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inside information

INFORMATION SERVICES @ CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Fall 2010

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Space Updates in Shain Library

It was a busy summer at the Shain Library! Significant changes in shelving resulted in more space for collection growth, the unification of separated collections, and the creation of new student study spaces.

This all was made possible with the purchase of 26,000 linear feet of compact shelving. Compact shelving (for the uninitiated) puts book stacks on a rail system that allows library patrons to “open and close” shelving ranges, creating access aisles as needed. That means that you can shelve more books per square foot of library space. In essence, compact shelving provides on-site storage and open access for less frequently used materials.

During the project, we removed much of the existing shelving from the ground level of Shain. Collections were temporarily stored onsite; other materials were then moved into the finished compact shelving. Among the other results of the shift, the older materials still classed in the Dewey Decimal System are now located on the ground floor, and many government documents have moved into the new shelving. Moving the Dewey collection downstairs opened up enough room in the upper reaches of the library so that the bound journals are now reunited (finally!) in one alphabetic sequence on the third floor, and all oversize Library of Congress classed books are now shelved together.

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Lounge area in the Language Center.



Updated study space on the second floor of the Shain Library.

Message from the VP

Elsewhere in this issue of Inside Information are descriptions of some of the work done by IS staff this summer, such as moving faculty and staff to Gmail, negotiating a new cable television contract, adding 26,000 linear feet of compact shelving, and building a wireless network in the residence halls. These big resource activities are “game-changers” in each of their areas. For example, the Gmail implementation takes advantage of the “cloud”—that is, a resource hosted off-site and accessed via the Internet, replacing or supplementing a heretofore local activity—to deliver a key service, not only saving the College the cost of maintaining the hardware and software to run a local e-mail system, but also freeing staff to work on other important projects. The contract with MetroCast, our new cable provider, is priced to allow YES, NESN, and the Food Network, for example, to be a part of the basic cable package underwritten by the College, and give students the ability to contract directly with MetroCast for HBO or Pay-Per-View programming. Importantly, the budget savings from these two projects helped underwrite the cost of the compact shelving and the wireless network.

The wireless system in the residence halls is apparently a big hit. Over 300 of our incoming freshmen had logged in by 11:00 on the Saturday morning they arrived on campus, and word-of-mouth reviews are very positive. Though most of our competition have already installed wireless in their residence halls, it would have been tough to find half a million dollars for this project in the College’s operating budget. Using the savings from the Gmail conversion and the cable contract, a model wireless system was installed using the best wireless technology from a leading provider. The system—covering residence halls, Shain Library and Harris Refectory—will provide excellent service for years to come.

The compact shelving installation is likewise a transformative project for IS and the College. We now

have the ability to maintain key collections, little-used but still important, in Shain Library for some time. With adequate space for new print monographs and the ability to house bound journals in a single area, this project helps librarians and researchers alike. Perhaps as importantly, new spaces for student study and research and for media creation and viewing are being created. Visit the second floor of Shain, across from the Lear Center, to see how some of the new space is being used. We are still planning how best to use the third floor area occupied by the “cage” and some 400 square feet near the Blue Camel Café. Compact shelving doesn’t solve all of Shain’s space problems, but it does make very efficient use of the space available.

Of course, every advance seems to bring other issues to the surface. The Gmail system, for example, requires individuals and offices to change their behavior and business practices, producing some stress and frustration—something no one in IS wants to foster. The ubiquitous wireless system in the residence halls will likely force an increase in the bandwidth budget for Internet access. We already see a surge in video streaming—from Netflix and Hulu, for example—which saturates our bandwidth allotment. The compact shelving would seem to be without downside, but the installation can only buy so much time and space before hard decisions will have to be made. Planning for the future of the materials collection must continue.

Nevertheless, these projects and the many others that IS staff completed this summer are helping Connecticut College be a better college and more competitive with our peers.



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

Summer Visitors Keep the Lear Center Busy

Summer is generally a slow time in the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections & Archives. But summer 2010 was much busier than expected as many researchers took advantage of the break to make use of some of the valuable collections stored in the Center. The Center had nearly four times as many research visits this summer as it did last year, with the researchers split evenly between Special Collections and Archives.

While the Archives typically fills

requests from on campus in its role as the repository for College records, the majority of business this year came from research into Connecticut College history in preparation for the Centennial. This was supplemented by the work of an independent scholar preparing a book on students at women's colleges in the first half of the twentieth century.

Activity in Special Collections increased substantially and somewhat unexpectedly, with several research-

ers making extended visits to the Lear Center. Faculty traveled from other institutions to make use of our strong primary source collections on Eugene O'Neill, Rachel Carson, and the environmental movement. This research will be incorporated into scholarly monographs due out in the next few years. As Lear Center collections become better known, we look forward to becoming a resource not just for Connecticut College faculty and students, but for graduate students and faculty at other schools as well.

Space Updates in Shain Library

continued from Page 1



New computer area on the second floor of the Shain Library.

The combined installation of compact shelving and shifts in the collections provides us with 12-15 years of growth space for new collections.

It also eliminates the need to look to offsite storage for collections.

The shelving changes have also opened up floor space on both the

second and ground floors. New student study spaces were created. The second floor now includes a new area with approximately 24 new seats. There are tables for group study work, and new armchairs and a sofa. We redesigned some existing student spaces on the second floor for both visual and use appeal. Quite a large space has opened on the ground floor, near the new compact shelving. It is temporarily filled with carrels, open tables, and some armchairs; soon serious design work will begin to make for a more coherent use of the space.

Paying attention to how students are using the library resulted in some other changes. The large computer commons tables on the first floor now have good ergonomic task chairs. Worn soft seating received new upholstery and new lamps.

Some of our best ideas for the redesigning of spaces came directly from talking with students and faculty. We look forward to continuing this work and making Shain Library even more inviting.

Language and Culture Center Transformed

The former Language Lab in Blaustein 102 has been transformed into the new Language and Culture Center. It is a state-of-the-art media center supporting language and culture learning and the integration of international studies into the curriculum. The Center offers a welcoming space for students to practice language acquisition and comprehension skills and to improve cross-cultural knowledge. It provides students returning from an experience abroad with the resources and support to reinforce knowledge they have gained and to share their experiences through multimedia works. It allows students to create digital projects for courses across the curriculum which involve foreign languages, character sets, and international media, with assistance from knowledgeable staff and students. It enables students to immerse themselves in the study of language while viewing foreign films and studying together. The Center follows a design created after surveying faculty and students and consulting with faculty on the Foreign Language Caucus.

The Center has a distinctly high-tech flair, but the space is also inviting and comfortable. Rice paper screens define flexible and expandable functional areas. There are group video viewing areas, a collaborative study space, a lounge, and digital audio/video computer stations with connec-

tions to international resources through Skype and other software. The former audio booth where faculty recorded lessons has been modernized. We also converted a storage



Media viewing area.

area into a media project development room.

The Language and Culture Center is for students—within and outside courses, between classes and after classes. Its focus is on the integration of foreign languages and cultures into the curriculum. The Center is also home to Information Services' Digital Enhanced Learning Initiative (DELI) program for the foreign languages. Through DELI, iPods loaded with academic and cultural materials are distributed to students in particularly challenging language courses, such as Russian, Chinese and Japanese. Edie Furniss, whose office is within the Center, manages the facility and its activities. Edie recently joined the college, after completing her MA in Teaching a Foreign Language (Russian) and Certificate in Computer-Assisted Language Learning from the Monterey Institute of International Studies (see her profile on page 7). Please stop by to visit Edie and get a tour of the new Language and Culture Center.



Lounge and collaborative study area.

MetroCast Selected as Cable TV Provider for Residence Halls

Via an arrangement with MetroCast, our new local provider, Connecticut College provides access to cable TV service in student residences. This service allows students to view news, cultural and entertainment programming. Over the past year, before the contract with our previous provider was due to expire in August, Information Services staff met with student groups and vendors to review the options. MetroCast, the local cable provider, was selected as the cable TV vendor because of the improved signal quality, the

lower cost, and the opportunity for students to contract directly with MetroCast for additional programming services. There is no cost to students for standard programming. Students wanting to learn more can visit the College's Libraries and Technology web page (<http://www.conncoll.edu/is/>), or, to sign up for additional services, MetroCast's page for the college (<http://MetroCast.com/Conncoll>).

Classroom Updates

This summer, the Instructional Technology Team in Information Services integrated technology into several teaching and social spaces on campus. While the Language and Culture Center in Blaustein serves as the academic center for students wanting to immerse themselves in other languages and cultures, Knowlton House, the international residence hall, is the social center. Through an Andrew W. Mellon grant the International Commons Steering Committee received, with Andrea Lanoux in Slavic Studies as the principal investigator, we are adding technologies and furniture to the Knowlton Common Rooms to expand the resources in both the lounge and the seminar room. Across the green, three art and studio art classrooms in Cummings (Rooms 304, 305, and 309A) were renovated using gift funds. We added ceiling-mounted projection systems with an instructor's podium in these classrooms. In Olin, we used funding from the Andrew W. Mellon CTW Computer Science grant to update Olin 107 into an electronic classroom

with high quality videoconferencing. Thanks to Bridget Baird, Ozgur Izmirlı, and Gary Parker for this funding, the room now has an electronic whiteboard onto which a faculty member can project from a laptop, a DVD, or a videotape. Two wall-mounted LCD panels will provide additional locations for projection and enable those using the videoconferencing to view participants on the other end(s) of the videoconference. For more information about these renovations, please contact Chris Penniman.



Lounge area in Knowlton.

Information Services Welcomes Two New Members to the Team

Over the summer, we've had two additions to the IS staff: Joe Frawley, our new Technical Services and Systems Librarian, and Edie Furniss, the new Instructional Designer and Developer (who also manages the renovated Language and Culture Center). We asked each of them to introduce themselves.

Joe Frawley, Technical Services and Systems Librarian

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in Music from the University of Connecticut, my introduction to library careers came through volunteer work at the UConn music library, where I assisted with copy cataloging scores and sound recordings. It was there that I became fascinated by library technical services and decided to pursue a master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Rhode Island. My first professional library position was at the Rhode Island State Library as a technical services librarian and state documents cataloger. From there I joined the staff of the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, whose libraries and archives had newly opened. During my time at the museum, I helped to develop technical services routines, create policies and



Joe maintains library systems and ensures books and other materials are retrievable in the online catalog.

procedures, and adhere to professional library standards. In my last two years at the museum, my responsibilities broadened to include public service, allowing me to provide reference and research assistance and to develop an online presence via blog writing and Web 2.0 applications. Working for small special libraries has provided me with a broad background in a variety of different roles which prepared me well for this position at Shain Library. I am excited by the opportunity to work in a technologically progressive academic library, whose strengths come from its merger of information technology and library services and its cooperative work with the CTW Consortium. I am happy to be part of the IS team.



Joe examining books for cataloging and processing.

Eddie Furniss, Instructional Designer/Developer

I am new to the East Coast, having spent time in and traveled around most other regions of the United States, including the West, Midwest, and South. I grew up in Missoula, Montana, and attended college in Beloit, Wisconsin. After graduating from Beloit College in 2007 with a degree in Russian, I spent ten months in St. Petersburg on a Fulbright research grant at Herzen State Pedagogical University. I completed my M.A. in Teaching a Foreign Language - Russian with a certificate in Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL) at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in May 2010. I have spent the

past three summers working at intensive language programs: teaching first- and second-year Russian at my alma mater in 2008 and 2009, then working as a Bilingual Tech Assistant in the Russian School at Middlebury College this past summer. My research interests include language pedagogy, CALL, gaming and language learning, the role of technology in developing learner autonomy, corpus linguistics, and materials development. I look forward to developing and promoting the newly renovated Language and Culture Center in Blaustein, as well as working with faculty, staff, and students on their instructional technology needs.



Eddie formats iPods for Chinese students while they study in the Language Center.

A Renewal for the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room



When the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room opened in the 2001-2002 academic year, it was immediately hailed as a showroom for the College's excellent collection of Asian art and a treasured location for quiet study. Though still beautiful, the Chu Room has been showing its age recently. After nine years of constant use for exhibitions, receptions, lectures, and studying, the furniture had

become slightly scratched and scarred, the carpets worn, and the floors scuffed.

Thankfully, part of the original endowment for the Chu Room provided for its periodic renovation. This summer saw the first use of these renovation funds. Shortly after the conclusion of Reunion Weekend in June, the Chu Room was closed and the furniture was taken off campus to be

repaired and refinished. In early August the floors were stripped and recoated. Shortly before the students returned, workers removed the old carpets and repaired the floors. A delay in the shipment of the new carpet meant that the room could not reopen in time for the beginning of the semester, but a week and a half into the semester, the Chu Room returned for business as pristine as when it first opened.

Campus Moves to Gmail

The decision to move email accounts from the exchange server here on campus to Google Apps for Education (Gmail) accounts was made after much discussion and many campus information sessions. Some of the benefits of moving to Gmail include a huge increase in storage quota (7.3 GB rather than 100 MB), collaborative tools, and a more robust search function.

Once that decision was made, the Technical Support staff was very busy. From the end of May until the beginning of August, 774 faculty and staff accounts were converted to Gmail. Guests, mailing lists (groups), and retirees are left

to be converted in late September or early October. Connecticut College students have already been using Gmail for over a year.

The Desktop Support and Networking staff would like to thank everyone for their patience during the changeover. We understand that change is never easy, but we have been able to respond to any issues that have come up. Please let Ruth Seeley (resee@conncoll.edu or X2090) know if you need any additional help with this move. (And for more information on the Gmail training sessions IS is conducting, read on!)

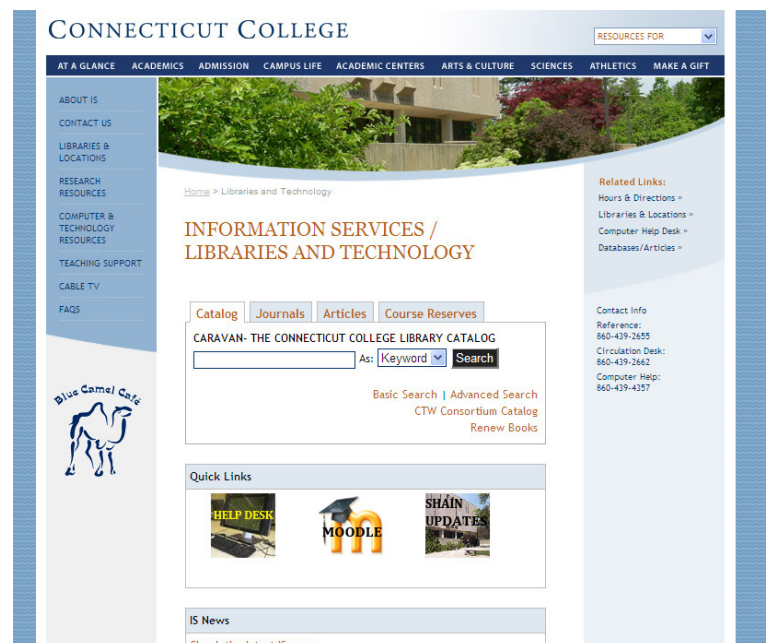
Want to Get the Most Out of Gmail? Training is Available!

We have had a very busy summer for technology training, and are planning even more training for faculty and staff throughout the academic year. This year, we offered several sessions on the new Gmail web client. Well over 125 people have attended sessions so far, with more dates to follow. In addition to this, we have held some departmental training/question and answer sessions at various offices on campus by request. Our goal is to continue to provide the computer training that you want and need.

In addition to Gmail training, we are also planning several courses on Windows 7, the latest operating system for PC computers, as well as cybersecurity training in groups or one-on-one sessions when new computers are issued. As always, we look to our own staff as well as anyone else to volunteer their time to present a course on technology. In the past we have offered training in Excel, PowerPoint, Photoshop, and image scanning; we hope to offer these sessions and others throughout the year.

A New Look for the IS Website

One of Information Services' objectives for the 2010-11 academic year was to redesign and refresh the Information Services website. To that end, a committee was formed to devise a new page that would better highlight the many resources and services of the department. The committee relied heavily on usage data collected from the old site over the previous academic year using Google Analytics. This software tracks usage patterns and can produce detailed "click maps" that show exactly what links users are clicking. With that data in mind, the committee redesigned the site to place those items that consistently received the most clicks (especially access to books, journals and databases) front and center on the homepage. The left navigation was also rearranged to group resources and services more logically. You can view the new site at <http://www.conncoll.edu/is/>. Questions or comments about the site can be addressed to any members of the redesign committee: Kathy Gehring, Ashley Hanson, Amanda Watson, and Diane Creede.



Exhibits and Events

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

Lectures:

Exhibit reception and Japanese calligraphy demonstration by Masako Inkyo. Tuesday, October 26, at 4:30p.m. in the Chu Room.

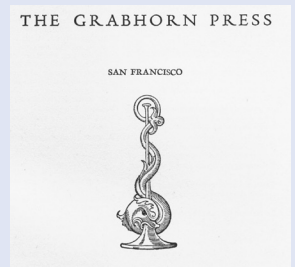
Masako Inkyo (www.masako-inkyo.com) is a Japanese master calligrapher. Her work will be displayed along with works of Chinese calligraphy from the Chu-Griffis Collection of Asian Art to demonstrate the continuity and contrast between the two traditions. Inkyo is the official shodo (Japanese calligraphy) artist for Infiniti Automotive. Her work can be seen in the current 2010 commercials for the Infiniti G series.



Exhibitions:

“The Grabhorn Press: Five Decades of Fine Printing.” September 7 to December 20. In the display cases on the main floor of Shain Library. The Grabhorn Press was one of the more successful experiments in American fine printing. The Press was founded by the Grabhorn brothers, Robert and Edwin, who were midwestern

transplants to San Francisco. Through its nearly five decades of work, the Press produced works on California and western Americana, classic European literature, and up and coming American authors. They printed advertising for local businesses and works of radical thinkers. One constant that ran through their work was an attention to craftsmanship that was nearly unmatched in American publishing.



The Lear Center for Special Collections & Archives holds thirty-two works published by the Grabhorn Press, including some of their finest deluxe editions. Our already strong holdings were recently enhanced through a generous donation from Tess Peterson. The books will remain on display until December 20th.

“The Art of Chiang Yee.” September 7 to October 15. In the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room.

“Spectrum of Black and White: The Art of Masako Inkyo.” October 21 to December 14. In the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room.



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