

A Note from the Dean of Libraries & Media Services

The Libraries are undertaking a strategic planning process this Spring that seeks to redefine mission and goals in light of current and emerging University priorities and of the critical issues facing research libraries and institutions of higher education nationwide. One of the issues directly affecting library planning is the state and future of scholarly publishing. To provide a context for this problem, I have described the historical background and current strategic efforts elsewhere in this issue. I hope you will read that piece and provide me with any feedback with regard to the issues or the type of forum for discussion we might consider here at Kent. Also, this month is the occasion of the Friends of the Libraries Annual Dinner. The conversation and program always make this a special evening. I hope you can join us.

Don L. Tolliver



Friends of the Libraries Annual Dinner

The Friends Annual Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15th, in Room 306 of the Kent Student Center. The speaker will be Staughton Lynd, a social activist whose commitments to the civil rights and anti-Vietnam War movements brought him national prominence in the 1960s. Through his work on the book *Rank and File* (1973), a collection of oral histories which he co-edited with his wife Alice, Mr. Lynd developed the strong interest in labor organizing that forms the core of his work today. His participation in the labor struggles against Youngstown steel mill closures, described in his book, *The Fight Against Shutdowns*, and his representation of disabled workers from the Lordstown General Motors plant are emblematic of his significant impact on labor issues specific to the Northeast Ohio region.

This visit by Mr. Lynd serves to highlight the labor history collections of the Department of Special Collections and Archives. His topic will be "Labor History, Oral History, and May 4." Guests are welcome to join us for an informal cocktail hour, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$16 per person. Reservations can be made by contacting the Department of Special Collections and Archives at x.2270.

Will you be our Friend?

The Friends of the Kent State University Libraries was established in Fall 1973 to encourage understanding and appreciation of the Libraries' collections and services. Through its newsletter, the publication of its occasional paper series, regular exhibitions, and programs, the Friends group continues to provide opportunities for members to share their enthusiasm for books, archival collections, and new media. From its inception, dues and gifts collected from and by the Friends have enabled the Libraries to seize opportunities for purchase and to undertake program initiatives that would not otherwise be possible.

If you have never made a formal commitment to the Friends, we urge you to do so now. As a Friend, you will be informed of programs and publications and receive a discount on books published by the Kent State University Press. Your support will strengthen the Libraries' ability to fulfill its role to provide needed intellectual resources for students and researchers.

Friend membership categories include:

Student	\$10	Corporate	\$1,000
Regular	\$30	Life	\$1,000
Patron	\$100		

Gifts are tax deductible. Checks may be made to the Friends of the Kent State University Libraries and sent to Department of Special Collections and Archives.



Footnotes

News from the Kent State University Libraries & Media Services

Published for Libraries & Media Services by Information Services Department
Editor: Barbara F. Schloman (schloman@kent.edu, x.3045)

Volume 7, Number 7
April 1998

Electronic Journals Online at Kent

Electronic journals have arrived at Kent State University. The Libraries' Collection Management department is working to provide easy access to titles from various publishers for Kent's faculty and students. Faculty and students already have access to electronic journals from Academic Press. Access to Elsevier titles through OhioLINK is expected this spring. We are notifying Department Chairs and Library Representatives via e-mail and memos about access for journals in their areas. In addition, we will alert faculty about newly accessible titles through regular *Footnotes* articles. *KentLINK* includes information about electronic journals to which we currently subscribe, and the Web-based version of *KentLINK* provides direct links to the electronic journals.

During 1998, Kent State University Libraries and Media Services has free trials to online electronic journals from several publishers. These publishers include: American Institute of Physics, American Mathematical Society, American Physical Society, Institute of Physics, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. These journals can be accessed via the Libraries' Web site by following the link from "Main Library Services and Departments" to "Collection Management" to "Electronic Journals" to "Kent Subscriptions," or use the following direct address:
<http://www.library.kent.edu/collmgmt/kentsubs.html>
We anticipate that this list will expand rapidly during 1998. If you have any questions concerning access to these journals, contact Michele Hurst, Serials Manager (mhurst@lms.kent.edu or x. 3024, ext. 88) or Laura Bartolo, Collection Development Librarian (lbartolo@kent.edu or x. 3024, ext. 31).

Create Your Own Posters!

Discover something **LARGE** at Instructional Graphics! AVS has purchased a full-color 36-inch printer that outputs large poster size prints from a computer workstation. We can create a poster, chart, graphic image, or many other images for you on our computer, and print them out enlarged—up to 36" x 60"! We can also scan photos or documents up to 8 1/2" by 11" and print them out in poster size. Come to the Graphics counter in Audio Visual Services for more details, or call x.3456, ext.28.



New Literary Research Tools Available

Two networked indexes for American and English language and literature have become available through OhioLINK. They are:

- *Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature (ABELL)*: lists monographs, periodical articles, critical editions of literary works, book reviews, collections of essays, and doctoral dissertations published anywhere in the world. The bibliography began in 1920 and includes these subject areas: English language (syntax, phonology, lexicology, semantics, stylistics, and dialectology); English literature (poetry, prose, fiction, films, biography, travel writing, literary theory, and studies of individual authors); bibliography (manuscript studies, textual studies, and the history of publishing); traditional culture of the English-speaking world (custom, belief, narrative, song, dance and material culture).
- *Bibliography of American Literature (BAL)*: Yale University Press, 1955-1991: provides nearly 40,000 records of the literary works of approximately 300 American writers from the period of the Revolution to 1930.

To access these Web resources, go to the Libraries' Web site (<http://www.library.kent.edu>) and to the menu selection for "Article Indexes/Research Databases" and look under "Arts & Humanities."

CollegeSource CD-ROM

College catalogs for more than 3,000 schools can now be accessed using the *CollegeSource CD-ROM* located on the Windows CD-ROM computer in the Reference Center. Search by school name or choose search parameters to create a personalized list of colleges which meet your criteria. Search parameters include tuition amount, number of students enrolled, type of degree given, school affiliation, location by state or region, and degree or major. View a brief one-page profile of your selected colleges which includes admission criteria, tuition, enrollment, address, and phone information. Also access the college catalog for complete details about the college, including course descriptions, financial aid availability, faculty information, and more. Questions? Contact the Reference Center for details (x.3150 or library@kent.edu).



From the Dean's Desk:

The scholarly publishing dilemma

Scholarly Publishing: More than a library problem

As I have discussed previously, scholarly publishing can only be described as being in extreme crisis, especially as it relates to the distribution of scientific information. This is more than a library funding problem. At Kent, we have repeatedly faced the need to reduce journal subscriptions. Since 1989, we have had to reduce the number of subscriptions by approximately 22% while our costs have increased by about 83%. This was despite the fact that during the past five years our materials budget increased by over 24% and was regularly augmented by sizable one-time funding.

Over the past several decades the scholarly publishing apparatus has changed and has now brought us to this acute state. The growth of higher education in the 1960s and 1970s led to the development of highly specialized fields of study. The growing quantity of research and the increasing number of article submissions by faculty, driven by the academic reward system, required publishing outlets beyond what could be accommodated by the scholarly societies and associations. The commercial publishers stepped forward and have since dominated the scholarly publishing marketplace. They have capitalized on their ability to increase the size and number of specialized publications to meet the demand. This in turn has increased the demand for library subscriptions.

Trends by Commercial Publishers

To solidify their position, we now see three disturbing trends by the commercial publishers. Aggressive pricing is the most apparent to us all. Between 1986 and 1996, the consumer price index increased 44%; the cost of health care 84%; and the cost of scholarly journals 148%. The second troublesome trend has been consolidation of publishers. Increasingly, a few publishers are gaining control of more journal titles and other information resources, including those of society or associations, through purchase or contract. Third, there is great concern about how much exclusive control the copyright holder can assert over access and use of copyrighted material. The commercial publishers are strong advocates of legislation to

strengthen monopoly and control of the intellectual property by the copyright owner. This could severely narrow or eliminate the fair use provision in the current copyright law that is central to educational use of copyrighted materials.

Strategies by Libraries and the Academic Community

To this point, academic libraries have tried various strategies to manage their budgets, including serial cancellations, reliance on document suppliers, and consortial licensing of electronic resources. These are, however, local strategies that have limited impact on the problem. Various efforts are being explored by the academic stakeholders. As an example, the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) is sponsoring the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC).*

SPARC is endorsed by the Pew Higher Education Roundtable and the AAU Committee of Digital Networks and Intellectual Property. It is designed to help create a viable alternative means of scholarly communication by fostering a more competitive marketplace, promoting fair use in an electronic publishing environment, and encouraging the use of technology to improve scholarly communication.

SPARC plans to partner with those professional societies, university presses, and electronic publishers that demonstrate a readiness to commit to the goals of the coalition and that share the values of the scholarly and academic community. I believe that the formation of SPARC is an appropriate response now that economical and technological alternative methods of distributing and preserving scholarly communication exist.

Need for Ongoing Dialogue

SPARC is only one of several current approaches to reinventing an economically sustainable model. In addition, there are numerous calls for dialogue within the academic community to explore different approaches for managing faculty and university intellectual property rights; reducing the emphasis on quantity of publications for purposes of reappointment, tenure, and promotion; and investing in local electronic publishing. I hope Kent will actively join in this discussion.

Don L. Tolliver
Dean, Libraries & Media Services



BRITANNICA Celebrates Women's History Month

The latest spotlight feature from *Britannica Online* is "Women in American History" (<http://women.eb.com>). It was created for the March observance of

Women's History Month and highlights the accomplishments of American women from colonial times to the present. The site features:

- More than 1,200 articles and biographies
- More than 500 photographs, including illustrations and maps
- Several audio clips, including Rita Dove reading poetry and a 1906 recording of opera singer Adelina Patti
- Twenty-three video clips, including a moving demonstration by Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan Macy of how Keller learned to speak
- Original documents written by Emily Dickinson, Susan B. Anthony, and others
- Classic prose by women, from *Britannica's* archives
- An interactive Ask the Experts section, which enables a visitor to submit questions to women's history scholars
- Dozens of links to related Internet sites

Teaching or study aids are also available at the site, including an online study guide, teacher's guide, weekly quizzes, and reading list. Past *Britannica* spotlight features (e.g., the Black History site with Study Guide or the Shakespeare site with Study Guide) are accessible from the Spotlight Archive link on the *Britannica Online* Home Page (<http://www.eb.com>).

Do you dread finding census statistics?

Government Documents has three new items to assist in locating data from the 1990 *Census of Population and Housing*.

CensusCD by Geolytics: contains complete census data from the block group to the national level. Using a powerful Windows interface, requests can draw from the data included in the census long form databases STF-3-A to D. Researchers may retrieve statistical summaries or choose individual tables to include in their reports. For example, data may be gathered for a particular radius around a zip code, or several geographic areas may be compared using selected variables. *CensusCD* will produce requested

data for any of more than 3,500 census demographic variables. Use of *CensusCD* is limited to the workstation in the Government Documents office on the tenth floor. Data may be printed for 10 cents/page or downloaded in various formats for later use. Online help and a print user's guide are also available.

Understanding the Census: A Guide for Marketers, Planners, Grant Writers, and Other Data Users by Michael R. Lavin. (DOCS Ref HA 201 1990ar; non-circulating)

"Designed as a textbook and ready reference tool, it helps researchers navigate the census. *Understanding the Census* succeeds on three levels. First, it explains census subject terminology and concepts in an understandable manner. Second, it assists census users in locating census data. Finally, it helps users with the increasingly diverse array of census products, including CD-ROMs and maps." (*Booklist*, 9/1/96, p.172).

Subject Index to the 1990 Census of Population and Housing by Michael R. Lavin, Jane Weintrop, and Cynthia Cornelius. (DOCS Ref HA 201 1990 .F3x 1997; non-circulating)

Three librarians created this subject guide to census information. Consisting of three parts, the index includes a controlled vocabulary of detailed census concepts with extensive cross-references leading the user to related terms. In addition to covering the overall topic of each census table, index entries describe every population and housing characteristic presented within the table. Also included is a glossary of commonly misunderstood census terms.

MEDLINE Reloaded

The annual MEDLINE reload has taken place. This means that all 1998 changes to the National Library of Medicine thesaurus have been implemented. Additionally, the database has been resegmented into the following parts:

1966-75	1990-94
1976-84	1995-current
1985-89	

