

United Library News

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Spring Semester 2009

The Academic Library of Seabury-Western & Garrett-Evangelical

Available at our Garrett Circ. Desk:

- Garrett & Seabury students may check out one of the library laptops. 8 units available for 3 hr periods.
- Digital Video Camera now available at circulation for use by Garrett students for Garrett Web/Video project.

www.Garrett.edu/library

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United Library Consolidates Circulation Desks

EVANSTON, Ill., Jan. 21, 2009 -- At a special meeting in mid-January, the trustees of the United Library directed the closure of the Seabury-Western circulation desk. Effective Jan. 30, 2009 the sole point of check-out and access to the collection will be from the Garrett-Evangelical circulation point at 2121 Sheridan Road.

"While this closure was not part of the United Library's three-year strategic plan, it is nonetheless sound," said Dr. Beth Sheppard, United Library director.

Sheppard pointed out that when merger between the two seminary libraries of Seabury-Western and Garrett-Evangelical was considered in the late

1970s, the director of the Harvard Divinity School Library, serving as consultant, recommended not only combining the two



Seabury Library Front Door

collections, but also having the Garrett desk serve as the single circulation point.

"In a very real sense, then, this current decision simply reflects another step in the merger process,"

Sheppard said. "The collections were united in 1982, the first solo United Library director was hired in 2007, and now in 2009 there will be a single circulation desk."

The decision, though unexpected, was not reached lightly, Sheppard said. Statistics have shown that though comprising 50 percent of the total collection, the items housed at Seabury-Western do not circulate as frequently as those in the stacks at Garrett-Evangelical. In fact, of United Library's total book circulation in 2006-2007, only 19.4 percent of checkouts were for titles that were shelved at Seabury.

STORY CONTINUED PG 3, "CLOSURE".

Crowd Gathers to View Historic Inauguration

A standing-room only crowd of more than 70 persons was present in the Library on January 20th to watch the historic inauguration of President Barak Obama.

Students, faculty, staff and administrators were able to see this ceremony via a 52" large-screen TV to which Ms. Kathleen Kordesh, Reference Librarian, had

hooked a library laptop. The laptop streamed the event live from an internet site provided by CNN.

A few students in the audience graciously assisted with boosting the sound to the back row.

Watching the event with friends and colleagues made the event even more remarkable!



“I’ve discovered some marvelous poets!”

“Sound scholarship lives on in the new Sheffield Phoenix Press.”

Meet the Staff: Loren Hagen, Head of Cataloging

Loren Hagen works behind the scenes at the library making certain that every book, DVD, CD, and music score is listed in our electronic catalog and properly tagged for easy location on the shelves.

Loren has worked faithfully in the United library for 23 years.

When asked about his favorite part of the job, Loren doesn’t hesitate. “I like seeing what’s going on in religious and theological scholarship and keeping a finger on that,” he replies. He also comments that he enjoys discovering some new things,

like the religious poetry of R. S. Thomas, which he cataloged a few years ago.

The most fun incident, he recounts, involved a project to catalog a box of books that were in Swahili. Though not conversant in that language, Loren was diligently flipping through one of the books when he realized that he recognized the illustrations. Amazingly, they depicted scenes from *Pilgrim’s Progress*. It



turned out that the book was a Swahili translation of that Christian classic.

In his free time Loren enjoys classical music. He hopes someday again to pick up the French Horn in earnest. He and his wife, Cleo, also garden. Loren admits that he focuses on growing vegetables while Cleo concentrates on flowers.

We are so very pleased to have Loren as a part of the United Library staff!

Biblical Studies Monographs Added to Collection

For scholars in Biblical Studies, Sheffield Academic Press, which published the *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* and the *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* monograph series was and is one of the best presses for works on the Bible. In about 2000, the University of Sheffield sold the press to Continuum, which still publishes these trademark series.

But the story doesn’t end

there. In 2003 the same editors of the original press created “Sheffield Phoenix Press” at the University of Sheffield. Now 5 years old, this new press has emerged as one of the leaders in the field with several new and exciting Bible monograph series. Yes, the magic is still there!

Over Christmas break the United Library purchased all of the available Sheffield Phoenix Press books. Almost

50 in all, these texts will truly enrich our holdings in the area of Biblical Studies.



Sheffield Phoenix Press

New Technology Facilitates Instruction Sessions

On Martin Luther King day the library took delivery of a 52 inch flat-screen TV. While this may at first blush seem to be an odd addition since the library possesses neither TV antenna nor cable, it is nonetheless a very useful piece of equipment.

“At 52 inches,” Beth Sheppard explains, “the viewing area is easily visible from many points in the Methodist Reading Room. Plus, with the economy being unstable,

prices on this equipment were very, very good.”



The library staff plans to use the screen during library tours in order to demonstrate to students how to use particular databases, electronic

library resources and the process for renewing books online.

In addition, there are times when the library space may be “booked” for small workshops when classes are in session and it is difficult to find an open space equipped for PowerPoint. For instance, during January intensives the Methodist room was used by Academic Technology for a training session on Joomla!—a software that facilitates updating of web-pages.



Closure (Continued from Page 1)

Further, recent door counts at Seabury reflect that on average, less than one patron per hour enters the library there.

"The trustees' and library leadership's concern for the safety and well being of library patrons was the most important factor leading to the decision, Sheppard said. Should a patron experience a health emergency, it is now likely that with so few patrons about, their distress would not be noticed soon enough for help to be summoned in a timely manner.

The decrease in patron traffic

at the Seabury location is attributed to the ebb and flow of the student population while the school is transitioning from a residential master of divinity model of theological education to other modes of course delivery."

The library staff has been quick to develop solutions for providing patrons with access to the collections which are housed at Seabury: The current periodical collection is being transported from Seabury to Garrett, books at Seabury will be accessed via a retrieval service,

a new book delivery service will be available for faculty at Seabury and Garrett and students with Seabury study carrels are being offered tenancy at Garrett study carrels.

"The staff of the United Library, while regretting the closure of the Seabury circulation area, is strongly committed to ensuring the best possible service to our patrons," Sheppard said. "We look forward to the new challenges and opportunities posed by having only one circulation service desk."



New Software to Speed Interlibrary Loan

Soon the library will be working with new software to facilitate the sending and receiving of interlibrary loans. The program, called "Ariel" compresses large PDF files that are too large to travel through e-mail.

In the past, interlibrary loans of articles that United Library patrons requested had to be copied by the loaning library and sent via snail mail. For items that faculty needed in a

"rush" sometimes it was necessary to send and receive faxes. Ah, those hard-to-read grainy faxes!

With the new software libraries can scan the ILL materials into a PDF file and transmit it directly to the requesting library. This saves a lot of time and money because it cuts out both the delivery time involved in the post office and the cost of the stamp. As an extra bonus,

articles received via Ariel may be e-mailed to patrons, eliminating the need for the patron to travel to the circulation desk to pick it up.

While not every library has this equipment, it should speed up about 70% of the Interlibrary loan requests processed in the United Library and by its second year will have paid for itself in postage saved. That means more money to buy books!

"Ariel is a very green solution because it eliminates paper and the need for fuel to transport materials."

Music CDs Now Available

After soliciting input from students, the library is pleased to present a new CD music collection.

Students and faculty are welcome to submit album titles and groups for consideration.

One of the chief ways that the Christian community expresses itself is through music. While in past centuries music was primarily collected in hymnals and printed in score format for use by

choirs, in the current era the popular Christian movement has given rise to an ever growing number of artists and groups whose recorded works are marketed by major record labels that transcend denominational lines.

This music, for its very pervasiveness in the culture, deserves academic study. To our knowledge, the United Library is the only Theological Library that is carefully collecting popular Christian

rock, hip hop, and other genres. The collection has started with 80 CDs, and a few scores, but more are being added daily. CDs are grouped by genre within which the albums of individual artists are shelved in chronological order by group/musician.

Patrons are able to check out CDs for 1 week and are reminded that copyright does apply to digital works. Please use this collection ethically!



CD Shelf Grows!

**The Academic Library of Seabury-Western
& Garrett-Evangelical**

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With over 300,000 volumes on site, access to thousands of electronic journals and databases, and exciting special collections, the United Library is a treasure house of knowledge.

Come study in architecturally spectacular environments with materials that range to suit the tastes of readers from the antiquarian to the modern theologian.

Reflect and learn in a variety of stunning settings that ensure spaces for both collaborative learning opportunities and the solitary pursuit of meaning.

We're on the web!
WWW.Garrett.edu/Library

Periodicals on the Move



**The Past & Future
Homes of Our Periodicals**

The United Library subscribes to approximately 600 journal titles. Presently those are housed at Seabury-Western in the upper and lower levels of the circulation area.

Due to a shifting project this past summer at Garrett, however, it is now possible to move them all to a new location to the Methodist Reading room.

Since the vast majority of periodicals arrive at the Garrett address for processing in technical services, this

change is welcomed by our student workers who assist with journal tracking.

“Some patrons may actually find the collection easier to browse due to this change,” comments Beth Sheppard, Library Director. “In their current location, the size of the shelving units have driven how items are displayed. As a result, journals are not currently in strict alphabetical order at Seabury. With the move, patrons will find titles displayed alphabetically. Hopefully this will make it easier for pa-

trons to browse the collection and find favorite titles.”

The move is scheduled to take place during the last part of January and the first few days of February.