From the Librarian
by Terry Snyder

What an extraordinary privilege and pleasure it is to join the Haverford community! I am endlessly impressed by the College’s commitment to promoting the personal and intellectual growth of the students. I am even more impressed by the talented faculty and staff that contribute to realizing this goal on a daily basis. My Library colleagues join me in our commitment to that shared objective.

As we move forward, Library colleagues will engage in strategic planning to identify how we can fully realize this commitment to excellence. We promise to be unrelenting in pursuit and support of that excellence! Some of the areas we will focus on include evaluating our current services for their effectiveness in meeting the needs of users—faculty, students and outside researchers, as well as looking for ways to expand both our services and audience. Collection development—in electronic format, print media and special collections—will be a focal point, and curriculum and research support will remain central to our planning. We will explore new opportunities in emerging digital scholarship and create new programming to support the College’s educational goals. Improving the physical plant also requires our attention. We will build

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The Al Qaeda Statements Project
by Margaret Schaus

“Al Jazeera has released a message today from Al Qaeda…” This is a common introduction we read and hear on news broadcasts, but what follows is usually a two- or three-line summary of the statement. Political Science Professor Barak Mendelsohn and his students study terrorism and, in particular, its manifestations in the Middle East. They require the full texts of Al Qaeda statements to analyze themes, rhetoric, references and speakers. This need has led to a challenging project in cooperation with the Library. Its mandate is to identify, make accessible (with some limitations) and preserve full-length statements from Al Qaeda in digital form in English translation (http://triceratops.brynmawr.edu/dspace/handle/10066/4022). The statements form the centerpiece of a global terrorism research site now in development, which will allow the tracking of concepts in a precise fashion.

Mendelsohn and his student researchers have included statements from the Al Qaeda leadership dating back to 1994. They have developed a detailed system of indexing terms to capture the ideas expressed and to distinguish relationships and contexts. Library staff members have assisted by locating texts, giving preference to open access versions available to the general public. Students also compare different translations for the fullest versions, format these transcripts uniformly, and then convert them into PDFs. All too often a variety of circumstances complicate this process. Websites with Al Qaeda statements have been shut down, news sources have heavily abridged the statements (sometimes without indicating the edits) and videos of speeches do not include transcripts.

More disheartening is the case of the Open Source Center (www.opensource.gov), a U.S. government agency that provides translations of foreign
Digitizing the Journal of the Hellenic Diaspora
by Norm Medeiros

Serendipity is a regular occurrence in libraries and also one of the great aspects of being a librarian. Last year I was approached by Alexander Kitroeff, a faculty member in the History Department, about digitizing the backfile of the Journal of the Hellenic Diaspora (JHD), on whose editorial board he served. Professor Kitroeff may have been aware of my administration of Haverford’s DSpace repository, Triceratops, or perhaps was just canvassing the Library staff in search of a sympathetic ear. Regardless, after a brief discussion we agreed that the Library would digitize JHD and mount these scans on Triceratops to make the contents of this journal available to the scholarly community.

Once Professor Kitroeff received a favorable response from his fellow board members and JHD’s publisher, Pella, work began on disbinding Pella-supplied issues from the 35-volume set. Although JHD started as a quarterly publication, early in its existence it slowed to a semiannual, with a single issue comprising some volumes. Except for its cover, the publication is black text on white paper, with few images. Given its size and constitution, it seemed likely the Library could process this collection in its entirety in just a few months.

We accomplished the scanning, post-scan processing and optical character recognition (OCR) quickly during summer 2010. Bruce Bumbarger, Library Conservator, disbound the issues, allowing the individual pages to be fed through the Library’s high-speed scanner. The OmniPage Pro OCR application processed these pages, converting them from PDF images to PDF text, enabling Triceratops, as well as Google, Bing and other search engines, to index the contents of each issue. Additional features of the processing included scanning covers in color and appending them to the beginning of each issue. Similarly, illustrations were scanned in grayscale to render higher-quality reproductions, which were inserted into issues as required.

The most labor-intensive aspect of the project was creating article-level PDFs with associated metadata. Jessie Taylor ’11 did yeoman’s work throughout the summer, building the bulk of the article-based collection. Benjamin Wohl ’14 finished the project in fall 2010.

The project was completed in November 2010, much to the delight of Professor Kitroeff and the Greek history community. JHD in its digitized glory is available at http://triceratops.brynmawr.edu/dspace/handle/10066/4111.

—Norm Medeiros is Associate Librarian of the College & Coordinator for Bibliographic and Digital Services
E-Reader First Impressions  
by Dora Wong

The Haverford College Library has available two e-readers for circulation to its community: Amazon’s large-screen Kindle DX, acquired in February 2010, and Apple’s Wi-Fi only iPad, acquired in February 2011. The Library has not heavily marketed either the Kindle or the iPad to patrons. Four users, however, have borrowed the Kindle. One user wanted to read a pre-loaded book, but the rest of the users came to investigate it as a device. The first of these users liked it and decided to buy one for himself, as he felt that it was well-suited as a personal reader. Recently the Library’s iPad has drawn interest for its ability to run numerous applications.

The features in an e-book reader—such as the ability to highlight, bookmark, and annotate—attempt to replicate what users do naturally with printed books. However, the ways to accomplish these tasks on reading devices are varied and require some acclimation. For academic reading, students want to save notes for future reference. Associating these notes with a page—an easy task using humble Post-Its on print pages—is far more difficult on e-readers. Further, the effort to collect and save digital notes is time-consuming.

It is ironic that, while the initial goal of the Library’s pilot study was to determine the genre of books to purchase for the Kindle, the strength has been in learning how people interact with books in their physical dimension. A secondary and somewhat unexpected aspect of this study involved the suitability of the e-reader as a publicly shared tool. Our experiment (of limited scope and duration) seems to indicate that people use library e-books most effectively on a full-featured computer, to look up short and specific items, or to download to one’s personal device for extended use.

—Dora Wong is Science Librarian

ProQuest’s Dissertations and Theses Fulltext  
by James Gulick

During the summer of 2010 the Library added a significant new database: Dissertations and Theses: The Humanities and Social Sciences Collection. This is the world’s most comprehensive collection of doctoral dissertations and master’s theses, containing citations to dissertations that were finished from 1861 to the present at over 1,700 universities worldwide. While the Library has had access for years to Dissertation Abstracts, this new database also includes the full text of most dissertations completed since 1997. (A significant number of works completed before 1997 are also available in full text.) Over 1,000 new PDFs are added to the database each week.

Now, instead of waiting for dissertations via Interlibrary Loan, researchers can access specific dissertations online, as well as browse for dissertations by topic or keyword, increasing the speed and depth of their research. Given that librarians frequently advise students to make use of dissertation bibliographies, this database allows for instant access to those source lists. Rob Haley, Interlibrary Loan Specialist, has noted that during the fall semester he received approximately 80 requests for dissertations. In the majority of cases he was able to direct the patron to the full text PDF, to which we now have access. Patrons were then able to obtain the dissertation immediately, which spared the Library the expense of obtaining a copy from another institution.

As with a number of other databases, it is possible to set up email alerts to notify you as new dissertations become available that match your search criteria. Users can also download dissertations which were submitted to the database with supplemental audio, video or other types of digital files.

—James Gulick is Bibliographer & Reference Librarian
Student Profile:  
Andrew (AJ) McGahran  
by Dawn Heckert

Everyone at Haverford knows the front desk (a.k.a., the circulation desk). This visible desk is continuously staffed during Library hours. As many as 30 students work shifts throughout the week. Andrew McGahran (“AJ”) is one of those dedicated students. A senior chemistry major, he has been employed in Fran Blase’s lab for the past two summers, working on the total synthesis of two medically relevant, naturally occurring compounds. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in organic chemistry.

AJ has varied responsibilities. Much of his work is at the desk itself. He circulates books, DVDs, journals and reserve items to patrons. When patrons return these items, he ensures that they have been removed from the patron’s record and are ready to be returned to the shelves. He renews items that patrons still need. In addition, he fields all kinds of questions. He tutors patrons on how to find materials in Tripod, our catalog, and then helps them locate these items in our library or one of the branches. He also shows patrons how to request an item if it is located at one of our partner libraries, and how to check their patron records online. He refers other questions, such as help with a research topic, to the appropriate librarian.

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Staff News & Notes  
Compiled by Mike Persick

The Library is thrilled to welcome our new Librarian of the College, Terry Snyder. Terry comes to us from the Hagley Museum in Delaware, where she was Deputy Director responsible for the Library Division. She brings with her the experience of leading several major projects to improve the Hagley’s library buildings and services, including the renovation of an unimproved building into a collections storage space and the creation of a digital archive.


Adam Crandell, Music & Languages Librarian, attended the annual meeting of the American Musicological Society, held November 4–7, 2010 in Indianapolis, IN. Adam also attended the Music Library Association Annual Meeting, held February 9–12, 2011, in Philadelphia, PA.

Julie Coy, Bibliographic & Digital Services Assistant, and James Gulick, Bibliographer & Reference Librarian, attended the 99th Annual Conference of the College Art Association, held February 9–12, 2011, in New York City.

Norm Medeiros, Associate Librarian for Bibliographic & Digital Services, was the keynote speaker at the National Information Standards Organization E-Resource Management Forum, held October 2010 in Chicago, IL. Norm’s talk, “What Value Do ERMS Bring to Libraries?” identified the deficiencies of electronic resource management systems relative to the goals established by the Digital Library Federation’s Electronic Resource Management Initiative.
The Al Qaeda Statements (continued from p. 1)

intelligence. They have distributed texts, including terrorist statements, through World News Connection, a subscription service. Many of their translations are in Haverford’s Al Qaeda database. World News Connection has even given us permission to make their statements available to the general public. However, in a twist Orwell

would savor, the Open Source Center last May cut off access to translations from terrorist websites. Now only government employees and contractors with security clearances can see the statements. Magill Library has filled this information gap with a subscription to SITE Intelligence Group Monitoring Service (www.siteintelgroup.org), a news and document website dedicated to terrorist research. Haverford was the second school in the U.S. to subscribe to SITE. Regrettably, users outside of Haverford are not able to see SITE’s documents in the Al Qaeda database due to license restrictions.

Mendelsohn’s long-term plans for the terrorism research site include expanding statement coverage to Al Qaeda affiliate groups. He is also interested in ways in which the statements may be used in quantitative studies. This resource is unique in combining a large collection of fully searchable Al Qaeda statements with thematic subject and contextual indexing. Researchers outside of Haverford have already expressed interest in using the materials that are available to the general public.

—Margaret Schaus is Bibliographer & Reference Librarian

The Library Newsletter is available on the Web at
www.haverford.edu/library/about/news

From the Librarian (continued from p. 1)

and strengthen partnerships within the Haverford College community, and the Tri-Co community at large, to realize the best possible Library offerings. These areas are only some of the avenues of exploration. Ultimately we seek to create a robust, technologically smart Library space that will serve as a dynamic academic center where students will find opportunities to study, learn, research and generate new knowledge.

There is much to be excited about already. In this newsletter you will read about some of the current projects in which Library colleagues are engaged. One area, for example, includes digital preservation and access initiatives using DSpace. More recent efforts include: the digitization of retrospective theses from the Political Science Department and the Physics Department, a collection of Al Qaeda statements researched by faculty member Barak Mendelsohn and his student assistants, and the availability of the Journal of the Hellenic Diaspora in digital form. These are but a few examples, with many more to come.

I have enjoyed meeting and speaking with several students and faculty members in the short time I have been at Haverford. I look forward to many more conversations, and I invite you to contact me (at 610-896-1272 or tsn d yer@haverford.edu) with your ideas of how we might advance the Library in support of the College’s mission to fully educate students; Non doctior, sed meliore doctrina imbutus!

—Terry Snyder is Librarian of the College

A record in the Al Qaeda Statements collection
Student Profile (continued from p. 4)

AJ also shelves materials in our stacks and is responsible for the Art section, which he cleans and straightens once a week. He inventories it continuously, to ensure that our catalog is accurate and that the books are in good repair.

We are grateful to AJ and all the friendly, enthusiastic students who work at the Circulation Desk. They help to give a positive, service-oriented face to the Library.

— Dawn Heckert is Circulation Supervisor & Building Projects Manager

Librarian of the College: Terry Snyder
Library Newsletter Editor: Norm Medeiros

Contributors: James Gulick
              Dawn Heckert
              Mike Persick
              Margaret Schaus
              Dora Wong

The Library Newsletter is available on the web at www.haverford.edu/library/about/news/news.html

Please e-mail comments and suggestions to library@haverford.edu