Direction — Continuity — Accomplishment —

A Friends' Personality

Many of us lead somewhat helter-skelter lives that, at least part of the time, are neither carefully planned nor focused. A few lead lives with direction and continuity and usually accomplish a great deal. One such is George Hebben.

Born in Detroit where his parents occupied the same house for sixty-five years, and educated in parochial schools, George joined the U.S. Air Force after his graduation from Servite High School. Eight years later, after tours in Germany and Viet Nam, he returned to a long-held aspiration—to attend college and, even more specific, to become a bookman, a librarian if you will.

To this end, George Hebben enrolled at Western Michigan University earning first an undergraduate degree in sociology along with a minor in library science. From there, he followed with a graduate degree, the Master of Science in Librarianship, awarded in 1973—also from Western Michigan University. George worked for several years as an adjunct librarian at Waldo Library until his interests and his strong personal direction took him to a comparable field. In 1987 he acquired a landmark Kalamazoo bookstore, the Athena, and has made it a mecca for those who read and appreciate books. He credits his library school reference courses with teaching him how to locate the hard-to-find books his customers frequently seek while courses in children’s literature have served him well since the Bookstore has a thriving and strong collection in that area—some claim it to be the finest in the community.

George Hebben’s close ties to the book community and to Western Michigan University made his involvement in the planning of a Friends group for the University Libraries extraordinarily obvious. Currently he serves as Vice President of the Friends and has been active since the group’s establishment in 1992.

Another continuing passion in Mr. Hebben’s life is young people. Between 1976 and 1982, George and his first wife were foster parents to twenty children—some for as long as two and a half years. Since his wife was an avid gardener and provided lots of high quality food, George assumed responsibility for the kitchen and did most of the cooking for the house that was full of youngsters. He became quite an accomplished cook and especially likes mid-eastern cuisine. His interest in young people extends to several organizations that are concerned with their wellbeing including the Plainwell High School Building Committee, Gryphon Place and the Civic Youth Theatre. That last involvement is also reflected in his board membership of Actors and Playwrites Initiative as well as a newfound enthusiasm for acting itself. Last year he took a small role in a high school production, The Pig Man, and more recently had a role in the production of Molière's The Miser, at Kalamazoo College.

George Hebben is a staunch supporter of the First Amendment rights guaranteed under our national Constitution. He is an active member of the Great Lakes Booksellers Association and has been frequently called upon to testify in defense of intellectual access before legislative committees when legislation intended to limit our reading choices has been proposed. As one might anticipate of a “good” bookman, George is also an avid reader in such varied areas as spirituality and business. He is a lover of classical music and supports local musical organizations with both time and funds. He confesses, however, to having serious discussions about the volume level that his teenage daughter prefers when playing contemporary music.

This is only a brief profile of a man of self-direction, continuity of purpose and accomplishment. However, there is little doubt that it does demonstrate that George Hebben reflects those characteristics well; he is a man of strong commitment and the will to make that commitment succeed.

G.E.

George Hebben, Owner, The Athena Book Shop.
Music to Our Ears

The Harper C. Maybee Music and Dance Library, located in the Dalton Center, Western Michigan University, is the recipient of a major library of organ music and related materials collected by distinguished organist and church musician Paul A. Humiston of Marshall, Michigan. The collection consists of a significant library of organ music along with books and periodicals that focus on the instrument and its musical history. Because of Mr. Humiston's wide-ranging interest in all schools of organ composition and his personal desire to remain current with the literature in each area, the collection is unusually broad in scope, rich in detail, and reflects a lifetime of activity as a performer and teacher. Almost 1,600 solos and anthologies were acquired over a fifty-year period and they represent virtually all significant composers of organ music since the Baroque era. All of the master composers for organ—Bach, Franck, and Widor, among others—are found, and often by editions of most, if not all, of their works. There is extensive repertoire as well for many other prominent though less-known composers.

Paul Humiston's career of five decades as a church musician is also demonstrated by scores for literally hundreds of pieces composed for liturgical use in various denominations. Of special note is the strong representation of American and British composers of the 19th and 20th centuries. Other special foci of this unique library of music are seen in the books of technical studies and methods for organ as well as in some 200 anthologies of piano music, and in a substantial number of scores of sacred choral works and other vocal music. Extensive holdings of The American Organist and The Diapason, for many years the two leading U.S. organ periodicals, complete the invaluable collection.

Nearly as impressive as the scope of the collection is the care with which it was organized and maintained. The music is grouped by individual composer under that individual's name or, in the case of anthologies of different composers, by title. Items were inserted in folders, identified by composer, title, and publisher, and then stored flat in protective boxes designed for filing music. As a result, nearly all of the music is in good to excellent condition and can be used carefully without harming the original manuscript.

Paul A. Humiston was born in Sandusky, Ohio, in 1905, and is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. His career began in Grand Rapids in 1929, where he was organist and director of music at the East Congregational Church. In 1937, he assumed a similar post at Trinity Episcopal Church in Marshall and served there until his retirement in 1971. He and his wife Nettie (known to her friends as "Trix") continue to maintain their home of 56 years in that well-known Michigan community. One of their sons, oboist Robert Humiston, is a Professor of Music at Western Michigan University.

In addition to his contributions as a church musician, Mr. Humiston was a teacher of organ, piano, and voice. From 1946 until 1957, he was accompanist for the Albion College Choral Society. His lifetime membership in the American Guild of Organists began in 1929 when he passed the Guild's Associate examination while still a senior at Oberlin College. He has been a member of the Northern Ohio and Michigan (Detroit) chapters of the AGO, and was a founding member of the Western Michigan (Grand Rapids) and Southwest Michigan chapters. The Southwest Michigan chapter honored him with a lifetime membership in 1993.

Paul Humiston's very special gift to Western Michigan University has not yet been fully analyzed and processed. Dr. Betty Pursley, Assistant Professor of Music and University Organist, who will serve as a consultant on repertoire and editions, and Music Librarian Greg Fitzgerald have just begun the massive task of uncovering the riches of the extensive collection. Although it may take several years to complete the work, some of the music will be appearing on the Music and Dance Library's shelves within a few months. The more fragile items will be maintained in a separate location—undoubtedly stored in the original boxes—and used mainly for reference.

When offering his library as a gift to Western Michigan University, Paul Humiston said that, above all, he "wanted people to use it!" By donating it to the University Libraries, he has guaranteed that it will be available to organists and organ scholars who wish to use it—for performance, for research, for education. He has assured that the energy and dedication he brought to his profession will continue to inspire and educate present and future practitioners of his art. They, and we, are in his debt.

G.F.

Library users of the 1990s have learned, occasionally to their dismay, that contemporany library and information centers are no longer the quiet havens of years past where patrons browsed a multi­drawer card catalog filled with 3 by 5" cards to locate a book title or author or special subject. Also, if not gone, at least not as often perused, are the multi-­volume periodical indexes, national and international catalogs and bibliographies sometimes consisting of dozens of volumes of entries, and a variety of other resources that were the traditional "book" references of yesterday. Today, instead of such catalogs and rows of books, the searching hub of the library—if one chooses to come to a physical location—is rows of computer terminals that offer almost unlimited resources for searching.

Although a number of today's library users still find themselves ill at ease when first approaching a computer terminal, access is not that complicated and, as noted in Dean Lance Query's article found on p. 4 of this issue of Gatherings, Waldo Library has a hypermedia tutorial that provides a basic introduction to our catalog and online data base.

The first selection comes from a screen that reads:

Welcome to WESTNET
The West Michigan Information Network
A service of Western Michigan University

P1 WESTNET
Local catalogs & journal indexes
P2 FirstSearch (Pilot Project)
Additional indexes & resources

Almost an entire issue of Gatherings would be needed to describe the 35 catalogs and indexes found in FirstSearch. However, separate from FirstSearch, the University Libraries' WESTNET system already includes a number of online libraries that many patrons do not realize exist. Once a user has selected P1, a different screen is shown that offers six important choices: FINDER, KELLY, LOOKITUP, DATAQ-1, CRL, and VIDEOCAT. As most people already know, FINDER is the acronym for our online catalog—the one that replaces
At Your Service: Waldo’s Federal Depository

One of the operative words in today’s world is “change.” Change is used to describe every aspect of the national and international condition from politics, business, education, society, and technological developments to the day by day activities of our lives and workplaces. In fact, no sector of our world or of our lives seems to remain constant as we close out the 20th century. That predominant characteristic, change, holds true for libraries and information services as well since the very essence of information and knowledge is changing every moment. And, of all the components of library service, those institutions that provide government information are uniquely affected by change.

Waldo Library houses one of a vast network of federal depository libraries that are distribution points for government information. Waldo’s depository services not only the students, faculty, and staff of Western Michigan University, but the residents of Michigan’s Sixth Congressional District. Although Waldo has been designated a depository only since 1963, the federal program of the 1990s is over 150 years old. Probably at no time in those 150 years has it undergone such a traumatic series of changes as in the last few months.

Never before has government information been more important to the citizens of our nation. The decision that established the depository libraries intended that all of us should have the opportunity to be informed participants in the democratic system of government. Every documented activity of the government must, as a result, be accessible through some form of “publication” including everything from the original hearings, text of legislation, legislative debate, to the final actions—as found in such well-known sources as the Congressional Record. Laws, regulations, court decisions, patents, sponsored research reports, and much, much more falls under this purview and are distributed through the depository collections. Not a single news broadcast omits some reference to currently documented concerns ranging from the Health Security Act to NAFTA to reinventing government to a special congressional hearing to a phase of international relations to economic data to anyone of a myriad of concerns involving government that are part of and directly affect each of our lives.

In 1994, however, library professionals no longer speak of “publications” because the information produced by government agencies frequently does not take the form of a printed document. Many federal and state bodies have started electronic bulletin boards where one can find the full text of news releases and statistical reports within days or even hours of the actual event. Supreme Court decisions are distributed electronically to the public shortly after the official announcement is made. The text of the State of the Union address may be accessed almost before the applause has died down.

One of the most effective new forms of making information available is found in the CD-ROM technology. For example, the Health Care Financing Administration issues a disk containing the regulations covering Medicare and Medicaid. The Environmental Protection Agency issues an inventory of toxic chemical releases on a compact disk. But no department can equal the amount of electronic information that we see emanating from the Department of Commerce as it releases the unbelievably large amount of data compiled by the Bureau of the Census. For the first time, the information from a decennial census (1990) has been released in unprecedented amounts. For the first time, depository libraries have extensive demographic information for all zip codes, and even maps are distributed in electronic form. Personal computers and widely available software packages allow individuals, small businesses, and nonprofit agencies to manipulate data in ways that were previously limited to select organizations with large mainframe computers.

Waldo Library has embraced the new federal technologies in its depository collection and continues also to acquire Michigan state documents. This University was one of the first to be awarded a state depository and today receives almost all Michigan documents that are released to the public. Moreover, as Western Michigan University moves to strengthen its international programs, the documents program has also moved to acquire resources that reflect the international focus. Information from international organizations is being added to the library collection that will support both the education of foreign students on our campus as well as all students and staff engaged in international studies.

Change is, as stated earlier, an integral part of our life. Changes in our federal, state, and international depository collection have been traumatic, dramatic, and even exciting. The one clear conclusion that can be currently drawn is that we have not yet seen more than the beginning of what will be. When Vice President Gore speaks about the information superhighway, he usually includes libraries as an essential part of the system. Government information, in all of its depth and breadth, must travel that highway. The University Libraries’ Documents Library will continue to be a key service station on that road! M.M.
Skilled librarians and teachers are breadth and depth of available sources as "information literate." However, there was a time when students and even faculty would lament, "I just can't find any information on that subject." Such a statement is difficult to comprehend in the mid-1990s. Rather, those who have any concept of computer searching are more apt to say, "How do I limit my search? I'm overwhelmed by titles and options!" From a single "card catalog" and a few paper indexes, the University Libraries have evolved to an international catalog (WorldCat) with some 30 million entries and a series of online periodical data bases that, in Waldo alone, number over 65.

In the last issue of Gatherings, I advocated that we teach our students to be "information literate." However, teaching information literacy is an expensive and labor intensive enterprise. Skilled librarians and teachers are required who, themselves, know the breadth and depth of available sources as well as the different search strategies.

Unfortunately, all of the teachers and librarians who exist will not succeed in that effort if left solely to them—regardless of their dedication or their skills. What can make a difference is the technology that has helped to create the problem.

One application of technology that holds promise for instruction of all kinds is hypermedia. Rather than relying on print, hypermedia is a different way of organizing information in many media—text, pictures, video clips, and sound. The common thread of hypermedia is non-linearity, in effect, the lack of a common thread. Rather than lead a user through the information, hypermedia encourages and permits a user to cut his or her own path. Each student of the system can then move as expeditiously or as cautiously as necessary to achieve individualized goals.

The University Libraries has been experimenting with mediated programs as a means of extending introductory library use instruction. A pilot project was implemented in the fall of 1993 to determine if a mediated self-instructional tutorial could effectively replace the traditional University 101 workbook assignments. University 101 is designed as an orientation "course" available to new students with the specific objective of easing "the transition from high school to college and to introduce students to the University's resources." Each section uses a standard notebook that includes a work/experiential assignment in the University Libraries—a straightforward, linear method facilitated by library faculty who work with the student classes when they visit Waldo Library.

The pilot program substitutes a computer monitored, individualized program that allows each student to learn the same information as do the combination workbook and class visit—without human intervention. The 15 minute interactive program is entitled "Welcome to the University Libraries" and is currently available on three terminals located in the reference area of Waldo Library. Each user is educated through a combination of graphics, sound, animation, and movie clips that provide information on how to use the online catalog (FINDER) and a general interest database (Readers Guide Abstracts) to find books and journal articles in the WMU libraries. Units on branch libraries on campus, their hours of operation, and basic library services are also included. The program was developed by the University Libraries in cooperation with University Computing Services, Instructional Computing, and Media Services.

This is, needless to say, only the first step in the production of a broadly based, widely accessible series of hypermedia tutorials that will offer ever more sophisticated non-linear programs that instruct users in the selection and use of various databases that are most appropriate to the users' information needs. That goal is a major challenge since an underlying assumption is that we can also develop a method that will teach users to learn the distinction between getting the "right" information as opposed to accepting "some" information from a complex and ever expanding information network. The challenge, however, must be met or future library users will be the "information illiterate" rather than the "information literate."

"The Opening of a Door..."

When Emily Dickinson penned the words above, she could not have anticipated that Western Michigan University would acquire over 2100 volumes of poetry written by American women from colonial times to the present. However, she also wrote of many things that she had never seen so that this special collection would truly not amaze her as it has amazed many of us who have been able to see and use one of the world's unique compilations of women's imagery, thoughts, aspirations, beliefs, and representations.

The collection, now named for Carol Ann Haenicke, a librarian at the Portage Public Library and wife of President Diether H. Haenicke, was dedicated on October 28, 1993 at a special ceremony held in the Rare Books Room of Waldo Library. There, placed carefully on the ornate shelves of the beautiful room, is a very special record of women's poetry that begins with a 1773 book of verse written by Phillis Wheatley, a slave, and spans centuries to famous contemporary women Sylvia Plath and May Sarton. The entire collection was purchased from Harrison Hayford, a professor of English at Northwestern University, who is known for his scholarly and authoritative writings on the works of Herman Melville.

The genesis of the move from a private collection to a special collection at Western Michigan University was started when Professor Thomas C. Bailey, Department of English, WMU, learned that Dr. Hayford was interested in selling his lifelong effort to collect the published poetry of American women. In turn, Chair Shirley Clay Scott, English; Dean Douglas P. Ferraro, Arts and Sciences; and President Haenicke were persuaded.
that this would be a valuable addition not only to the diversity and expansion of the University Libraries, but extremely valuable to the English Department's new doctoral programs. The deal was struck and the 2,112 volumes—valued at more than $30,000—were shipped to the University. However, such a collection is never a static entity and plans were also made so that continuing effort will be made to support and further build the "library." A special advisory committee has been established and over $25,000 has already been donated toward an endowment that will bring future expansion to the Carol Ann Haenicke Collection of Women's Poetry.

The volumes are, of course, intended for use and not for simple display as rare books. They can be viewed, examined, and read during regular Rare Book Room hours; that Room is located on the third floor of Waldo Library, and this collection, as others in that area, is supervised by Beatrice Beech, Cistercian and rare book librarian. A special poster has been produced by the Design Center in the Department of Art; the poster is based on a watercolor by San Francisco artist Cathleen Daly, who donated the image "to express her pleasure in such a collection." The watercolor reflects, as does the poetry of Emily Dickinson and many others in the collection, the vibrant contributions of women to our culture and civilization:

"Of visitors – the fairest –
For Occupation – This –
The spreading wide my narrow Hands
To gather Paradise –"

A Membership Reminder
Our growing organization needs your membership renewal or—if you have not been a member until now—please join at this time. The Friends of the University Libraries at Western Michigan University has been active for only a couple of years but, as the President of the Friends, Dr. Peter W. Krawutschke, Professor of German at Western Michigan University, noted in his "Letter" printed in the last issue of Gatherings:

"The Friends are here to assist in the development of the rich collections found in the University's libraries. I urge you to join formally and to share our enthusiasm for and our support of the resources and services of the University Libraries at Western Michigan University."

The future of the University Libraries is as unlimited as our vision and our mission at this institution. Unfortunately, that vision and mission do not exist in isolation from other institutional demands and the existence of various financial restraints. University libraries, as do all library and information organizations, need the strong support of individuals who can give time and funds to assist in the expansion of existing collections and to acquire materials that are not currently available. Elsewhere in this newsletter, descriptions of two new and very valuable collections, one in music and one American women's poetry, indicate how much we benefit from our "friends." Also, existing funding for major services such as our depository library of government documents and our online data bases is always in need of additional financial allocations in order to respond to the opportunities for acquisition.

You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.

Ray Bradbury, quoted by Misha Berson in Seattle Times.
those drawers of 3 by 5" cards with which so many patrons grew up. KELLY expands the search to libraries across western Michigan; the patron can locate information by author, title, or subject and see whether a particular public, academic, school, or special library holds a book or periodical. LOOKITUP does the same thing but for one academic library, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, since our students often use their resources and vice versa. The next entry called DATAQ-1 (Dataquest 1) includes five periodical indexes that have especially heavy use: one is a general periodical index, two cover business resources, another focuses on psychological journals, and the last indexes assorted materials about education and related areas. Before turning to CRL, it should be noted that the VIDEOCAT entry includes audio­video resources acquired for instructional use at Western Michigan University; it is not a collection of popular movies and video-games!

The CRL, unfortunately, is not familiar to a large number of our users—even those who have been involved in searching resources for many years. CRL stands for The Center for Research Libraries and it is an actual library located at 6050 S. Kenwood Avenue in Chicago. Its historical origin came in the combining of special materials by, at the time, 11 major universities in the midwest. In essence, they placed a variety of specialized materials within a holding area and made them accessible by loan. Today, the original membership has been expanded and it is an organization "whose purpose is to make available to the scholarly community research materials that are rarely held in North American libraries. The Center has collections of over 3.6 million volumes and 1.1 million microforms" (Handbook). Among their unique collections (and there are hundreds of them) are such varied materials as (1) records of national governments, (2) doctoral dissertations on all topics from institutions across the world, (3) numerous foreign scientific and technical serials and monographs, (4) U.S. and foreign newspapers, (5) U.S. state documents, and (6) thousands of pre-1950 monographs in the humanities and social sciences.

However, the six items just listed do not do justice to the amazing breadth of the Center. In perusing their published Handbook, one sees such rarities as the entire “corpus” or body of documentation of American Lutheranism; papers of numerous individuals, American, British, Chinese, etc. (e.g., politicians, statesmen, clergymen, British nobility); cinema press books from the studio collections; CIA research reports; Covent Garden prompt-books for the period from 1710-1824; 18th century Russian publications; official railroad guides from 1871-1969; Voice of America broadcast scripts from 1953-1980; the 1427 census of Florence, Italy; telephone directories for U.S. cities since 1976, and such a conglomeration of other sources that the mind, indeed, is boggled—not only that this library exists but that it can be searched from Western Michigan University’s WESTNET system—and the materials retrieved through our Resource Sharing office for the patron’s research.

The title of this brief article is “Libraries Encircling Libraries…” Today’s patron has the capability of reaching far beyond the rows of books, journals, government documents, microforms, and other media that are on our University’s campus. Not a single library but multiple libraries exist. Be our guest!