

**Ashland University**

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**From the Selected Works of William B. Weiss**

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2007

# The Director's Docket

William B Weiss



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# **The Director's Docket**

**Excerpts from the Friends of the Ashland  
University Library Newsletter**

**Snapshots of Library History 1991-2007**

**(Latest columns appear first)**

## From the Director's Docket: The 2007 Mindset List



*Bill Weiss*

I am writing this column two weeks before the class of 2011 officially begins its first semester here at Ashland University, and our relatively quiet campus in early August will soon be alive with many newly-minted AU freshman students. Ten years ago my youngest child was also a college freshman and I had a pretty good reference point for under-

standing the mindset of an incoming college freshman.

Today I can rely on the Beloit College Mindset List to connect to the lifestyles and thoughts of each new college class. The list, begun in 1998, points out in thoughtful and sometimes humorous ways the notions and experiences each new freshman brings to campus.

Humanities Professor Tom McBride and Public Affairs Director Ron Nief identified 75 characteristics of eighteen year olds who will make up the majority of the entering freshmen students.

Some observations made of this group of young men and women are:

1. The Soviet Union has never existed and therefore is about as scary as the student union.
2. For most of their lives, major U.S. airlines have been bankrupt.
3. They have never heard anyone actually "ring it up" on a cash register.
4. Carbon copies are oddities found in their grandparents' attics.
5. There have always been live organ donors.
6. Oh, The Places You'll Go by Dr. Seuss has always been the perfect graduation gift.

What can be assumed about how our new students will regard libraries and college research assignments? The same list offers a few insights about incoming students' information-seeking habits:

1. They are wireless, yet always connected
2. "Google" has always been a verb.
3. Text messaging is their email.
4. Bar codes have always been on everything, from library cards and snail mail to retail items.
5. Being techno-savvy has always been inversely proportional to age.

Let me add, with restrained humor, a few more predictable descriptors of our A.U. incoming class concerning their perception of library matters.

1. Libraries have always been equipped with computers. The card catalog has never existed for them. "Card catalog" is something that brings up images of greeting cards on e-card websites.
2. There is no plausible use for a 3 x 5 inch index card with a centered hole at the bottom of the card.
3. Putting things in alphabetical order has always been an automated process governed by the rules of computer logic.
4. The Encyclopedia Britannica is thought of as their grandparents' Wikipedia.
5. Cut and paste and printing from the campus network have curtailed use of the campus photocopier.
6. Online chatting with a reference librarian has become a comfortable alternative to talking with a reference librarian.
7. The database and the website have replaced the catalog as the research tool of choice.

Every college class has its world-view and its way of approaching the college experience. We celebrate the energy that each new class brings to campus, and we librarians accept the mindset that students bring to their library experience. We hope to expand that mindset so that students may fully engage their intellectual curiosity.

Many roads lead to Rome, and we hope the college experience includes multiple approaches to intellectual growth and development. Welcome class of 2011. The library has excellent tools to assist you with the many paths of inquiry you can pursue. The OhioLINK library catalog contains 9.8 million unique master records from its 85 institutions. Over 27,000 electronic periodicals and 34,000 electronic books are available through the library website. A collection of over 300,000 monograph volumes await your perusal at the AU and Seminary libraries. We hope you travel down many an intellectual path and we, as your college librarians, are here as your guides. Best wishes and good luck to you.

Bill Weiss,

*Director of the Ashland University Library*

**To learn more about the Beloit College Mindset List:**  
***[www.beloit.edu/pubaff/mindset](http://www.beloit.edu/pubaff/mindset)***

## From the Director's Docket: Library in 2013



Bill Weiss

This August the library completed a self-study as part of the University's Academic Program Review. The library and all academic departments are periodically reviewed by a faculty committee and an outside evaluator. Astonishing changes have occurred in the library since our last academic program review in 1999. The library joined OhioLINK in late 1999 after its first self-study was completed. Little or no mention was made in

that first self-study of statewide OhioLINK book circulation, OhioLINK databases, the OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center, electronic reserves, web-based resources linked through the library catalog or electronic books and journals. Today these are common and important components of library service.

One can only wonder about changes to library service in the next seven years. Will they be as momentous as those in the past seven years, or have we seen a peak in the pace of innovative change? Indeed, it is dangerous to be a futurist. I have a friend who thought about being a consultant in that field. Uncertain of his future he reconsidered and is now happily employed as a travel agent. The future is challenging to envision. If you don't hold me to these predictions, I will try to imagine the AU library in 2013.

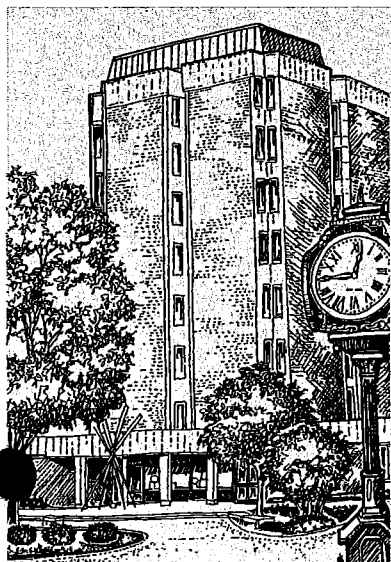
- Digital access will replace print access as the preferred method of research. We will be purchasing more digital and less print material. The split in the acquisitions budget will be 80% digital, 20% print.

- More space will be devoted to group learning and social activities. There will be a coffee shop for refreshment and conversation. Infrequently used materials may be withdrawn, moved to remote storage or shelved more efficiently.
- The library will be open 24 hours a day most days during the school year.
- Librarians will communicate more frequently with patrons through email, chat services and instant messenger systems.
- Students will be expected to have their own laptop computers or handheld devices, and wireless access to library resources will be widely available.
- User expectations will continue to outpace library delivery methods.
- For-profit information services will be available for graduate students and faculty just as tutors are now available for difficult academic courses.

It would be tempting to hedge my predictions and say that some changes will take longer than seven years, but then I remember back to seven years ago when e-mail and telnet were the most exciting applications running through our fledgling fiber optic network, and I realize how quickly times have changed. I think I'll stay with the seven-year timeframe. The next library academic program review will tell if I am right or wrong.

Bill Weiss,

*Director of the Ashland University Library*



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**Friends of The Ashland University Library Newsletter** is published annually by the AU Friends. The AU Friends Newsletter helps promote the Ashland University Library - its staff, services and programs as a cultural resource of the Ashland community.

## From the Director's Docket: Library as Place



The "library as place" has become a common term in the library literature. It is one of three key indicators in LibQUAL the most commonly used statistical tool for evaluating library service. The other indicators measure library personnel and library materials. Libraries that receive high marks in the "library as place" category are those that provide well designed space for individual study as well as community space for group learning

and study. These libraries integrate people and materials in a comfortable and inviting way to inspire study, research, collaboration and learning.

I am encouraged by this emphasis on the physical environment in libraries. With the expensive investment in information technology, the emergence of campus networks and the huge increase in digital information, some have predicted that library buildings would become obsolete. When students can access library resources from their rooms, classrooms, laboratories and even from under a shady tree in the Quad, why would they come to the library? They will come and come in even larger numbers when academic libraries provide ways to meet the changing needs of digital age researchers.

American colleges and universities invest almost a half-billion dollars every year in new and renovated academic libraries. I recently visited the new library at Valparaiso

University. Dedicated in 2004 the Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources houses all library and information technology services. Library and information technology assistants greet visitors and patrons at the information desk. Books, computers, group and individual study spaces mix comfortably on every floor. There are 2,400 network connections in this 105,000 square foot, four story structure. Wireless laptop connectivity is available from any location. Three of the floors have a fireplace lounge, and the *Grinders Café* provides a full service coffee bar.

Valparaiso is obviously proud of its new facility and very impressed with the number of students visiting each day. One of the library director's comments struck me in particular. He said that when library clerks straighten up in the mornings, they often find library books piled up from the previous evenings at computer workstations. This is how it should be. The Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources has become the "place" to be, to collaborate with colleagues, to drink coffee by the fireplace, to check email, to browse the web and to use the rich and irreplaceable collection of library books and resources.

Valparaiso's old library was built in 1959. Ashland's Library was opened in 1972.

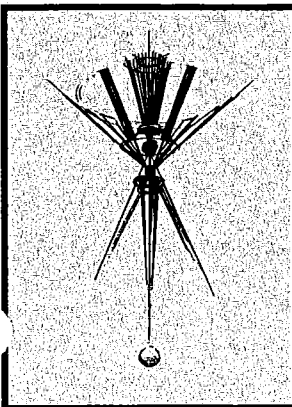
Ashland's library is due for a refurbishing. When that is proposed and funded, we will look to models like Valparaiso's to contemplate our library of the future. The implementation of a plan making the most of our library as "place" is something to look forward to.

Bill Weiss,

*Director of the Ashland University Library*

### Friends Fall Luncheon

Please join the Friends of Ashland University Library for our annual luncheon meeting on Saturday, October 29, in the Heritage Room, Myers Convocation Center. The social hour begins at 11:30 a.m., with a luncheon of Chicken Veronique served at noon. Registration is \$15.00 per person. Please reserve soon; seating is limited. Reservations must be made before October 27, 2005 by calling the library at 419-289-5400, mailing the enclosed form with a check, or e-mailing your reservation request, including the number in your party, to [kvenditt@ashland.edu](mailto:kvenditt@ashland.edu)



### AU Friends Executive Committee

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Thomas Winemiller**

## From the Director's Corner: Positive Observations – Statistical and Personal



Bill Weiss

I want to share with you some positive indicators of good things happening at the AU Library. The library directors of the thirty-nine Ohio independent college and university libraries meet in Columbus for quarterly OhioLINK updates. OhioLINK membership consists of all the academic libraries in Ohio. The other forty-eight library directors meet in groups representing public universities, medical and law schools and community colleges

in Ohio. Naturally, when my group of private college and university librarians meet, I want Ashland University's library to compare favorably when we look at each other's library statistics. There is plentiful statistical data with which to compare our libraries. Recently I discovered some comparative library statistics which put Ashland University's library in good light.

Three statistical comparisons indicate the depth of AU library service and scholarly use of the AU library. Annual independent college and university library statistics submitted to the State Library of Ohio reveal that AU students received more formal bibliographic instruction classes than any other institution except one. Also, recent OhioLINK circulation statistics show that only Kent State University students used the "pick-up a book at any OhioLINK location" option more than AU students. Clearly AU is a leader in serving the off-campus student population. Lastly, annual publisher statistics are kept on the number of full-text journal articles viewed by users in OhioLINK libraries. Last year AU ranked number four in a list of library users downloading articles from Wiley, a publisher of some 400 academic titles. Only students at Xavier, John Carroll and Kenyon used this periodical database more than students at AU.

Although the statistical evidence is validating, there is additional anecdotal evidence to show that the library is thriving. This summer I was reminded again of the role the library plays as a center for scholarly activity. We are indeed more than a storage facility for print and electronic resources. We are a physical site for professional interaction and intellectual challenge. Several events made the library a busy place this summer. High school teachers from 22 states made use of the library and its resources as they participated in the 2004 Ashbrook Teachers Institute. This is a highly competitive program for teachers to broaden their understanding and appreciation of American History. The library was also pleased to provide facilities for educators in gifted education and special education workshops and activities for teachers and students.

This summer we had the opportunity to host three fellows in the Dissertation Writing Fellowship Program. This program sponsored by the College of Education provides social and professional support to students from historically underrepresented groups in the writing of their doctoral dissertations. The library provided offices and support for doctoral degree candidates at The University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana, the University of Arkansas and the New Mexico State University. The AU library staff assisted each fellow in very specific areas of her doctoral research. At the conclusion of the four week program, each fellow was highly complimentary of the program, the faculty and librarians who assisted in their research and writing, and the friendly and productive environment at the Ashland campus.

The positive experiences of our visiting scholars are as important as the statistical evidence we can gather about our collection and services. I could point to many more positive indicators that the library is thriving as a center of learning and intellectual activity. Suffice it to say that the Friends of the AU Library can be proud of the library and the role it plays on a flourishing and expanding campus.

Bill Weiss, Library Director

### Essay Contest Winners

Congratulations to Diana Wagner and Jacob Louis Waldenmaier, the undergraduate and graduate winners of the Human Nature Essay Contest sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland University Library. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends, Diana and Jacob each received a check for \$350.00

Diana is a first year student and was encouraged to enter the contest by her Introduction to University Life professor. Her essay is entitled *Human Nature: Self Centeredness*. Jacob is a Master of Divinity student at the Seminary. His essay is entitled *Meditation on Authenticity and Insecurity*.

## From the Director's Corner: Human Nature and the Librarian



This fall the College of Arts and Sciences is offering a lecture series entitled, "Against Indifference: A Symposium on Human Nature." Four noted speakers will present evening lectures on various philosophical, religious and scientific aspects of the question "What is human nature?" No one expects unanimous agreement or an answer by the end of the symposium, but the Ashland community will gain much just by debating the issue.

The community will not be indifferent to the question, and that is the symposium's goal.

The Library Friends Executive Committee wants to encourage reflection on the question and has funded a student essay contest on human nature. The essay title, prize and requirements are not yet determined, but I have been giving the topic some thought. What perspective might a librarian bring to the concept of what human nature is?

When your professional life is immersed in books, libraries and intellectual pursuit, you realize that humans are inquisitive, argumentative and creatively restless. These are inher-

ent human characteristics, and we have learned how to express these characteristics to one another. The writer of the Book of Ecclesiastics was correct, "...of making many books there is no end..." Eccl:12:12. If these are true human characteristics then the debate concerns their source. Is this constant intellectual searching environmentally or biologically determined? Is it preordained by a creator? Can it be both biological and spiritual? Is it a curse or a blessing? Attempting to answer these questions is where we lose consensus.

Librarians engage in a profession of obtaining, classifying, organizing, storing and dispersing what is known as the collective wisdom of the ages. What we do facilitates inquisitiveness, argumentation and creative restlessness, all of which generally improve our human condition. What are your thoughts on the topic of what human nature is?

The symposium is free and open to the public. Further announcements about the symposium will be forthcoming. Please attend, invite your friends and contribute to the dialogue. Your thoughts will be appreciated. Ashland University thanks the Friends of the Ashland University Library for sponsoring the student essay contest. The winning essay or essays will be published in the next Friends newsletter.

## What's New at the Library

### "Pickup Anywhere"

#### Borrowing Option Now Available

The shared OhioLINK catalog allows students and faculty to order materials from any of the participating OhioLINK libraries. Until recently, users could only pick up their requested items at their own campus library.

Starting in early July, OhioLINK initiated the Pickup Anywhere service. Now users have the option of picking up a requested item at whichever OhioLINK library is most convenient for them. The Pickup Anywhere option is especially useful for our distance learners and for others who do not live near campus.

#### OhioLINK Adds Digital Video Collection

Through OhioLINK, the Ashland University community now has computer access to the Digital Video Collection which has been added to the Digital Media Center (DMC). The Digital Video Collection currently contains over 380 videos covering a wide range of subjects. Approximately 800 titles were purchased from the distributor Films for the Humanities and Sciences. The videos in this collection are available for viewing and downloading. Records for the Digital Video Collection will soon be added to library catalogs.

### Library Goes Wireless

Students may not only check out a book or a video from the library, but they may also check out a wireless laptop computer. In 2001, AU installed a wireless network permitting students to use laptops in several locations. The laptops may be checked out from the library Copy Center and used on the first two floors of the Library or out on the campus quadrangle. Students may use the laptop computers to access the library's journal databases, search the book catalog, check e-mail, surf the Internet, write a paper, prepare a spreadsheet or access any of the university's 175 networked applications. The service has been extremely popular with students who find them wonderful for times when the other library computers are in use, for group work, or for just curling up and researching in a quiet corner.

## The Director's Docket: Things Change and Things Remain the Same

The Executive Committee approved significant changes in the bylaws of the Friends of the Ashland University Library at its May 23rd meeting. After a brief discussion of dissolution, which was unanimously rejected, the Executive Committee decided to focus its efforts on building an endowed fund to be called the Friends of the Ashland University Endowed Fund. Recognizing that healthy endowments are essential to Ashland University's continuing success and development, ten thousand dollars was committed for the initial contribution in 2002. Subsequent contributions will be made each year from proceeds of the Friends membership campaign.

Reports on the growth of the endowment will be given at the annual meeting held each September. Attendance at the annual spring meeting has been declining, and it was decided to have one meeting each year in the fall.

Other clarifications were made to the bylaws, but the original Declaration of Purpose (Article II) remains as clear and precise as when it was first proposed in February 1978. The bylaw authors spoke eloquently of the place of the library in

the university's life. That description follows and is dedicated to the memory of John Lacey, a founding author of the Friends original bylaws.

The Ashland University Library stands over the city like a beacon, guiding pathways to individual excellence, community service, and the flowering of the human spirit. Professional competence, scholarly accomplishments and spiritual enlightenment are all nurtured here, radiating outward over the years through countless Ashland University students, alumni, and faculty into every field of human endeavor and every facet of community life; religion and philosophy, education and research, commerce and industry, marketing and banking, agriculture and labor, sports and recreation, family and home.

When change seems constant and relentless, it is good to know that the vision of the AU library in the Executive Committee's view remains the same as ever. Libraries are indeed a beacon and a constant guide along the human pathway. Thank you John Lacey.

## From the Friends President...



During the past two years, it has been my pleasure to be your President of the Friends of the Ashland University Library. And during this brief two year period, I continue to be amazed at the changes that are almost daily taking place in delivering knowledge and information. We can hardly believe how the Internet and other technological marvels have changed our lives.

This calls to mind what one of my favorite ladies, my mother-in-law, Winifred Kitchen, used to say, "There's one thing you can always count on! CHANGE!"

In fact, I am reminded that in one of my earlier newsletters I shared with you the prediction that by now our communication technology would be so advanced that it would be possible to send 90,000 volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica to anywhere in the world in ONE SECOND! Now, that's really incredible!

And while we are not traveling at the speed of light, the Friends are making progress too! In another part of this newsletter, Bill Weiss informs you how we have streamlined the Friends organization to better serve both you, as members, and the AU Library. Your Executive Committee has endorsed these changes, and we all believe they will strengthen the Mission of the Friends to aid and assist the Library, while continuing to give us an annual opportunity to get together to enjoy our common interest in books, while learning something new in the process. In addition, we believe we will be able to greatly enhance our opportunities to raise money for the University Library by being a part of the endowment process.

I want to thank you for your positive support of the Friends, and hope that you will continue to renew your membership AND encourage your personal friends to join you in supporting this interesting and worthwhile cause.

— Tom Winemiller  
President



## From the Friends President: Have You Seen the Light?



No, I'm not talking about a spiritual experience, although that is certainly of monumental importance to every human being. What I am asking you to think about though, is the new focus on LIGHT that has occurred in our scientific community. We've known for some time that nothing travels faster than light. Now, with the advent of the Internet and World Wide Web, scientists and entrepreneurs

are finding new and exciting ways to harness light to accomplish with "photons" what Gutenberg accomplished with moveable type!

Consider this: It can now be reliably predicted that in eighteen to twenty-four months, one of several high tech companies will have found an efficient way to send a tril-

lion bits of information per second on the Internet! That's the equivalent of 90,000 volumes of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in one second!

Although I can't promise that belonging to the Friends of Ashland University Library will keep you fully aware of such scientific breakthroughs, I can promise that we will try to whet your appetite about some of these exciting happenings...and how they affect your love of books.

That's why I urge you to consider inviting a friend to join "The Friends."

We need your help and enthusiasm to swell our ranks, not just for the sake of the numbers, but to ensure excellent programs for the future. So, in the style of Frank Laubach's famous words, "Each one, teach one," I am asking you to adopt the slogan, "Each one, invite one."

Thank you for your help.  
—Tom Winemiller, President

## The Director's Docket: A Cloud of Witnesses



The biblical reference to a *cloud of witnesses* (Hebrews 12:1) appeals to me as such a poetic way to refer to those who have preceded us and share with us some meaningful relationship. As I write this column for the newsletter announcing the 25<sup>th</sup> annual fall meeting of the Friends, I wonder about those in the *cloud of witnesses* who would take particular pleasure in celebrating the silver

anniversary of this wonderful group.

I know only a few of your past presidents and executive committee members. I wonder about the earlier boards; those that established the fledgling organization; those that encouraged the library and Ashland College as it experienced difficult and doubtful years. I wonder about the executive committees before I arrived in 1991; those boards that brought enlightening speakers to campus and whose fund raising efforts enabled the library to add so many extras. I can imagine their pleasure in a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

As we celebrate libraries on this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Friends, I also wonder about my predecessors. I have known only two of the library's former directors, Dwight Robinson and the late Darwyn Batway. What of the others? What were their dreams and aspirations? What would they think of academic librarianship in the twenty-first

century? I am proud to follow in their footsteps. Each cared for the tradition of scholarship and intellectual inquiry and each provided the building and the collections and the personal guidance to encourage students and faculty members in scholarly pursuits.

And, lastly, I wonder about the library staffs that preceded mine. Who wrote the entries in those early accession books? Whose penmanship added the accession number so neatly in every book? What staff added those handwritten titles into the early library ledgers? Who added the embossed property stamp onto each title page? Whose pen added the hand written, white-inked Dewey call numbers on every spine label, and who typed a new LC call number for every spine label when the library changed its classification system? Who mastered the complexities of library automation as we progressed from handwritten library cards to typewritten cards to photocopied catalog card stock to machine produced cards to microfilm catalogs and finally to computerized catalogs? They might all marvel at the changes they helped bring about.

Now it is my turn to salute the Friends on the occasion of their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and I do so on behalf of all those past and present, paid and volunteer, who contributed to the library's success. There is truly a *cloud of witnesses* to thank for our progress as we celebrate the Friends 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and as the Library enters a new and challenging era. A heartfelt congratulations to "Friends" past and present and very best wishes for the future.

—Bill Weiss, A.U. Library Director

## The Director's Docket: Bright Future for the Academic Library



Bill Weiss

academic libraries, and I would like to share that vision with you.

I will take slight exception with Marcum and point out that the bright future she envisions already exists in many respects. Academic libraries are already digital and make connections to new digital resources daily and at an astonishing rate. The playing field between small and large libraries has been leveled because smaller libraries, through consortial arrangements, have access to the same databases formerly found only in the larger, better-endowed libraries. Libraries and technology centers on campus have already formed alliances that are mutually beneficial. Now and in the future, books will coexist with electronic materials, and both formats have technological,

economic and ecological advantages. Librarians are already selecting the most appropriate format based on these distinct advantages.

Libraries will continue to get value from the dollars invested in them. Too often when we think of the future, we discard the past. Often we mistakenly assume that what was valuable in the past has less relevance for the future. The academic library of the future, as it does today, will incorporate the best traditions of the past. Our libraries will house both print and electronic material; storage and retrieval of information will be both linear and electronic; printed text and hypertext will coexist. Libraries will house physical collections and provide electronic links to different resources at other sites. They will be valued as edifices and interfaces. Instead of being "libraries without walls" they will be "libraries without walls within walls." None of the traditional roles of libraries will go away. In addition to providing access to information beyond their walls, libraries will continue to offer excellent physical collections plus comfortable facilities for contemplation, research, socialization, and human interaction. And finally within these library walls, researchers will have information mediators (i.e., librarians) to facilitate a myriad of intellectual pursuits common to an academic community. This is the vision that most of my colleagues and I have for the future.

—Bill Weiss, AU Library Director

## Friends Spring Luncheon to be Held May 6

Please join the Friends of Ashland University Library for their Spring Luncheon on Saturday, May 6, in the Accent Room, at the Myers Convocation Center. The social hour begins at 11:00 a.m., with lunch served at noon. Luncheon selections are beef with mushrooms or chicken

cordon bleu, at \$9.00 per person. Please make your reservations before May 3 by either calling the library at (419) 289-5400, mailing the enclosed form with a check, or e-mailing your reservation request, including the number in your party and menu selection, to [kvenditt@ashland.edu](mailto:kvenditt@ashland.edu).

## Jennifer Zaleski – Dwight Robinson Award Winner



Jennifer Zaleski

Congratulations to student employee, Jennifer Lynn Zaleski, who has been selected as the recipient of the Dwight Robinson Award for outstanding student library employees. Established by the Friends in 1986 as a tribute to former library director Dwight Robinson, the scholarship is awarded annually to the one student who best meets the criteria of scholarship and exceptional library service.

Jennifer is a junior from Girard, Ohio with a double major in psychology and marketing. When she graduates next year, she hopes to combine her interests and obtain a position with a marketing research firm in the field of consumer behavior studies. On campus, she is the president of American Marketing Association, an executive member of Community Care, a Community Service intern and a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.

Jennifer has been a circulation assistant in the library for 3 years. According to Head of Circulation Brenda Mathers, "Jen was selected for her efficiency and initiative."

Jennifer will be invited to sit as a student member of the Friends Executive Committee.

You will have a chance to meet this outstanding young woman when she is introduced to Friends at the Spring Luncheon in May.

## The Director's Docket – A Summer in the Library



By the time you read this, AU's fall semester will have begun. But as I write this, we are in the middle of a July heat wave and I appreciate working in an air-conditioned environment. Let me tell you what summers are like for us at the Library. Staff members leave for vacation and return with tales of travel excitement or rest and relaxation.

The dress is a bit more casual than during the school year, and in general, the atmosphere is more relaxed. It is in this relaxed environment that the library staff has the pleasure of serving our summer patrons. We see many K-12 teachers and administrators using these summer months to continue their graduate studies, whether it is toward the Masters in Education (MED) or the Doctorate in Education (EdD). We also see students working toward their MBAs. Undergraduates take advantage of summer classes to complete course requirements. Summers afford us the opportunity to become better acquainted with our international students, many of whom do not go home for the summer or are in the year-round ACCESS program. Faculty and staff visit us, also. Some check out new books or other materials put off for reading until the summer, others come to read the

paper, place materials on reserve, conduct research in our online catalog and reference databases, visit a web site, and in the case of one new father, wheel a delightful, curly-haired baby girl around the reference room.

In the summer we can eat lunch on the umbrella-shaded College Ave. patio. The bees seem to be behaving themselves this year. For a break some of us may visit the Eagles' Nest a bit too often to sample what we believe are the best pastries in town. And always, during our comings and goings we appreciate the beautiful impatiens beds and hosta patches. How in the world, we wonder, did that stray purple impatiens end up in an otherwise perfectly planted patch of red impatiens?

Yes, we are enjoying our summer at the Library. Rest assured we are also hard at work preparing for a record enrollment and an ambitious program of library instruction. There is an astonishing array of new databases and research tools to become familiar with that recently became available through our OhioLINK consortium. With all the potential for educational and research opportunities in this information age, there has never been a more exciting time to be a librarian, and at this very moment, with the temperature outside approaching 95 degrees and the humidity almost 75 percent, there has never been a better place to work than the Library. The Library is indeed a "cool" place to work in more ways than one.

## Genealogy Web Sites

Any public librarian can tell you about the booming interest in genealogy among all sectors of the population. Whether you are a descendant of the Mayflower visitors or more recently arrived to our shores, an interest in one's roots is universal. And genealogical research has never been as fun or as rewarding as research done in the modern computer age. To supplement our fall speaker's talk on genealogy, we offer a few web sites recommended as particularly useful for genealogical research.

- Cyndi's List. Considered a mega-hubsite of the genealogical world. Cyndi Howells has brought together many sites of interest to genealogists. Access: <http://cyndislist.com>

- Ohio Gen Web Site. The central source for Ohio genealogical research. Access: <http://www.scioto.org/OHGenWeb>
- Rootsweb Data Coop. An extensive searchable database of surnames and links. Access: <http://rootsweb.com>
- Treasure Maps. A first-timer's guide to genealogical research on the Web. Access: <http://www.Firstet.com/fv/tmaps.html>
- USGenWeb Project. Provides a complete orientation to the genealogical resources available for a given state, county, or city. Access: <http://www.usgenweb.org>

## Ashland Joins OhioLINK

The Ashland University Library has joined OhioLINK and can look forward to a variety of benefits from membership in this broad-based consortium of Ohio academic institutions whose libraries participate in a central online catalog and circulation system. Originally founded to encourage resource sharing among the academic libraries in public colleges and universities, OhioLINK recently opened membership to private institutions. Ashland University joins seventeen other private college libraries awaiting full OhioLINK implementation in the spring semester of 1999.

Ashland's participation in OhioLINK allows faculty and students the use of computer terminals to search OhioLINK's central catalog of over 25 million items. University patrons request books directly without library staff assistance. Books are sent via a courier service and usually arrive within two or three days of a request. "Interlibrary loans, both to and from Ashland University will increase significantly," according to Brenda Mathers, Ashland University's head of Circulation Services.

The OhioLINK model is being copied in other states as it provides a state-of-the-art system for sharing resources in a cost-effective and efficient manner that benefits all participants. Bill Weiss, Library Director, predicts that in a short time it will be difficult to imagine an Ohio academic library not participating in OhioLINK. Full implementation is scheduled for the first day of the spring semester, Jan. 19, 1999.

## Library Catalog Now Has A Web Look

Recently the library added a web interface to its online catalog. Now one can search the catalog and circulation system using a World Wide Web browser, such as Netscape or Microsoft Explorer. A terminal version (telnet version) of the catalog is still available for dial-up users who do not have internet access. Web interfaces are popular among catalog users since they resemble the interface used in searching the internet. Additional works under "linked" authors and subject headings are easily retrieved. As an added benefit, web resources can be added as links in cataloging records making it possible to add literally millions of sources to the traditional card catalog. Visitors can view the web interface by following this path from the Ashland University home page: (<http://www.ashland.edu>) click on Library | click on AU Library Catalogs (Eagle PAC).



Bill Weiss

## The Director's Docket

This issue of *Friends* ushers in a new set of editors and marks the departure of a true friend of the Library. As Tom and Dee Shockney adjust to retirement status, Dee has turned over her duties as *Friends*' liaison and editor of *Friends* to others. I miss her already and realize anew the amount of work she did in putting together this newsletter. Countless *Friends* luncheons and special events were carried out under Dee's oversight. Thank you, Dee, for your organizational skills, your diplomatic wisdom, and your wonderful community spirit...all of which are irreplaceable. I am reminded again of the words of Emerson, "The only way to have a friend is to be one." Happy travels, my friend.

### Private Colleges and Universities in OhioLINK effective 7/98

Antioch College  
Ashland University  
Athenaeum of Ohio  
Baldwin-Wallace College  
Bluffton College  
Capital University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cedarville College  
College of Mount St. Joseph  
College of Wooster  
Defiance College  
Denison University  
Franciscan Univ of Steubenville  
Heidelberg College  
Hiram College  
John Carroll College  
Kenyon College  
Malone College  
Mount Carmel College of Nursing  
Mount Union College  
Mount Vernon Nazarene College  
Muskingum College  
Oberlin College  
Ohio Dominican College  
Ohio Northern University  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Otterbein College  
Tiffin University  
University of Dayton  
University of Findlay  
Ursuline College  
Wilberforce University  
Wilmington College  
Wittenberg University  
Xavier University



## The Director's Docket



*Bill Weiss*

Two of our librarians, Sue Ellen Ronk and Diane Skinner, attended the 13th annual "Computers in Libraries" national conference in Arlington, VA. In perusing the advance program announcement, I'm struck once again by how technology-focused my profession has become.

This conference is the big "techie" meeting of the year. Unquestionably, interest in this conference is growing every year and this is where growth and rapid change in the library is most evident.

I thought our readers might be interested in a few of the sessions available at the conference. You

might wonder and chuckle at some of the titles. Friends, the future is here.

*Teaching the Internet in 50 minutes*  
*Writing a Library Technology Plan*  
*Metadata and Network Retrieval*  
*To Filter or not to Filter*  
*A One-stop Shop for Electronic Journal Subscriptions*  
*Getting the Most from an Intranet Search Engine*  
*Digitization of Content: What's Legal, What's Not*  
*Virtualize or Drown!*  
*Webmasters Roundtable: Lessons Learned*  
*Building Digital Bridges in a Multi-Campus Environment*

I'm sorry Friends; I looked through 91 session offerings. I looked without success for our comfortable words...words like reading, books, enlightenment and enjoyment. I couldn't find them. But that's ok. This is the techie's conference. Techies are our friends. They are my colleagues and, in fact, in various degrees, we are all becoming techies. And guess what? At night, in their motel and hotel rooms waiting for another full day of conference sessions, at night they too enjoy the pleasures of a good book.

- Bill Weiss, Director  
 Ashland University Library

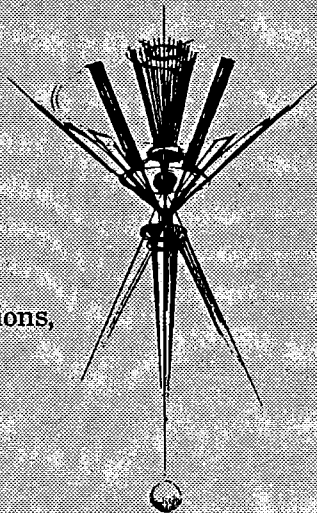
*Friends*

**Edited:** Dee Shockney

**Contributors:** Beverly Bixler  
 Doug Gunn  
 Bill Weiss

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 Ashland University  
 Graphic Arts Services  
 Printing Services



**Friends of The Ashland University Library Newsletter** is published two times during the academic year by the AU Friends.

The AU Friends Newsletter helps promote the Ashland University Library - its staff, services and programs - as a cultural resource of the Ashland community.





## The Director's Docket

### In Praise of Library Walls



Bill Weiss

For some time now I have been praising technological advances that allow people to use library and information resources from home, office, airport or virtually anywhere one can find an electrical outlet and communication port.

The "library without walls" is a common concept these days in library administration. One of my colleagues has

suggested that a more useful and accurate concept is the "library without walls centered within the library walls". I want to talk about great library buildings and the fun of being in them.

I think libraries are exciting - and the bigger the better. I suppose I've been influenced by my high school experiences using the New York Public Library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street. Teachers encouraged us to research our term papers at the NYPL. We would travel downtown, walk up the long stairs past the two stone lions, and find our way to the main reading room with miles and miles of catalog card cabinets. Having found the most appropriate books in a record three or four minutes we would take the call number slips to the head desk. There someone would assign us a number and send our requests through a pneumatic tube to some mysterious closed-stacks region of the library. We would wait patiently for our books to be delivered.

Waiting, we young scholars would have a chance to look over the huge reading room and watch the passing scene. What did we see?

Long rows of wooden tables, green shaded lamps, and in the hard wooden chairs all types of people: old men wearing yarmulkes reading books with strange-looking alphabets, students with engineering books and slide rules, intense looking intellectual types - each researching the next great American novel, business people reading an out-of-town newspaper or someone sent to the library by his grandfather to check the Bismarck, North Dakota, phone book and see if a long lost relative was still listed, as my grandfather had me do on more than one occasion.

It made a big impression on me. At the NYPL, I found something intriguing about the life of the mind. There was a sense of purpose in that building. I would have missed all that sitting at my home in front of a computer screen serving as my library without walls.

Have no doubt about it. Library building construction and renovation is alive and well. Cities are restoring their central libraries. Eighty-nine percent of referenda for public library buildings passed in 1996. The downtown Cleveland Public Library is undergoing a \$90 million library construction and renovation project.

Academic communities also pride themselves in having attractive and functional library facilities. Nearby, the College of Wooster and Case Western Reserve University have completed new library construction. The new University Library at CWRU is described as "an intellectual commons" - a place that encourages excitement and imagination. Yes, library buildings can enrich our lives.

- Bill Weiss, Director  
Ashland University Library

**Edited:**  
Dee Shockney

**Contributors:**  
Douglas Gunn, John Lacey, Beth Richmond, and Bill Weiss

**Photography:**  
Department of Public Relations, Ashland University and Ashland Times-Gazette

*Friends*

**Design & Printintng:**  
Ashland University Graphic Arts Services and Printshop Services

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## *The Director's Docket*

Last August, the Friends Executive Committee appointed an ad hoc sub-committee to consider purchases to enhance the Library's services and collections. In addition to sponsoring its programming—speakers, cultural events, contests and semi-annual luncheons—Friends of the Library contributions have been used to provide printed works, on-line CD-ROM encyclopedia, library furnishings and computer equipment. As one walks through the Library or browses its shelves, it isn't long before one notices a "Friends of the AU Library" plaque or book plate on a particularly attractive item -- enriched by the support of loyal Friends of the AU Library members.

This year's list of acquisitions, amounting to \$5,000, again demonstrates the variety of needs met by those who contribute to the Friends annual membership campaign:



*Encyclopedia of Cultural Anthropology*

*New York Times Index for 1994 and 1995*

*The Cambridge Companion Series in Literature*

*The Cambridge Companion Series in Philosophy*

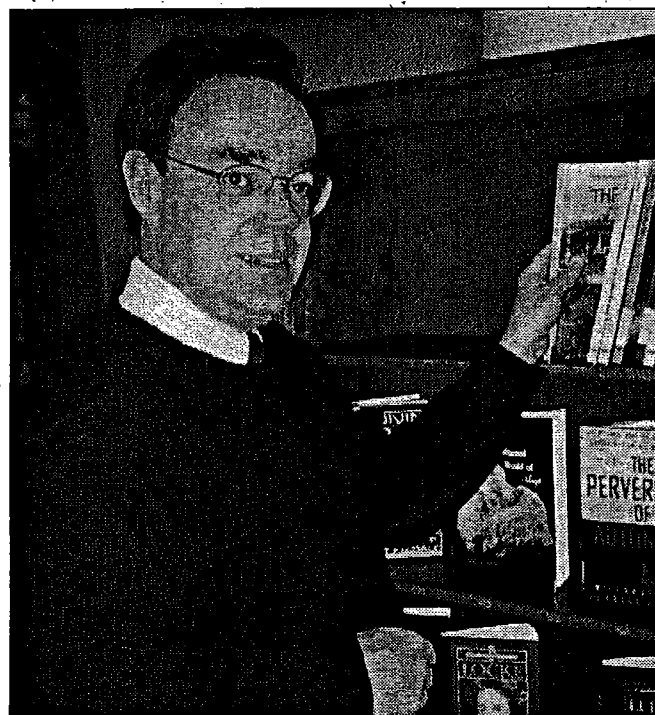
Five dictionaries for dictionary stands on Floors 2 through 6

Three-year periodical subscriptions to enhance current news and opinion holdings

Additions to the Snyder Poetry Collection.

Table lamp for the Snyder Poetry Reading area

17-inch high resolution monitor for Internet demonstration PC

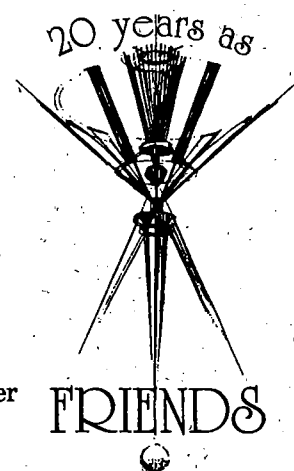


*Bill Weiss*

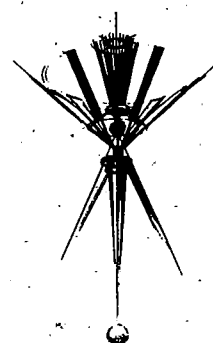
### **1996-97 AU Friends Executive Committee**

Dr. Elizabeth Richmond, President  
Dr. Douglas Gunn, President-Elect  
Dr. Betty June Myers, Secretary  
William Weiss, Treasurer

Bruce Bigham  
Dr. Beverly Bixler  
Dr. Glenn L. Clayton  
Cathleen Donges  
Richard Dus Sault  
John A. Lacey  
Dr. David Loyd  
Mary Alice Mielke  
Dee Shockney  
Mary Snyder  
The Rev. Thomas Snyder  
Rebecca Spangler  
Dr. George Spink  
Dr. David Tennent



# ASHLAND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



# *Friends*

Volume X, No. 2

Fall, 1996

## *Dr. Lucille Ford To Present Program at Fall Luncheon*

Dr. Lucille Garber Ford, former provost of Ashland University and university trustee, will present a program on "Evolving Role(s) of Libraries" at this year's Friends Fall Luncheon. It is scheduled for Saturday, September 21, at noon in the Accent Room, Myers Convocation Center.

Dr. Ford's affiliation with Ashland University brought her in close touch with library and research resources during her tenure. As provost, she was responsible for leadership of the University's ten degree programs, five schools' eighty majors, and graduate degree programs as well as numerous specialized programs on the main campus and 16 off-campus sites. She initiated and supervised the Interdisciplinary Studies Program, Honors Program, Freshman Studies Program, Campus Writing and Study Strategies Center, Provost Scholars, Faculty Mentor recognition and Faculty Development Program. As executive assistant to the University president during her final year, she chaired the campus' Strategic Planning effort. In 1995, she was given Ashland University's Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

She received her Ph.D. in economics from Case Western University and an M.A. in pastoral counseling from the Ashland Theological Seminary in 1995. Her bachelor of science degree and MBA degrees were completed at Northwestern University with an associate of arts degree from Stephens College, which awarded her the Distinguished Alumni Recognition.

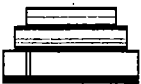
Today, Dr. Ford serves as president of the recently formed Ashland County Community Foundation. She and husband, Larry, are parents of two daughters and have two grandchildren.



*Bill Weiss and Lucille Ford in the Library's Rare Books Room.*

Menu choices for the luncheon include lasagna and chicken ala king. A salad, dessert and beverage accompany each meal. Luncheon reservations (\$7 each) can be mailed using the form included in this newsletter, or can be phoned-in to the AU Library (289-5400) by the September 17 deadline.





## *The Future of the Library, Its Shape and Philosophy*

It is worthwhile to look at the history of libraries to see what is happening to them today. One can discern at least three stages in library development with regard to their relationships to books or encapsulated information which have been their stock in trade.

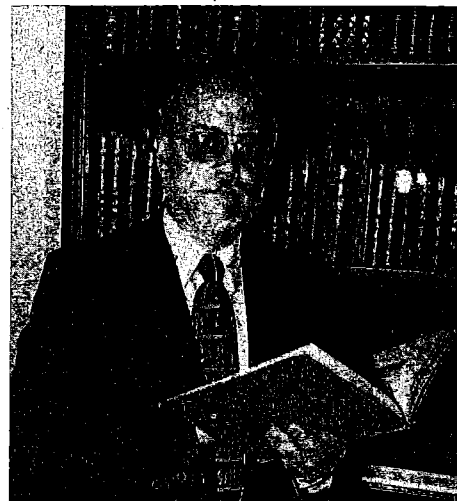
1. The most familiar image is the library as a place where information is deposited and made physically available to users. Books were deposited in libraries. Users went to libraries to use them or, in some cases, to check them out for temporary use elsewhere. Library staff selected books to be purchased and owned by the library, cared for the books, catalogued and shelved them so they could be quickly found.

2. With the proliferation of information, it soon became apparent that no library could have everything. Increasingly, libraries became cooperative lending institutions, shipping books from one location to another as needed. Users went to libraries to find where books might be located and to order them on "interlibrary loan." Library staff not only looked after their own books, but shipped them out to other libraries on demand and ordered books from elsewhere to meet the needs of their patrons.

3. Today, as more and more material is put online, the library becomes a place to go where computer terminals connect the user to databases and get directed to materials "owned" by other libraries. Shipping physical books back and forth is perhaps done less; manipulation of physical books becomes less important. The user comes to the library to use its terminals to get information "on line." Library staff spend less time working with books and placing orders than in helping patrons become familiar with computer linkages to information.

It is pretty clear what the next step could be. As the library becomes more and more a gateway or access point to electronic information, might library holdings (books, government documents, reference) be unnecessarily minimized? Once we have the promised 500 cable television channels and are wired into the Internet (or its successor), information searching can be accomplished from home or office. Indeed many students and individuals today are quite capable of bypassing the library in their search for information. Digitizing information means the downsizing of the library as an institution. If the role of the library now is as a provider for online access, the library could be in danger of being cut-out of the chain between the information seeker and the information he seeks.

Increasingly there will be problems of ownership of information and knowledge. If knowledge is power, as the old adage states, then knowledge is worth money. Quietly the computer software firms have been buying the rights to digitize museums, art collections and just

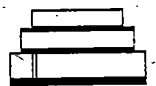


*Dr. Douglas Gunn*

about any form of information available out there *en bloc*. Note, for example, Bill Gates' purchase of the Bettman Archive, the world's largest collection of historical photographs. The "Wall Street Journal" (Jan. 17, 1996, B1) noted that Gates bought this collection of some 16 million images last year for an undisclosed sum. What will Bill Gates do with them? "A few Bettman images can already be viewed electronically for no charge on Corbins' World Wide Web site on the Internet, but the images are encrypted so they cannot be downloaded. Corbin will continue adding pictures during the next few years, and eventually plans to license the rights to download images and use them. The company will also begin incorporating Bettman images into CD-ROMs on subjects like art and history, which it will sell to consumers." Gates states his intention (and the intention of the industry as a whole) quite well in his book, *The Road Ahead*. The excerpt from "Working Woman" (Jan. 1996, pg 35) includes this comment on the future of the Internet, "Although a great deal of information from NASA photos to bulletin-board entries, will continue to be free, I believe the most attractive information, whether movies or databases, will continue to be produced with profit in mind." And as Bettman put it, "He now owns the history of everything."

Until now, we have had a system of state and privately owned repositories of information, cooperating with one another to provide easy access. In the future, we will have a system of businesses providing information for profit. Am I alone in being a little suspicious of this development?

— Dr. Douglas Gunn, Owner, Rowsburg Bookstore  
*Gunn is a member of the Friends of the Ashland University Library Executive Committee*



## From the Director's Docket

# Happy 25th Birthday OCLC Online Union Catalog



Bill Weiss

The OCLC Online Union Catalog, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary on August 26, 1996, began as an experiment in cooperative library cataloging between 54 Ohio academic libraries. In its inception, participating libraries were to share a common database of bibliographic records created by the Library of Congress and contribute original records when none existed.

Ashland College was one of those first 54 libraries. Today, 24 years later, OCLC includes thousands of libraries in 64 countries contributing to what has become the world's largest database of bibliographic information. The database contains more than 34 million bibliographic records which are linked to more than 560 million individual holdings at participating libraries. OCLC reports that titles in the catalog span 4,000 years of recorded knowledge in over 300 languages. Yes, the database lists more than 600 titles recorded in the 2000 B.C. to 1 B.C. period. The cooperative effort of libraries worldwide has produced a unique global resource of priceless value.

As part of its 25th anniversary celebration, OCLC is offering a \$1,000 grand prize for the winning essay on "What the OCLC Online Union Catalog Means To Me." This has led me to reflect on the Union Catalog's his-

tory in my career and the lessons of its success. OCLC and my library career are of the same vintage. I got my first library job at SUNY, Oneonta in 1973, two years after OCLC was born in Ohio. By 1974 the SUNY system decided to join OCLC. There was some debate within SUNY about the value to be derived from this new technology. Was it worth the additional expense? Why adopt all this change? The old cataloging methods seemed to be OK. And yet there was something irresistible about a new and better way of doing things with existing technology that had "come of age." Most of us accepted the notion that change would beget change and that the future was exciting and positive. We were right.

Twenty-two years ago no one I knew was predicting the Internet, CD-ROM databases or the Information Superhighway. And yet the success of the OCLC Online Catalog and other means of storing and transmitting electronic data provided the bedrock upon which these services were built. The success of the OCLC Union Catalog holds this lesson for me. When we accept change and innovation, we accept them with considerable faith that they will move us beyond the benefits we envision today. We probably won't know exactly where change and innovation are taking us. If applied with the proper proportions of realism and optimism, they will likely take us farther than we could possibly imagine. Happy 25th Birthday -- OCLC Online Union Catalog.

Bill Weiss, Director  
Ashland University Library

## Library Update

■ A tip of our caps to graduating senior student employees from the AU Library. Circulation graduates include Jeff Bartlett, Andrew "Dust" Green, Lisa Lang and Laura Ruckman. Serials seniors who are graduating are Andrew Berry, Julie Hensley, Jerry McArthur and Amber Waggoner.

■ A series of "Internet Classes" is being made available to the Ashland community as announced through local media early in April. Library director Bill Weiss will serve as instructor for the three sessions to be offered April 25 and 27, and May 30 in the Founders Hall Seminar Room. The Gill Center for Business and Economics and the Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce are co-sponsoring this "town 'n gown" programming opportunity.

*Friends*

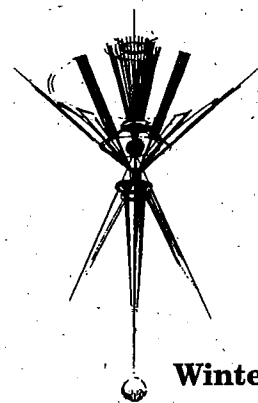
Friends of The Ashland University Library  
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Edited	Dee Shockney
Contributors	John Lacey Beth Richmond Bill Weiss
Photography	Department of Public Relations Ashland University

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# ASHLAND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

# Friends



Volume VIII, No. 3

Winter 1995

## DR. BETH RICHMOND VOTED PRESIDENT-ELECT AT AU FRIENDS FALL LUNCHEON

At their 19th annual Fall Luncheon, Friends of the Ashland University Library named Dr. Elizabeth Richmond, AU professor of communication arts, speech and public communication, their president-elect. The meeting was held at the Accent Room of the Myers Convocation Center on October 29, 1994.

Other officers elected during the annual business meeting were Rose Leader who completes her second year of a two-year presidency in September, 1995; Richard Dus Sault, secretary; and William Weiss, treasurer.

In other Friends' business, Rose Leader reviewed the work of Executive Committee sub-groups (marketing and membership), the two annual Friends Membership Luncheons, a recognition program honoring Friends founder John Lacey, and a jazz concert held on the library's new Terrace Patio last September.

In luncheon ceremonies, AU library director Bill Weiss honored the leadership of Friends past presidents throughout their nearly 20-year history. Among the past presidents in attendance who were given university paperweights were John Lacey, Roger Primm, Richard Cooper, Wayne Linke, Ruth Detrow, Dr. David Tennent, Dr. David Loyd and Dus Sault.

Program speaker Dr. Douglas Gunn, proprietor of the Rowsburg Bookstore, discussed "Tales of a Book Collector." Rev. Paul Frees, pastor emeritus of Christ United Methodist Church, gave the invocation and benediction.

Julie Hensley, 1994-95 winner of the Robinson Library Scholarship, was introduced as a special guest along with parents Ed and Jane Hensley. Dr. Glenn Clayton and Dr. William Benz, were introduced and thanked for their support of AU Friends programs.

Prior to the luncheon, new/renewal (1995 Friends) memberships were accepted and Friends notepaper was introduced as the group's newest fundraiser.



*Dr. Beth Richmond and Bill Weiss at the Auriculum.*

The Fall Luncheon planning committee, headed by the Friends president and new president-elect, included Mary Snyder, Faith Greene, Ruth Blue and Dr. Beverly Bixler. Serving as Luncheon hosts were Bruce and Margo Bigham, Dr. David and Helen Loyd, Dick and Gerry Dus Sault, Cheryl Weiss, Sue Conrad, Dr. Cal Leader and Deb Bixel.



## From the Director's Docket

### Three Hours Per Month

Eight past presidents of the AU Friends of the Library stood together with Rose Leader and Beth Richmond, our Friends president and president-elect, for a moment of recognition at the Fall Luncheon. It was a true photo opportunity, and one of those snapshot moments that illustrates so clearly the meaning of volunteerism.

We have been thinking about volunteerism on the national level for sometime. We may have different opinions about President Clinton's Americorp, the "thousand points of light" from the Bush Administration and, most recently, Newt Gingrich's three hours per month plan for individual volunteerism. However defined, volunteerism seems a permanent part of our way of life.

As the AU Friends approach their 20th anniversary, it occurs to me that volunteerism has been quietly successful in Ashland for sometime. I suppose volunteerism used to be called community involvement,

and it was something you just did because it made your community better. In spite of the demands of modern day living, I hope that volunteerism will flourish and that it will flourish particularly well in Ashland, Ohio. Folks in Ashland are proud of their community and their university. And Ashland University appreciates its community and its volunteers.

My guess is that the people who have served on the Friends of the AU Library Executive Committee have served on the boards of other community organizations as well. From time to time we all need to thank these folks for all they do. So for their time and enthusiasm given by our AU Friends Executive Committee members in particular, and to volunteers in all our community agencies, we thank you. We appreciate all of your efforts.

Bill Weiss, Director  
Ashland University Library

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## The Director's Docket

To the chagrin of some of my staff, I have been heard to say, "Won't it be a great day when one doesn't need to come to the library to use the library?" Perhaps that day has arrived.

On a Monday after the Million Man March in Washington, a student came to my office in search of Louis Farrakhan's two-hour speech given the day before. Excerpts from the newspapers would not suffice since the class was asked to study the entire speech. We couldn't find the speech on Lexis-Nexis, my personal first choice for this sort of question. A quick search on the Internet led to a National Of Islam "home page" and a link to several full-text Farrakhan articles, but not the Washington speech. The speech was, after all, only one day old.

Regretfully, the student realized I was at a loss, but she appreciated my efforts. I then felt challenged, as only librarians can understand, and knew that the full Farrakhan speech was somewhere out there in the online world.

The next day another student was intent on finding a particular Internet address through our World Wide Web terminal. The address was

<http://www2.cnn.com/US/9510/megamarch/10-16/transcript/index.html>, and it was the actual file address of the CNN World Wide Web news server that carried the entire Farrakhan speech. More than mildly impressed, I asked the student where she had found this information. "Oh," she said, "another student had found it while hunting through the Internet in one of the computer labs." This is no easy task since there are 110,000 sites available on the World Wide Web.

The "great day" had arrived. This interaction seemed to be a wonderful example of "using the library without coming to the library." Do I feel threatened? Do I worry about job security? Not at all. Our job in the library now is to encourage this independent researching spirit, made possible by so much exciting new technology. Some day independent Internet searching may be as common place as thumbing through the card catalog used to be. In the library world, we have lots of work ahead of us.

-- Bill Weiss, Director  
Ashland University Library

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## From the Director's Docket

### On Turning Twenty



Bill Weiss

As I think about the upcoming twentieth Friends of the Library annual meeting and luncheon, I wonder what it means to turn twenty. I suppose it depends on who you are.

If you are a young man or woman, it should mean that you are in the prime of your life and full of hope for the future.

If you are a house cat, it means you are extremely lucky still to be alive, and if you are a giant sequoia, twenty years is barely a beginning.

But what about a community organization like the Friends? I believe turning twenty means that you are a firmly grounded group with a well established purpose and sense of commitment. I congratulate you on your longevity and long list of

accomplishments. The donations raised over the years have provided real assistance in meeting our Library service goals and collection development standards. In addition, you have sponsored numerous lecturers and luncheon speakers whose talks have enhanced the lives of those who have attended your events.

In this age of technological miracles, academic libraries have an extraordinary challenge and opportunity to make "the information explosion" meaningful and accessible to our university community. One can only guess at the changes another twenty years will bring.

I salute the Friends of the Ashland University Library. Onward and upward! Let us watch the future unfold.

Bill Weiss, Director  
Ashland University Library

## Through The Years: AU Friends Luncheon Speakers

AU Friends has presented to their Membership and to the Ashland Community a broad spectrum of topics at their annual Fall and Spring Luncheons:

**Dorothy Fuldheim**, Cleveland Television Broadcaster

**Neil Strawser**, CBS News Correspondent

**Jack Mathews**, Author and Poet, English Professor, Ohio University

**Yvonne R. Ponser**, Author

**J. Garber Drushal**, President, College of Wooster

**Elinore Barber**, Dir., Riemenschneider Bach Institute, Baldwin Wallace College

**David Cooper**, Associate Editor of Akron Beacon Journal

**Robert Springer**, NASA Astronaut

**Goodwin F. Berquist**, OSU Professor and Author

**Charles W. Ayers, Jr.**, Political/Editorial Cartoonist with Akron Beacon Journal

**Kenneth Haas**, General Manager of the Cleveland Orchestra

**Rick Sowash**, Executive Director of Renaissance Theatre, Mansfield

**James Stuart**, Artistic Director, Ohio Light Opera in Wooster

**Darwyn Batway**, Director, Ashland College Library

**Thomas L. Vince**, Curator of Hudson Library, Historical Society

**Peter John Givler**, Director, Ohio State University Press

**Timothy Scheurer**, Franklin University

**William L. Schurk**, Sound Recordings Archivist, Bowling Green State University

**Alicia Metcalf Miller**, Ohio Author

**David Citino**, Ohio Poet/OSU English Professor and Editor of The Journal

**Helga Sandburg**, Ohio Author

**Thomas F. Olin**, Board Chairman, Archway Cookies

**William Weiss**, Director, Ashland University Library

**Frederick Reeder**, Thespian

**James Hodges**, Professor of History, College of Wooster

**Albert-George Schram**, Music Director, Ashland Symphony

**G. William Benz**, President, Ashland University

**Douglas Gunn**, Proprietor, Rowsburg Books

**Kenneth Walther**, Curator, Theological Seminary Museum



## From the Director's Docket

### A Helping Profession



**Bill Weiss**

Librarianship is viewed as a helping profession. As in the other helping professions (teaching, social work, health care) there is a debate going on about what "helping" means. Although some would suggest that helping is enabling and that the best enabling ultimately does away with the need for the enabler. I don't see that jobs in librarianship are in any great peril. In fact, the information explosion has created a huge opportunity and need for information helpers.

As we enable our patrons to be information

users and seekers, we simply create more and more need for information helpers. As librarians, we are guiding our patrons along the information superhighway, and through a maze of electronic resources. It is in this guiding that the adventure and gratification begin. Information will be the most sought after commodity in the 21st century. Librarians, along with other information and computer professionals, will be important helpers in the electronic information age. It is an enviable role to fill; one that allows me to honestly encourage students to enter my profession.

Bill Weiss, Director  
Ashland University Library

## Library Update

★ Joan Hignett, Library acquisitions assistant, completed requirements to earn her MLS degree from Kent State University last semester. Additionally she had her review of Kim Goldberg's "Vox Populi: Getting Your Ethnic Group on Community TV" published in *Ethnic Forum: Journal of Ethnic Studies and Ethnic Bibliography*, Vol 14, 1994.

★ Professional Travel: Bill Weiss was in Pittsburgh for meetings of the American College and Research Libraries on March 30-31. . . . . Jan Marotta, head of serials/government documents, and Diane Skinner attended a session on "Government Documents on Internet" held in Columbus on April 3. . . . . Jan Marotta traveled to Washington D.C. from April 9-14 for annual and regional meetings of the Federal Depository Conference. Presentations were given by reps from the Bureau of Census, Environmental Protection Agency, General Accounting Office, National Center for Health Statistics, and Bureau of Labor among others.

★ A tip-of-our-caps to senior Library student employees who will graduate in May 13 commencement ceremonies: from Circulation Services - Mary Beth Hines, Julie Green and Karen Robins; from the Serials Office — Jamie Jenkins and Scott Wittstock.

### 1994-95 Friends of the Ashland University Executive Committee

President	Rose Leader
President-Elect	Dr. Elizabeth Richmond
Secretary	Richard Dus Sault
Treasurer	William Weiss
	Bruce Bigham
	Dr. Beverly Bixler
	Dr. Glenn L. Clayton
	Cathleen Donges
	Julie Hensley
	John Lacey
	Dr. David Loyd
	Mary Alice Mielke
	Dee Shockney
	Mary Snyder
	Dr. David Tennent





## From the Director's Docket

### Tribute to a Teacher

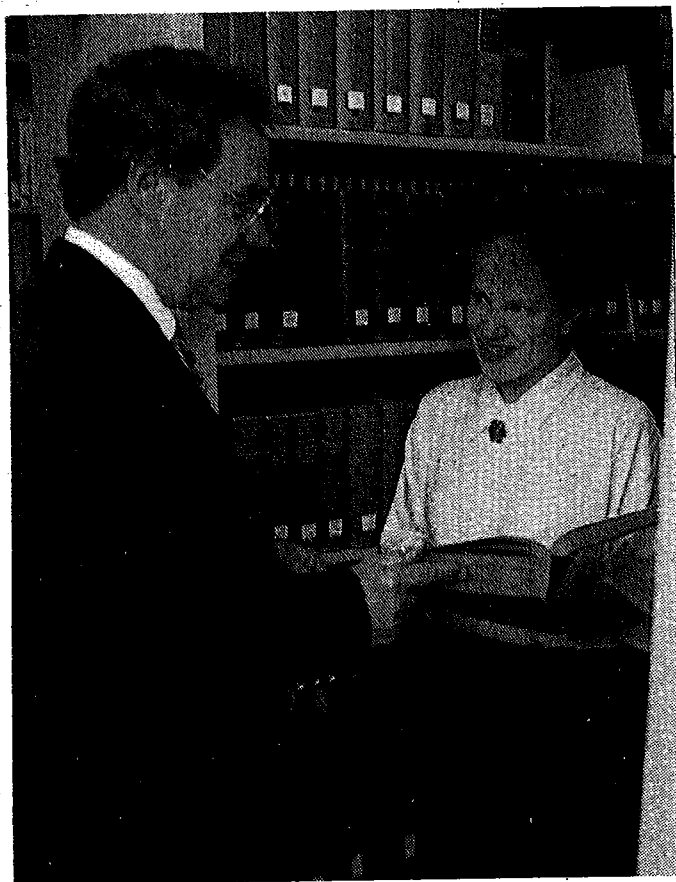
My first university degree was a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from New York University. Although it's getting rather yellow around the edges, I'm proud to be the owner because it labels me as an educated person. The Bronx campus of the College of Arts and Sciences had an undergraduate enrollment much like Ashland University's, and the faculty became well acquainted with the student body and wanted us to succeed.

Let me tell you about my favorite NYU professor. Joseph Reither taught the Introduction to Western Civilization course. I remember him walking on campus in shorts with an ice cream cone in hand. He often carried an umbrella even with only the slightest threat of rain. When passing his students on the campus commons, Professor Reither was usually the first to offer a greeting. This was unusual since campus protocol called for the student to offer the greeting first and hope that the good professor would respond in turn.

Informally, Professor Reither's course was called "Uncle Joe's story hour," and an entertaining hour it was. Of course, I have forgotten much of what I heard during those hours. But certain things stay in my mind. I know the causes of the Hundred Years War; I remember that a shift in the breeding grounds of the North Sea Herring contributed to that conflict, and I will always remember that the Renaissance preceded the Reformation. Small things in and of themselves, but thanks to courses like Professor Reither's, I feel educated.

As the library becomes increasingly involved with budgets, acquisitions and technology, we need to remind ourselves that helping students feel educated is really what we are all about. I hope in years to come we receive the same thank-you from our students that I extend to "Uncle Joe" Reither.

—Bill Weiss, Director  
Ashland University Library



### Julie Hensley

#### 1994-95 Robinson Scholarship Winner

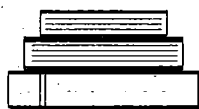
Julie Hensley, a junior from Massilon, Ohio, was named the 1994-95 winner of the Dwight Robinson Endowed Library Scholarship in ceremonies last spring. Her major course of study is hospitality administration, with a minor in computer information systems.

Having worked in her Massilon Washington High School Library, Julie did not hesitate to inquire about student employment at the AU Library upon her arrival in Fall '92. Since then, she has averaged working six hours a week in the library's serials office each term. Outside a busy class schedule, Julie's time is spent as program co-chair for the Residential Housing Association, with Bacchus (alcohol education) and with the campus' Community Care Youth Team. As the Library Scholarship winner, she sits on the AU Friends Executive Committee.

Julie and her parents will be invited as guests of honor at the Friends Fall Luncheon.

Library director Bill Weiss and scholarship winner Julie Hensley





## From the Director's Docket

### Ohio Libraries Lead the Way — Again

It has been more than 20 years since Dr. Frederick Kilgore left Yale University's Medical School Library, having convinced a small group of Ohio academic libraries to join his resource-sharing cooperative called the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC). The Ashland University Library was among the first 35 libraries to join OCLC. Today, with over 5,000 members world-wide, OCLC has renamed itself the Online Computer Library Center to reflect its international scope.

Ohio libraries continue to lead the way in designing innovative library networks. Networking in university

settings as well as K-12 school libraries is receiving national attention and generous support from the Ohio State Legislature.

—The OhioLINK project links 18 Ohio universities and colleges, providing a centralized catalog of all participating institutions. Commercially produced databases and a gateway to Internet are also included in OhioLINK. All Ohio two-year community colleges were recently added to the OhioLINK project. Private Ohio colleges will be able to join in the future.

—INFOhio is a state-funded project which provides a centralized database and resource-sharing among Ohio's K-12 public school libraries.

Ohio's student population, from kindergarten through graduate school, is the beneficiary of the latest advances in library technology. As we observe National Library Week, April 17-23, Ohioans have much to take pride in.

Bill Weiss, Director  
Ashland University Library

### Cronquist Continues Research

AU librarian Carol Cronquist has been granted an academic leave to continue her scholarly research on a diary manuscript held at the National Art Library in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. During her 1994 summer leave, she will conduct her research in northeastern Ohio libraries and in museum libraries in London. Through previous research, she attributed the 1833 manuscript to Henry Courtney Selous (1803-90), a British painter, lithographer, illustrator and children's book author who is best known for his work at Robert Burford's Leicester Square Panorama.

Carol's article, entitled "An Ohio Librarian Makes a 'Find'", was printed in the January, 1994 edition of *Art Libraries Journal*, published in Britain.

### Graduating Seniors

Congratulations to our library staff who will graduate in May 14 ceremonies: Deb Bixel, Janet Mociolek, Chris Nikolaus and Amy Richnafskey.



Bill Weiss congratulates Technical Services staff Carol Cronquist (seated) and Chris Nikolaus on their achievements.

Photo by Randy Sarvis



## From the Friends President



David Loyd

There has been an interesting succession of individuals serving as president of the AU Friends organization. From the current year looking back, they have included Richard Dus Sault, David Tennent, Ruth Detrow, Barb Smeller, Anne Budd, Wayne Linke, Dick Cooper, Paul Carl, Rebecca Budd, Roger Primm and John Lacey -- all of whom served well and presided over the steady growth of the organization, both in number of members and service to the Ashland University Library.

During the past year, the Friends Fall Luncheon was addressed by James Hodges on the topic, "The Presidential Rating Game," and the Spring Luncheon speaker was Rick Sowash, an entertainer and storyteller. Both were well received.

The AU Friends supported a poetry lecture by Dr. Robert McGovern on e.e. cummings, provided funds for furnishings in a new poetry reading area on the library's fifth floor, supplied book display cases for new acquisitions and the recreational reading section, and underwrote the continuing subscription for the recreational reading service. Identification plates have been attached to the furniture items.

A coffee hour was held on March 10th in recognition of Dr. Vitali

Tselishchev, a visiting professor from Siberia. The Friends also supported the acquisition of the papers of Daniel Webster and John Adams for research purposes, along with an on-going purchase plan of signed copies of publications by living U.S. Presidents.

As members of the AU Friends, we can take pride in the continuing support we are able to provide the Ashland University Library. It is a tribute to the interest and generosity of the members. We are also most fortunate in being able to work with Bill Weiss, the able, creative and enthusiastic director of the Ashland University Library.

David Loyd, President  
Friends of Ashland University Library

## From the Director's Docket Check It Out: "NEXIS" to the Rescue



Bill Weiss

Peter Drucker, I believe, wrote that a manager's job was to take away excuses. Those of us who work with college students in research situations sometimes hear of the excuse, "the library doesn't have anything on my topic." As librarians, we want to be good managers, and we want our students to succeed. What can be done? Inter-library loan has been a great tool for providing resources beyond our library walls. But sending for materials from other libraries takes some time, and then the excuse becomes "the library doesn't have anything on my topic and the assignment is due in two days."

There is help on the way. The

library now subscribes to NEXIS, an on-line database service "with a difference." The difference is that this is a "full-text" database service. Beginning this fall, students can use library computers to call NEXIS which is based in Dayton, Ohio. Hundreds of files will be accessible to them and, unlike other sources, the complete text is available and every word is searchable. AU's library staff has been thoroughly impressed by the amount of coverage NEXIS makes available — particularly in the areas of current events, business, trade, legal affairs and legislative and regulatory information. And best of all, every page can be printed for immediate use. Students may use this type of research tool in their professional careers; we are doing well to introduce them to it at the library.

Bill Weiss, Director  
Ashland University Library

### *Friends of the Ashland University Library Newsletter*

is published three times during the academic year by the Friends.

Editor: David Loyd

Contributors:

Carl Allen, David Loyd,  
Dee Shockney, Bill Weiss

Photographs:

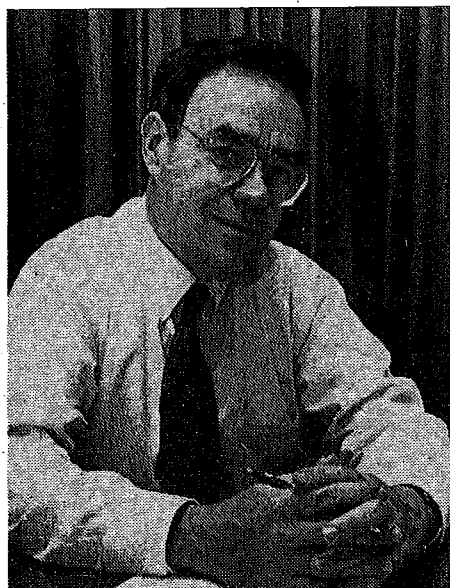
Department of Public Relations,  
Ashland University

The Friends help promote the Ashland University Library as a cultural resource of the Ashland community, informing readers of Friends' activities as well as library staff and services updates. Comments and suggestions are welcomed.



## From the Director's Docket

### A New SuperHighway for the 21st Century



Bill Weiss

Do you recall the great interstate highway building program of the last 50 years? The U.S. Interstate Highway System is now 99 percent complete, and we have all become accustomed to the fact that east-west routes are designated by even numbers and the north-south routes by odd numbers. But wait, a far more complicated super highway is under construction, and the transportation rules are more complicated as well.

Recent legislation has created the National Education and Research Network (NREN) which gave birth to the more recent National Information Infrastructure. The technological groundwork has been laid for an informational infrastructure that will lead to revolutionary changes in the way people work and communicate.

The infrastructure is a vast array of communication channels, linking computers, libraries, information centers and ultimately people. These communication channels include telephone, cable and satellite devices.

INTERNET, what some call "the mother of all networks", connects millions of users every day. Because computers can now use common instructions called protocols, computers can share information with other computers. The super highway that connects computers to computers is called the INTERNET. Ashland University researchers can "call the computer" at hundreds of universities "on the INTERNET" and search library holdings and other datafiles on remote computers. Faculty and staff can leave messages (E-mail) for colleagues in

## Newly-Networked "SuperSearch" is a Hit With Student Users

Putting AU at the cutting edge of library "search" technology last spring, ProQuest services were introduced in Ashland for marketing tests. ProQuest offered the convenience of "computer searching" 1000 journals rather than using the more time-intensive "indexes" (books), which had been taught in past years.

Library director Bill Weiss explains, "With ProQuest proving so popular last summer, we decided this fall to network ProQuest searching onto four of our OPAC terminals, the electronic card catalog. Instead of student lines forming to use the single ProQuest terminal, networking made journal searching available to several users at the same time.

"As we increasingly found students waiting to use ERIC (search service for education), we further decided to network ERIC searching as well onto OPAC terminals," he continues. Ultimately as AU's fall session opened,

the library provides four OPAC terminals which offer seven searching capabilities at the same time, through a system called SuperSearch:

OPAC: AU library books and government documents

ProQuest: Search service with 1000 general journals

ERIC: Education-based journals and writings

CINAHL: Nursing-based journals and writings

Business Periodicals: 800 business journals

New York Times: Past two years (full-text)

Wall Street Journal: Past two years (full-text)

"Creating 'SuperSearch' at Ashland University exemplifies our commitment to combine the necessary

research technology with expanding student library skills to meet today's information challenges", Weiss concludes.

*Serials librarian Jan Marotta (l) introduces Dr. Ruth Person to Ashland University Library's new SuperSearch computer services, while ASU sophomore students Sheila Riley (front left) and Raazon King (center right) complete their research studies.*

## From the Director's Docket

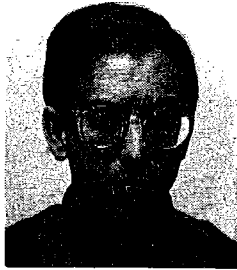
by Bill Weiss, Director  
Ashland University Library



Bill Weiss

over 250 journals going back to 1988. You are encouraged to stop in and become acquainted with the latest in information science.

### New Directions in the University Archives



David Roepke

David Roepke, an associate of the university's Ashbrook Center, has been evaluating the university archives on the library's seventh floor and will be recommending ways to improve the archival organization and access procedures. Recent construction has provided a partitioned area including office space on Floor 7 for the archives center. The new structure will accommodate archival material from the university and the Ashbrook Center.

David is pursuing graduate studies in archival management at Kent State University, and we are delighted to have a professional archivist "in training" advising us. We are also receiving consulting services from the Archives Office at Bowling Green State University. David has met with the Friends Executive Committee to share some of the archival treasures with which he works.

### Imaging - What Can It Do For Me?

Imaging is a technology that stores "images" exactly as they are scanned by electronic devices called "scanners." Until now, printers reproduced only the printed word — not the accompanying "images" or pictures. Today's new imaging allows the entire contents of journals, including covers, table of contents and illustrations, to be scanned and stored on CD-ROM disks and then be produced on laser printers. This is referred to as "offering imaged full-text."

Students can "search" for books, journals, documents or newspapers, through the use of keywords, to identify articles on a particular subject. Then the researcher must actually

locate the identified books, journals, etc. from our university's or outside library collections to begin review of the literature. But the latest technology helps students not only identify articles available, it can also immediately locate and print articles just by placing the corresponding CD-ROM disks in the drive. Early reaction has been very positive as patrons appreciate the "one-stop shopping" convenience of this research option.

Library suppliers are finding ways to market this new technology. Our library is currently demonstrating and evaluating a product called ProQuest which indexes 1600 periodicals while also providing full-text duplication of

## From the Friends President

*"Letters mingle souls; For thus friends  
absent speak"* Donne

Do you ever sit down to write a letter to a friend and sit staring at the page waiting for an idea, a conversation starter? You know what you want to talk about but you can't get that opening sentence? Once you get that first idea in mind you will have something to make a good paragraph. The problem is getting the beginning on paper.

The answer to this problem is RESEARCH. As a member of the Friends of the AU Library, the tool, a book, is in your hand and the process to generate these ideas is reading. The result of this reading is IDEAS. So your letter begins, "Dear Brenda, I read a book the other day and . . ." You are now off and running. One idea will follow another and Brenda will have something to write you about. You have just benefited from some very general research.

You can find those books on the library's recreational reading shelf which any of the staff will be glad to help you locate. This is just one of the services which the Friends have underwritten.

For research on a specific topic, ask a member of the staff to get you started

digging into the CD encyclopedia or into the general holdings of the library. Once you get the hang of it, you may well find the searching process as much fun as finding what you were looking for.

The Friends Executive Committee is now considering a proposal from a faculty member for acquisition of materials to broaden the holdings of the library in an area where he is engaged in research and writing. This is another type of assistance which the Friends may provide, where a particular research need goes beyond current resources and the additions would improve the scope of a given collection.

In the areas of knowledge and learning the library is a growing and responsive entity. As members of the Friends of the Ashland University Library, we can all participate in this exciting work. We help to make the library better and the library is there to help us.



David Loyd

## From the Director's Docket

In recent discussions, Bill Weiss, director of the Ashland University Library, reviewed activities from the past six months, outside the day-to-day library services:

### What are current library trends and how do they affect AU?

Our field tells us that every five years, information grows at a rate of 100 percent. So, in the next five years there would be twice as much information available in books, journal articles and data as you have today. You would never be able to shelve it all, so libraries must now concern themselves with the mission of accessing information, rather than having to acquire it all. Today, we focus on helping the library user locate and access information no matter where it is physically stored in the country, not just from our own university collection. Two practical trends are already evident:

- More and more information is housed in bits and bytes on CD-ROMS (compact discs which we own).
- In the next 10 years, we will assist library users working through their own office or home computers to access information rather than require they come into the library facility. We are currently developing this capability with 36 registered INTERNET users from the Ashland community.

## Snyder Poetry Center to Be Memorialized on Fifth Floor of University Library

A poetry library and reading area, dedicated to Dr. Richard Snyder, is being established on the fifth floor of the Ashland University Library. Dr. Snyder served as chair of the school's English Department from 1972-1986. The area will house a collection of twentieth century British and American poetry. Initial selections are being made by Dr. Snyder's wife Mary and

### How do library users learn about these newer services?

We promote a very active orientation program at the Ashland University Library. In August, more than 60 faculty members attended a staff development program to review new ways they could use library services. Reference librarians Sue Ellen Ronk (head) and Diane Skinner have presented orientation programs for new freshmen, and for business, nursing, children's literature, biology, education, and psychology classes along with additional faculty updates both in Ashland and at off-campus sites. We are also asked to provide library updates to community groups as well. We estimate we have already oriented more than 1000 persons in this school year.

### What "business concerns" do you face in running the library?

Library users are most familiar with staff who help checkout books/materials or who help locate information. But much of our work is done behind the scenes, requiring good business practices that all campus departments face. Joan Hignett now places book orders through CD-ROM systems which increase both ordering efficiency and accuracy. Our new membership in CLASS (Cooperative Library Agency for Systems and Services) offers us buying discounts for items from CD databases to supplies like bar codes or to our purchase of an "800" number telephone connection for faculty and administration to use in accessing INTERNET.



Bill Weiss  
Library Director

## News and Notes

**Professionally speaking:** Bill Weiss has been appointed to a one-year term on the OHIONET advisory council on communications and access. OHIONET is the local organization in Ohio, affiliated with OCLC..... Jan Marotta, head of serials and government documents, was appointed to serve on the OHIONET advisory council on automated reference services..... Carol Cronquist has been awarded a Dean's Grant to do research in London, England, on H.C. Selous, a Victorian painter, illustrator, writer and member of the Royal Academy. Her travels are planned for spring of 1993.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Ashland University's newest research capabilities:

We have subscribed to FirstSearch, making 26 new databases available to campus users through OCLC terminals.

The library now provides access to INTERNET, a worldwide network of information databases and library catalogs, whose services include electronic mail, file transfer (helping faculty to send documents to colleagues elsewhere), and bulletin boards for SIG users.



## *The Library Director's View*

# **Word Processing Comes of Age at the Ashland University Library**

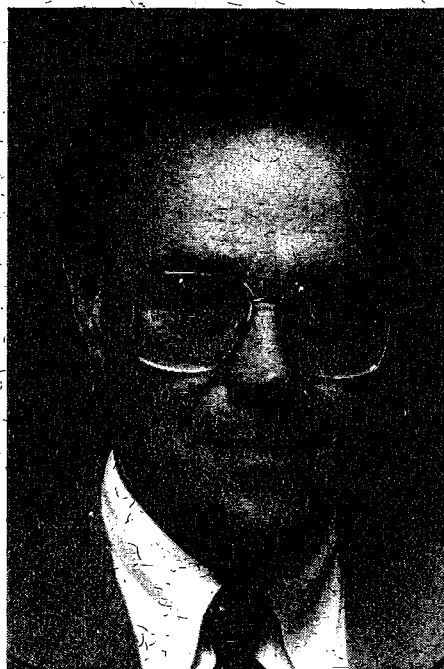
*By William Weiss*

Thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Ashland University Library, the word processing equipment in the director's office is ready for the 21st Century.

At its November meeting the Friends decided to support a major upgrade of the personal computer system in the director's office. The existing equipment had been installed almost 10 years ago, and that's more than a lifetime in computer terms. The old XT style 8088 processor and daisy wheel printer served the library very well. However, it was only a matter of time before a major hardware failure forced us to upgrade. We were living on borrowed time, and it was time to bring in the new.

The Friends authorized funds to bring in the new with style. We installed at 25 Mhz 386 PC with 4 Mb of main memory, 80 Mb hard disc drive and a 14-inch color monitor. In simple terms that means that we have all the memory and power to run the most sophisticated software programs available.

A top quality laser printer was installed that prints various fonts and type styles.



*Library Director Bill Weiss*

We added a 2400 baud modem to round out the upgrade package. The modem allows us to communicate with libraries and information centers throughout the country.

My assistant, Debbie Gough, and I use this system every day; we couldn't imagine going back to the old way of doing things.

## **Friends Request Faculty Participation**

*By Richard DusSault*

For some time your Executive Committee has been working on a program to encourage the faculty at Ashland University to participate in requesting books for the library. These books could fill a void in their respective fields of interest and make the inventory of books in the library more meaningful.

It finally was decided to contact each member of the faculty with a letter and an acquisition form, inviting them to direct their requests to the attention of the director of the library. These letters and forms were mailed Dec. 16, 1991.

It was further suggested in the letter that input from their students be encouraged since the students could have more specific knowl-

edge of which books would be helpful for their use.

Since the library is for the use of everyone, your input on specific books or fields of interest would be most helpful, too. If you see a need for special information not available, please contact Bill Weiss, director of the library, with your request. We may not be able to honor every request because of cost limitations, but the library will consider all suggestions.

A number of departments have responded with requests and suggestions which are being considered carefully. We are hopeful of more participation during this spring semester.

## **New Volumes Describe Recent Restoration of Sistine Chapel Frescoes**

*By Carol Cronquist*

A collaboration between the American publisher Alfred A. Knopf and the Nippon Television Network Corporation of Japan has resulted in a two-volume, limited edition book on the recent restoration of Michelangelo's ceiling frescoes in the Sistine Chapel.

The Friends of the Ashland University Library have purchased copy number 691 of the 2,500 copies made available in 1991. The slipcased two-volume set, printed on handmade 250 gram Roman-Butten verge paper, currently is on display in an exhibit case on the main floor of the library.

The before-and-after photographs by Takashi Okamura provide convincing visual evidence that Michelangelo's figures were in fact covered with a veil of soot from candles, lamps, and incense used in the liturgical services held in the chapel over the last several centuries.

In addition to the spectacular foldout color plates, the text by Frederick Hartt provides a lucid commentary on the entire restoration project.

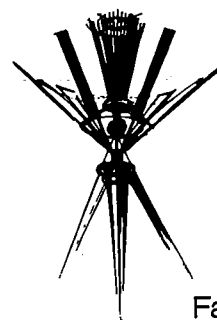
*The Sistine Chapel* was acquired to enhance the library's permanent collection of special and rare books.

## **Carl Allen Collaborates in Acquisition of New Breuer Pottery Collection**

*By Carol Cronquist*

Several impressive pieces by Oberlin potter Christopher Breuer currently are on display at the library. Carl Allen of the Ashland University Art Department has been largely responsible for the acquisition and presentation of Breuer's work.

In addition to the special exhibit of pottery on the main floor, the exterior front windows of the library recently have been renovated in order to provide exhibition space for the university's growing collection of contemporary American pottery.



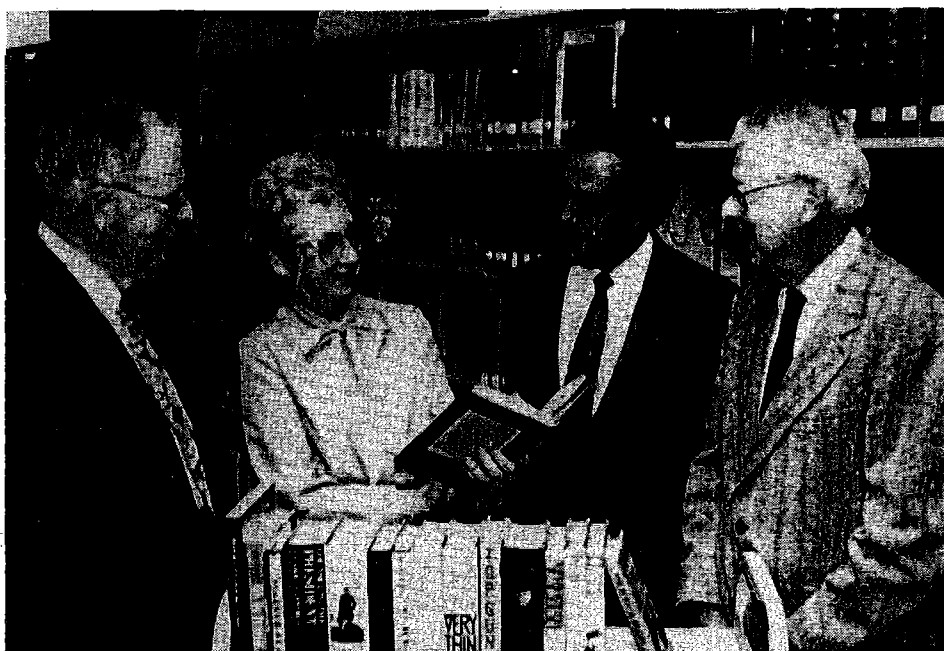
## Dr. Raymond W. Bixler Memorial Gifts Received

By Richard DusSault

At the time of Dr. Raymond W. Bixler's death last year, several families and friends donated funds to the Friends for a memorial in his memory. Dr. Bixler was a past president and faculty member of Ashland University, a long-time member of the Friends and a former member of the Executive Committee of the Friends.

With the assistance of Darwyn Batway, then director of the library, and Dr. Bixler's widow, Dr. Beverly Bixler, 16 books on various aspects of history were purchased and donated to the library on Oct. 18, 1991.

History was Dr. Raymond Bixler's major field of interest, so it was appropriate that the memorials reflect this interest. The books cover world history with special emphasis on U.S. history from before the Revolutionary War to recent history in today's struggling world.



*(l-r): Richard DusSault, immediate past president of the Friends, Dr. Beverly Bixler, William Weiss, director of the AU Library, and Dr. David Loyd, president of the Friends, look over the books purchased as a memorial to Dr. Bixler's husband, Dr. Raymond W. Bixler.*

## Committee Elects Mansfielder Harold McCuen Honorary Member of Friends of AU Library

By Richard DusSault

At the September 19 meeting of the Executive Committee, Harold McCuen of Mansfield, Ohio, was elected an honorary member of the Friends.

Since 1988, McCuen (Hal) has donated many items to the library. Included are over 600 books on drama, the theater, movies, opera, biography, and children's books. His gifts also have included 450

miniature books plus cases and other miniature items, over 75 almanacs, over 40 serials, four albums of records, 11 catalogs, librettos, theater sets, lighting, and handbills, miscellaneous prints, and Kate Greenaway and Beatrix Potter figurines.

McCuen was the former director and founder of the Children's Theater of Mansfield and has had a

lifelong commitment to the arts.

The AU Library has benefited greatly by his contributions, and the Friends are proud to add his name to our honorary membership list.

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**Don't forget to renew  
your membership!**

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## The Library Director's View

### *Where Have All the Microfilm Catalogs Gone?*

By William Weiss

The familiar mechanized microfilm readers that contained the catalog of the Ashland University Library have been replaced by a newer technology. New library directors sometimes enjoy inaugurating systems for which they haven't labored very long or hard, but for which they can be congratulated when the addition is well received. Such is my happy lot. The software that runs the new Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) was installed on a computer in Founders Hall in October 1991. Since then students, faculty and staff have stopped searching the microfilm readers and have taken easily to the enhanced searching capabilities of the automated system.

Library automation companies believed that library users would take to computerized searching as easily as bank customers took to the simplicity and 24-hour availability of automated bank teller machines. The library vendors were correct. Over 3,000 installed library automation systems were reported as of the end of 1990. Sales of multi-function automated library systems in 1990 amounted to 200 million dollars. Industry analysts expect interest and sales to be equally strong in 1991.

Just what are the features and enhanced searching techniques that make OPACs so popular? For one thing, the OPAC indicates whether or not a title is on the shelf or out in circulation. When our circulation system is activated in early 1992, there will be fewer disappointing trips to the upper floors of the library simply to discover that the book you want has already been checked out by another user.

Keyword searching allows any significant word in the title, author or subject to be searched. No longer is the user restricted to the last name of the author or the first



Library Director Bill Weiss assists AU President Joseph Shultz at the ribbon cutting ceremony which celebrated the installation of the online catalog.

word in the title or subject. Keyword searching can be very helpful to users looking for a title that they can't quite remember. Imagine the hapless user looking for *The Search for Red October* or was it *The Quest for Blue October*? The only thing the user may be sure of is that October is somewhere in the title. A title keyword search will retrieve all titles with the word "October" present, and the user will be rewarded with *The Hunt for Red October*.

Users can qualify their requests by date, format or publication language. If you have ever wondered how many Spanish titles published after 1950 by an author whose first name was Juan are in the library, now you can find out with a few keystrokes. You will be impressed with the power and versatility of our OPAC. Using the new library catalog at Ashland University is something to look forward to. At the library, we hope you will try it soon.