

THE FINE PRINT

MURPHY LIBRARY UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE SPRING 1991 NO.7

New CD-Rom Titles Coming to Murphy

Recently added to Murphy Library's collection of CD-ROM (compact disc-read only memory) products are SPORT Discus and ABI/Inform (which covers business topics). The library acquired its first CD-ROM when ERIC, an educational database, was added in Spring of 1987 with the help of funding from the UW-L Foundation. The ERIC CD-ROM station has proven to be popular as it allows for multiple year or keyword searching and combining concepts (e.g. classroom environment and black students and higher education). Unlike online access, commercial CD-ROMs are fixed cost subscriptions for the year and are free to users.

The UW-L Foundation, in response to a grant submitted by Anita Evans, Pat Brunet and Sandra Sechrest, is again assisting with the acquisition of a CD-ROM title by funding a year's subscription to SPORT Discus. Whereas the library has the paper indexes corresponding to the ERIC database, SPORT Discus provides unique access to sport, physical education and fitness literature. This CD-ROM title produced by Sport Information Resource Centre replaces Sport Bibliography which up until 1987 was published in paper. Currently the database is only available in CD-ROM format or as an online service at the steep cost of \$93.00/contact hour. SPORT Discus covers several decades of research appearing in 1000 journals as well as books, conference proceedings, theses and reports and will be updated semi-annually. Some of the citations

include abstracts. It undoubtedly will become an essential resource for those engaging in sports and related disciplines research.

With major support from the College of Business Administration, a CD-ROM station featuring ABI/Inform was added. ABI/Inform goes beyond the paper indexes now in the collection such as Business Periodicals Index by indexing more than 800 business and management journals and providing a 150-word abstract for each citation. The subscription covers the latest 5 years of research and is updated each month for current references to a wide variety of articles on Accounting, Banking, Human Resources, Information Management, Insurance, Marketing, Taxation, etc.

Both SPORT Discus and ABI/Inform are located in the Murphy Library Basement. In addition to ERIC, the CD-ROM cluster in this area includes GPO Monthly Catalog, acquired last November. A number of Federal Documents depository items on CD-ROM have also recently arrived, which cover census information and business data. For more information about these products, contact Sandra Sechrest, Documents Librarian (8513).

Anita Evans
Online Services Librarian/Coordinator of
Public Services

Weeding Your Personal Library

Many faculty occupy offices lined with books and go home to houses and apartments similarly well stocked. These works represent a part of the instructors intellectual heritage but they also represent a tremendous outlay of hard earned cash, often from the tight-money years of graduate school and early teaching assignments. When the time comes to thin out or dispose of your accumulated books and journals, there are some general guidelines to think about so that one might get some of that money back.

There are three things you can do with your material: sell, donate, or discard. Perhaps the first step is to discard the obviously worthless, including old textbooks, most book club editions and workbooks. There is virtually no market for textbooks or workbooks that are more than a year or two old and libraries don't want them either. Another worthless category is items in poor physical condition. Just like realtors who say the three important factors in housing value are location, location and location; used book dealers say the three things to remember about book value are condition, condition and condition. Each week AB/Bookman's Weekly provides a condition description that is generally used throughout the used book trade. Booksellers are looking for a book in "very good" or better condition, "very good" being described as a book that shows only small signs of wear - but no tears - on binding paper or dust jacket. If the work is scarce, it still may be marketable in less than "very good" condition, but the first thing a used or rare book dealer is going to ask is, what's the condition?

The decision whether to donate or sell will depend on the value of your collection and the amount of time and effort you are willing to expend in disposing of the material. Donating your collection to a library or institutional book sale may be the easiest path but may not give you the greatest return. Reviewing your collection for books to sell is worthwhile. There are books in offices on this campus that are marketable. One need only go to Special Collections in Murphy to see the Rulon-Miller catalogs of the Emerson Wulling Library, a

UWL emeritus professor of English, to see what value a faculty member's personal library can accrue.

There are some useful generalizations that can be made about what a general used book dealer will buy.

Scholarly paperbacks: Many general used book dealers in college towns like Madison will purchase these. They expect very good or better condition and pay 5% to 10% of the cover price.

General paperbacks: Specialty fiction and volumes from trade publishers have less resale value than scholarly paperbacks, but there are more places that cater to the general fiction reader. Most used book dealers won't touch trade paperbacks instead preferring to leave this business to paperback traders.

Scholarly monographs: Used book dealers are particularly interested in items from university or better respected presses like Knopf or Little, Brown. Again, condition is extremely important but so is content. As a rule of thumb, the greater the long term value of the content, the more likely the book will have a resale value. For example, a review of common market economics from the 1960's would probably remain unsoiled by human hands on either library or bookstore shelf whereas a scholarly monograph like Wm. Guetzman's 1959 Army Exploration in the West is still a highly regarded resource and sells for around twelve times its original sale price.

Some disciplines have an inherent advantage in getting cash for their books, specifically history, literature, art, photography, folklore, music, natural history, geology and history of science. This is because many of the works in these fields remain useful (and thus sellable) years or decades, after first publication. On the other hand, there are a number of disciplines where the intrinsic value declines quickly. This is particularly true in education, computer science, the hard sciences, almost all business fields, public administration, political science, psychology, medicine, sociology and physical education. There are,

of course, exceptions: Seminal works, certain illustrated works, i.e., atlases of physiology, biography of notable individuals in the field, and works of historical interest in the field. John von Neumann's Theory of Games and Economic Behavior (Princeton Univ. Pr., 1944) will probably have more value than all the subsequent works published on game theory. A first edition of this work sold for \$400 just a few years ago.

First editions really do count in the used and rare book trade. Second and subsequent printings have little value which is also true for ex-library copies. Dust jackets greatly increase the value, do not discard them if you think you will ever sell your books. Depending upon condition, the presence of the dust jacket can more than double the value of the work. Uncorrected proofs and prepublication copies are worth selling, particularly for works of fiction.

To estimate the dollar value of books you have, you can either hire a book dealer to do an appraisal or check one of the many price guides available such as American Book Prices Current or Bookman's Price Index both annuals and both available at Murphy Library. They generally list titles valued at \$50 or more. The La Crosse Public Library has Mandeville's Used Book Price Guide which comes out every five years and includes books valued from \$15 and up. Mandeville's is the easiest to check. Avoid the price guides you see at most bookstores like Walden's or B. Dalton. They are virtually useless since they list few titles and then only such rarities as one might never find.

What kind of offer can you expect from a dealer? For any title that a dealer might sell for under \$15-20, expect an offer of no more than \$1. For titles that might sell for \$20 to \$60, offers will probably range from 10% to 20% of sale price. As the resale value of the work increases so does the percentage you will be offered. A local prof. recently brought a couple of dozen works, which his researches estimated at \$450-\$500 retail, to a Twin Cities dealer who offered him \$125 or approximately 25% of the price guide estimation. Items which have a retail value of \$100 or more may bring between 30% - 60% of retail value. If

you chose the selling option you will generally find better prices for your material in the Twin Cities than in Madison or Milwaukee, and even better on the coasts.

There is another way to cash in your collection; donate it to a library (like Murphy). Tax ramifications of such a donation should be discussed with a qualified tax practitioner, such as a CPA, tax attorney or a tax service. Where you have a large number of books with a low value per item, you may be better served by donating the materials and taking a tax deduction.

Pat Brunet
Reference

New Disk Drive

Murphy Library received special System funds to purchase a new disk drive for LS/2000, the Library's Online Catalog System. Running out of disk space has been a special concern for the library in the last year, since we did not have the necessary capital to fund the purchase.

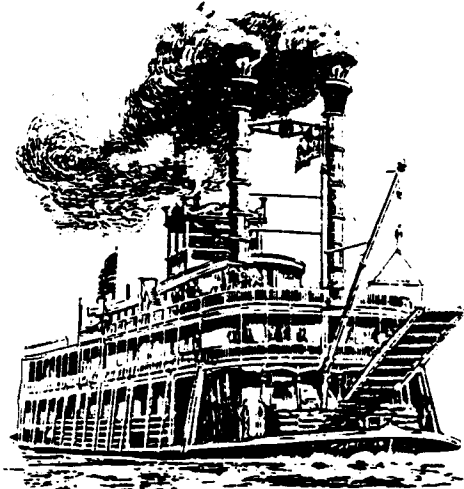
With the new drive the Library will have sufficient disk memory to meet our current and future (approximately five to ten years at current growth rate) space needs. These needs include more space to store the increased circulation records, to add new acquisitions, and to add collections currently not in LS/2000 (government documents, for example), and collections we would receive as part of the LRC Project.

Cathie Currier
Automation Librarian

FINE PRINT is published Fall and Spring Terms for UW-L faculty, staff, and students, and friends of Murphy Library.

James Huesmann, Editor
Dale Montgomery, Director of Library and Media Services
Edwin Hill, Department Chairperson

Steamboat Project



Murphy Library's Steamboat Project got a national boost recently. On the evening of March 20, the Nashville Network featured an hour-long special entitled "Banjos, fiddles, and riverboats", with musician and river pilot John Hartford. Murphy Library provided a number of photographic images for the program. During the last thirty seconds, Hartford encouraged viewers to send their old riverboat photographs to UW-La Crosse for copying. Murphy Library has what is believed to be the nation's largest collection of steamboat and river history photographs.

Wisconsin Public Television has completed filming and interviewing at Murphy Library for a special on the Mississippi River. "Mississippi Stories" was aired on Wisconsin Public Television on Wednesday, May 15 and Saturday, May 18. It will be repeated sometime in July.

Ed Hill
Archive/Special Collections

Escape to Wisconsin

The sequel to The Fine Print's Fall 1990 article on former library colleague, Mike Hanson, who was at the time trapped in Kuwait, is fortunately a happy one.

Mike returned to La Crosse on December 12th, having eluded Iraqi soldiers for four months before his capture and a brief stay at a strategic site.

Mike received a great deal of media attention when the Associated Press distributed a picture of him, taken in the Baghdad airport. The AP photographer was struck by the irony of the "Escape to Wisconsin" bumper sticker attached to Mike's backpack. The picture was picked up by the New York Times and a host of other newspapers throughout the U.S. Mike has been the subject of numerous articles, including one in the February issue of American Libraries.

There is much more to the story, and Mike has been spending much of his time speaking to schools and civic organizations. He addressed the Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians on April 18th in Eau Claire. Mike is also busy looking for a new position, amid much pressure from family and friends not to move too far from Wisconsin. As Garrison Keillor said, in delivering a welcome home greeting on his February 16th broadcast, "We're glad you're OK. We can't afford to lose a single librarian."

Cristine Prucha
Circulation Librarian

UW-La Crosse is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and is in compliance with Title IX and Section 504.

A Mid-Semester Night's Dream

"Who has a book of all that monarchs do, He's more secure to keep it shut than shown." Pericles gives this advice in Shakespeare's play by the same name. Hopefully our students are willing to take the risk and are actively engaged in discovering the books that chronicle the tragedies and triumphs of our ancestors and contemporaries. But to do this they will require the means to access the writings of and about those individuals. A recently produced instructional video uses the personage of Shakespeare to dramatize the need to become information literate.

"A Mid-Semester Night's Dream", a recently completed 16 minute library instruction video, provides students with examples of ways to productively access information at Murphy Library. In the video a student comes to the library looking for materials on the status of women in England during the time of Shakespeare. While doing her research she falls asleep and has a dream in which Shakespeare appears and assists her in her quest for information on this topic. Shakespeare, in a semi-humorous vein, walks her through the literature search process and attempts to dissuade her of her assumption that libraries are an impenetrable fortress.

The response thus far, based on casual observations, is that this instructional tool is accomplishing one of its primary goals and that is maintaining the interest of the students. The students are primarily from 100 level courses and are receiving their first introduction to the library. The video is followed by lecture and discussion of specific methods of searching the online catalog, periodical indexes, and other information sources. It generally has not been used for those courses whose students are engaged in discipline centered literature searching.

If you would like more information on this video or other bibliographic instruction possibilities please call Randy Hoelzen at Murphy Library. The phone number is 8637.

Randy Hoelzen
Bibliographic Instruction/ILL Librarian

Project Gutenberg

Some five hundred years ago, a German goldsmith named Johann Gutenberg developed a moveable type press. This invention produced books in greater volume at lower cost, and is credited as a causal factor in much of our history since that time. Today, the National Clearinghouse for Machine Readable Texts located in Urbana Illinois is attempting to replicate Johann's accomplishment by the year 2000.

Project Gutenberg is an attempt to produce information in greater volume and to lower costs to approximately one cent per book! Again, the tool is a new technology, electronic texts on compact disks. Their goal, according to Michael Hart, Director of Project Gutenberg, "...is to provide a collection of 10,000 of the most used books by the year 2000". Books are collected from individuals, private groups, and some libraries who have donated their labors in encoding these works into machine readable form.

The potential impact of this project is immense. Production of these books would be at a fraction of current costs. Transmittal of them could be by phone lines, disks, or electronic other formats. It would indeed bring closer the day when, as an e-mail message describing the project stated, "All materials will be available to all patrons from all locations at all times."

James Huesmann
Serials Librarian

MURPHY LIBRARY HOURS SUMMER 1991

June 10 - August 2

Monday-Wednesday	7:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday	7:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	Library Closed
Sunday	2:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 3	7:30 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 4	Library Closed
Friday, July 5	7:30 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 1	7:30 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.