Winter 2001

Information Please, 2001-Winter

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Professional development is a necessity in a rapidly changing environment like library service. To facilitate such learning, the library and the university provide time and monetary support to assist library staff in keeping up-to-date in their fields. Sometimes, trainers are brought to the library and the university. Other times, library staff leave the library to receive the training and professional development they need. Library faculty and staff participate in professional organizations at the international, national, state, regional, and local levels. The American Library Association (ALA) and its many specialized divisions are the primary professional organizations for library staff. Many of the library staff serve on committees of ALA and travel to conferences twice a year to work with their committees, as well as to attend programs and workshops designed to help them do a better job, whether that be in circulation, interlibrary loan, cataloging, reference, instruction, technology or wherever library staff work.

The Illinois Library Association provides another opportunity for committee work, conferences, and workshops in a regional setting, which, of course, makes participation easier. In October, one library faculty member attended a conference in Brighton, England sponsored by the International Special Libraries Association. Workshops, teleconferences, videoconferences, Web-based courses and traditional classroom setting courses are also a part of the library staff's continuing education repertoire.

In addition, many library faculty and staff conduct workshops, participate in panel discussions, and deliver papers at conferences and workshops, which takes even greater effort to anticipate trends in the profession. The Library is proud of its ability to stay current and constantly to improve the skills of its staff and recognizes that it is an ongoing effort.

The library is again pleased to have staff who were awarded the honor of being named GSU Employee of the Month. Janice Washington was Employee of the Month in October, and Renee Rainey was Employee of the Month in November. They both work in the Serials Unit of the Library's technical services area where they check in journals and newspapers, ensure that the journals are shelved, prepare materials for the bindery, and numerous other tasks. Congratulations to both of them!

Have you ever wondered to what online full-text journals the library provides access? The answer is only a click away at http://www.govst.edu/library/fulltext.htm. The full-text journal list groups the online full-text journals by the first letter of the journal's title. To search a list for a particular letter of the alphabet, choose the edit menu from the browser and select Find in Page. A dialogue box will appear. Place the cursor in the dialogue box and click, if the cursor is not already there. Type in the title of the journal and click on the Find Next button. If the title is located in the list, the screen will jump to that entry. Each entry tells in which database the journal is located and the date when the full-text articles begin for that journal. Online journals found in multiple databases to which the library subscribes will have multiple entries.

The library also provides access to lists of new materials acquired by the library at http://www.govst.edu/library/newbooks.html. The materials are organized by subject matter and are added to the online catalog. Within the list the materials are arranged by the collection in which they reside, beginning with the general circulating book collection. The new materials in the reference collection, Materials Center collection and various media collections appear subsequently.
On behalf of the University Foundation, the University Library at Governors State University continues to welcome gifts of books, journals and media materials. We will send you a letter of acknowledgment with the number of items donated and their format but we cannot appraise gifts. The responsibility for establishing a fair market value of a gift lies with the donor. You may wish to consult your personal attorney, a tax advisor, or the IRS Publication 561, "Determining the value of donated property". This can be found at (http://ftp.fedworld.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p561.pdf)

Please direct your gifts to the Acquisitions Department with your name, address and phone number (optional). For more information you may contact the Head of Acquisitions, Que Owens, q-owens@govst.edu, (708) 534-411B, or C. Amy Smith, c-smith@govst.edu, (708) 534-5000, Ext. 5128.

Your donations are valuable additions to our collection. We thank you for your past gifts, and we will appreciate you keeping us in mind for future donations. Our donors for FY99 are as follows:

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Librarians Offer Professional Development Session
by Colleen Wallman

On January 12, 2001, GSU, Prairie State College and South Suburban College will collaborate in a joint professional development venture. The theme for the day is to be "Creating Communities: Teaching and Learning in New Contexts."

The program will begin with a power point overview and will continue with librarians covering some of the aspects of GSU's Virtual Library, (e.g., off-campus access, online journals, Interlibrary Loan, online reference, government documents, subject pages, etc.)

Each presentation will focus on the "virtual" aspect of these services and how they differ from traditional services offered.

LTA Intern Nancy Kupec is a GSU First
by Linda G. Geller

During October and November, our library hosted our first Library Technical Assistant (LTA) intern, Nancy Kupec. Upon completion of the Library Technical Assistant Program at College of DuPage (COD), Kupec will be receiving an LTA Certificate. The COD LTA program has been in existence since 1969 and combines classroom lectures, hands-on experience, and field experience.

For her field experience component, Kupec chose to work at the GSU University Library. She decided to pursue an LTA Certificate because she wanted to be more marketable and open more job opportunities. For the past eleven years, Kupec worked at the Park Forest Public Library in circulation, interlibrary loan, and now technical services. When asked about the differences between an academic and public library, she noted that academic libraries tend to support disciplines of study, whereas public libraries address community information needs. She observed, "GSU seems to be job-specific, because you have a large library with many departments. At a smaller public library a staff member crosses over in job duties, and may be a jack-of-all trades."

When asked about the work she had done at GSU, Kupec responded, "I wanted to do an internship here because I was curious about academic libraries, and I had heard good things about the library. I've worked in acquisitions, documents, and serials. I've been doing hands-on work. It's been interesting because I haven't worked in these areas before; it's been a good learning experience. I've also talked to people in other departments, such as ILL, to see how their departments work. Everyone's been very nice and cooperative and made it a positive experience."

Kupec shared that she will be creating a photo essay to capture and share her internship experience with other students and faculty at the College of DuPage.

Off-Campus Access to Your Library Subscription Databases:
by Maureen Bendoraitis

GSU library patrons (currently enrolled students/faculty/staff) can now access subscription databases from any Internet connection. In the past access to these databases has been limited to on-campus computers or users dialing into GSU for Internet access. A proxy server will now authenticate patrons with a user name and password; and then allow the user access to these controlled resources. This will allow patrons using AOL or other ISPs to use these resources from any location.
For information on how to use this service link to http://www.govst.edu/library/offcampus.htm.
For a list of subscription databases available to GSU users try http://www.govst.edu/library/acs.htm.
Your Library’s Collection Depends on You

By Nancy Shlaes

By submitting book, video and other recommendations to your library liaisons, you, the classroom faculty, help maintain the university’s substantial library collection. Another important part of collection development is the withdrawal of materials from the collection as needed.

In the same way that you participate in the process of adding materials to the collection by notifying your liaison about new journals, books, and videos, the library liaison will notify you about material being withdrawn in particular subject areas as necessary. If you are interested in reviewing these materials before they are withdrawn, we want to hear from you and are glad to accommodate you.

It is important for the integrity of the university that the classroom faculty and library liaisons work closely to develop and maintain a collection that meets the needs of the students, faculty and staff, as well as supports the programs here at GSU. We look forward to your continued cooperation and participation.

To identify the liaison librarian for your area of interest, please check the Web at http://www.govst.edu/library/poreq.htm. To suggest a title, use the form at http://www.govst.edu/library/poreq.htm.

We Are Interlibrary Loan

By Barbara Stapleton

ILL (Interlibrary Loan) takes over when GSU students, staff, or faculty want a book or journal article neither owned by nor accessible in full-text to our library. If a journal article is needed quickly, we will try to obtain the item through fax to GSU within three working days at no cost to the requestor. A borrower is only allowed three RUSH ILL requests per trimester. RUSH ILL requests can be picked up at the library’s circulation desk to save post office delivery time.

ILL has access to the holdings of 44 other academic libraries in the ILCSCO consortium. Currently enrolled GSU students, staff and faculty can request a book owned by any of these libraries from the comfort of the GSU library, their on-campus office, or the privacy of their own home (even in their “jamies”) through the GSU library web page. Faculty, staff and students can request a book or journal article not owned by the GSU library or any of the ILCSCO libraries by completing the online form (http://www.govst.edu/library/online.htm) or by coming to the library and filling out our print form. Upon receipt we will mail non-RUSH journal articles to the patron. Books ordered from ILCSCO libraries usually arrive at GSU within a week to ten days. A notice is sent to the requestor the morning after it arrives.

However, books ordered from other library sources usually take longer to arrive. All requests are ordered on the day they are received. However, once the item is ordered, GSU ILL has no control over when the materials will arrive. What slows down an interlibrary loan request? The lending library may not circulate the book requested; the journal may not be on the shelf; or their staff, unlike ours, may not fill all requests on the day they receive them. Because books ordered from non-ILCSCO libraries sometimes take as long as a month to reach us, we call the borrower the day they receive them. How do we know when to call? We only copy journal articles owned by the GSU library if the borrower is a registered GSU library patron. Is the book on the shelf at GSU? We will not order books available in the GSU library. Is the journal article available online in full-text or on the shelf at GSU? We only copy journal articles owned by the GSU library if the borrower is a registered GSU library patron. Is the book on the shelf at GSU? We will not order books available in the GSU library. Is the journal article available online in full-text or on the shelf at GSU? We only copy journal articles owned by the GSU library if the borrower is a registered GSU library patron.

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We are a staff of 2.5 full-time employees and one student assistant. In the course of a year, we try to locate and fill about 25,000 requests. We are a staff of 2.5 full-time employees and one staff assistant.

You can assist us in giving even better and faster service. Make certain that you are registered in the library’s database by bringing your validated student, staff or faculty identification to the circulation desk in the library. We cannot order materials for someone who is not a registered GSU library patron.
Kudos to Brad Johnson on Publication of Study Guide to Corporations, Partnerships, Estates & Trusts

By Mari Ellen Leverence


Dr. Paul O'Brien, who retired from GSU this year, was the author of previous editions. Dr. Johnson assumed this responsibility and will continue to update The Study Guide annually.

This book is used at GSU for classes on federal taxation of corporations and partnerships. Also, a proposal was made for tax staff at the Big Six Accounting firms to be trained using this text in hard copy or with the electronically-delivered version of The Study Guide.

Dr. Johnson, in collaboration with the College of Business & Public Administration, proposed a three-course stand-alone Certificate Program in Taxation at the post-graduate level which would be offered simultaneously in-class and on a distance-learning basis.

A Review of The Intimate Couple


By Beth Hansen-Shaw

A review of the journal literature and the online catalog provide a good indication of the extent of the collaborative efforts of Dr. Jon Carlson and Dr. Len Sperry. From "The Impact of Biological Factors on Marital Functioning" published in The American Journal of Family Therapy in 1990, to Brief Therapy with Individuals and Couples edited by the pair in 2000, and with collaborative publications in every year in between, the 10-year professional relationship between Drs. Carlson and Sperry has clearly contributed in a major way to the field of marital and family therapy. One of their recent publications, The Intimate Couple, focuses on the complexities of intimate relationships.

In The Intimate Couple, Carlson and Sperry bring together 25 experts with varied experiences, both in theoretical orientation and clinical experience, to present their perspectives on different aspects of intimate relationships. Drs. Carlson and Sperry provide the preface, as well as co-authoring the "Introduction: A Context for Thinking about Intimacy," and chapters on "Intimacy and Culture: A Solution-Focused Perspective..." and "Intimacy as a Goal and Tool in Adlerian Couples Therapy." In addition to Dr. Carlson, other expert contributors include two professors from GSU's Division of Psychology and Counseling. Dr. Michael Dimitroff authored "Spiritual Intimacy: A Christian Perspective," and Dr. David Matteson contributed "Intimate Bisexual Couples."

As put so nicely by Harry J. Aponte in his foreword to the book "Through a prism of varied perspectives, The Intimate Couple invites us to examine the personal closeness we call intimacy. (The editors) wisely do not attempt to reconcile the contradictions and complexity with a single unifying concept of intimacy." This collection will provide food for thought particularly for the therapist, for the counselor, and the student, but also for all of us who are interested in issues of intimacy.