Evolving Interlibrary Loan Service Brings Vast Resources to Coe

Chances are, if you’ve ever worked on an in-depth research project at Stewart Memorial Library, you’ve needed to reach beyond the library’s walls to obtain a book or document that’s not part of Coe’s collection. If so, you’re among generations of students and faculty members at Coe, as at other libraries, who have relied on the venerable “interlibrary loan service” through which librarians track down, order and receive requested items, usually in the form of borrowed books or photocopied articles.

Although Coe has generous resources for the library, it can’t purchase all the materials or databases students and faculty members might need for their research, says Stewart Library Head of Reference Jill Jack. “Through the interlibrary loan system they can gain access to information from all over the world,” Jack says.

As with other aspects of the library’s operation, technology has made the interlibrary loan system faster and more efficient in recent years, with more changes on the way.

“For years and years, patrons filled out a piece of paper to request an item,” says Reference Assistant Harlene Hansen. “The librarian consulted a paper catalog to find it and mailed off a request to another library. That library would either send it or not, depending on whether the item was available at the time. It would take a month at a minimum to get a book or a copy of an article.” Today it’s hard to imagine that a student or faculty member could ever wait that long.

In the mid-1980s, Stewart Library joined a worldwide consortium of libraries using a combined online catalog, making it far easier for librarians to locate requested items. “In the early 1990s we began processing requests via the computer,” Hansen recalls. Through a system called Ariel, lending institutions began scanning requested items and sending them via the computer, either at the library or remotely.

CoeILLiad offers a number of advantages for library users and staff. Patrons can register once and keep their information on file for future requests. Requests are processed more quickly, without handwriting-induced confusion, and patrons can track the status of their requests. Librarians can search the database to gather statistical information that helps them determine the most valuable or efficient lending sources. Because CoeILLiad keeps a history of requests, students can use it to locate lost sources or compile bibliographic information. By the fall of 2009, Coe library patrons will likely be able to have some requested items delivered electronically to their own computers.

But computers and the Internet have hardly negated the librarian’s role, states Hansen, who spends part of each day processing and fulfilling patron requests, assisted by her staff of six work-study students. “During 2008 we borrowed 4,190 items for our patrons and handled 2,777 requests to lend items to other libraries,” she says.

Although most requests involve books or journal articles, sought-after items are as diverse as the interests of the students and faculty who request them. Hansen recalls that a former history professor requested several obscure documents from China. Another unusual request came from Coe Teaching Artist in Music Jan Boland, who performs on period instruments and wanted to see the original notations on a musical score by composer Wenzeslaus Matiegka (1773-1830).

The score was located in a Czech library and copied for Boland’s use.

“I look at the interlibrary loan service as one of the most important things that students and faculty can take advantage of,” says Hansen. “Because we’re a small academic library we don’t have everything they need. If they use interlibrary loan, they can really improve their research – and it’s free to them.”

Coe TV Goes Digital

The Coe community got an unusual Christmas gift this year when the college’s cable TV system was converted from analog to digital over the holiday break, doubling the number of channels from 45 to 90. Among the offerings included in the new system are local origination channels dedicated to Coe’s TV studio, the Student Activities Committee, Eby Fieldhouse, KCOE Radio, Kesler Lecture Hall, and Sinclair Auditorium.

In addition, foreign language channels broadcasting in Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Japanese, and Spanish are available in the academic buildings. Among students, says Coe Head of AV Laura Riskedahl, CATV favorites include the five ESPN channels, the Food Network, Bravo, and the Game Show Network.
Library’s First Floor Makeover Welcomes Patrons to Campus ‘Living Room’

Replacement of the battered 20-year-old carpet on the main floor of Stewart Memorial Library over the holiday break provided the impetus for a meaningful rearrangement of what is arguably the most well-used space on Coe’s campus. The result is a more inviting and user-friendly first-floor layout, according to Library Director Rich Doyle.

“We have definitely opened up the space with the placement of lower profile furniture in the center. At the same time the rearrangement positions the library staff to better serve researchers using the many computers available on the floor. Although only two decades old, the previous layout emphasized print,” Doyle adds. “Today’s academic library must be organized for both print and online resources.

The reference desk, which had been front and center on the main floor, was moved to the rear of the room adjacent to the reference staff offices. “Previously, the reference librarian always had her back to the students,” explains Library Acquisitions Assistant Cheri Pettibone. “Now she can look out on the students from a place that is more accessible from her office, as well as more welcoming and less conspicuous for students who need assistance.”

In the computer area, older monitors were replaced with flat screens, allowing for smaller computer tables with more room for books and materials. Electrical outlets were added to study tables in the main floor study areas to accommodate students using laptops. Last but not least, the library’s map cabinet was moved front and center on the main floor, providing a large, low surface that, among other things, accommodates the library’s Wednesday morning treats—a tradition that has developed a grateful following among students and other library users. “That area of the main floor is the place where people can gather,” says Pettibone, “and the cabinet is like the coffee table in our living room.”

Enjoy the Art, Support the Library

A collection of full-color notecards featuring four Coe-owned paintings by alumnus Conger Metcalf ’36 continues to be offered for sale at the library. The packet of eight blank cards includes two each of four favorite Metcalf works: “Ancient Wall,” “Eggs on Matisse,” “Kneeling Draftsman” and “Painting for an XVIII Century French Frame.” The set of notecards and envelopes costs $10. The library is also selling 36 x 18-inch posters featuring Marvin Cone’s “Road to Waubeek” for $25. This handsome poster was created as part of the library’s 75th anniversary celebration. Sales of both items benefit the library. To order your notecards or posters, send a check to Coe College to Cheri Pettibone, Stewart Memorial Library, 1220 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402, noting which items you are ordering.
Owen Compositions Among Works Added to College Archives

The following books and other creative works by Coe alumni and faculty have been added in the past year to the George T. Henry College Archives. Among the entries is a large number of works composed by Alma A. Turechek Emeritus Professor of Music Jerry Owen, who retired in 2006. Owen composed nearly 70 works during his years at Coe, including many written for Coe occasions or people. Prominent among them are “Musica Coensis: Music for a Gleeful Rite,” which has been performed at every commencement since 1976, as well as works written for the inaugurations of Presidents John Brown and James Phifer and a major composition written in celebration of Coe’s Sesquicentennial in 2001.

Owen says he is pleased with the addition of his works to Coe’s permanent archives for several reasons. “I spent 37 years at Coe—effectively my teaching career—and I feel very close to it. Coe has always supported me in my non-teaching career as well as my teaching. It’s a great honor to have my work archived and preserved for future generations, and it’s important to have all the work centralized and available for researchers if it becomes important to anyone in the future. The physical preservation of the work rests my soul.”

The remainder of Owen’s works will be added to the collection as they are converted to the engraved software format, called “Sibelius,” that has become the industry standard since the 1990s. “We anticipate doubling the Owen additions when we complete the acquisition of all his works,” says Archives Assistant Sara Pitcher.


Gorman, Carol. “Critical Last Step: Revision” *From Inspiration to Publication: How to Succeed as a Children’s Writer: Advice from 15 Award-Winning Writers and Editors*. Eds. Pamela Glass Kelly and
Mary Spelman.  

Jerry, Hurmaara Hkke.  
(Dork in Disguise – Finnish).  Werner Soderstrom  

Stirb fur mich.  
(Die for Me – German).  CORA Verlag GmbH & Co. KG:  

T.J. and the Pirate Who Wouldn't Go Home.  
Scholastic: NY, 1990.

Vrai ou faux?  
, and Edward Gorman. “Here Comes the Bride”  
Till Death Do Us Part.  
Eds. Jill M. Morgan and Martin H. Greenberg.  

Guenther, Dan.  
Dodge City Blues.  

Townsend's Solitaire.  

Hennen, Peter.  
Faeries, Bears, and Leathermen: Men in Community Queering the Masculine.  
University of Chicago Press: Chicago, 2008.  (Peter Hennen,  
class of 1983)

Hicks, Steven Wells.  
The Gleaner. S.L.: s.n., 2008.  (Steven Wells Hicks,  
class of 1972)

Keene, Carolyn.  
The Case of the Disappearing Deejay.  
Pocket Books: NY, 1989.  (Carolyn Keene is a pseudonym for Carol Gorman, Instructor in  
English, 2002 - )

Lemos, John.  
Commonsense Darwinism: Evolution, Morality, and the Human Condition.  
Open Court: Chicago, 2008.  (John Lemos, Professor of  
Philosophy, 1993 - )

Lundine, Cindy.  
Cedar Rapids: Chapter by Chapter.  
Bridlewright Studio Productions: s.n., 2007.  (Lucinda (Cindy) Lundine, class of 1968)

McIntosh, Ginny.  
Butterfly at Daybreak: The Complete Guidebook for Self-Discovery and Enjoyment – Using Basic Collage. 1st World Publishing:  
Fairfield, IA, 2007.  (Virginia McIntosh, class of 1968)

Miller, Jerry H.  
From Hinrichsen to Krag: The Experimental and Early  

Owen, Jerry.  
Acolade: In Memoriam Steve Colton.  
(piano with string orchestra score)  
Indian Hills Road Music: Cedar Rapids, IA, 2007.  (Jerry Owen, Professor of Music, 1969 -2006)

Cantide Chorale.  
(chorus/chamber orchestra with harp score)  
Indian Hill Road Music: Cedar Rapids, IA, 2008.

Cedar Rapids Dedication.  
(orchestral score)  
Indian Hill Road Music: Cedar Rapids, IA, 2001.

Cedar Rapids: Concerto for Piano and Orchestra.  
(piano and string orchestra score)  
Indian Hill Road Music: Cedar Rapids, IA, 2003.

Soundscapes of the Heartland.  
(sound recording)  

Suite from Grant Wood Country.  
(orchestral score)  
Indian Hill Road Music: Cedar Rapids, IA, 2004.

Tango & Watusi.  
(piano score)  
Indian Hill Road Music: Cedar Rapids, IA, 1994.

Tango.  
(flute and harp score)  
Indian Hill Road Music: Cedar Rapids, IA, 2006.

Tango & Watusi.  
(piano score)  
Indian Hill Road Music: Cedar Rapids, IA, 1994.

Trio Concertant over Czech folk songs: based on the collected songs of Alma Turechek.  
(flute, guitar and viola score)  
Indian Hill Road Music: Cedar Rapids, IA, 2002.

Watusi.  
(piano score)  
Indian Hill Road Music: Cedar Rapids, IA, 1994.

Tangle.  
(celesta, flute, and harp score)  
Indian Hill Road Music: Cedar Rapids, IA, 2007.

Wild Garden.  
(ocarina and violin score)  
Indian Hill Road Music: Cedar Rapids, IA, 2001.

Stewart, Matthew.  
Modernism and Tradition in Ernest Hemingway’s In Our Time: A Guide for students and readers.  
(Matthew Stewart, class of 1979)  

Thornlyre, Padma Jared.  
Eating Totem: The Mossbeard Poems.  