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## Inside Information Fall 2009

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# *inside* information

INFORMATION SERVICES @ CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Fall 2009

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## Three spaces improved in Shain over summer

Last year, the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections and Archives was created in Shain Library, through a generous gift by trustee Linda Lear '62. Consolidating the College Archives with Special Collections in this beautiful new space meant that the third floor room that had been home to College Archives was now vacant. Information Services staff saw this vacated space as an opportunity to make changes that would address some ongoing needs of the College community. First, the former third floor College Archives room was spruced up and became a new home

for staff training, replacing the training classroom located on the second floor of the library. The furniture and computers were updated, and a ceiling-mounted projection system was installed. The improved room now has a new name, the Professional and Technical Education Room (PATE).

The former staff training space on the second floor was renovated, with improvements including new carpeting and improved lighting, to create an expanded Neff Lab. The 10 Macintosh computers and computer tables were moved from the current

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*Fishing Boats* by Li Hai-t'ao (1932-). On display in the Chu Room, Shain Library.



The new Neff Lab on the second floor of the Shain Library.

## *Message from the VP*

You may recall that I wrote in this space about the shared CTW collection development efforts that the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is supporting. We are engaged in a pilot program to share the purchase of expensive, non-core, print materials where single copies are sufficient for research needs. This frees funds for other core titles, enhancing our collections and avoiding unnecessary duplication. So far, this seems to be a valuable way to expand our collections. Based on this experience, and taking advantage of a new program from Coutts, Inc., one of our materials vendors, we are about to embark on an even more interesting pilot program of acquiring and sharing electronic books. This pilot project will provide the Consortium with a rare opportunity to investigate the future potential for electronic materials as a complement to the libraries' print collections. The Mellon Foundation will again support this effort financially.

For several years, Connecticut College has purchased limited electronic books. Typically, these are materials not core to the collection, but desirable nonetheless. Unfortunately, the vendor interfaces hinder effective use and, in my opinion, violate fair use principles. The Coutts program, MyiLibrary, offers a different and much more acceptable model for providing and accessing electronic materials. Librarians will first select from some 190,000 key university and other scholarly press materials available from Coutts and add these to Caravan, the online catalog shared by the three libraries. In a break with traditional acquisition models, the actual users of our materials—the faculty and students—will determine whether any of these titles become part of the permanent collections. MyiLibrary will not charge for the first use of a title; only on the second use will an account be debited for the item's cost, and the item will become part of the libraries' collections.

As librarians have long known, many materials that we and our faculty colleagues select for the collection never circulate, at least outside the library. To review a

large database of materials, but acquire (and pay for) only what we actually use, is a dramatically different model, not practicable in the print realm. Furthermore, materials acquired this way will be "owned" by all three libraries and accessible by anyone in our academic communities, potentially extending our collection development dollars by two-thirds. There will be no limit on simultaneous uses of an item. Passages from the electronic books may be copied and pasted into other documents and printed in increments of up to 30 pages at a time. (Users of our current NetLibrary or ebrary electronic materials know this is a big improvement in the electronic book interface model.)

Electronic books are evolving rapidly, but many of their features still require improvements, especially in their licensing and use. With the Coutts model, for example, libraries must limit their ILL provision of ebook content to individual chapters or portions of a book. This weakens a key feature of the scholarly research landscape. I also would like more assurance that these materials, once purchased, will always be accessible to our users, if Coutts were to go out of business or if we were to end our relationship, for example. But I'm willing to overlook these concerns for now, because the pilot will teach us much about acquisition workflows of electronic books and whether sharing e-book purchases across the consortium is a viable long-term strategy. We'll continue to investigate copyright issues, student and faculty acceptance, and the nature of research using electronic materials purchased under the pilot project. We hope to provide quality access to scholarly materials and to enhance the user experience as we move into the world of digital scholarship and teaching.

We look forward to your participation, feedback, and support in our ongoing efforts.



*W. Lee Hisle, Ph.D.*

*Vice President for Information Services  
and Librarian of the College*

# Three New Librarians join Information Services

Three librarians have joined the Information Services team since last spring: Benjamin Panciera, the new director of the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections and Archives; Carrie Kent, the new Director of Research Support and Instruction; and Benjamin Peck, the new Access Services Librarian. We asked them all to introduce themselves...

## Benjamin Peck



Manuel J. Jimenez is one of many students who work in Circulation under Ben's supervision.

I grew up in the green mountains of Vermont and graduated from Bates College in 2005 with a B.A. in Music. While I was a student at Bates, I worked in the library and sang in choirs, cover bands, and a capella groups. After Bates,

I studied library science at Indiana University, graduating in 2008. As a graduate student, I worked as a circulation supervisor in the Indiana University Music Library. Last year I worked as the Music Librarian at Mount Allison University, located in beautiful Sackville, New Brunswick. My interests include hiking, biking and singing.



Ben reviewing book checkout with Hailey Fyfe.

## Carrie Kent

I actually grew up at Connecticut College; my dad taught in the Zoology Department here, and my mom worked for years as a librarian at the library. I graduated from Connecticut College in 1974, worked at the MIT Libraries from 1974 to 1979, and got my Master's in Library Science at Simmons College in 1979. I spent several years as a science reference librarian, first at the Brandeis Science Library and then at the Cabot Science Library at Harvard. I helped design the front ends for both versions of the Harvard University online system, and participated heavily in a wide variety of university and college level committees. In 1988, I was asked by the then Head of the College Library to recreate reference services at Harvard's Widener Library. I created the Research Services Department and was head of it until the summer of 2007,

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Carrie examining reference books at the Shain Library reference desk.

# Benjamin Panciera

I am returning to the part of the world where I grew up, after 20 years in the Midwest, split between the University of Chicago and the University of Notre Dame in South



Ben with a selection of the Linda Lear Center's holdings.

Bend, Indiana. I have been in special collections for most of my library career, first in reference, then cataloging, and then as a curator, so the infinitely varied duties here suit me well. My academic training was as a medievalist (12th-century literature and philosophy, if you really want to know), but these days I am mostly interested in the history of the book and fine press printing. The highlights of the collections in the Lear Center are well known, but there are still a lot of hidden treasures to be found here.



For a sample of the Lear Center's collections, see the two exhibits on the main floor of Shain this fall.

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## Carrie Kent (continued)

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when, for personal reasons, I dropped back to be a research librarian. I credit my education at Connecticut College for my range of research strengths, particularly in studies that are transdisciplinary in nature. I have written many articles, reviews, book chapters over the course of my career, all about research and gateway services. I also spent many years at Harvard doing freshman academic advising and love to teach research skills. Although I am not a technologist, I am fascinated with new technologies and love to help find interesting ways of integrating them into library and classroom pedagogy. And finally, I am very happy to be back!



Carrie will also be the library's new liaison to the Anthropology department.

# Three places improved in Shain over the summer (continued)



Group study space added in the lower level as requested by students.

research done by students in Professor Catherine Benoit's spring 2009 Applied Anthropology course for their project, "An Anthropological Study of Shain Library: Uses, Perceptions, and Recommendations." Because custodial staff and Blue Camel Café workers use a door at the back of the room, partitions were installed to allow access with minimal disruption. The space now holds a seminar table, comfortable study chairs, and a white board and wall-mounted LCD screen on which students can display output from their laptops when they want to collaborate on technology-based projects. Students can also use a podium to practice PowerPoint and other digital project presentations. A scheduling sheet is located on the wall just outside the door to allow students to sign up to reserve the room.

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Neff Lab on the lower level, and six more computers and an instructor's station were added to the new space. The new Neff Lab also has a ceiling-mounted projector, a wall screen, and a white board. The room is now a 16-seat Macintosh computer lab. Priority for its use will be given to information literacy instruction, but when it's not being used for library instruction, it is available to support credit courses and technology training. The lab is also open for student use when the room is not scheduled for instruction. A schedule is posted outside the door. For more information on the Neff Lab, visit the Computer Labs section of the Libraries and Computing web site.

The former Neff Lab on the lower level has become a group study space. This decision was influenced by



Professional and Technical Education Room (PATE).

## New air conditioning protects Bill Hall server room against meltdowns

For the IS network staff, global warming is a real threat — at least in the Bill Hall server room. The temperature in the server room had been getting hotter and hotter each year as more servers were added to meet the College's electronic information needs. The ancient air-conditioning unit for the room was no match for the heat produced by

the servers and the sun. John Schaeffer, systems and servers administrator, watched the room thermometer go up and up. He knew that the computer servers and network equipment in the room would be damaged if the heat was more than 90 degrees, and it had already increased to 89 degrees. The staff discussed which equipment would be turned off in order to keep the room and equipment cool enough to provide essential services.

For the last year, a temporary vent system kept the temperature within the working limits of the computers. This spring, the Physical Plant staff brought in air conditioning consultants, who determined that the existing air conditioner could not keep the room cool. Recognizing this, Physical Plant ordered a new air conditioner designed for use in a server room.

The new unit arrived at the end of June and the old air conditioner spontaneously stopped working within minutes. The College mechanics tried to fix the old unit, but it could not be repaired. All College administrative data operations, e-mail, web sites, and Internet access would stop if the room became too hot.

But disaster was averted! Within three hours, the air-conditioning contractors located and installed two temporary air conditioners. The new, permanent air conditioner took three more days to install. In the end, we have a cool 68-degree server room, even on the hottest days.



Bill Hall servers in action.

## Attention RedDot Users!

A new RedDot manual reflecting recent updates to the program will be available this semester. The manual covers a range of topics, from creating new pages to editing existing ones, and is full of screen shots to help you find your way around. To obtain a copy or to request training, contact Amy Hannum via phone (extension 5150) or email ([aahan@conncoll.edu](mailto:aahan@conncoll.edu)).

## Improvements to student email

When the Class of 2013 logged into the network in early June, they became the first users of the new Connecticut College student email system. The College, in partnership with Google, has created a new student email system built on Google's web-based Gmail. (The other classes moved to Gmail later in the month.) The new system offers many more features than the old system. Email storage capacity has increased from 50 MB to 7.3 GB. The anti-spam and virus protection have been im-



proved, and a search mechanism allows students to search their inboxes, contacts, and chat conversations. The College staff still administers the email system, and email addresses have not changed.

Many other colleges moved to email systems hosted by Google or Microsoft before we did, and these colleges reported that the moves were a wise choice. Students were already using similar email systems, so it was an easy transition. The hosted services improve email delivery and security, and students can use their college accounts instead of forwarding their messages to another account. We expect that these improvements will also increase our students' satisfaction with College email.

## One book, one region ... one reading group

For the past five summers, the staff of Information Services have engaged in a summer reading group. Participating staff members read the book and join in a potluck lunch and discussion event at summer's end. Each year we invite a faculty member or two to shed some insight on the book's theme or to provide some historical perspective. Previous reading selections have included Greg Mortensen's *Three Cups of Tea*, the true story of Mortensen's effort to build schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Jhumpa Lahiri's story collection *Interpreter of Maladies*.

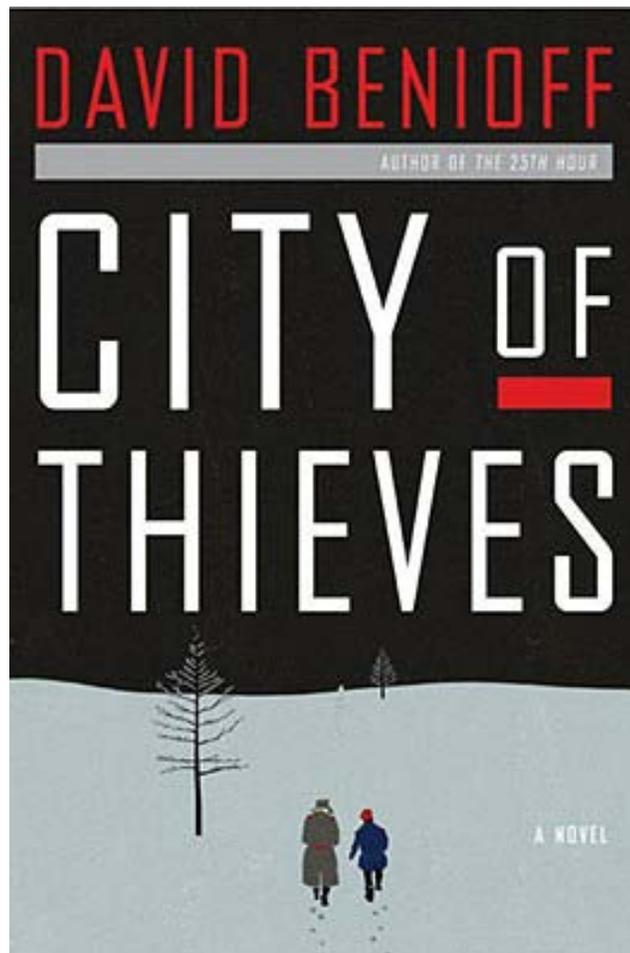
This summer's book was *City of Thieves* by David Benioff. This book was also chosen as the "One Book, One Region 2009" book for eastern Connecticut. It is a novel about the Nazis' siege of Leningrad during World War II and two uncommon friends who embark on a nearly impossible

mission to secure a dozen eggs for the Soviet colonel. The colonel needs these eggs for his daughter's wedding cake.

As the story unfolds, the two main characters are exposed to all the possibilities of wretchedness that took place during the siege. It's a fast-moving, hard-to-put-down story full of vivid imagery and interesting characters.

Eileen Kane, Assistant Professor of History, led the discussion for the reading group event. Her insight and knowledge of Russian history were particularly useful. A delicious potluck lunch followed the discussion.

For more information on the One Book, One Region project, visit their web site at <http://www.onebookoneregion.org/>.

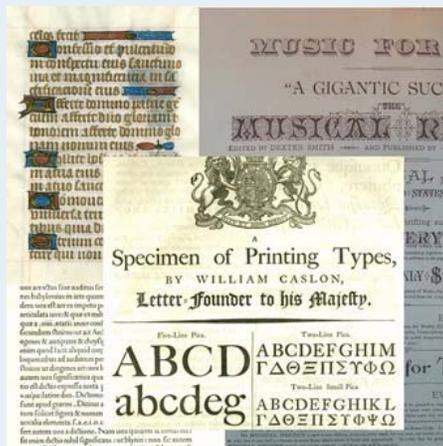


# Exhibits and Events

The following public exhibitions and events will take place in Shain Library during the fall semester:

## Exhibitions:

“Literal Evolution: The Letter from Medieval to Modern.” August 15 to October 10. In the display cases on the main floor. This exhibit will look at the origins of Gothic, Roman, and Italic typefaces in medieval



manuscript pages and early printed books, highlighting the contributions of early printers and type designers like Jensen, Garamond, Griffo, and Aldus and the later adaptations of Bodoni, Baskerville, and Caslon. It will also

feature the use of type in advertising and other forms of display in the 19th and 20th centuries as well as the conservative impulses and experimentation of the fine press printing movement.

“Boats in Chinese Landscape Painting.” August 15 to October 10. In the Charles Chu Reading Room. Boats provide the common theme connecting the paintings exhibited here. The boat motif has no fixed meaning in Chinese art, but boats are a common figure in painting, especially landscape painting. They can be especially effective in conveying a sense of fragile humanity in the midst of natural forces. The paintings shown here span many styles but are mostly contemporary. Included here are well known artists like Yang Yan-wen or Liu Mao-shan and artists who remain anonymous.

“The Curious World of Arthur Rackham.” October 15 to December 22. In the display cases on the main floor. Of the many artists who made their fortune as illustrators of children’s book artists, none achieved anywhere near the popularity of Arthur Rackham. This exhibition will feature works from Connecticut College’s extensive collection of Arthur Rackham from the Gildersleeve Collection for children’s literature. Works spanning Rackham’s entire career will be presented. In honor of the season, illustrations appropriate to Halloween will be featured.



“In Search of the East Asian Art Tradition: Paintings by Korean Artist Suh Yong.” October 12 to November 15. In the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room.

“Japanese Prints.” October 15 to December 22. In the Charles Chu Room. This exhibition will feature Japanese prints from the Chu-Griffis art collection.

## Lectures

“In Search of the East Asian Art Tradition.” Exhibit reception and lecture by the artist Suh Yong. Monday, October 12, at 4:00 pm in the Chu Room.

*Inside Information is published by Information Services twice a year and is distributed to the Connecticut College faculty, administrative offices and other interested members of the campus community. Comments and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to Amanda Watson, editor, at [amanda.watson@conncoll.edu](mailto:amanda.watson@conncoll.edu). It can also be read online on the Information Services Home Page at <http://www.conncoll.edu/is/>.*

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