Student Government Association Gives Donation to Cheng Library

During its long history on campus, the Cheng Library has experienced many “firsts” -- its first online catalog in the mid-1980s, its first student computer center in 1995 and many others. In May 2011, the Library enthusiastically embraced a significant, new first – a major monetary donation from the Student Government Association.

The William Paterson University SGA gave the Cheng Library a donation of $67,300 at the end of the 2011 academic year. Former SGA officers Naima Ricks, President, and Eric Dryburgh, Treasurer, were instrumental in selecting the Cheng Library as the recipient of this large monetary gift.

The students also expressed their views about how the money should be spent. It was important that the funds be used to improve areas of the Library that would impact students.

The Library as a physical facility has been evolving since the renovation was completed in 1995. During the intervening years, many of the Library’s printed reference and periodical resources have migrated to an online platform. As more electronic resources were added, printed resources were removed.

This transition was gradual but has accelerated in recent years. The discontinued print resources meant that shelving on the first floor could be removed. Large open areas now occupy spaces that formerly had book stacks. Students have responded to this change and can be seen working in groups or reading quietly.

The SGA wanted to further improve some additional spaces on the first floor to make them more conducive to student use and provide access to updated equipment.

One completed space is the Preview Room in Media Services. This area now has new, state-of-the-art equipment for listening and viewing. One section of the room has four boom-rocker chairs and two flat screen televisions both equipped with DVD/VHS players, CD players and Blu-Ray players. The chairs are equipped with input and output ports providing access to volume controls for the built-in stereo speakers, but users can also listen with headsets.

For those who prefer more traditional viewing and listening stations, the room is also equipped with four new carrels and leather chairs, flat screen monitors, headphones, DVD/VHS/Blu-Ray players and audio listening equipment.

A second space created with the SGA gift is the Periodicals Department. This room, called Nexus, was conceived as a news center. It has a flat-panel television with live news broadcast (muted) and a display for current magazines. It includes a variety of furniture: tables with chairs and soft seating with side tables. A special feature of the room is the wall murals designed specifically for this space by students in Prof. DeLaura’s graphic design class.

In addition to improvements made to these areas, the SGA’s gift contributed to subscriptions for 380 additional electronic journals from JSTOR, a searchable archive of notable academic journals. These journals are highly valued in academic research and the subject coverage ranges across the arts, humanities and social sciences.

The Library is a popular building on campus and receives an extraordinary amount of student use. These funds offered the opportunity to improve two areas of the Library and to contribute significant titles to the electronic journal collection.

The Cheng Library is most appreciative of this financial support from the SGA. A ceremony for formal acknowledgement and a reception are tentatively planned for early spring. An announcement will be posted on the Library’s web site once the date is confirmed.
The reports in Clinical Evidence summarize the current state of knowledge and uncertainty about the prevention and treatment of clinical conditions based on a thorough review of the literature. The research covers 3,250 interventions situated within the context of over 660 clinical situations. The conclusions and the categorization of interventions for the reviews are summarized on a six-point scale that ranges from “beneficial or likely to be beneficial” (on the positive side) to “harmful or likely to be ineffective” (on the negative side).

Cochrane Reviews are systematic reviews of primary research in human health care and health policy. The reviews investigate the effects of interventions for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. The summaries also assess the accuracy of a diagnostic test for a given condition in a specific patient group and setting. The reviews are published by The Cochrane Collaboration.

The reviews are designed to assist the difficult choices that practitioners and consumers may face involving health care decisions. The reviews are updated regularly, ensuring that treatment decisions can be based on the most up-to-date and reliable evidence.

Cochrane Reviews are also international in scope and covers healthcare issues affecting people in all countries and contexts. All reviews conform to a predefined, rigorous and explicit methodology, thereby establishing a similar structure for the reporting of analyses and circumventing bias.

These two databases are accessible via the Library’s web site and may be used both on-campus and remotely. Both resources contain the complete text of the reviews.
Oxford University’s Bodleian Library dates back to 1602 and is one of the largest and most celebrated research institutions in the world. While attending seminars at Oxford twenty-five years ago, I was afforded access to the non-public stacks of the “New” Bodleian Library, the 1931 centerpiece of a complex set of buildings and services that comprise the University’s Bodleian Libraries. On a recent return visit, I learned that the University’s planned $120 million restoration and renovation of that building had commenced and is slated for completion in 2014/15. A review of my pre-digital tour of this beloved institution may help shed light on the current conditions and challenges of this and all university libraries.

In 1985 I had the privilege to be given a personal tour of the Bodleian’s stacks by the Curator of Medieval Manuscripts. This area is not accessible to students or faculty. We descended in an elevator to the cavernous storage below the streets of Oxford to observe library staff receiving written student requests from the front desk. As books were located they were placed on a conveyor belt that operated continuously day and night. With most book storage underground and/or off-site, it might take a week for the request to be filled.

The Bodleian has rightly prided itself on the number of books and manuscripts in its collections, but with the growing number of volumes and the number of students and scholars wishing access to the collections, one wonders how services can be sustained. The focus of all libraries in this century must naturally be on managing the information they hold and providing rapid access to it. By briefly tracing the growth of the Bodleian we can see the challenges facing all university libraries in the age of information.

The history of the Bodleian begins with Sir Thomas Bodley (1545-1613) who donated the funds to refurbish an existing, though “ruined” library at Oxford in order to house some 2,500 books and manuscripts. Today, the Bodleian Libraries include the libraries attached to the departments and institutions within Oxford University. The combined library collections now number more than 11 million volumes plus expansive access to online publications and databases. In other words, over the course of 400 years, the Bodleian Library grew from a single library housing 2,500 books and manuscripts, to approximately 100 libraries housing 11 million volumes. Most of this growth took place in the last 50 years.

A large part of the growth of the Bodleian can be attributed to an agreement with the Stationers Company of London originally conceived by Sir Thomas Bodley. According to the agreement, the Bodleian would receive, free of charge, one copy of every book published in England. It was not until 1842 however, that new legislation made the agreement truly effective and established the future of the Bodleian as an ever-expanding collection. When this legislation was enacted, it not only guaranteed the library large numbers of free books, it enabled the Bodleian to purchase antique manuscripts and foreign books. In 1849 the Bodleian held 220,000 books and 21,000 manuscripts. The increase in collections required an increase in space, so by 1859 the whole of the Schools Quadrangle was in the hands of the library. The Radcliff Camera, that monumental dome that is Oxford’s most impressive piece of architecture, was taken over by the Bodleian in 1860. For the remainder of the century, the collection expanded until it reached the one million mark in 1914. Recognizing that this expansion would not cease, the library set plans to construct the New Bodleian Library, an eleven story building with shelves for five million books. My tour included the three stories that are underground and house 50% of the collection.

While the collections were demanding more space, so too were the students and scholars wishing access to the collections. It is the continuing tradition of the Bodleian to make books available for onsite consultation only. This means the library patrons must be provided space within the library since the books cannot be removed. This tradition combined with the increase in the numbers of users, poses another serious challenge. Today the number of users reported by the Social Science Library alone exceeds 1,000 per day.

Considering all this, it is easy to see the importance of digital technology in a library’s mission of information management and delivery. The Bodleian Libraries are actively digitizing their collections in order to provide real time access from anywhere in the world.

Our own Cheng Library has made many advances in introducing the use of electronic books for our students and faculty. We have recently been given the opportunity to use 70,000 new academic e-books covering a broad range of subjects and titles from major scholarly publishers. It is my hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity and let the Library staff know how you found the experience.

Dr. Nancy Einreinhofer, Chair
The Friends of the Cheng Library
Dr. Anne Ciliberti Appointed Dean of Library Services

The Cheng Library is pleased to report that Dr. Anne Ciliberti was appointed Dean of Library Services in June, 2011. The announcement was made by President Waldron. This change upgrades the position of Director of Library Services to Dean of Library Services and is part of the reorganization of technology and library services. The Cheng Library will now be represented on the University’s Deans’ Council, and as a dean, Dr. Ciliberti will be reporting directly to Provost Edward Weil.

This change is significant because it affirms the Library’s role in the academic mission of the University and recognizes the unique role the Library plays in teaching, learning and research.

Dr. Ciliberti holds an M.L.S. and a Ph.D. from Rutgers University. She has been a member of the Library staff since 1975 and has held different positions in the Library: reference librarian, collection development librarian, and associate director. Dr. Ciliberti is active on several University councils and holds a leadership position in the New Jersey academic library organization, VALE-NJ.

On an operational level, the Cheng Library will continue to have strong ties at the University with the departments of Information Systems and Instruction and Research Technology. The Library staff extends its congratulations to Anne on this significant change.

Introducing Scopus: A Powerful Database and Research Tool

The Cheng Library provides access to more than one hundred proprietary databases covering all subjects and disciplines that comprise the academic curriculum of the University. However, databases are often subject-specific. For this reason, the Cheng Library is excited about one new electronic resource that encompasses many disciplines: Scopus.

Scopus is unique and noteworthy for both its size and scope. This comprehensive resource supports the research needs of students and faculty in the scientific, technical, medical and social sciences fields. In addition, Scopus has recently extended its coverage to include the arts and humanities. In this way, it presents to researchers a single citation database for many disciplines.

The database currently provides more than 45 million citation records for approximately 18,000 peer-reviewed journals, 400 trade publications, and 300 books series. Also included are citations for conference papers, patent records, and scientific web pages.

Scopus is a major acquisition that will benefit the entire campus population. Created by the renowned publishing company, Elsevier, this single resource covers massive amounts of published materials while at the same time offering many value-added features.

Scopus provides the ability to create individual accounts which offer several personalized options. Among the options, users may save a search history and construct alerts for newly published literature on user-specified topics.

Scopus also includes a “Journal Analyzer” that employs six criteria for the comparative assessment of journals. Records for most citations include the cited references, and Scopus supports citation tracking along with other tools enabling users to track, analyze and visualize published research. Links to full-text resources are provided where available.

Dean Sandra DeYoung is enthusiastic about this new database. She commented, “I am delighted that the Library has been able to acquire Scopus. As a science resource, it is unparalleled in its scope. The citation tracking feature is critical and unique. This database will support the research needs of the faculty of the College of Science and Health.”

Scopus may be accessed from the Library’s database web page, both on campus and via remote access. For more information about Scopus, or to schedule an orientation, please contact the Library staff.

An Overview of the Content of Scopus

Citations from

- 18,500 peer-reviewed journals (including 1,800 Open Access journals),
- 425 trade publications,
- 325 book series,
- 250 conference proceedings,
- 375 million scientific web pages indexed via Scirus,
- 24.8 million patent records from five patent offices.