansion but did not see the need for a separate, freestanding structure. According to the preliminary report of the ad hoc committee to review a proposal for a new undergraduate library, the Council declared that a new, freestanding structure would be detrimental to Wayne State's educational mission. "Neither do we see sufficient reason to label any new structure 'Undergraduate Library,'" the report said.

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Some of the new concepts were hard to embrace in a traditional campus library atmosphere. The UGL would be a huge, 300,000 square foot, open structure filled with comfortable seating, a high ceilings and a lounge. This was a library that would welcome noise and food. It would be a home away from home for students. Even in the pre-dorm environment, it would offer 24-hour service, even against the advice of nearly everyone but the students. "We were told that no one would come to a library in the middle of the night in the middle of Detroit," said Lynn Sutton, former UGL director and associate dean of the Library System.

Adamany and library administration persevered through the years and worked to make the undergraduate library a reality. Over ten years after the idea was introduced, ground was broken on February 2, 1996, in front of a substantial crowd in sub-zero degree temperatures. From there, things moved quickly. Construction took less than two years and staff worked hard to prepare for the September 1997 opening.

Despite a flood in the basement that resulted in over a foot of water covering the entire square footage, the staff rallied together to open the doors of the building to students on September 2, 1997. To reduce "library anxiety" the desks were staffed with students of the peer group that they were serving. "We really wanted to make it inviting and comfortable for students to come up and ask questions," said Lock.

This library like no other also did something that none of the libraries had ever done before—they opened with virtually no policies or procedures in place. "The idea was that we would respond to things as they occurred and write a policy then. We wanted to be open to possibilities since this library was to be so different," Lock said.

Sutton said that they had hoped that students would recognize the type of environment that they were trying to provide and self-monitor their own

behavior without the need for heavy-handed policies, but this wasn't as successful as everyone had hoped. Though staff was able to respond to policy writing needs, it wasn't without a lot of blood, sweat and even tears as they stumbled through new situations that tested their abilities to react and establish guidelines for the future based on the situation. "It was tough," Lock said. "The first few months were pretty chaotic."

There were also technological barriers to overcome "We were under strict orders from President Adamany to open the library with 700 computers and 1309 data connections-- that was an absolutely unprecedented number of computers in 1997," Sutton explained.



Assembling the Pewabic tile mural that would hang from the second floor overlook.

Operating under the idea that "computing is life," computers were placed everywhere throughout the library—not just in labs, but on all three floors and even in the stacks. Additionally, all the machines were equipped with the full Microsoft Office suite, another innovation in the world of libraries at the time. In 1997, only a few libraries, most notably the University of Southern California Levy Library, were experimenting with productivity software in the library but only on a limited number of computers rather than the entire fleet of machines.

However, network wiring wasn't finished until two days before the

opening of the UGL, leaving no time for testing and resulting in very few things running for the opening. There were also very few books on the shelves due to a United Parcel Service strike that held up many of the libraries' purchases. "When we opened, we joked that there would be a story in *The South End* that said, 'Where's the Books?'" quipped Sutton.

New programs were introduced with the opening of the UGL. The "Windows on the Arts" program was a unique vision that originated with former Library System Dean Patricia Breivik, where live artistic performances of music, dance and theater were brought to the atrium of the UGL. For the first time, drop-in instruction sessions were offered



The UGL's first patron on September 2, 1997.

where members of the university community could attend registration-free classes to learn how to use Microsoft Office programs, a service which is still offered ten years later.

Some of the obstacles were less administrative in nature. "David Adamany was a controversial president at Wayne State and support for the library was not exactly universal," said Sutton. "But, this changed over the years as the UGL became a campus tradition and no one wanted to remember life without it."

The library was a tremendous success with the students, boasting more

than one million visitors in its first year. This number has been matched or surpassed every year since. The information commons approach that was taken in organizing the UGL in 1997 has since become the standard in most academic libraries today.

The 24-hour area that was predicted to fail by naysayers flourished-- so much so that the UGL began opening up the entire library during exams. As a result, the Finals Frenzy Studython was born and now serves as a model for many other libraries, including a similar program called "Wake the Library" at Wake Forest University in North Carolina.

The many computers in the UGL have become one of the most popular reasons for visiting the

recent shift to only allowing food and drink at study tables in order to keep computer terminals clean. Dean Yee meets regularly with Student Council to discuss issues and hear suggestions as to how the libraries can be improved. "Student opinions are very important to us because we're here to serve them," said Dean Yee. "We want to do our best to accommodate their needs and provide them with a place that they enjoy visiting."

"I've always loved the UGL," said Sutton. "I love the vitality and endless diversity and I love the noise and exuberance of 10,000 people a day coming in those glass doors."

"Dean Breivik was right after all, it is a library like no other."



Former President David Adamany gives his address at the UGL Opening celebration.

library and during the week in the fall semester, logons average more than 7,000 per day. Technology is continuously being upgraded throughout the libraries with the latest software and hardware.

"The UGL is the hub of the Wayne State University campus," said Sandra Yee, current dean of the Library System. "Students come here for everything from studying to socializing at all times of the day." The library continues to welcome student feedback in making and enforcing new policies, including a



LIBRARY SYSTEM EXTENDS VIRTUAL MOTOR CITY PROJECT

The Wayne State University Library System has received an extension to an Institute of Library and Museum Services grant to further develop the Virtual Motor City photo collection, an online resource already containing digitized images from *The Detroit News* Collection, a photojournalistic resource held at the Reuther Library.

The Library System's Web Development Team added more than 20,000 images to the collection since 2005, bringing the total number of images to over 36,000. "We hope the extension will allow us to add around 5,000 more images to the collection," said Nardina Mein, director of New Media and Information Technology and the interim director of the Office for Teaching and Learning.

Donated to Wayne State in 1997, the full collection consists of more than 800,000 photonegative images, many of them on vintage glass plate. *The Detroit News* was a pioneer in the use of photojournalism equipment and techniques, which gives many of the early images recorded on glass and film additional historical significance. The collection is the largest single collection of graphic images of any kind at the Walter P. Reuther Library.



Downtown Detroit at night, looking south from Campus Martius, taken from the Virtual Motor City collection.

SAFEASSIGNMENT SOFTWARE ROLLED OUT TO COMBAT PLAGIARISM

Based on requests from university faculty, the units of the Technology Resource Center (New Media and Information Technology (NMIT), the Office for Teaching and Learning (OTL) and Computing and Information Technology) recently implemented SafeAssignment, an advanced plagiarism prevention system integrated with the Blackboard Learning System.

Approved by the Academic Integrity Committee and reviewed by the Academic Senate and Student Council, SafeAssignment checks all student papers submitted to Blackboard against a wide range of sources, including Wayne State University Library System electronic collections, and provides instructors with reports identifying papers containing unoriginal material. SafeAssignment is based on a unique originality detection algorithm that is capable of detecting inexact matches between a plagiarized paper and

its source. Faculty and instructors decide whether to use the system, and the OTL provides a workshop for faculty who would like to use this technology in conjunction with written assignments.

SafeAssignment was launched in winter 2007 as a pilot project with 16 participating faculty members. "The review committee chose SafeAssignment for a variety of reasons," said Nardina Mein, director of NMIT and interim director of the OTL. "It is easy for faculty to use and it has great features, especially the fact that the papers that are entered into the database stay on campus—our students' work doesn't become part of a nationwide database."

NMIT HELPS BRING GRADUATION TO MOTHER'S HOSPITAL BED

Thanks to the assistance of local businesses and Wayne State University New Media and Information Technology members, Clarice Alford watched her son graduate. Though many parents shared the same moment as it played out onstage, Alford's experience was a bit different. She watched from a hospital bed.

According to Mark Hicks in the June 15 edition of *The Detroit News*, the long-awaited commencement ceremony unfolded not on an arena stage or in an auditorium -- it occurred beside a bed on the fourth-floor medical intensive care unit at St. John Hospital and Medical Center, where Clarice Alford has been treated intermittently since January.

"We wanted to recreate a ceremony for Mrs. Alford," said Sara Brown of St. John Hospital's marketing department. "As a single parent with long-term health issues, she helped her son Timothy go from an at-risk student to a salutatorian with 15 scholarships and a full ride to the University of Michigan."

The morning of graduation, Brown called Richard Dunbar, a manager in New Media and Information Technology. She explained how Alford was too ill to attend her only son's graduation, which was being held at Wayne State University. "Richard offered to tape the ceremony and had the tapes and DVDs ready for me the next morning," said Brown.

Brown reported that the ceremony held in the unit was unlike anything she had ever seen. "Mrs. Alford sobbed and sobbed as the principal and counselor spoke about her son and presented him with his diploma," said Brown.

The tapes and DVDs provided by NMIT were presented to Alford so she could watch them with her son after the festivities ended.

The event was the first graduation staged at St. John, said Debbie Condino, the hospital's vice president of customer services. "This is about healing."

(Portions of this article printed with permission from The Detroit News.)

PODCASTING OF LECTURES NOW AVAILABLE

The Library System has made listening to lectures more convenient than ever by offering a podcasting feature to all professors that record their classroom lectures.

"This makes listening to lectures more convenient and offers mobility to students -- now they can just download the lecture and listen to it on their mp3 players no matter where they are," said Nardina Mein, director of New Media and Information Technology the interim director of the Office for Teaching and Learning.

When placing an order with Media Services, professors may select to have the lecture streamed through the Library System Course Reserves, or if they would prefer it to be made available as an mp3 file that can be "podcasted" to mp3 audio players. Students can access the podcast through a link that the professor provides. "The recording is still done the same way," said Matt Decker, New Media and Information Technology manager. "All professors have to do is let us know how they'd like it to be available."

LAW LIBRARY RECEIVES ARTWORK

Barbara and Louis J. Olgiati Jr. honored the Arthur Neef Law Library earlier this year with a monetary gift and framed original artwork by local artist and Wayne State alumna, Sylvia Marciniak, who is Barbara Olgiati's sister that passed away May 23, 2005. Barbara and Sylvia worked at the Law Library as student assistants in the late 50s and early 60s when they were students at Wayne State University. A native of Grosse Pointe and an award winning artist and educator, Sylvia Marciniak earned her bachelor's degree in fine arts from Wayne State.



The artwork donated by the Olgiatis is on display at the Arthur Neef Law Library.

LIS PROGRAM WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

In August, the Library and Information Science Program welcomed veteran information professional and administrator Stephen T. Bajjaly.

Bajjaly brings over 15 years of experience in the information science field to the LIS Program. Most recently, he served as an associate professor and associate director for undergraduate studies at the University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science, where he oversaw all aspects of the implementation of the school's



New LIS Program Director Stephen Bajjaly assists a student.

recently approved bachelor of science program in library and information science. "I see a big part of my job at Wayne State as leading an effort by the faculty, staff, students, alumni and employers to examine where we are as a program, determine where we want to be and then to ensure we get there," said Bajjaly.

Bajjaly earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from St. Lawrence University, a master's degree in business administration from San Diego State University and a doctorate degree in information science from the State University of New York at Albany. He succeeds Joseph Mika, who announced his resignation last year and returned to teaching in the LIS Program. "Stephen Bajjaly will bring a new enthusiasm to the LIS Program," said Mika. "His vision and experience will be helpful in guiding the us into the future."

While at USC, Bajjaly served as a project director for the first community-based, non-profit Web portal in South Carolina and oversaw a campus-wide effort to promote interest in creative new media solutions for education, research and service to faculty, students and staff. He also worked for South Carolina's First Lady, Rachel Hodges to develop and maintain her family literacy program's Web site.

"Stephen Bajjaly's wealth of experience, especially in the area of technology in information science and history of teaching in library and information science, will be a valuable asset to the LIS Program and the university," said Sandra Yee, Dean of the University Library System. "I look forward to working with him."

SHIFFMAN MEDICAL LIBRARY CLOSES FOR RENOVATIONS

On August 17, the Shiffman Medical Library building closed to undergo a complete renovation as part of the Wayne State University's School of Medicine Richard J. Mazurek M.D. Education Commons. Until the completion of the proposed 18-month construction project, three temporary service sites have been set up to keep service interruptions to a minimum:

- **Shiffman Library @ Scott Hall**
Room 2367
- **Shiffman Library @ Applebaum Learning Resources**
Center Applebaum College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences,
259 Mack Avenue, Room 330
(lower level)
- **Shiffman Library @ Rackham**
60 Farnsworth (Woodward and Warren) Room 044 (lower level)

Patrons are encouraged to contact Shiffman staff previous to visiting any of the temporary sites as access to publications and many information services can be provided electronically or via telephone. Visit the Shiffman Medical Library Web site at www.lib.wayne.edu/shiffman for more information or to contact a staff member.

PROFESSOR EMERITA EDITH PHILLIPS STARS IN VIDEO TYING "THEN TO NOW"



Professor Emerita Edith Phillips is the star of an educational video series that is debuting in 2008. Phillips partnered with alumnus Nardina Mein, director of New Media and Information Technology and interim director of the Office for Teaching and Learning for the Library System's new project: "Librarianship: Relevant Conversations."

Launched in spring 2007, this series of informal campus discussions with educators and innovators will highlight and improve the impact of librarianship throughout our communities. "We want to capture and preserve our community's living legends and experts while making the connection between the historic foundation for the Library System and its academic programs with the current and future world of librarianship," said Yee.

Professor Phillips, who continues her involvement with LIS students, alumni and faculty as a mentor and motivator, was the obvious first choice. Edith Phillips is a former faculty member who spent 23 years with Wayne State University and the Library and Information Science Program, where she taught courses in cataloging and technical services. She gave multiple lectures, published articles, served as a consultant to libraries and was awarded grants that reflected her

research and professional interests. At her retirement in May 1991, she was remembered as not only a faculty member, but as an advocate of faculty rights, an author and an educator with high ethical values.

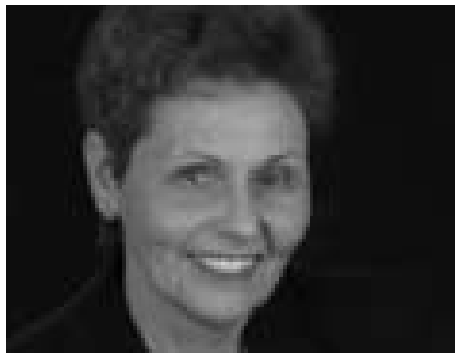
The first video-interview set the stage for future conversations with leaders in librarianship. Plans are underway for Professor Emerita Genevieve Casey to star in the next "Relevant Conversation," along with her former student, Darlean Bridges, a key administrator in the Detroit Public Library System.



PURDY/KRESGE IMPROVEMENTS

In an effort to provide for a more pleasant research and study environment for library users, the Purdy/Kresge Library underwent a series of improvements during the summer. Renovations and updates included: replacing the first floor carpeting, improving the heating and cooling in some parts of the building, rearranging and updating select furniture and redesigning the reference desk and computer area. More improvements in Purdy/Kresge are planned for the future.

GREETINGS FROM DEAN SANDRA YEE



The Library's goal to provide safe, attractive and welcoming learning spaces for intellectual and social interactions received a major boost this summer as we upgraded the first floor of the Purdy/Kresge Library with new carpet and a fresh coat of paint and reorganized to make the space more appealing for scholarly work. This new, open space, with wireless internet access, tables for study as well as comfortable furniture, is a

welcome complement to the many spaces offered across the five libraries. We know that a variety of learning spaces is important, and we are making progress in providing them for our students and faculty.

The David Adamany Undergraduate Library passed a milestone this fall with the celebration of its 10th anniversary. The building continues to be extremely popular with students, with as many as 10,000 visitors in and out of the building on its busiest days. This year welcomed the return of a café and improvements to the student lounge area, including new carpet tiles, enhanced lighting and new tables and chairs. We are pleased that the students find the UGL comfortable, welcoming and useful!

Special Collections increased in 2007 with the donation of Dudley Randall's personal library and the addition of

smaller special collections of African American literature significant to the Detroit area. Planning and fund raising is underway to create a special collections reading room on the first floor of the Undergraduate Library. It is important that we create a space that can house, on a rotating basis, these important collections so that they can be viewed and used by scholars. The cost of the renovation is approximately \$200,000 and the Library System's Board of Visitors has embraced this as a fund raising goal for the year.

Progress is being made on many fronts and we are continuing to work toward our goals of service excellence. Your support is very much appreciated!

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