Blueprints of the Past — I

By Suzanne Husband
Curator, Regional History Collections

In the lower level of the once elegant East Hall are magical windows into the architectural treasures of Kalamazoo and southwestern Michigan. The Regional History Collections holds hundreds of blueprints and drawings created by area architects, just waiting for anyone interested in architecture, art, or history to open these windows.

The ERNEST STARR BATTERTON collection of papers is highlighted by the original architectural drawings for the First United Methodist Church in downtown Kalamazoo. E. S. Batterson, a church member, presented his designs to the church building committee in 1925. He was ultimately chosen as the architect and supervised all building operations. The 42 linen pages of church design include beautiful hand colored front and side elevations. The neo-gothic church was dedicated on March 17, 1929 and was placed on the Michigan Register of Historic Sites in June of 1988.

Batterson’s architectural education was acquired through the International Correspondence School of Architectures in the early 1900s. Among the Kalamazoo architects with whom he worked are Albert E. Rose, R.A. LeRoy, and Frank E. Ellsworth. After Batterson died in 1941, his widow Alice sold some of his drawings back to the people who had contracted for his work. However, many manuscripts remained with the family, and his son Miles and his family donated the first series of Batterson’s papers and drawings to the Regional History Collections in 1979.

Additional materials were donated in 1995, 1997, and 2000. This year, Mrs. Miles Batterson found more blueprints and they, too were added to the collection. These include the Dyckman Hotel in Paw Paw, the H.J. Cooper [automobile] garage on West Main in Kalamazoo, and the Turnbull residence on Oakland Drive. From ledgers, newspaper clippings and other materials in the collection, we know that Batterson also designed the First Baptist Church and the Douglass Community Center in Kalamazoo, as well as a number of schools throughout southern Michigan. During the First World War, Ernest Starr Batterson also had charge of the construction of buildings at Camp Custer near Battle Creek.

The Batterson Collection includes a number of black and white photographs of houses in the Hillcrest and Spruce Drive neighborhoods in Kalamazoo. Batterson served as consulting architect for the State of Michigan, especially in connection with the Department of Fisheries where he was in charge of building and development design for hatcheries throughout the State, including the Wolf Lake Hatchery west of Kalamazoo on M-43.

WMU will, in the near future, also become the repository of additional Batterson material, a gift of his great grandson, Patrick Batterson, who has loaned blueprints for the “new” K-12 school in Paw Paw so that copies can be made. This school was one of the first training schools affiliated with Western State Normal in 1924. Michael and Ted Batterson, grandsons, have created a CD-ROM of the First Methodist Church drawings, which will be the first architectural documents in this format in the Regional History Collections. The collection clearly shows the influence of the Prairie School of Architecture that was very popular at the time. The inclusive dates for the architectural materials are circa 1919-1941.

In 1997, the Regional History Collections received the architectural drawings of NORMAN PORTER KELLOGG from his wife Nancy Kellogg. Kellogg lived in Richland most of his professional life, and designed buildings in the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo areas. In 1960, he began a partnership with Robert C. Kiefer with whom he graduated in 1955 from the University of Cincinnati.

Among Mr. Kellogg’s principal works are the Kalamazoo School Employees Credit Union (1966), the Byron Center State Bank (1965), and Kalamazoo Firehouse No. 6 (1969). The Kellogg material also includes drawings for many churches, schools, and residences in the Kalamazoo, Richland, Portage, and Grand Rapids areas. Kellogg and Kiefer gained a Western Michigan University connection when they designed the “improvement” of Waldo...
Wired Word Sources

By David Isaacson,
Professor & Humanities Librarian

I have a mad passion for dictionaries and other word books. One of the great pleasures of being a reference librarian is the opportunity to browse, skim, and sometimes even get lost in the scores of dictionaries available in the Central Reference Department, Waldo Library. But now I can satisfy some of my word lust without moving from my computer. The World Wide Web currently provides instant access to hundreds of good, scores of excellent, and a handful of superlative dictionaries, thesauri, and glossaries for free at http://www.yourdictionary.com. This Web site does not supplant a good collection of print dictionaries, but it does offer a convenient supplement to such a collection. If you happen to have a computer handy while you read this, you might want to open yourdictionary.com as you continue to read. If not, come along for the ride anyway. If you want virtually instant (and instantly virtual) access to a lot of useful word information, this Web site is a good starting point.

For the devotee of clean and neat, http://www.yourdictionary.com is a graphically busy Web page, but not overwhelmingly so. I like the way the design guides the eyes to (more or less) sensible choices. Keep in mind this page seems designed—as so many Web pages are—for quick lookups first. Traditional book-oriented people like me, who often choose to pause and reflect, can make intelligent choices at leisure if we want to. But if you are in a hurry—the assumption behind many general interest Web pages—the first thing your eyes will see at the upper middle of the screen is a box labeled Quick Lookup (English) inviting you to type in a word. Right below this box is another one labeled Thesaurus, which also invites you to type in a word.

I do have an objection to the Thesaurus option being featured so prominently. Some people—in my experience, far too many—don’t use book thesauri intelligently (An alternative plural is the word ‘thesauruses,’ but I prefer thesauri because it’s shorter and much less of a tongue-twister. I dare you to say ‘thesauruses’ fast over and over.) Most thesauri—in print or online—don’t provide definitions, just lists of somewhat similar words. This is dangerous for naive users. I was such a chump in high school. I sought to impress a speech teacher with my enlarged vocabulary. So I decided that since Roget’s International Thesaurus listed ‘heinous’ as one of the synonyms for ‘bad,’ I could just use it to substitute for ‘bad’ in a sentence like: “They had a very heinous time trying to fix the flat tire.” The teacher, as well as all my classmates, quite understandably laughed at my choice. To tell the truth, Miss Labb tittered, but the students guffawed. They were not being cruel; they taught me a lesson. I have treated Roget’s gingerly ever since.

Taking ‘heinous’ as an example, the Quick Lookup feature of yourdictionary.com, which leads the user to an online version of Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, provides a handy, concise entry containing what the average user wants to know: spelling, pronunciation, origin, and meaning. Mind you, this is a medium-sized dictionary either in print or online; it does not have the depth and detail of one of the unabridged dictionaries. (If you are connected to WMU’s server, you can have online access to the entire Oxford English Dictionary for free if you are a registered student, staff, or faculty member. But that is the subject of another article.) Some online dictionaries have a built-in audiofile—usually with a rather cultured computer voice enunciating very carefully to let you hear how a word should sound—but this Web site lacks that feature.

I like the no-nonsense definition of heinous: “hatefuly or shockingly evil: ABOMINABLE.” Not quite the right word, I think you will agree, for my 1957 speech about changing a tire. By the way, when I entered the word ‘bad’ in the Merriam-Webster online Thesaurus box I didn’t get heinous as a synonym. I did get a lot of other words, such as: “disgusting, foul, nauseating, noisome, noxious, offensive, repulsive, sickening; abhorrent, hateful, loathsome, obnoxious; uneasy; thankless, ungrateful; distasteful, distressing, sticky; ungracious, unhandsome.” I don’t recommend using all these synonyms at once, unless you are Anthony Hopkins.

Fortunately, yourdictionary.com offers the user much more than this one dictionary and thesaurus. Many word processing programs offer at least mini-dictionaries and thesauri. What makes this site useful to someone who actually has a discrete question to answer are the numerous choices of many more specialized word sites. On the left column of the main screen, for instance, we are prompted to choose among what are claimed to be the ten top language dictionaries in this order: Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Chinese, Hindi, Arabic, Russian, Thai, Portuguese and 260 more. Indeed, click on “more” and the next screen has a linked listing from Abenaki to Zulu. What’s even more amazing is that if you open Abenaki, it begins with links to several Algonquin dictionaries followed by other Native American dictionaries classed by tribes such as the Cheyenne, Cree, Mohawk, Ojibwe, etc. The site claims to have the most comprehensive links to the language dictionaries of the world and is constantly increasing. In the 3 to 4 months between the writing of this article and the submission of the proof, 30 languages were added to the list noted as “more.” However, since the compilers calculate that there are some 1,000 languages that are written out of over 6,800 spoken, they still have over two-thirds of the written languages to add to their extensive bibliography. They also provide a reference link to another key site www.worldlanguages.com that provides additional access to thousands of resources.

Another easy thread from this Web page is the category of Specialty...
Dictionaries, which not only includes rather familiar specialties like law, business, computing, genealogy, humor, and sports, but 80 more! (The exclamation mark is used on the Web page, but I'm impressed too!). One of these categories, 'Chocolate,' leads me to four separate dictionaries. For instance, it is only the Mexican Chocolate glossary by Elaine Gonzalez that defines: 'Cacao Lavado' as “Washed (but not fermented) cacao beans.”

Still another section of yourdictionary.com (found on the lower right of the main screen, and also at the foot of the screen) guides us to ‘Nyms & Such where the category of ‘Mutilingual’ provides online book-throngs of bilingual or multilingual sources. (This is only one of several headings found under ‘Nyms & Such” such as “Thesaurias,” “Abbrevia­tions,” “Grammar Guides,” and others that add even more breadth to this Web site). The multilingual sources are further arranged by categories such as ‘General,’ ‘Education,’ ‘Film,’ ‘Leather,’ and ‘Water.’ I chose a question that took me hours to answer a few years ago before online dictionary existed: How do I translate this German word into either French or Spanish? I would argue you translate this German word into either French or Spanish. I would argue you could translate this German word into either French or Spanish.

I am very happy to report that this translation site decided that the word gesundheit. Even with this feature, it took me a long time to conclude that you really can’t translate this German word into either French or Spanish. I would argue you really can’t translate this German word into either French or Spanish.

This multilingual site is intelligent enough, however, to recognize the important difference between merely searching for a somewhat equivalent word in one language in a dictionary of another language. So we are directed to another category, “Translate between European languages.” I am very happy to report that this translation site decided that the word gesundheit translates into both French and Spanish as gesundheit. But I can’t find the word translated as English.

My conclusion about yourdictionary.com is similar to my evaluation of other Web sites like this one. You never know how useful such a site is until you try it. Some of my sample searches were faster, but were not necessarily more accurate than similar searches in printed dictionaries, which I can reach as quickly by walking a few paces from my office as I can by typing on a keyboard. I would recommend you try this site for yourself. If you get stuck finding a word, you can still resort to seeing me in person or at two of my virtual avatars—my answering machine (616-387-5182) or e-mail david.isacsnon@wmich.edu.
Friends’ Activities
Continued from page 3

without any involvement or support from the few old-time publishing firms that are extant. As a result, Professor Bell finds himself doing considerable self-promotion, advertising, and selling. As he demonstrated at the presentation, part of the new way to publish is to be your own salesperson. Among his 21st century books are Kill Her Again (iUniverse, 2000) and the hot off the press You’ve Got Blackmail. He also has published online an historical fiction work called Daughter of Lazarus (iUniverse 2000) and a children’s title, The Case of the Lonely Grave, also printed by iUniverse (2000).

Albert A. Bell, Jr., concluded his remarks with a number of anecdotes about the pleasures and perils of writing mysteries, his favorite mystery authors, and the art of writing well and accurately regardless of the genre. As the afternoon ended, a line of intrigued Friends were purchasing his books from George Hebben from the Athena Book Store.

The public activities of the Friends of the University Libraries at Western Michigan University for Fall 2001 culminated with the biannual book sale on November 14th and 15th. Hundreds of volumes are donated to the Libraries each year by faculty, emeriti, staff, and friends. After the books are reviewed by members of the Libraries’ faculty and staff for possible addition to the main collection, the other items are “grist for the mill,” that is, they are placed for sale at outrageously low prices. The second-floor Atrium is the marketplace with faculty and staff serving as salespersons. The funds from these sales are a mainstay of Friends’ special purchases for the Libraries.

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Science Reference—The Ground Floor

By Linda Rolls,
Professor, Science Reference

Science is a first-rate piece of furniture for a man’s upper chamber, if he has common sense on the ground floor.
Oliver Wendell Holmes

The Science Reference department of the University Libraries provides the essential interface between faculty, staff, and students and their access to academic research and information services in the sciences. Science is one of the most rapidly changing areas in academia, particularly in the area of information and the manner in which it is provided and utilized. The expertise of faculty librarians and staff who act as interpreters and analysts, provide instruction, and manage and evaluate collections is more critical than ever before. The evolution of the Internet and Web-based resources has revolutionized this process in amazing ways, from both the perspectives of the library patron and the library faculty.

Databases can now be searched online from virtually anywhere that a computer with dial-up access exists, whether this is in the university library or elsewhere. Full text articles or other reference materials can be printed, downloaded, or e-mailed immediately. A researcher or scholar in the sciences can have a “science center” available on his/her desk whether that desk is a laptop on a plane, a home computer being utilized at 3:00 a.m., or found in a faculty office or laboratory across the continent and the world. However, the array of resources can be overwhelming to the uninitiated. The experienced faculty, staff and students of the Science Reference department of the University Libraries assist users in distinguishing among options, making appropriate choices, and using these resources to their full potential.

Located on the lower level of Waldo Library, Science Reference is the key public service area in Waldo Library for science and technology. The collection contains the reference and research sources for the biological sciences, chemistry, geosciences, mathematics, physics, computer sciences, medicine and other health sciences, and engineering. There are three Library Faculty and two staff members in the department. The faculty members are Michael Buckner, Head of Science Reference; Barbara Cockrell; and Linda Rolls. The staff members are Richard Mehl, Science Reference Assistant and Mandy Formulo, Evening Supervisor. The Library Faculty members have background expertise in Biology and Environmental Sciences, Mathematics and Physics, and Physiology and Biochemistry: they especially serve the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Health and Human Services. Behind the scenes, the faculty and staff of Science Reference employ, train, and supervise the 12 to 15 students who also serve Science Reference and its patrons.

One of the primary missions of Science Reference is to support the University’s goal to become research intensive and secure major outside funding/grants. This emphasis is particularly focused on the sciences since national and state funding has always been most extensive in the scientific/technological arena. To that end, there is recognition that, for most of the sciences, the article literature is of utmost importance. There has been a conscious effort to provide online access to the most important literature and article databases available. In the last three to five years, the Libraries has added all of the major databases in the sciences to its online offerings. A few of the databases provided in the sciences includes the following:

- ScienceDirect offers access to the Elsevier Science journal collection of over 1200 titles along with journals from a host of prestigious societies. The full text collection of over 1.5 million articles from 1995 to present covers a wide variety of subject areas and disciplines.
- The ISI Web of Science, which includes the Science Citation Index Expanded, is a multidisciplinary database, with searchable author abstracts, covering the journal literature of the sciences. Web of Science indexes more than 5,700 major journals across 164 scientific disciplines. One of the most important features of the database is that it allows the searching of the cited references of an author or cited works, which is a powerful tool for finding relevant and related research information. Searching for cited references has always been an extremely labor-intensive and time-consuming activity that can now be accomplished in a time span of minutes rather than hours or days. The ability to search for cited references is important in evaluating the quality of published literature as well as finding important published research in the sciences.
- One of the most significant databases for engineering researchers is EI Compendex Plus, which provides extensive coverage and resources in engineering. The database provides access to bibliographic citations and abstracts to engineering and technical literature from over 2,600 journals, conference proceedings, conference papers, technical reports and monographs published worldwide. Moreover, the citations are also linked to the holdings of the University Libraries.

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An important database in the field of chemistry is SciFinder Scholar's Chemical Abstracts. Not only does the online source provide the most extensive indexing of the chemistry literature, it supplies abstracts of articles from more than 8,000 journals. Its coverage of chemistry includes chemical engineering, environmental science, pharmacology, medicine, and food science.

In the area of Health and Medicine, the University Libraries' Web pages offer access to the OVID Nursing Collection, which supplies full text access to over thirty nursing journals. In the medical sciences, not only MEDLINE is available, but, in addition, MDConsult includes 35 medical reference texts, full-text articles from 50 journals, MEDLINE, clinical practice guidelines, patient education handouts, drug information, and current medical information.

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics would be seriously hindered in its educational and research programs if the Libraries did not subscribe to MathSciNet, the premier database of the American Mathematical Society. This source covers "the world's mathematical literature since 1940," and is based on the prestigious Mathematical Reviews database. The comprehensive site indexes nearly 1800 journals, has links to 185,000 original articles, and is compiled from the expertise of over 10,000 reviewers. The main screen for MSN has a Quick Search line. Geographical providence and fields including author, title, institution, "Ref Author," and others can limit this search window. There is also a more elaborate Full Search option and several related databases such as journals. Many of the articles are available in full text, and there are multiple links to institution codes and addresses, mathematics subject classification, works by the reviewer, and other useful information.

GEOBASE and GeoRefS are two core indexes accessible from FirstSearch that index worldwide literature on geography, geology, ecology, and related disciplines. GEOBASE has some 2,000 journals fully indexed with an additional 3,000 selectively indexed. The material includes books, monographs, conference proceedings, and reports as well as journal articles; the coverage is 1980 to date with monthly updates. GeoRefS has twice-monthly updates and covers over 25,000 sources about geology and other earth sciences with North American coverage dating back to 1785, and international coverage from 1933 to the present.

The preceding list is selected; there are numerous other science and technology resources and services that may be found online and on the shelves of the ground floor. The Science Reference area also services all current periodicals and magazines, regardless of subject, that are received in Waldo Library. Also located on that floor are selected new books, excluding best sellers that are found at the Circulation/Reserves desk, and a service desk for newspapers and microforms.

Besides providing for the research and educational needs of faculty and students through recommending and assisting in the use of online offerings, the Library Faculty provides instruction in the utilization and assessment of online and other resources. Science reference faculty are actively involved in bibliographic instruction with instruction for individual classes offered through a variety of venues. The IME 102 technical communications class is required for all the Engineering College undergraduates. The class is also recommended for the Honors College science majors. Along with English 105 and Business Information Systems 142, this introductory class gives students the background they need to understand how advances in science and technology are communicated among specialists, and, in turn, communicated to the general public.

Students are taught how to access the scientific literature and how to begin to assess the quality and veracity of the information. Bibliographic instruction provides an opportunity for the Library Faculty to help students develop search strategies and learn about database structure in an immediate and relevant manner. Besides introductory sessions, instruction is also tailored to advanced and graduate classes across the three colleges mentioned earlier. And, of course, the Science Reference faculty provide one on one reference assistance at the science reference desk as well as respond to individual student research needs that arrive by e-mail, telephone, or through a knock on the door of an office.

In recognition of the fact that access to the University Libraries has become a 24/7 requisite for many library patrons, librarians in Science Reference have developed online subject gateways. The gateways, found at http://www.wmich.edu/library/db/index.html, provide guidance for faculty and students in physics, computer science, mathematics and statistics, chemistry, biological sciences, medicine and health, psychology, geosciences, and engineering. Because of the ever-changing nature of the Web and the continuous advances in science and technology, these Web pages are monitored and updated regularly. However, the role of the Library Faculty in Science Reference is not completely defined unless note is made of their liaison and collection development responsibilities. These include meeting with departmental faculty in the respective subject/discipline to determine research and teaching needs. Then the Library Faculty work to acquire the Libraries' collections, both print and online, to reflect these needs. Science Reference faculty also meet with new faculty, and attend departmental faculty meetings.

The depth and breadth of the University's programmatic and research strength in the sciences has been supported by the development of a strong Science Reference program and staff, significant scientific collections located on the lower level of the Libraries, and ever-expanding online access to the latest research data. In the context of the opening quotation, Science Reference strives to contribute to the "common sense" of science by providing instruction on the use and evaluation of scientific resources. Ultimately, as described above, Science Reference is the "ground floor" in the provision of resources to enhance and undergird the educational and research mission of the University Libraries and the University itself.
Blueprints...
Continued from page 1

Stadium in 1972, the addition of the elevator in the Seibert Administration Building, and the remodeling of the old Health Services building on East Campus (both in 1971).

In addition to designing a number of homes in the Kalamazoo, Gull Lake, and Richland areas, Kellogg also prepared blueprints for the:

- Zion Evangelical Church, Kalamazoo (1955);
- Nazarene Church, Kalamazoo (1963);
- Unity Reformed Church, Grand Rapids (1965);
- The Upjohn Company firehouse (1968);
- North Avenue Church of God, Battle Creek (1961-1971);
- both office building and plant for Gibson Inc., Nashville, TN (1974); and
- An addition to and renovation of Buchanan Township Hall (1977).

The collection takes up approximately five cubic feet of space and covers the years from 1955-1990.

The GEORGE GILBERT WORDEN PAPERS are unique in that not only are there architectural drawings, but also site surveys for real estate developments, and for drains, bridges, and roadways. Worden was self-employed as a civil and
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architectural engineer who specialized in paper mills. He received his degree in Civil Engineering in 1908 from the University of Michigan.

George Worden passed away in 1972, but his papers were only recently deposited at the Regional History Collections courtesy of his grandson, Douglas G. Worden. Local historical researchers and authors Pamela Hall O'Connor and Lynn Smith Houghton, who have just published a history of Kalamazoo's buildings titled Kalamazoo Lost & Found, discovered these drawings in their search for information for their book. Through their efforts, Douglas Worden decided to place his grandfather's papers with the Regional History Collections. The collection covers approximately 1913-1965.

As O'Connor and Houghton assisted in the preservation and inventory of this collection, they made an exciting discovery. Worden was the architect for the Gibson Mandolin & Guitar building on Gibson Street in Kalamazoo. Various groups have been interested in learning who the architect was in order to place the building on the National Historic Landmark Register. Now we not only know the architect, but have building plans as well.

George Worden also designed homes in Kalamazoo on Tipperary Road and Brentwood, Parkwood, Edgemoor, Alta Vista, and Grand Avenues, mostly during the 1920s when these neighborhoods were developing. In 1924 he worked with Caroline Bartlett Crane on her design for the Better Homes in America contest, and "Everyman's House" is still found at 2026 South Westnedge. A model of this house can also be seen at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. He also developed blueprints for several homes in the Gull Lake area, as well as the dining pavilion at the Bass Lake Boy Scout Camp, and the now renovated Home for the Aged on Douglas Avenue, Kalamazoo. Worden seemed to be at the forefront of designing filling stations as automobiles became more and more popular. There are drawings for Colonial Oil in Sturgis, and the Independent Oil Company Filling Station on the southwest corner of Michigan and Lovell in 1922. The collection also includes drawings for the Packard Auto Dealership on West Michigan in 1919, which is now Orrin B. Hays, Inc.

The Worden manuscripts constitute a major architectural collection filling seven map case drawers with additional specifications and related paper materials comprising approximately four cubic feet. At present there is only a rough inventory of the blueprints and drawings, but access can be provided to any interested researcher.

The significant collections just noted are matched by additional valuable "blueprints to the past" that will be described in the Spring 2002 issue of Gatherings.