



Cheryl Kern-Simirenko

On my mind, a message from the dean....

The passage of Public Law 110-161 early this year, making public access to National Institutes of Health-funded research a requirement, was greeted with much enthusiasm by open access champions in the academic community. As stated by NIH, the goal is to ensure “the public has access to the published results of NIH-funded research to help advance science and improve human health.”

Final peer-reviewed journal manuscripts must be submitted to PubMed Central and accessible no later than 12 months after publication. The concept is a simple one — publicly funded research should be freely available to that public. Members of the academic library community have long been advocates for reducing barriers that impede public access to scholarly research, and University Libraries is partnering with the Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs to provide assistance to UA’s NIH-funded researchers in obtaining the information needed to meet these requirements. Subject specialists in the Science and Technology Library may be contacted at scilib@uakron.edu, and Web-based assistance is in development. For guidance on complying with the NIH policy on public access, go to <http://www.uakron.edu/research/orssp/policiesGuidelines.php>. The publishing industry is lobbying the House Judiciary Committee to overturn this legislation, so the long-term impact of this policy remains in doubt.

The concept of retaining rights in order to enable public access is an important one for the scholarly community, and rights retention is a necessary prerequisite for creating institutional repositories — digital collections of institutional research output. Harvard’s arts and sciences faculty members made headlines in February when they agreed to mandate the deposit of finished papers in an open-access repository run by the library. Authors will retain their copyright and can publish their work in any journal that allows such posting after publication. Central to these rights retention approaches is the concept of amending publication agreements to allow for

nonexclusive rights for specific uses related to open access.

An OhioLINK task force, on which I served, has examined these issues in light of the opportunities available to Ohio institutions through OhioLINK’s hosting of branded repositories in its Digital Resource Commons. Such repositories enable both open access to, and long-term preservation of, institutional research. The final report included a template for amending a publication agreement in order for an author to retain the nonexclusive rights necessary for posting work on a Web site or depositing it in an institutional repository. The approach is similar to that outlined in the UA guidelines for complying with the NIH policy on public access, cited above.

Overall, the open access movement seeks to reduce barriers to access, whether related to pricing or to restrictions on use. Physicists, biologists and the academic library community have been in the vanguard of support for open access initiatives that leverage the networked environment to develop new models of scholarly communication.

In 1998, a coalition of academic and research libraries founded SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition. SPARC’s efforts are focused on enhancing access to scholarship, particularly to scientific research, through support for open access initiatives. Initially, SPARC focused primarily on the journal literature. Currently, its scope includes access to digital content more broadly defined, with a focus on both publishing and archiving, and support for disciplinary and institutional repositories. For more information on SPARC initiatives and changes in scholarly communication, see <http://www.arl.org/sparc/index.shtml>.

Physicists have led the way with the acclaimed preprint archive in physics, arXiv, initiated at Los Alamos in 1991 and currently hosted at Cornell University, <http://arxiv.org>. It has expanded to include mathematics, computer science and quantitative biology. In 1997, high-energy physicists developed an e-only publication, the Journal of High Energy Physics, which capitalized on the new medium by automating the entire process, including peer review.

In 2000, biologists frustrated with the existing models of publication, which included transfer of rights and spiraling subscription costs, established the nonprofit Public Library

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THE TEACHING LIBRARY

Why oh Why oh Why-OH would I ever leave Ohio?

"OhioLINK is probably the single best reason for studying and teaching in Ohio." — Stephen Harp, professor of history
OhioLINK is a consortium of 86 Ohio college and university libraries.

New Learning Spaces in Bierce Library

Jeffrey Franks, head, Reference

Bierce Library has added two learning spaces to meet the changing needs of today's students. Studies have shown, and our own observations confirm, that students often need computer workstations that will accommodate two or more individuals, allowing them to work collaboratively on group projects.

This aspect of student learning, along with the increased use of the Internet, online databases, electronic journals, courseware such as Springboard, electronic reserves, e-mail, instant messaging and personal Web space, have all contributed to the increased demand for workstations.

In response, the library, working closely with Information Technology Services and Capital Planning and Facilities Management, added 18 collaborative workstations on the first floor.

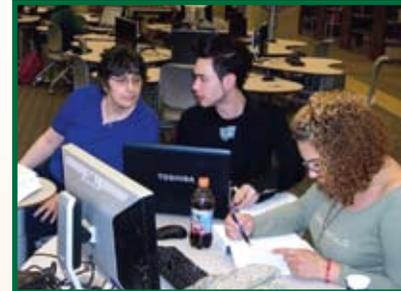
The workstations are conveniently located in an open area near the reference desk and networked printers, where students have shown a preference to work and where help from reference providers and peer helpers is readily available.



Ergonomically efficient workstation furniture is configured to allow groups to work together and for students to see and be seen by their classmates in much the same way as similar spaces in existing learning commons. New carpeting and portable seating contributes to the functionality and

attractiveness of the new space.

As the library focuses on collaborative learning as a key aspect of the learning commons concept, an area of the second floor has been converted into open learning space, providing new lounge furniture, and tables and chairs on castors for easy maneuverability. With this new, innovative space, the old obstacle of stationary furniture in fixed arrangements is completely eliminated. Students can now arrange library furniture to best suit their learning needs. A new portable M-11 Copyboard, essentially a whiteboard that allows whatever is written on the board to



be captured and printed from an attached printer, or saved to a memory stick, also helps facilitate collaborative learning. (Another M-11 Copyboard is available in the Science and Technology Library.)

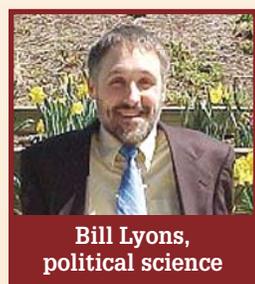
The flexibility and collaborative aspects of the new learning spaces have attracted large numbers



of students, indicating an immediate and overwhelming success. How sweet it is to witness the fruits of our own collaborative efforts!

Presentation Skills for Information Literacy

Instruction Michael Tosko, interim head, Teaching and Training



Bill Lyons,
political science

On March 5, 2008, Professor Bill Lyons visited University Libraries to offer library faculty and staff a Presentation Skills Workshop. Lyons, who is director of UA's Center for Conflict Management and interim chair of the Department of Political Science, has won numerous awards for his scholarship. But, perhaps most impressively, UA students chose him as the Faculty of the Year in 2004 for his excellence in teaching.

Lyons' workshop for the library was equally well received. An entertaining and engaging speaker who clearly has a passion for classroom teaching, Lyons shared advice and helpful hints for getting and keeping students' attention during a classroom presentation. He spoke of the need for preparation, the importance of knowing your material well and techniques to "hook" your audience at the beginning of a presentation.

When teaching or presenting to students, he recommended letting the students solve problems and come up with answers on their own rather than providing answers for them and "showing off" one's knowledge as the teacher or presenter. Most of all, Lyons advised flexibility when presenting topics, always keeping in mind the needs of the audience.

UA Students in OhioLINK Video Contest

Reneé Wilson, administrative assistant

University of Akron students Dave Carulli and John Tamba were runners-up in the first-ever "This is my OhioLINK video contest," held to celebrate OhioLINK's 15th anniversary.

Their video, "Unanswered Mysteries," features Bierce Library in a very interesting, whimsical and clever way. Their video, along with six other entries, will be utilized to promote OhioLINK's continued program. It's worth noting that their entry missed first place by only eight votes! You can view their video and others at: <http://www.ohiolink.edu/videocontest/>.

Why oh
Why oh
Why-OH?

UL licenses
more than
12,000 journals
through
OhioLINK
consortial
purchases.



John Tamba and Dave Carulli

NEW INITIATIVES

Encoded Archival Description Enhances User Access

David Baker, Margaret Clark Morgan director, Archives of the History of American Psychology

Rhonda Rinehart, senior archives associate in UL's Archives of the History of American Psychology (AHAP), has contributed to the statewide effort to bring greater access to archival materials. As a member of OhioLINK's Encoded Archival Description (EAD) Task Force, Rinehart completed work on this important project last spring.

EAD was designed specifically for archival finding aids, allowing the standardization of collection information in finding aids within and across repositories. EAD has been on the archival radar screen for the past decade, but development and implementation have remained daunting tasks for many institutions. Improved accessibility to collections through searchable and indexable data fields, provision of a centralized repository of standardized institutional finding aids and automation of catalog record creation are just a few of the benefits of EAD implementation.

The task force developed a Web-based EAD encoding application that is now available for use. The application allows for the creation of EAD finding aids without users having to know or understand xml coding. A statewide EAD finding aid repository and search environment has also been developed that allows users to search collections of primary sources, manuscripts and other unique materials across institutions. The application can be accessed at <https://ead.library.kent.edu>. The OhioLINK Repository is available at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu>.

Media Lending Services

Melanie Smith, interim head, Circulation

Bierce Library has a new look on the ground floor that includes relaxing common open spaces and easy access to listening and viewing stations for students and faculty using the media collection.



Located in Room 63, Media Lending

Services is responsible for the stewardship of the media collection — the VHS tapes, compact discs and digital video discs, etc., and the equipment that supports on-site listening and viewing. Librarians and staff are already making plans to update the collection to provide more materials in the heavily used DVD format. Media Lending Services can be reached at 330-972-7707.

We have much to offer in the new Media Lending Services area. Students and faculty can browse the daily newspaper while sitting in new, comfortable seating; schedule a class or training session in Room 61, where 25 new computers can run requested software; access and view media reserve materials; and receive assistance with microform viewing and printing. The Media Lending Services desk is staffed, and the media collection is available, whenever the library is open.

Come see our new look!

ENGAGEMENT

Provost's Walkabout – University Libraries

University Libraries hosted a visit by Beth Stroble, UA's senior vice president and provost and chief operating officer, on April 8, 2008. On the provost's "walkabout," as she calls these visits around campus, two partnerships were showcased. Both are in keeping with goals for increasing engagement as outlined in UA's academic plan.

One is the campus partnership focused on the learning commons with Information Technology, University College – Student Academic Success (SAS), and the Institute for Teaching and Learning. The other is an external partnership with the American Psychological Association's publishing division to digitize books and significant gray literature in the collection of the Archives of the History of American Psychology (AHAP).

The afternoon visit began with a luncheon attended by students from all four campus partners. The first content session focused on integrating learning commons functionality into Bierce Library and highlighted the work of the SAS service integration team, the learning spaces assessment, laptop program expansion pilot and new collaborative workstations in the reference area.

At the second content session, held in AHAP and focused on the APA digitization project, there was a demonstration of the Kirtas equipment that scans books without the need for disbinding and automatically turns pages with a touch lighter than the human hand.

Participants appreciated Provost Stroble's enthusiasm for the initiatives showcased.



Provost Beth Stroble (left), and students at lunch.

Why oh Why oh Why-OH?

UL makes 200 research databases available through OhioLINK, Ohio Learning Network, and OhioNET consortial purchases.

University Libraries Inaugural Lecture

Nancy Stokes, assistant dean

University Libraries initiated its lecture series on April 2, 2008, with support from Friends of the Libraries, by presenting a lecture no human should miss – "Making Robots Think."

The lecture was delivered by Lee Gutkind, author of the recent book, "Almost Human: Making Robots Think." Going behind the scenes at the Carnegie Mellon Robotics Institute, Gutkind's book offers readers an intense portrait of the robotic subculture and the challenging quest for robot autonomy.

Gutkind, an English professor at the University of Pittsburgh and founding father of the creative nonfiction movement, spoke about the importance of thinking more clearly about the upcoming robot revolution in legal, ethical and philosophical terms.



Friends President Steve Love (left), and Lee Gutkind.

PASSAGES

Why oh Why oh Why-OH?

OhioLINK hosts digital repository services for its member libraries/institutions, including theses and dissertations, media and the new Digital Resource Center, which supports locally branded digital collections.

Associate Dean Retires

Dr. Roger Durbin, associate dean of University Libraries and professor of bibliography, was granted emeritus status upon his retirement this summer.

Durbin was responsible for nearly every aspect of library services and collections over the course of his 31 years of service to UA. He is credited with automating library acquisitions and, more importantly, with implementing the first integrated library system in 1985. Durbin's leadership in OhioLINK resulted in the creation of subject specialty discussion groups and the concept that led to OhioLINK's Electronic Book Center.

He served on scores of University governance groups, including Faculty Senate and the Committee on Campus Technology and Computing. Most recently, Durbin served on the First Year Experience and the Higher Learning Commission's Assessment Task Force.



Faculty Appointments



Shari Laster joined UA on June 1 as government documents librarian and assistant professor of bibliography. She earned an M.S. in Library Science at the University of North

Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she focused on government information. She wrote her master's thesis on the intersection of copyright and digital libraries.

A native of southeastern Pennsylvania, Laster earned a B.A. at Rice University in Houston, Texas, where she double-majored in philosophy and religious studies. Her interest in government documents stems from her four-year tenure as a student assistant in the government publications department at Rice, and while at UNC-CH, where she worked for the regional librarian for depository libraries in the state.

Additionally, Laster has volunteered for the Metropolitan Research Center at the Houston Public Library, and the Knowlton School of Architecture Digital Library at The Ohio State University.



Lisa A. Lazar joined UA on Aug. 1 as performing arts librarian and assistant professor of bibliography. She earned an MLIS at the University of Pittsburgh, and

a Bachelor of Music at Northwestern University. Lazar also completed graduate courses in early music at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Lazar's most recent position was

reference librarian at the Library and Archives at the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh. Previously, she was preservation program specialist at Preservation Technologies, L.P. and music and preservation specialist at the Gumberg Library at Duquesne University. Lazar is active professionally in the Music Library Association and is a singer, pianist, flutist and violinist.



Tammy Stitz joined UA on June 1 as applied sciences librarian in the Science and Technology Library and assistant professor of bibliography. Her areas of concentration are instruction, intensive reference, and collection development in the areas of

computer science, electrical and computer engineering, geology and mechanical engineering. She will also assist with general reference.

Stitz has both a B.S. (1995) and an M.S. (2003) in electrical and computer engineering from The University of Akron and an MLIS from Kent State University (2005). Stitz worked as a graduate assistant in the Architecture and Fashion libraries at Kent State and completed a practicum in technical services. She worked in industry as a systems engineer for several years before finding her "true calling" — librarianship.

Stitz and her husband, David, live in Stow. An ardent fan of the movies, Stitz also enjoys needlework, and playing the guitar and cello.

Bonnie Chojnacki joined UA on May 19 as life and allied health sciences librarian in the Science and Technology Library and assistant professor of



bibliography. Her areas of specialty are instruction, intensive reference and collection development in allied health technology, biology, biomedical engineering and nursing.

Chojnacki earned a B.A. in philosophy, with honors, in 1995 at Chatham College and an MLIS at the University of Pittsburgh in 1998. She also studied bioethics at the Kennedy Institute for Ethics at Georgetown University. Chojnacki worked as a research biologist and research specialist in the life sciences prior to transitioning into librarianship. She previously worked at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Maryland libraries. Chojnacki is active in the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of the Special Library Association.



Michelle Mascaro joined UA on Sept. 1 as special collections cataloger and assistant professor of bibliography. Mascaro, originally from Fishers, Ind., a northern suburb of

Indianapolis, earned an M.S. in Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Humanities at Michigan State University.

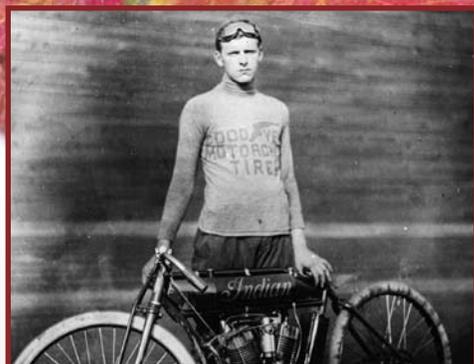
Prior to accepting her post here, Mascaro was a cataloger at the Merrill-Cazier Library at Utah State University. Her interests include vegetarian cooking, yoga, movies, reading and bird watching.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS SUPPORT

Goodyear Donates Photograph Collection

S. Victor Fleischer, University archivist and head, Archival Services

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company recently donated an extensive company archive of historic images to The University of Akron. The massive collection includes an astonishing 83,000 photographs, appraised at \$1.1 million. The archive contains rare glass plate negatives, acetate negatives and photographic prints spanning the years 1912 to 1984.



A 1912 motorcycle racer standing beside his Indian motorcycle featuring Goodyear tires.



Three blimps (including the Resolute and the Reliance) flying in formation over New York City on July 22, 1940.

This extremely significant collection visually documents the fascinating history of one of the world's largest and most influential rubber companies. The seldom-before-seen images depict factory conditions, lighter-than-airships, and, of course, tires made for everything from race cars to colossal earth-moving equipment to moon vehicles. Other photographs capture historic personalities such as Babe Ruth, Arnold Palmer and Richard Nixon.

Students, faculty and scholars from a wide range of disciplines will find the collection extremely useful for researching the rubber industry, labor history, lighter-than-air flight, transportation, the history of photography, etc.

Moving these extensive, and heavy, files from Goodyear's headquarters on East Market Street to the UA Archives is a challenge in itself. Once on site, the staff of Archival Services will evaluate the collection in order to provide for better preservation and quicker access. University Libraries expects to pursue grants in the near future that will fund our efforts to properly process, preserve and digitize the collection.

Archival Services anticipates making the materials publicly available by late fall or early winter. For more information, call 330-972-7670 or e-mail archives@uakron.edu. Archival Services is located in the Polsky Building, Room LL10. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Archival Services and University Libraries are extremely appreciative of this significant gift, which greatly enhances the current holdings of rubber industry and lighter-than-air materials.

Friends of the Library

Phyllis O'Connor, associate dean

The Friends of the Libraries at The University of Akron held its 66th annual dinner meeting on June 6. President Steve Love announced that the executive board had approved \$25,000 for the processing of the archival papers of former Akron mayors John Ballard, Tom Sawyer and Roy Ray. Additionally, the board approved the expenditure of \$10,000 to have the 15th, 16th and 17th century imprints from the Muehlstein rare book collection treated by conservation specialists.



Joan and Art Pollock (left), Mark Auburn, Gretchen Laatsch and Jim Switzer.



Julie Gammon (left) and dean Cheryl Kern-Simirenko

David Giffels, the dinner speaker, entertained the audience with amusing excerpts and lively discussion about his newest book, "All the Way Home: Building a Family in a Falling-Down House," a story about renovating a turn-of-the-century house in west Akron while facing the challenges of marriage and parenthood.

Sara Douglas was awarded a Friends Scholarship of \$1,500 to help defray tuition costs for her M.S. in Library Science at Kent State University's School of Library and Information Science. Douglas, who recently became a middle school librarian in Las Vegas, Nev., worked for the Acquisition Department for two years.

The Friends recognized two Outstanding Student Employee award winners: Sonja Holmgren and Christian Howard. Each received a certificate and a check for \$1,000. Holmgren, who graduated this spring as an honors student with a B.A. in Fashion, began working in the Cataloging Department in 2004. She assisted with the cataloging of recital tapes and music scores. Howard graduated in August 2008 with a B.S. in Political Science. He was hired in 2005 in the Science and Technology Library, where he performed a variety of circulation duties and provided research assistance.

New officers were elected for 2007-08: Steve Love, president; Barbara Heinzlerling, vice president; and Julia Gammon, secretary-treasurer. Board members are Mitchell Allen, Ronald Cable, Rose Kleidon and Andrea Klein.

The group's annual dues are \$45 for a single membership and \$75 for a family membership. Call 330-972-7224 or visit <http://www.uakron.edu/libraries/libFriends.php> for further information.

On my mind...a message from the Dean (continued)

of Science (PLoS) on the open access model, with the goal of "...making the world's scientific and medical literature a freely available public resource."

Open access and free availability do not mean these are no-cost publishing efforts. Open access publishers, whether for-profit or nonprofit, transfer at least part of the publishing expenses to the authors (or research sponsors), charging fees for the publication of an article.

BioMed Central is a for-profit open access publisher of some 190 peer-reviewed journals. OhioLINK holds an institutional membership on behalf of all 86 Ohio colleges and universities. Currently, this initiative is centrally funded by OhioLINK, but is expected to move to a cost-share model during the current fiscal year as the number of articles published by faculty at OhioLINK institutions continues to climb. Information about BioMed Central may be found at <http://www.biomedcentral.com/home>.

For a comprehensive overview of the open access movement, see Peter Suber's introduction at <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>. Suber is a research professor of philosophy at Earlham College and director of SPARC's Open Access Project.

Why oh Why oh Why-OH?

OhioLINK and its member libraries invest \$26.1 million in electronic journals that, if purchased on an individual basis by the universities, would cost \$105 million.



Other Contributors:

Susan Ashby, Jo Ann Calzonetti, Peg Goodman, Peter Linberger.

New Writing Lab Coordinator Named Phyllis O'Connor, associate dean

Laura Monroe began her new position as the coordinator of the Writing Lab on Aug. 1. The coordinator promotes the writing-to-learn program across campus, assesses the effectiveness of the University's writing lab program, and trains and supervises the faculty and staff who work in the lab.

Monroe has a B.A. in English from the College of Wooster and an M.A. in English (with a specialization in composition) from The University of Akron. She has worked at UA in various teaching and writing positions since 1992.

One of Monroe's priorities is to focus on the marketing of the Writing Lab so that faculty and students are better aware of its presence and purpose. She intends to expand the Web site, since that is where students tend to search first for help.

As a member of University College's Student Academic Success unit located on the ground floor of Bierce Library, Monroe says that she is looking forward to working in a learning environment where referrals between the tutoring service and library reference staffs can happen readily, making it easier for students to get assistance when they need it.



Why oh Why oh Why-OH?

For every dollar UL spends on consortial purchases of research databases, UA obtains an average of three dollars worth of information.

