One Way to Learn: A Web Tutorial
By Patricia Vander Meer

Searching for articles...scanning for books and monographs...scouting government reports...skimming for facts...surfing the sites of the World Wide Web...All of these and more challenge the user in this age of information overkill.

A special challenge was precisely defined when I was asked to teach, in a limited amount of time, "all" resources necessary for students to meet the objectives of an advanced criminology course. My prior experiences with using technology to further instructional goals had included spearheading the development of a multimedia self-instructional tutorial that provided basic library orientation to freshmen enrolled in University 101, a course defined and designed to help new students adjust to the many aspects of life and learning at Western Michigan University. First piloted in 1992, the multimedia program has been used by hundreds of beginning and transfer students who want to learn basic search techniques for locating articles and books in the University Libraries. This prototype experience has been supplemented by involvement in the creation of videos that promote library orientation and skills for students on Western's campus. Success in these user-friendly projects strongly suggested that technology could also meet the demands of the students of criminology.

The project that came about is the Criminal Justice Tutorial, and planning and development have taken eighteen months to complete and test. During the period, there were several distinctive steps. First, an outline of the subject content was drawn up; this was partially based on a library instruction class that I had taught for criminal justice students in previous years, since I have served as a liaison to that area of study for some time. Next, to make sure that the program would meet the needs of this particular group of students, I attended the first class session of Professor Ronald Kramer's Sociology 466: Advanced Criminology, and administered a questionnaire to determine the level of library skills that the students possessed. Then, I met with Dr. Kramer and Dr. Susan Carlson, who also teaches the senior level course, to review their perceptions of what skills the students would need to achieve the class research requirements.

Once the content and areas of coverage were generally outlined, the next step was to consult with Jan Oliver, multimedia/web specialist in the University Computing Center. Jointly, we clarified the goals of the proposed project, what was known, and what had to be done. Along with two students, Jan and I began development of the tutorial during the summer of 1996. In particular, student designer Martin Burch can be credited with developing the tutorial's attractive, user-friendly graphical interface. However, credit also goes to student René Hinojosa for Web authoring, and student Srinivas Mantha for HTML authoring. Together, with Jan Oliver as co-producer, director, HTML author; Susan Carlson and Ronald Kramer, criminal justice consultants; and myself as producer, scriptwriter and content specialist, we seven produced a working draft of the tutorial. This preliminary draft was then tested with students enrolled in Associate Professor Susan Caulfield's class in advanced criminology. This was done by having the students work through the tutorial, critique it, and then respond to their questions.

The "final" project, the Criminal Justice Tutorial was mounted on the World Wide Web. The Web accommodates students' busy schedules and erratic working hours. However, the tutorial does not stand alone; it complements and supplements a library session that is especially tailored to a given class.

The tutorial is designed as the introduc-
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Crying Fowler
By David Isaacson

Discriminating writers of English have long relied on H.W. Fowler's *A Dictionary of Modern English Usage* (Oxford University Press) as a guide to proper writing and speaking. Henry Watson Fowler, 1858-1933, was a British schoolmaster with very decided opinions about linguistic etiquette. The first edition of this work was published in April of 1926. It was reprinted in 1937 (with corrections), and in succeeding years. Finally, in 1965, it was revised, with some recognition of how American usage differed from British, by Sir Ernest Gowers, 1880-1966. Gowers, however, still retains much of the authoritarian flavor of Fowler. One usually thinks of Fowler/Gowers as laying down rules and laws rather than providing flexible guidelines for reflection, discussion, and judgment.

But, in 1996, a third edition, boldly entitled *The New Fowler's Modern English Usage*, was edited by R.W. Burchfield. Burchfield is an eminent linguist who takes, on the whole, a contemporary descriptive, rather than a more old-fashioned prescriptive, view of usage. In other words, Burchfield is inclined to be liberal and permissive where Fowler/Gowers were conservative and forbidding. For instance, Fowler and Gowers both disapprove of the use of the adverb "hopefully" as a substitute for "it is expected," (1965, p. 250) but Burchfield allows it (1996, p. 366). Fowler saw no problem with the word "disinterested" used in the sense of "uninterested," (the 1926 edition has no entry on the latter), but Gowers is saddened by the recognition that the old sense of "disinterested" to mean "impartial" has been lost: "A valuable differentiation is thus in need of rescue, if it is not too late" (1965, p. 134). Burchfield, ever the discreet and discrete objective recorder of usage behavior, notes that the "noun [disinterest] has or has had three branches of meaning" 1 that which is contrary to interest or advantage... now rare or obsolete... 2 impartiality (recorded from 1658 onward and still current, but not in common use)... 3 Absence of interest, unconcern..." (1996, p. 216).

As if anticipating objections from traditionalists, and not wishing to appear to be too liberal as compared to Gowers, Burchfield (depending on your point of view) either takes the long objective stance of the scholar, or "cops-out" by commenting that it is more usual to hear the word "disinterested" instead of "disinterest" when impartiality is meant. But Burchfield ends his article on this controversial word by saying: "The best course is to avoid using the noun 'disinterest' altogether until it has reached safe shores." (1996, p. 217) I can easily imagine Fowler bristling at this weak-kneed conclusion as well as calling attention to Burchfield's lazy cliché in the phrase "safe shores."

The University Libraries' Central Reference Department officially takes no stand on controversies of this sort. As far as funds and selection can take us, we attempt to present all sides of "word" disputes. Fowler, Gowers, and Burchfield can all be found on the shelves of the University Libraries. While individual scholars may have their preferences among somewhat competing authorities such as these, we, as reference librarians, take an even more cautious approach than Burchfield. We provide the reference sources, but the patron, alas, must make the final choice as to his (or her) preference in word selectivity and usage.

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The tutorial consists of several parts. The first thing that each student must do is take a short survey that assesses his/her library skills. Survey questions cover use of the online catalog, selection of appropriate periodical indexes, and location of the actual journal article, government document, or book in the Libraries. Feedback from this initial testing is intended to give the students incentive to learn more about such resources. There are four instructional units in the main tutorial in which students (1) learn how to define their topics, (2) critically evaluate and choose information sources; (3) search WMU's online catalog and databases, and (4) visit Internet sites relevant to their topics.

The Criminal Justice Tutorial was mounted, used by students, and tested during 1997. During its first year of implementation, simple observation of students or trial by colleagues uncovered numerous ways in which the design could be strengthened. Students irritably clicking on icons that lead nowhere quickly informs a project director of errors and flaws. Written surveys were also used to determine reactions of the students to the tutorial's "workability" and value. The results have been uniformly positive despite the inevitable first-time glitches, and modifications have been made. As a result of its existence on the Web, a highly regarded variable in its use, other instructors are also investigating similar tutorials for their disciplines. With appropriate staff and time, it is anticipated that, in a few years, a strong collection of tutorials for different areas of study will be available through the University Libraries to help students find their way through the web of information cyberspace.

The Criminal Justice Tutorial can be found on the Web at URL: http://unix.cc.wmich.edu/libweb/vander/cj/index.html
Exclusive Rights: Patents & Trademarks

By Michael McDonnell

T

ow hundred years of history have built a redoubtable and still controversial system by which the Patent and Trademark Office, as authorized by Congress, has been able "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors exclusive Rights to their respective Writings and Discoveries." (The Constitution of the United States, Article 1, Section 8). This brief statement underlies the patent system of the U.S., and means that the individual who holds a patent to a "discovery" has an "exclusive Rights" guarantee. Any individual or organization, other than the holder of the patent, is excluded from making or selling the invention in the United States, or importing the invention into the U.S., for a given period of time, currently 20 years with exceptions. Needless to say, knowledge of what is protected is basic to every scientist, inventor, and researcher who creates a "new" item (including designs and plants) which he or she wishes to protect or produce.

A not unimportant footnote to the matter of protection is found in the area of trademarks. A trademark can be a word, phrase, symbol, or design that uniquely identifies a product or a service. First protected under the patent law of 1870, less than a decade later the Supreme Court declared that registering trademarks was unconstitutional. After one inadequate law, Congress passed a law, in 1905, that provides the essential power to protect corporate identities, trademarks as we know them. Today, three areas of creativity, patents, trademarks, and copyright on literary or musical works, can be registered with and protected by the government.

The Depository Library System

Anyone familiar with U.S. documents has often seen the initials GPO that refer to the Government Printing Office. This Office is the primary printing and information distribution arm of the federal government. For over a century, as part of its responsibilities, the Office has supplied a selected number of libraries with government publications. This dissemination plan was intended to provide all citizens of the country with copies of the actions, regulations and procedures, guidelines, and other data gathered and published through the complex and far-flung agencies of our government. Waldo Library was first designated as a depository in

1963; one of 1300 such centers in the U.S. Each Congressional district is allowed at least two depository collections. WMU's depository is not a University center; it serves the citizens of Michigan's 6th Congressional District, and/or any citizen of the U.S.

Because of the massive number of GPO publications, most depository libraries limit their selection of what they can receive. However, with respect to the Patent and Trademark Office, the decision has always been made to "get as much as possible" for Waldo Library. Regardless, for many years, due to the limited deposits from that Office, the Libraries did not receive all that it desired. And, until recently, much of it was in microfiche format supplemented by paper. Never did the Libraries receive copies of patents.

To understand that fact of life, one has to know that the PTO runs its own system of depository libraries. Rather than 1300 spread across Congressional districts, there are fewer than 100 that are designated as a Patent and Trademark Office depository. Waldo was not selected as such in 1963, and ever since that date, users who needed detailed information were directed to the large patent depository at the Detroit Public Library. At that library, the Great Lakes Patent and Trademark Center houses a complete collection of U.S. patents and trademarks.

Although not one of the main PTO depositories, Waldo Library has, through the GPO depository program, always received copies of the Official Gazette of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. This essential resource is issued weekly in two volumes that describe the patents and trademarks issued that week. Annual indexes provide access to the patentees and the inventions. The "run" held in Waldo's document center dates back, in either paper or microfilm, to 1872 when it was first published. A second key search tool is the classification schedule for patents. This resource includes definitions of the various classes and an index to the classifications themselves. Without the schedule, no one can effectively search the Official Gazette.

Patent Use in Waldo Library

Despite the fact that Waldo does not have the extensive patent and trademark collection found in the Detroit Center, it has always, due to the holdings noted above, had many users. The collection at Waldo also includes many guides to the patent and trademark process that are consulted to begin the process. Patrons who believe that they want to patent a product often know nothing about any part of the procedures. They begin by consulting our texts to learn exactly what must be done. Any individual application must be based on an exacting and accurate search of what already exists; that search can begin at Waldo Library. However, most searches must continue at the Detroit Center where a specially educated staff provide direction to individual patentees and corporate legal offices.

Of interest to some is the fact that many historians are patent searchers. Company and industry histories can be traced through the existing documents. Henry Ford, for example, was awarded 161 patents. Some patrons bring in artifacts with patent numbers printed on them, and then can trace the age of the object or even what it is! Our College of Engineering makes regular assignments to its students to search out the existence of selected areas of research and invention.

Now We Have It!

With the advent of CD-ROM technology and the Internet, all of our past practices have been changed. In late 1995, the Patent and Trademark Office opened a web site that allows users to search the last twenty years of patents (http://patents.uspto.gov/). Access is by patent classification, patentee, keyword, and a number of other "fields." The end result is a brief synthesis of the patent with reference to the patent number in the Official Gazette. A second site for brief records has been established by IBM at http://www.patents.ibm.com/ibm.html. This source contains patent records back to 1971, and images back to 1975, but does not have the full text either.

Finally, in 1977, The Patent and Trademark Office began distribution of CD-ROM products through the GPO's

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Librarians are “Key” People

The Western Herald issue of October 13, 1997 proclaimed the news that had rapidly spread across the WMU campus: “National academic honors society gives WMU charter.” The article noted that Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest national honor society in the country, had approved Western Michigan University for a chapter. For 28 years, the University had pursued the elusive goal of being selected to join the exclusive number of universities and colleges in the United States who could offer membership to outstanding students from the liberal arts and sciences curricula.

The applause did not abate during the following months when plans for a formal installation of Theta Chapter of Michigan were underway. In the December 1997 Report of the President, astutely titled Ascending, president Diether H. Haenicke placed emphasis on the acceptance of the chapter by stating:

“The latest evidence of the growing recognition of the quality of WMU scholarship is our recent election to Phi Beta Kappa. We are now one of only 91 public universities in the nation—there are just three others in Michigan—to be recognized by this oldest and most prestigious of academic honor societies”.

Possibly unknown to those outside of the application process is the fact that a major criterion for selection to Phi Beta Kappa is an outstanding library with widely accessible services directed to the entire student body, undergraduate and graduate, as well as the University’s faculty and staff. Such a collection and array of services, however, is useless without an equally qualified library staff. At WMU, of the 69 faculty, staff, emeriti, and retired Phi Beta Kappa members who became charter members on Monday, February 23, 1998, eight are found actively working in the University Libraries—the largest percentage—almost 12%—of any department at the University. Necia Musser, retired Assistant Dean of Technical Services, and Marjorie Vivian, retired Original Cataloger, bring the total to 10 key holders—a resounding 14.5% of the the charter members.

Phi Beta Kappa members of the University Libraries are:

*Judith M. Arnold, Instructional Services Librarian, Waldo Library, B.A., University of Florida.
*Mary P. Bullock, Processing Assistant, Education Library, B.A., University of Colorado.
*Jacqueline Driscoll, Weekend College Librarian, Waldo Library, B.A., Douglass- Rutgers.
*J. Gregory Fitzgerald, Music and Dance Librarian, Maybee Music Library, B.A., Wake Forest University.
*Laurel A. Grotzinger, Professor and Reference Librarian, Waldo Library, B.A., Carleton College.
*David K. Isaacson, Professor and Humanities Reference Librarian, B.A., Indiana University.
*Maria Perez-Stable, Professor and Head, Central Reference, Waldo Library, B.A., Miami University.
*Beatrice B. Sichel, Professor and Head, Circulation/Reserves, Waldo Library, B.A., City College of New York.

Library Friends

By Mary Ann Bowman

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the University Libraries was held in the Meader Rare Book Room on Tuesday, March 17. A slate of new officers and Board members, proposed by the Nominating Committee of Richard Brewer and Robert Hahn, was elected for the 1998-99 year.

*President (one year term): Bettina Meyer
*Vice-President (one year term): Marilyn Gosling
*Secretary (two year term): Mary Ann Bowman
*Treasurer (two year term): David McKee
*Board of Directors
  Richard Brewer, 1996-1999
  Robert Hahn, 1998-2000
  Jan Dommer, 1998-2001
  William Combs, 1998-2002

Following the business meeting, Dr. Dasha Nisula, Associate Professor, Foreign Languages & Literatures, discussed her experiences as editor and publisher of a collection of poems by authors from around the world. Dr. Nisula has been teaching Russian language, literature, and culture at WMU since 1988. Her first translations were done when she was studying in the graduate school at the University of Southern California, and have appeared in the Pennsylvania Review, the International Quarterly, the Colorado Review, and other journals. She delighted her audience by reading a selection of poems from her book, which provides English translations along with each poem in its original language, to the University Libraries.
When Marilyn Gosling was called, and asked if she would consent to an interview as a subject of a Gatherings profile, she was willing, but commented that she didn’t “match” the typical Friends’ personality. She then asserted that she has led an “uneventful life.” I don’t agree. You can be the judge.

Marilyn Anderson was born and raised in Ishpeming, Michigan, which she described as a friendly, cultured, happy place to grow up. The name is Chippewa for “high place,” and the area was originally a mining community with a population of varied ethnic backgrounds including Polish, German, Cornish, Italian, Scandinavian, Welsh, and Finnish, which made it “multicultural” long before that.

When Marilyn completed high school, she was attracted first and spent her freshman year at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. At the time, it seemed a likely location for a girl from a small community in the Upper Peninsula. However, the bustling capital city of Minnesota, even when focused within a small liberal arts school, didn’t keep her attention and she transferred to The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and earned her B.A. with a double major in history and science/mathematics—a rather unusual combination. While attending Michigan, she also met David Gosling, and they were married in her senior year. After graduation, Marilyn and David settled on the Gosling homestead in White Pigeon where they raised two sons: Christopher, who is a successful chemical engineer, and Bruce, an equally successful accountant.

When the two boys were old enough to have their days filled with school activities, Marilyn could no longer restrain her own ambitions and she headed north to Kalamazoo to pursue a career in librarianship. She obtained her Master of Science in Librarianship from the accredited graduate program at Western Michigan University in 1966. That degree gave her immediate employment first in the Sturgis, Michigan, public schools, which she then followed with two years in the Sturgis Public Library. Ever enthusiastic and wanting more of a challenge, she was given a splendid opportunity when the position as director of the Glen Oaks Community College, in Centerville, was advertised. Her application was reviewed, she was interviewed, and offered the position which she held for the succeeding twenty-four years. During that period, she was instrumental in building a fledgling (and inadequate) college collection to a resource of considerable quality and diversity.

Do the preceding experiences describe an “uneventful life”? Neither will what follows.

Librarians, regardless of stereotypical images, have, by definition, wide-ranging, often eclectic interests. Marilyn is no exception. Art is one of her passions. Like many of us, she responds to the immediacy and the vibrant colors of the Impressionists, but she is also especially fond of the whimsy of Claes Oldenburg. She has been a Museum Associate of the Art Institute of Chicago for many years, and visits the museum and city frequently. As she says, “You pop down to South Bend, catch the electric train, and you’re in downtown Chicago in an hour.” Not limited geographically to that fine cultural resource, she is equally at home in the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis which has an exceptional collection of contemporary art—and a large collection of Oldenburgs. She also takes a number of trips with the Kalamazoo Art League, and the Kalamazoo Institute of Art—thereby further enhancing her artistic exploration.

No reader will be surprised to hear that Marilyn has also “spread her net” into the world of music. Here the lure of the modern has not captured her heart and she is most devoted to early classical music, notably Baroque, and especially the work of J.S. Bach. Any glance at the supporters of the area’s major music organizations will find her name among the donors as, for example, the Society for Old Music and the Bach Festival Society associated with Kalamazoo College—and there are few concerts at which she is not among the members of the audience.

Elderhostels have also caught Marilyn’s fancy. She has attended five, so far, in such diverse locations as St. Paul; Marquette, Michigan; Richland Center, Wisconsin; Philadelphia; and St. Mary’s in South Bend. The subjects are diverse and intriguing, including among them the history of the Marquette area in northern Michigan, the Book of Job, the contemporary music of Gershwin and Cole Porter, humor, and even forensic anthropology.

One can not describe the “unexciting” life of Marilyn without discovering she is an avid reader of mystery and detective novels which, in case you didn’t know, have several subdivisions. Ms. Gosling takes on the category of “malice domestic” with a further focus on the “cozy” mystery. Cozy mysteries have little or no violence; the crime is committed early (typically without lurid detail), and is usually solved by a “thinking” amateur detective. Such novels often conclude without a mindless, impossible chase up one street and down another—although danger does lurk in strange places. Probably the exemplar of this type of mystery is found in the gentle ways of Agatha Christie’s Miss Jane Marple, a delightful, deductive detective who is the model of malice domestic style.

But, as a devotee of mysteries, Marilyn does not simply “read” them. For anyone who follows the international world of mysteries, there is, inevitably, an organization to join, and a conference to attend—each according to his or her special category. Marilyn attends the conference of the Malice Domestic fans originally held yearly in Bethesda, Maryland. Each year, the members of the conference recognize the best mystery novel, and other selected publications, in their genre. The honored writers receive the “Agatha Award”: a small teapot with a skull on its side! (The organization’s motto is “not everyone’s cup of tea.”) This conference has grown so large, over a thousand attend, that it must now be held in one of the large, downtown hotels in Washington, DC.

As if no other events might occur, Marilyn has one or two other interests. One is as an officer, Membership Secretary, of the St. Joseph County Chapter of the Michigan Association of Retired Persons. Another is her long association with the WMU library Friends that dates to its formation in the early 1990s. She has been active in organizing the book sales, attending the meetings, has served on the Board, and is now Vice-President.

So, let’s hear it for those who lead uneventful lives!
Exclusive Rights
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depository program. For the first time, the full text of new patents became available in Waldo Library. Among the invaluable resources now available on disk are:

**Patent Assign** that provides access to all the patents of an inventor or assignee (typically the company for which the inventor works) since 1980.

**Patent Assist** that contains (1) a roster of patent attorneys, (2) the index to the patent classification system, (3) patent classification definitions, and (4) the 6th edition of the *U.S. Patent Classification and International Patent Classification Concordance*.

**Patents Classification** that allows searching by class and subclass of all patents issued since 1790. With this tool, patrons can find the patent numbers for all patents issued on a specific subject, e.g., bicycle pedals or oil drilling bits. No longer does the user have to search annual indexes; everything on an invention similar to that being researched can be found on one disk. It is also of use to a manufacturer who wants to see if patents have expired or to historians who are checking a particular industry. However, only the number is provided, and the user must then go back to the *Patent Gazette* to review the actual patent drawing and read a description or, if recent enough, go to one of the web sites noted above.

Trademark resources in Waldo Library are also well-covered. Two trademark disks, active and pending, can be searched. Later this year, the Libraries should receive *USAMARK: Facsimile Images of Registered United States Trademarks*, which will provide reproductions of trademarks from 1884 to the present.

The end result is that the University Libraries at WMU is now able to access far more patent and trademark materials than has ever been possible. These new versions of old resources provide a wonderful resource for the business or organization that wishes to develop a corporate identity; the historian of science and industry; the chemist, engineer, or horticulturist looking for existing solutions to design or production questions; and the inventor/entrepreneur who has found a remarkable new idea that resolves a problem or responds to a need. All are available in the Documents Department, on the second floor of Waldo Library. E-mail or call Michael McDonnell at michael.mcdonnell@wmich.edu or (616) 387-5208.

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