WMU Receives $1 Million Kellogg Foundation Grant

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek has awarded WMU a $1 million grant which will make access to the resources of the University Libraries available to the citizens of Michigan.

The grant monies will be used to purchase computer hardware and software and to make licensing arrangements that will eventually be used to link libraries, businesses, educational institutions and home computer owners in a state-of-the-art interactive information system. The availability of direct-dial computer links will greatly expand access services to the region's population.

The WMU libraries contain the fifth largest library collection in Michigan and the largest on the western side of the state, with holdings of more than 2 million print and non-print items. The Kellogg grant will provide the computer resources necessary to make the WMU holdings a platform on which to build the planned West Michigan Information Network. The planned consortium would link the holdings of all types of libraries in West Michigan.

Currently, about 80 percent of the University's library holdings are part of a computerized online catalog based on a commercial system called NOTIS which is being installed in university libraries across the country. The remaining library holdings are in the process of being added to the catalog. Expanded public access to information on WMU's holdings and inclusion of the holdings of consortium member libraries is one goal for which the Kellogg funding will lay the groundwork.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College has already joined the library consortium, and a number of libraries of all types have requested information on costs and are now considering proposals.

In addition to computerized catalog information, the expanded computer capabilities would make it possible to offer access to selected online databases containing indexes to journal articles and report literature.

Earlier dial access to the WMU library system offered only circulation information. With only two computer ports for dial access, the system also was limited in capacity. The new system will include up to 90 dial access ports and will offer more complete information on holdings.

In 1980, the Kellogg Foundation provided funds for upgrading the University Libraries' circulation system, thereby increasing its storage capacity and enabling the libraries to serve as an automated regional resource center. With the new grant, the Kellogg Foundation provides funds to the University Libraries to greatly expand its abilities to serve West Michigan as a regional resource center.

Kalamazoo Foundation Grant

The Kalamazoo Foundation has granted Western Michigan University $300,000 over a five-year period for the expansion and renovation of Dwight B. Waldo Library as part of WMU's $55 million "Campaign for Excellence."

The gift brings to $1.7 million the amount already raised for the project, which has a goal of $4.3 million in private support. The total cost of the project is $19.3 million, of which $15 million is state appropriations.

In addition to serving WMU students, faculty and staff, the WMU libraries have long provided services to the community and the region. Each year more than 25,000 items from the University's collections are checked out directly to Kalamazoo area residents or loaned to more than 150 libraries in West Michigan.

The Kalamazoo Foundation, established in 1925 to benefit Kalamazoo County and its residents, has grown to be the 17th largest community foundation in the nation with nearly $90 million in assets. Grants totaled $6.2 million in 1989.

In addition to serving WMU students, faculty and staff, the WMU libraries have long provided services to the community and the region. Each year more than 25,000 items from the University's collections are checked out directly to Kalamazoo area residents or loaned to more than 150 libraries in West Michigan.

The Kalamazoo Foundation, established in 1925 to benefit Kalamazoo County and its residents, has grown to be the 17th largest community foundation in the nation with nearly $90 million in assets. Grants totaled $6.2 million in 1989.
The electronic revolution has had a dramatic impact on libraries. The first major introduction of technology into libraries occurred behind the scenes where in the mid '70s technical service departments began to access national databases for the purposes of sharing cataloging. The development of larger, sophisticated national computer databases made it possible for individual libraries to benefit from the cataloging being done at other institutions resulting in substantial cost savings for the participants. Once these national bibliographic databases were created, libraries found that they were also valuable tools for verifying books to buy and books to borrow from other libraries.

While these uses of technology made library services more efficient, they were essentially invisible to the library user. The primary product of these databases was a 3 x 5 catalog card which was then filed in the libraries' card catalog. A by-product of the process was a machine-readable tape of this bibliographic record which was either stored or processed for use in the rather primitive short record circulation systems that were beginning to appear in libraries. Usually these records were available only to library staff, so the direct impact on the library user was minimal.

The emergence of online commercially produced indexes to periodical literature was introduced to library users at about the same time as the national bibliographic databases mentioned above. These online periodical databases were made available as a "fee-based" or cost recovery service to users, since they had been developed in the for-profit sector rather than in the not-for-profit environment associated with cooperative cataloging.

As computer systems have become more powerful and library users more able to use computers themselves, the trend in libraries has been to make more of these databases available to the public. The magnetic tapes on which cataloging was recorded, are now fed into online catalogs accessible to users via computers in the library or from faculty offices, dormitories or other libraries, or almost anywhere someone has access to a modem and personal computer. In addition to making the information which used to be available only in card catalogs readily accessible to users through this network of computers, libraries are also providing users with the capability to do extensive subject searches electronically into periodical literature that a short time ago had to be done in paper indexes or through a fee-based service. The implications for users and libraries to these changes in search capabilities have been far reaching. Better access to bibliographic citations have increased the users' awareness of material held not only in the local library but in the greater universe beyond. This has led to a dramatic increase in interlibrary loan requests. It has also triggered the demand for better document delivery systems.

—Charlene Renner
Dean of University Libraries

"Waldo Lanes"

In our last issue of Gatherings we wrote at some length about the addition to Waldo Library. We expected that most of the service units would remain in the building, shifting about as various portions of the building were completed. This proved impossible. So early in the year we began the process of evacuating the building.

After a thorough search for suitable space, the former Clarage Fan Company offices and warehouse on the east side of Kalamazoo were leased. The first units to leave Waldo were the technical services and administration. Next the stack areas were cleared, starting with the third floor and working down. The remaining units were provided quarters in several locations on campus.

Archives and the Regional History Collections were moved to East Hall on the East Campus. Their offices and work area occupy the former basketball court, while their collections are housed on the lower level in what used to be the swimming pool, now filled with concrete.

Reserves moved to the Education Library and the Children's Collection to the Music and Dance Library. The remaining units: the Reference Department, Science Reference, the Government Documents Office, Current Periodicals, and Circulation are now quartered in the Bernhard Student Center. What used to be the game/pool room is now Circulation and Reference; the bowling alley, which has been decked over, is the temporary home of Science Reference, Current Periodicals, and the Government Documents Office. The wire services put out a story on the library in a bowling alley which was picked up by several state papers, but also by the Phoenix Sun. Thus "Waldo Lanes" came into existence. Although we are crowded, working in Waldo Lanes is certainly better than working in the noise and grime of construction as we did during March and April.

Since all books, journals, maps and documents, except the materials in the Reference Department and the Science Reference Department, are located in the warehouse on the east side of town, a new service has been instituted—Document Delivery. When users locate items they need (using FINDER or some of our other automated services), they complete a Request Form at the Circulation Desk. This form is verified and faxed to the warehouse. Pages at the warehouse retrieve the needed items, and they are sent to the Circulation Desk by the Library Shuttle which makes seven trips each day. This process usually takes about twenty-four hours, although items requested early in the day are frequently available at Waldo Lanes in the evening. The Document Delivery Service was begun early in the summer when there
were many fewer users. As problems arose, they were solved, the kinks were worked out. Now that we are into the very busy Fall Semester, the service seems to be working very smoothly.

How long will Waldo Lanes and Document Delivery Service be needed? As with all construction projects, delays on the addition to Waldo Library have occurred which make it difficult to predict accurately exactly when the library will be completely functional. Best estimates suggest that some units will begin moving in late in the spring, with the library functioning at full capacity for the 1991 Fall Semester.

Retirements

Two University Libraries' faculty members have retired in 1990, Herma Breisach in January and Gordon Eriksen in June. Many of you will remember Herma as the Wyoming to work and much of the Rocky Mountain country for sightseeing. This took them to the University of Georgia and Florida to collect material for readings. Herma and Ernst have been on an extended driving trip in the west to collect material for the book Ernst is presently working on. This took them to the University of Wyoming to work and much of the Rocky Mountain country for sightseeing.

Gordon has taken his usual jaunt to Stratford to see the plays. He is also planning a five week trip down through Georgia and Florida to collect the counties he lacks in those states (He is trying to get into all the counties in the United States). Although they seem to be doing quite well on their own, we want to add our wishes for a long, happy, and exciting retirement.

New Faculty

Career advancement, a new and exciting job with library automation opportunities, and an overwhelming need to live near a coast are the reasons Marcie Kingsley took a job with the University Libraries. The first two of these reasons are fairly common with ambitious, talented people. The third needs some explaining. Marcie was born and grew up in Massachusetts close to the Atlantic Ocean. Quite naturally, swimming and water sports, the comfort which comes of close communion with large bodies of water are important to her and her family. Her daughters, Kathleen eleven and Peggy thirteen, swim competitively. The close proximity of Lake Michigan was an important attraction to living in southwest Michigan and working at Western, since her previous career had been at inland universities: the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and George Mason University.

Officially, Marcie Kingsley is an Associate Professor of Libraries and Head of Serials with additional responsibilities in the area of acquisitions. Although she has only been here a month, she finds her job challenging and exciting. She remarked on the fact that her work brings her into contact with all of the disciplines and scholarly activities going on at Western, a fact which is certainly important to someone who has chosen to spend her working career in academe.

When asked what her recreational reading was, she promptly replied, “southern novels and Australian novels.” Many of us read southern novels, but very few read Australian novels. This is typical of a talented woman with unusual interests. We are delighted to have her as a member of the University Libraries faculty and wish her enormous success in her new and challenging job.

Siobhan O'Neill is married to Thaddeus the Brown and they are members of the Canton of the Three Hills. What does that mean? It means that Judy Kirk, Subject Records Maintenance Supervisor, and her husband Dan are members of the local unit of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. Members usually choose medieval names for themselves. Siobhan, by the way, is an Irish derivative of Judith.

The Society was founded twenty-three years ago by a graduate student in medieval history at Berkeley who felt that one should learn by doing and have fun as well. The Society has grown rapidly into a world-wide organization with units (kingdoms, principalities, baronies, shires, and cantons) in all fifty states and all the Canadian provinces as well as “colonies” in Europe, Australia, Korea, Guam, and carriers at sea. For many years Society members in the Kalamazoo area were a part of the Barony of the Northwoods located in East Lansing. As membership grew, the Canton of the Three Hills, named after the three hills in the city, was formed.

The Canton of the Three Hills has two special theme events each year, the St. Valentine's Day Tournament and Massacre in February and the Pirate Tourney in mid-September. These events feature various medieval activities culminating in a splendid feast. The preparing of feasts is one of Siobhan/Judy's specialties. They take a great deal of planning, searching medieval cookbooks, adapting recipes to contemporary ingredients. Authenticity is important, but concessions are made to modern day tastes. A feast usually consists of four removes. A remove is essentially a meal in itself consisting of a meat, a salad, and a sweet. In addition, several kinds of flavored butter, and at least two kinds of bread are served throughout the four removes. A feast also includes various entertainments, the Royal Court, authentic music and dancing—pavans, galliards, gavottes, and troikas. All in attendance wear medieval garb. In her picture Judy is wearing the Italian Renaissance dress she made for the last St. Valentine's feast.

Each year in August a Pennsic War takes place at Cooper's Lake Campground in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania. This is a two week tournament featuring seminars, workshops, melees, feasts, contests, and much selling and trading of handmade medieval clothing, jewelry, tankards, and the like. The seminars and workshops deal with various aspects of medieval life—heraldry, brewing, armoury, dancing, costuming, and calligraphy and illumination. This last category is of special interest to Judy who has developed three hands: Old English, Celtic Uncial and variations, and Chancery Cursive. Judy also does exquisite illumination both Anglo-Saxon/Celtic (5th to 8th centuries) and medieval English/French (14th and 15th centuries). In addition, she does needlework using Celtic designs and needle painting in the Flemish style. Get Judy started talking about the Society for Creative Anachronism and you may be there for hours. Judy's favorite month is October.
An Exciting Time

Many of you responded with enthusiasm to our first issue of Gatherings and expressed your interest in becoming members of the Friends of the University Libraries, Western Michigan University. This will be an exciting year as we come together as Friends to strengthen and support the activities of the University Libraries in an enlarged and renovated Waldo Library which will be dedicated in 1991.

Friends activities will support all areas of the University Libraries including the Education Library, the Music and Dance Library, the Physical Sciences Library, and the Archives and Regional History Collections as well as the Waldo Library which will incorporate the Business Library and the Institute for Cistercian Studies Library. If you have special areas of interest, your support of those areas is most welcome.

The initial meeting of the Steering Committee is being organized, and a full organizational meeting will be held in 1991 for all interested people. The Steering Committee will be working with University Libraries' staff to establish goals and objectives, draft guidelines, set up a calendar, and arrange for special tours of the new facilities for the Friends group.

We continue to invite you to express your interest and support for Friends of the University Libraries by returning the statement of interest below or contacting us at:

Friends of the University Libraries
Dwight B. Waldo Library
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5080
(616) 387-5143

☐ I am interested in becoming a member of the Friends of the University Libraries, Western Michigan University.

☐ Please contact me at the following address/phone number:

Name __________________________________________
Address _________________________________________
_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________
Phone ___________________________________________

Your letters and comments are appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you and meeting with you as Friends of the University Libraries.

Publications

Once again we have the pleasure of recognizing the publications of University Library staff.


In addition, the following University Library staff presented papers at various conferences: Beatrice Hibbard Beech, David Isaacson, and Hardy Carroll.

Gatherings