

Who Needs Information...

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Instruction Program is one effort to help students develop information literacy skills. The Labyrinth online tutorial used with University 101, a class designed to prepare beginning students for the college experience, presents some of the basic principles that help students to locate and select information. These principles are re-enforced and expanded in library instruction for ENGL 105, BIS 142, and IME 102, basic writing courses taught in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Engineering. With limited class time, the challenge to introduce resources, searching skills, and critical evaluation in 50-60 minutes is daunting if not impossible. Faculty knows that introductory sessions can be only a beginning. As is true of the University-wide concept of "writing through the disciplines," information literacy is best developed through many courses, and at both introductory and upper division levels.

Beyond providing instruction in introductory level courses, librarians collaborate with faculty to introduce majors to the important research tools in the disciplines. Several departments are enthusiastic participants in courses such as HIST 190, WMS [women's studies] 200, and JRN [journalism] 200. Many courses found in other majors could benefit from similar instruction. A Web-based Criminal Justice tutorial (<http://unix.cc.wmich.edu/libweb/vander/cj/index.html>) is a further example of librarian-faculty collaboration to enable students to learn how to find and evaluate information in their major disciplines. Still another initiative is the Subject Guides to Resources page on the Libraries' Web site (<http://www.wmich.edu/library/sr/index.html>), a series of over 40 guides created by the Libraries' subject liaison librarians. Important print and electronic resources are selected, described, and organized into gateways designed to serve as starting points for research. Course assignments that require students to utilize these gateways can further increase their effectiveness.

Since 1994, the Libraries' instruction program has grown from 200 to over 500 sessions per year. Major increases in basic level instruction for ENGL 105 and the other freshman level writing courses account for a significant portion of this growth. The focus of every class must be to use the World Wide Web interface to find information in our own Libraries and "everywhere else."

The Web is a wonderfully rich information resource, providing a wealth of governmental and business information

as well as unique primary resources. Students are ready, willing and highly motivated to find and use resources on the World Wide Web. Today's Web is the only way to access all of the University Libraries' unique collections, as well as providing gateways and portals to the entire Internet. Helping students and all users to become information literate, to select appropriate Web resources, and learn to use important and indispensable library print sources and electronic databases are what information literacy is all about. **Information literacy is a laudable, ambitious, and essential goal for all educational institutions.** The University Libraries' instruction efforts are only a beginning step. Collaboration with the entire University community to develop and re-enforce information literacy throughout the curriculum is absolutely essential if we, the educators, are to realize the goal of information literacy: a world where the first and the easiest information found is by-passed for the best available.



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EDITOR & DESIGNER:

Laurel A. Grotzinger
Professor, Central Reference
[laurel.grotzinger@wmich.edu]

PHOTOS:

Galen Rike
Associate Professor,
Central Reference
Neil Rankin, Photographer

*"This books can do—nor
this alone: they give
New views to life, and
teach us how to live."*

—George Crabbe

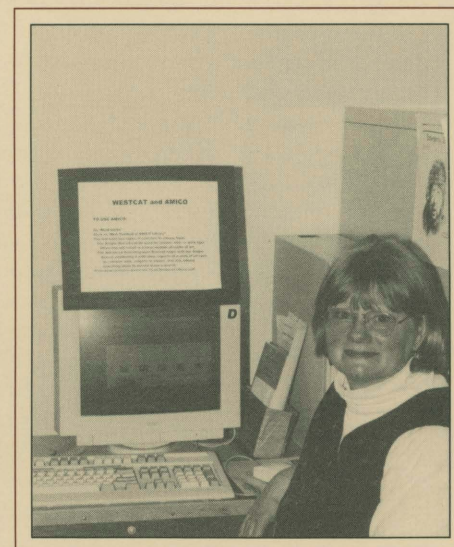
A Picture is Worth a Thousand Uses—Part III

By Miranda Haddock

Looking for an image to illustrate student papers and professors' lectures has once again gotten easier. The Visual Resources Library, the newest branch of the University Libraries, located in 2213 Sangren Hall, started filling these needs on a University-wide basis in June 1997. In just three years, members of the WMU community have watched the Visual Resources Library evolve from a limited slide collection stored in the Art Department of the Fine Arts college into a comprehensive and modern collection located in a facility designed to meet the instructional needs of the University. The library began with slides from one discipline, added many more slides from others fields, incorporated a major picture file, and now promotes two significant electronic image collections. Let me introduce you in this article to our new electronic services.

During the 1998/99 academic year, the University Libraries took part as a beta-site for the AMICO Library. At that time, the Art Museum Image Consortium (AMICO) consisted of 25 museums in North America. This consortium created an electronic image and text catalog of 20,000 works of art from their collections. The catalog was delivered to test sites, including WMU, via the Web. As a beta-site, the University Libraries was able to examine AMICO and its capabilities as well as to make a contribution to the further development of the product. WMU Libraries' contribution was a User's Guide to assist patrons in using this electronic collection by suggesting uses for the AMICO library, search strategies, and

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Miranda Haddock, Visual Resources Librarian

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explanations of AMICO's features. By the fall of 1999, AMICO was made available by subscription to institutions worldwide. The Consortium now has 32 member museums, and the library holds 50,000 electronic images. Listed among these 32 members is the J. P. Getty Museum; the Art Institute of Chicago; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Walker Art Center; and the Library of Congress photograph collection. Western Michigan University's registered students, faculty, and staff can use this unusual visual collection of the world's great art. Visit AMICO through the Visual Resources Library's home page or at <http://www.wmich.edu/library/vrl/use.html>. Those wishing to access the AMICO Library from an off-campus site should contact the library at (616) 387-4111 for a password.

AMICO has many uses. It can aid in material culture research and reference, supplement a field trip, and furnish illustrations. There are two major features to AMICO's holdings that promote the use of images in an academic environment. The first feature is a variety of available image resolutions. Images are digitized in three different sizes: (1) a thumbnail for selection purposes, (2) a medium resolution for study, and (3) a high-resolution image for classroom projection. Images can be downloaded onto a hard drive of a lap top computer or disk to be used at a later date in the classroom. The second feature is a license agreement that states a given set of permitted uses for the images within the campus community. Names and address of image rights owners are included in each record so that those wishing to use the image in a publication or distribute it in some other way can contact the image owner to obtain use.

The second electronic image source that the WMU community should know about is *Grove Dictionary of Art Online*. This is the electronic version of the most comprehensive art encyclopedia, *Dictionary of Art* (1996), to be published since the *Encyclopedia of World Art* first hit the shelves in 1959. There are two search modes for this database. One mode searches for article title, the other option is a full-text search that will look through the entire database for a term or group of words. The second type of search allows the user to locate information on some of the lesser known, even obscure, art movements and artists. Bibliographies, time lines, and other relevant entries are included.

The online *Grove* encyclopedia not only includes the complete article from the

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Archiving International School Library History

By Sharon Carlson

In 1971 Dr. Jean E. Lowrie, head of WMU's School of Librarianship, and several international school library leaders founded the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) at a conference of the World Organization of Councils of the Teaching Professions in Kingston, Jamaica. IASL is a voluntary, professional association, whose mission is the worldwide promotion of school-based libraries. IASL now has 800 members in over 70 countries around the world.

The contributions of IASL are well documented in the dissertation of Dr. Rebecca Knuth, Indiana University, 1995. The International Association has been especially successful in its role as a clearing-house, forum, and disseminator of information. Although its main focus is to provide support and encouragement to librarians in developing countries, IASL has also been a voice of advocacy for broad social movements such as the goal of universal literacy.

Dr. Lowrie retired in 1983 after a distinguished thirty-two year career at Western Michigan University. She served as a faculty member or Director of the School of Librarianship (originally the Department of Librarianship and later the School of Library and Information Science) from 1958 to 1983. Lowrie stayed active professionally in her retirement, and continued to serve as the Executive Secretary of IASL until 1996. The official headquarters for IASL was also located at Western Michigan University until that date. When Lowrie passed the baton to a new Executive Secretary, she deposited all of her records with the University

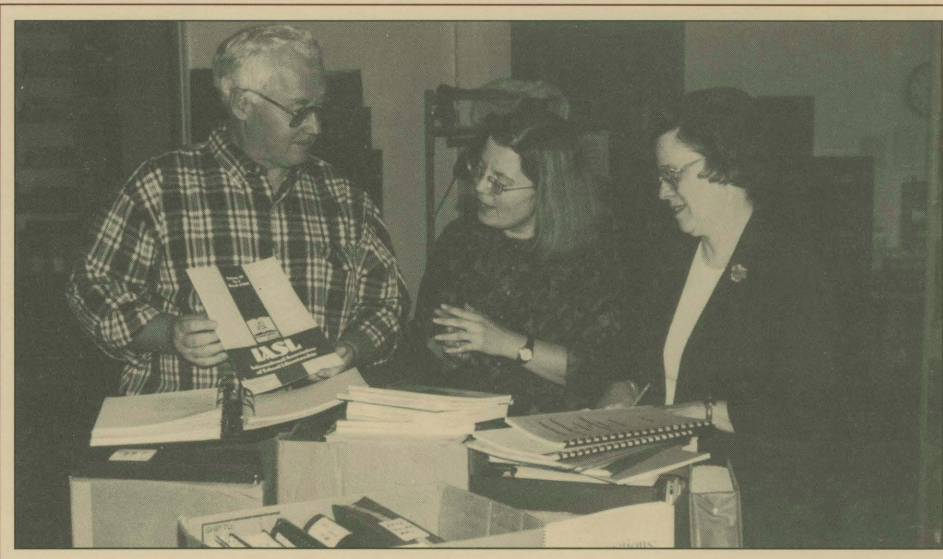
Archives. Among the historical records located in the Archives are papers documenting her founding role in IASL and the official records and publications of the organization.

Gerald R. Brown has now provided additional documentation to the Western Michigan University Archives and Regional History Collections. Brown, who earned a Master of Library Science from WMU in 1967, has had his own distinguished career in Canadian school librarianship. He became an active member of IASL including ten year's of service, 1989-1999, on the IASL Executive Board. Brown, who lives and works as a private educational consultant in Winnipeg, Canada, developed an electronic database index of over 4,000 IASL records, which can be sorted by author, subject, date, recipient, and relationships to IASL. A print index has also been produced and is on deposit at the Western Michigan University Archives.

Brown arrived in Kalamazoo on a warm day last summer to deliver the index and six linear feet of other IASL documents that he accumulated during his service on the Executive Board. Brown had traveled hundreds of miles to insure the safe transport of the records. Jerry Brown was asked why he had not only delivered the materials in person, but provided an extensive index—thus saving the Archives Staff substantial time in processing the records. He replied: "It was obviously a labor of love. When you feel strongly about things like IASL's work, you are willing to take time to do the job thoroughly."

The Archives is pleased to add this collection to other organizations that have placed materials on deposit. Papers of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, the

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Gerald Brown, Sharon Carlson, and Sue Husband.

A Picture is Worth...

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print version, but also incorporates the Bridgeman image library and links to Web images. Its best advantage is that this valuable tool links users to sites that are relevant to the subject at hand. In other words, it links to sites that have been evaluated for content so that the user does not have to page through electronic page after electronic page of Web sites yielding only marginal information. Information from *Grove* is succinct, well documented, and illustrated. Many of these image links take the user directly to Web sites of the institution that owns a pivotal work of art.

The Bridgeman Art Library is a collection of fine art images collected from over 800 collections worldwide available for educational use. The *Grove Dictionary of Art Online* is working in partnership with the Bridgeman Library to bring high quality images to subscribers. This electronic collection is delivered as a fully searchable database within the *Grove Dictionary of Art Online*. Essentially, the *Grove Dictionary of Art Online* is two products delivered in one package.

Both the AMICO Library and *Grove Dictionary of Art Online* are updated regularly to insure that patrons receive the most current information on artists, art movements, and works of art. AMICO Library and the *Grove Dictionary of Art Online* supplement print images such as plates in textbooks, slides from lectures, photographs, and posters.

The Visual Resources Library is providing an unusual set of resources in the online databases just described. Library patrons can try searching for images at any time through the home page of the University Libraries at URL <http://www.wmich.edu/library/>. At that point, click on ABOUT THE LIBRARIES, and open up the entry Visual Resources Library. Once you have found AMICO, here are some fascinating topics to search and learn how the databases work: carpets, Gobelins, Fauves, and Matisse.

Faculty who would like to request class instruction on these databases can do so by contacting the Visual Resources Library at 387-4111. Patrons can also drop by the Visual Resources Library in Sangren Hall for a demonstration of these new resources.

Archiving International School Library History

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Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine, the Ladies' Library Association, the Kalamazoo Nature Center, and the Kalamazoo Association of Volunteer Administrators are among the organizational records at the Archives. While most of the organizational records at the Archives are regional, the placement of the IASL records at Western Michigan University makes sense given the relationship of the organization to Jean Lowrie, Gerald Brown, and WMU's former School of Library and Information Science. This international collection will benefit future researchers studying topics such as international librarianship, universal literacy, and voluntary organizations. The records are housed in the Archives at 111 East Hall on the East Campus off of Oakland Drive.



*"My library was
dukedom large enough."*
—Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

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