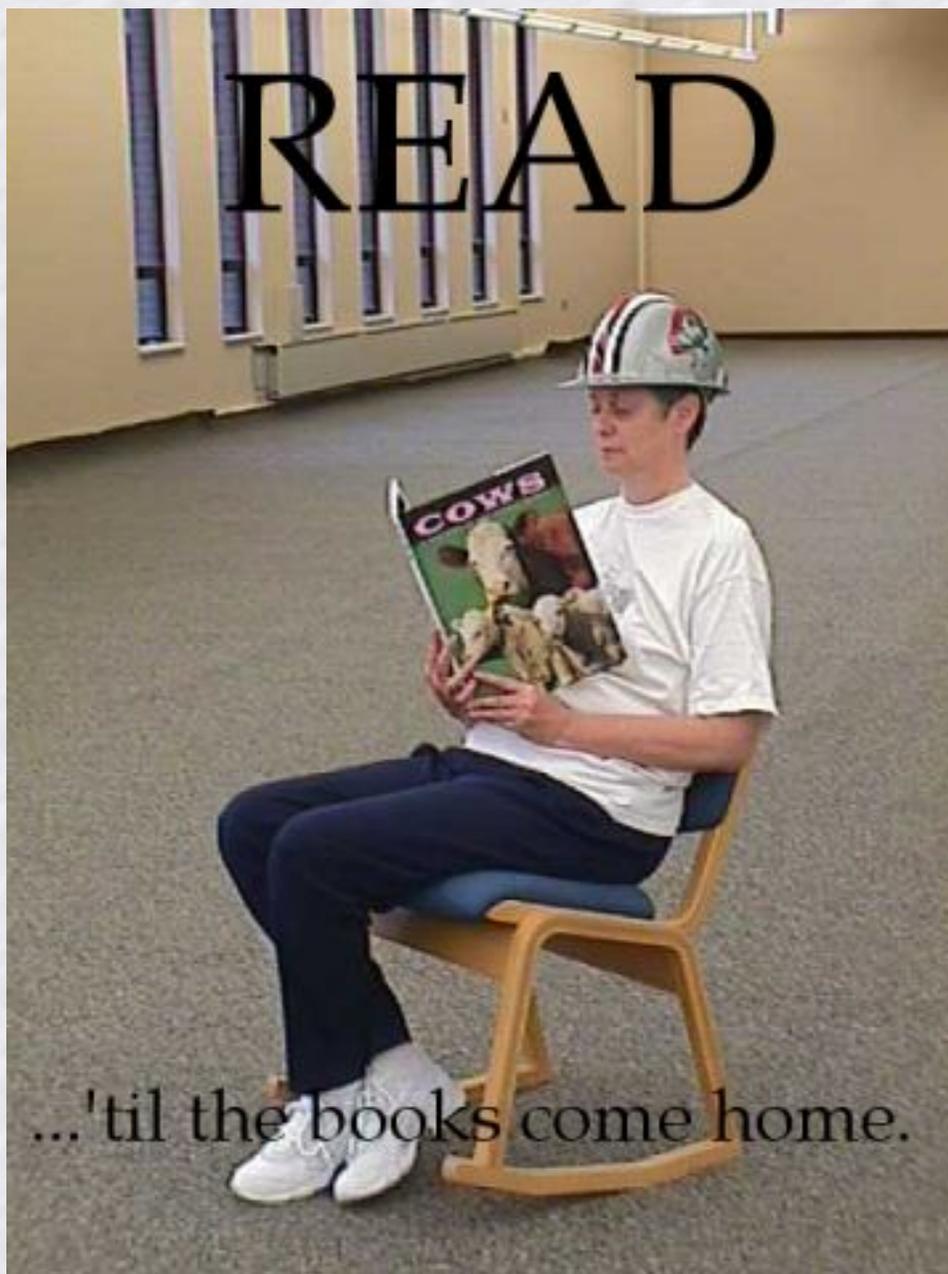


The Ohio State University Libraries

NEWS NOTES Online

Vol. XLIX No. 39 September 26, 2000



Constance Britton (OARDC), Working Hard For The Cause

[Complete Archive](#)

Never tell 'em how many lettermen you've got coming back. Tell 'em how many you lost.

Knute Rockne
quoted in *Football's Greatest Coaches*
by Edwin Pope

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See also: [What's New](#) on the Libraries' Homepage.

Send items to [Patricia Greene](#) by Friday noon for publication the following week.

Calendar of Events

Exhibits

The 9th Annual Ohio State University Staff Arts & Crafts Exhibit

September 11 - October 13, 2000

Bricker Hall, 1st and 2nd floor lobbies, 190 North Oval Mall

Echoes in the Ice: Exploration and Science in Antarctica

September 15 - December 15, 2000

Sills Exhibit Hall, Main Library, Sunday through Saturday during open hours.

For other University events, see [OSU Electronic Calendars](#)

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Announcements

From the Director

Dear Colleague,
Ohio State is becoming an active partner in a volunteer

community service program called Columbus Reads. Columbus Reads' goal is to improve basic literacy among the children of our community. OSU volunteer tutors will be assigned to a local elementary school to help children improve their reading skills and appreciation. As you have seen in previous liball messages and in OSU Today, the University is now recruiting volunteer tutors. Linda Gonzalez is the Lead Coordinator from the Libraries for this program, and her role is to recruit volunteers from the Libraries. This message is a call to ask for your assistance. I believe that service to the community is a responsibility with many rewards, and certainly a program that promotes literacy among our children is very appropriate for library staff participation. I plan to register as a volunteer tutor. I would encourage any of you to look carefully at the program and talk with your supervisor about your involvement if you are interested. It is two hours a week from October through May. Please call Linda if you have questions.

Thank you.

Joe Branin

branin.1@osu.edu

Some Additional Information Regarding ColumbusReads

Q: Can I still participate as a volunteer tutor even if I am not available for the entire year?

A: Yes, the ColumbusReads schedule has been conveniently grouped into four different times to accommodate the quarter system: Tutoring for the entire year Oct 17, 2000 - May 24, 2001 Fall tutoring Oct 17, 2000 - Dec 19, 2000 Winter tutoring Jan 9, 2001 - Mar 22, 2001 Spring tutoring Mar 27, 2001 - May 24, 2001

Q: Can I register as a substitute volunteer tutor?

A: Yes, but as a substitute tutor, you must register as a substitute tutor, complete the training on October 10th and

must commit to tutor in the event that a permanent tutor cannot attend on either Tuesday or Thursday. Also, I now have registration forms in my office. Please call or email me if you have questions or require a registration form. To date, I am aware that only six (6) of us have volunteered to tutor. Please check your calendar and talk to your supervisor about your participating in this very important community program.

Q: Is the volunteer time on OSU/work time or do I have to take vacation time?

A: If you volunteer, there is a commitment of two hours a week between October 17, 2000 and May 24, 2001. You may select the two hours for Tuesday or Thursday mornings, but not both days. The University supports this outreach initiative, therefore, the two hours are on work time (University release time).

Q: Is transportation provided?

A: Yes, the university provides transportation. A bus leaves OSU at 9:05 a.m.. You will tutor one child from 9:30 - 10:00 and tutor a second child from 10:00 - 10:30. The bus leaves the school promptly at 10:30 a.m. to return to the university.

Q: Will the children I tutor change every week?

A: No, it is expected that you will tutor the same two children from October through May. This allows for the child to be comfortable and thus enhance the learning experience.

Q: Can I select the schools I volunteer to help in?

A: No, Columbus Reads is targeted for high risk schools and OSU has been assigned East Linden and Hubbard Elementary Schools. Other schools are assigned to other organizations. The purpose of the program is to mentor and teach kindergartners to read in order to develop readiness skills.

Q: How do I volunteer?

A: Talk with your supervisor about your involvement and register as a volunteer directly on the web at <http://www.osu.edu/ColumbusReads>. I am the lead coordinator for the Libraries and would like you to notify me also so we can ensure the Libraries involvement in this important activity.

Q: Will there be any training to help me work with the students?

A: Yes, on receipt of your registration as a volunteer, you will be asked to attend a training that describes the tutoring process. The training is scheduled for October 10 from 9:00 - noon at the Ohio Union. You must be registered as a volunteer before attending the training.

Q: Who is the contact in the Libraries?

A: I am the lead coordinator in the Libraries and if you have questions, you may also notify me via email or phone (2-5863). My role is to respond to questions and help recruit volunteers.

Linda Gonzalez
gonzalez.107@osu.edu

Samuel Lazerow Fellowship

The call for proposals has been announced for the 2001 ACRL Samuel Lazerow Fellowship. Each year, ACRL awards \$1,000 to a librarian to defray the costs of travel and writing in the fields of acquisitions or technical services. The cash award is sponsored by the Institute for Scientific Information. The 2000 Samuel Lazerow Fellowship Award was presented to Kyle Banerjee for his proposal, "Developing a Procedure for Processing Electronic Theses and Dissertations."

Detailed information, criteria, and submissions guidelines

can be found on the web at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/lazerow.html>. For additional information, please contact the Samuel Lazerow Fellowship committee chair, Lynda Clendenning, at lfc9k@virginia.edu.

A complete list of the awards, fellowships, and grants offered by ACRL can be found at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/award2.html>. Further information can be obtained from Meredith Parets at mparets@ala.org

Training Sessions for New Student Employees

Training sessions for new student employees will be held again this fall beginning on Friday, September 29, and continuing through the month of October. There will be five sessions each of the General Library Orientation and the Personal Interactions/Customer Service. The schedule of sessions is as follows:

General Library Orientation

Friday, September 29, 2:30-3:30pm, 122 Main Library
Friday, September 29, 3:30-4:30pm, 122 Main Library
Tuesday, October 3, 3:30-4:30pm, 122 Main Library
Wednesday, October 4, 5:30-6:30pm, 090 SEL
Tuesday, October 24, 5:30-6:30pm, 122 Main Library

Personal Interactions/Customer Service

Tuesday, October 3, 5:30-7:30pm, 122 Main Library
Friday, October 6, 2:30-4:30pm, 122 Main Library
Wednesday, October 11, 5:30-7:30pm, 090 SEL
Friday, October 13, 2:30-4:30pm, 122 Main Library
Friday, October 27, 2:30-4:30pm, 122 Main Library

A calendar showing when the sessions will be given is available at the following URL:

</Staff/training/trngcalS.html>

Also available are the online training sessions for LC Call

Numbers (Choose PROGRAMS from the Windows START menu and then select LC EASY) and OSCAR (<http://gateway.lib.ohio-state.edu/training/>). The quizzes for the OSCAR sessions are no longer online, but are available in paper form; please contact the Training Advisory Council (<mailto:libtrng@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu>) if you wish to have a copy of the quizzes.

Standing Assessment Committee To Be Formed

The University Libraries is forming a standing committee to conduct systematic and ongoing assessments of the Libraries' services, facilities, and operations. Information gathered from these assessments will be used to benchmark best practices and help form recommendations for change in meeting user needs.

The committee will keep abreast of best practices in service and organizational assessment and lead efforts to apply these best practices at The Ohio State University Libraries. Surveys, interviews, observations, testing, and sampling are examples of some of the processes that might be used to gather information from users.

The committee will have system-wide responsibility for assessment, but during the next two years the committee will give particular attention to gathering important information regarding the Main Library as we plan a major renovation of this facility and its services.

If you have experience and/or interest in assessment and would like to serve on this standing committee (with two and three year staggered appointments), please send an email to Pat McCandless (mccandless.1@osu.edu), chair of the committee, by October 10, 2000, so the committee can be established and begin working by the end of October, 2000. Thank you.

Joseph J. Branin

branin.1@osu.edu

I Am a Book Tour

Thursday, October 5

9:00-11:00am

Tour Begins In 124 Main Library

What It Is: This is a tour of the Technical Services Division and the Labeling Section of Collection Maintenance which follows the work processes involved in the acquisition, cataloging, labeling and shelf-preparation of new books. Participants will leave with a better understanding of the various steps involved in acquiring new books for the OSU Libraries collections.

Who Is Invited: The tour is open to all Libraries employees, although it may be of most interest to those involved in the process of adding to the collections. In order to accommodate all participants we are limiting the number of guests to 10 per tour. We ask that you register in advance. Additional tours will be offered in the future.

Contact: Please send registration requests to Lisa Iacobellis via e-mail at: iacobellis.2@osu.edu, or call 292-6314.

Features

Pawpaws and Pastiche

Jim Murphy (Cataloging) came to OSU Libraries in 1983 from the Ohio Historical Society, where he was a “self-taught” cataloger, after having been a reference librarian for five years. Hired at OSUL as science cataloger, he soon found out how much there was he didn’t know about “the

science of cataloging,” as it was then called, a lesson he is still learning, although he says cataloging is no longer a science, it is becoming more of a lost art. Nonetheless, his first years here were among his happiest, due largely to the skillful and beneficent management of the department by the late Martha Lawry.

Eventually it was decided that OSUL didn't need a science cataloger and Jim went from pillar to post (“Make that ‘pillory to post,’” he jokes), wherever it was thought he was most needed. At different times he was head of the Monograph Department and later of Serial Cataloging. Among other things, he was the first OSU librarian to enhance OCLC records, with the now-forgotten NAL Agricola Project. More recently he has been instrumental in cataloging of the Herbarium and Baggs Memorial Library Collections, e-journals, electronic analytics and realia.

Currently, Jim is in charge of Western Language Non-Book and Thesis Cataloging—a pastiche of whatever has to be done, he says. Fortunately, he has Vickie Fitzgerald, who catalogs most of the traditional non-print materials, while James Jones processes OSU theses, and Larissa Abramiuk (on leave) makes a brave attempt to keep up with the mountain of incoming UMI Dissertation Express theses and a backlog of government document fiche. Jim, who was responsible for cataloging about a third of the e-journal records currently in the OSCAR system, appreciates having been in on the ground floor of electronic resources cataloging, because it allows him to see through the “electronic mystique.” He says he has come to learn that technical services librarians tend to believe the world is either coming to an end or just being created and that they prize nothing more than novelty—whether it is called CORC or metadata.

Contrary to popular belief, Jim maintains that catalogers don't keep changing the rules just to make work. One of the happier changes that has been emphasized with increased automation is the need for flexibility in adapting rules to fit our needs. But there is still a need for consistency in providing access, and he regrets the current piece-meal approach to cataloging, which makes it the tail of the dog.

When you do that, he says, the product is exactly what you would expect from the tail end of a dog.

Jim has always been an outspoken supporter of faculty status for librarians and chaired one of the library's first task forces to examine the question of keeping faculty status. He believes that he is evidence that the system works: "if it were not for tenure, I'd probably still be saying what I think but very likely I would be saying it someplace else."

As for his present job, the thing Jim likes about it the most is his colleagues, who are able to work together as a team, even when individuals have differing ideas. The atmosphere of mutual respect and willingness to share ideas and information fostered by Martha Lawry, has returned to the Cataloging Department and makes working there much more pleasant, despite the tremendous and ever-changing workload. "We may not always be informed about what's going on outside the Department, but Magda [El-Sherbini] makes certain we know what's going on within the Department and shares what information she has." And the most recent Cataloging Department retreat, he believes, has increased our sense of cohesiveness and revived our spirits while also giving us the grace to accept those problems which we cannot change.



Jim's continued interest in reference led him to volunteer several hours a week on the Main Library's ISD desk years ago. The reward is that amid the directional questions and requests to see if we own a current textbook there is the

occasional question to which his background provides a faster, better answer than might be expected. But the really awesome realization is that these patrons are the people who are supposed to be using the system we have created. He thinks that his work in ISD and on the Oscar Users Committee has given him a useful and sympathetic perspective on the plight of the untutored user.

Jim has actively pursued research and publication in a variety of scientific disciplines, chiefly archaeology and geology. Besides three books and numerous articles on Ohio archaeology, he recently collaborated with a geologist at Miami University on the use of rare earth elements to distinguish distinctive prehistoric flint resources in Ohio and West Virginia. (This paper was presented at the 32st International Archaeometry Conference in Mexico City last May and is now available on the World Wide Web at http://www.ohiocrm.org/new_page_1.htm. Jim thinks that his latest effort may also be his most esoteric to date, an attempt to refute another archaeologist's claim that the Iroquois Indians were responsible for spreading the pawpaw to southern Ontario and western New York. During the course of this research, Jim had to counter the argument that white-tail deer will not eat pawpaws. In the process, the normally camera-shy Jim typically "took the deer by the horns" and got captured on film in the process. The paper resulting from this research, "Pawpaws, Persimmons, and 'Possums: On the Natural Distribution of Pawpaws in the Northeast," is also available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ohiocrm.org/pawpaws.htm>.

Luminous Lucubrations

Last week's entry was "matutinal" which means, "of or in the morning; early." This week's entry is "lubricious."

Online resources for this question are available:

- [WWWebster Dictionary](#) - brief definitions
- [The Oxford English Dictionary](#) - lengthy, historical

entries

Laughs

- [Dilbert's Daily Mental Workout](#)
 - [Cartoon of the Da](#)
-

Meeting Notes

Human Resources

Appointments

====Faculty====

Information Technology Department: Laura Tull has accepted the position of Systems Librarian - Assistant Professor - (replacing Rogers), effective October 2, 2000.

====Staff====

Science and Engineering Library: Nancy Morris has accepted the position of Library Media Technical Assistant 1 - 50% - (replacing Wibowo), effective September 25, 2000.

Science and Engineering Library: Linda Mason has accepted the position of Library Media Technical Assistant 2 - 50% - (replacing Wibowo), effective October 10, 2000.

Vacancies

====Faculty====

OSU Mansfield: Librarian 2 -new position

====Staff====

Book Depository: Library Media Technical Assistant 1-50%- (replacing Gleim)

Cartoon Research Library: Library Associate 1 (replacing Scott) 1st listing

Cataloging: Library Associate 1 (replacing Patterson)
History, Political Science, and Philosophy Reading Room:
Library Media

Technical Assistant 2 (replacing Ives) 1st listing

Interlibrary Loan: Library Media Technical Assistant 2 -
50% - (replacing Lawyer) 1st listing

To comply with University procedures, employees who are applying for listed vacancies must complete a Promotion/Transfer Request (form 8931, Rev 9/97) during the week of the first listing of the vacancy in the University Personnel Posting (green sheet). To ensure awareness of all library vacancies which have been posted, applicants should consult the weekly green sheet rather than relying on the listing in News Notes Online and are encouraged to attach a resume and/or other supporting documents to the form. Prospective faculty and staff applicants who are absent during the five day posting period and wish to apply should see Toni Morrison.

Library personnel may also view University employment opportunities at [OSU Jobs](#)

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Ohio State University Libraries *News Notes Online* is a weekly publication edited by [Patricia Greene](#).