

Fall 2003

Unplugged- Fall 2003

Newsletter Staff

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Unplugged

Issue 12, Fall 2003

NEWS FROM THE RONALD WILLIAMS LIBRARY

WELCOME TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR!

The Ronald Williams Library is entering the new academic year with a base budget of just over \$3.6 million. As a direct impact of the State of Illinois budget crisis and cuts to the University, this budget includes \$140,000 in reductions from the Library's FY 2003 appropriation, representing an overall cut of 3.73 percent. The Library Administration planned carefully over the summer months in allocating these cuts to minimize the negative impact on library collections, hours, and services. A brief summary of the impacts in these areas are noted below with more details in separate items elsewhere in this issue.

The largest and most painful of the budget cuts to report is a reduction of \$95,000 in the library's book budget. This represents a cut of approximately 10 percent of the library's total budget for books and other library materials. The impact of the cut on library purchasing power is compounded by high inflation rates in the costs of library materials, especially journal subscriptions which increase at a rate of nearly 10 percent per year. To address this significant challenge, library faculty members completed a thorough review of all library serial subscriptions and identified 465 titles to drop at an annual cost savings of nearly \$125,000.

The second area where library budget cuts will have some negative impact on NEIU faculty and students is in Library hours of operation. Due to necessary reductions in library staffing levels, including cuts in Student Aide and Graduate Assistant budgets, the Ronald Williams Library on the main campus and the branch Library at the Center for Inner City Studies will both stay on shortened summer schedules for the Fall and Spring terms. For the main Library, this represents a reduction from 85 hours per week to 78 hours per week.

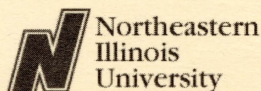
While cuts are always difficult, we in the Library are pleased with the strong support being provided by the University for our mission-critical collections and services to NEIU faculty, staff and students. We remain ready, willing and able to provide high quality support for the information and research needs of the University Community during the coming academic year and beyond.

Bradley F. Baker
Dean of Libraries and Learning Resources

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

SEP 08 2003

ARCHIVES



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Ronald Williams Library staff members enjoy a summer picnic in the NEIU oak savana, August 20, 2003.

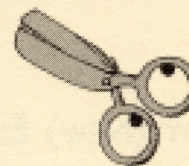
New Libraries Join ILLINET Online

Twelve new Illinois colleges and universities have joined the Illinois Library Computer Systems Organization (ILCSO) and now have their library holdings available in ILLINET Online. The addition of these libraries raises the total number of ILCSO libraries from 44 to 56. Including the new libraries, total ILLINET Online holdings now exceed 20 million titles and 29 million items. Members of the NEIU community can borrow titles from other ILCSO libraries directly through ILLINET Online for delivery to the Ronald Williams Library or can visit and charge library materials on site at any member library. The twelve newest ILCSO libraries include:



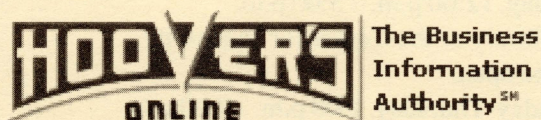
Augustana College (Rock Island)
 Danville Area Community College (Danville)
 Illinois College (Jacksonville)
 Kendall College (Evanston)
 Lewis & Clark Community College (Godfrey)
 Lincoln Land Community College (Springfield)
 The Newberry Library (Chicago)
 North Park University (Chicago)
 Olivet University (Bourbonnais)
 Robert Morris College (Chicago and other locations in Illinois)
 University of St. Francis (Joliet)
 Wheaton College (Wheaton)

LIBRARY TRIMS SUBSCRIPTIONS



During Spring 2003, news of the State of Illinois budgetary challenges appeared and the Library began to make plans for an expected reduction in funds to support its collections. Library faculty began evaluating our existing commitments to our collections by consulting with library liaisons in teaching departments to identify current needs of the academic disciplines. By the end of May, we agreed on a number of strategies to lessen the effect of the coming budget reduction and minimize the effect it would have on our collections. The following decisions were made and actions to implement them are currently underway:

- Evaluated our ongoing commitments to serial subscriptions. After consulting with our library liaisons, each subject area cancelled titles to amount to 10% of the cost of its serials subscriptions. Our decisions included:
 - Canceling 273 print serial and journal subscriptions. In some cases, we initiated subscriptions to alternate titles recommended by faculty
 - Canceling 17 duplicates of print subscriptions because both the main Library and the CICS Library had a subscription to the same title. We will fax requested articles when needed
 - Canceling 57 print subscriptions that are available electronically in full text from the Project Muse database since we are confident that Project Muse provides archival quality
 - Canceling 86 serial titles from the Reference collection
 - Canceling 97 subscriptions to microfilm for selected journals titles when the full text is carried by at least 2 aggregator databases such as Academic Search Elite, Wilson Select Full Text Plus, etc.
 - Canceling 7 print indexes
- Evaluated the electronic resources to which the Library subscribes. Our strategies included:
 - Whenever possible, participating in consortial negotiations with vendors to obtain a discount
 - Switching subscriptions to vendors who quoted the least expensive version
 - Substituting less expensive databases providing similar information for more expensive databases



NEW ELECTRONIC RESOURCES IN THE LIBRARY

Hoover's Online: Replaces Mergent Online and provides financial data on public companies, information on important private U.S. companies, and industry sector analyses and related news.

MAS Ultra: References to articles from magazines and current events publications.

Music Index Online: Replaces RILM and provides references to articles from international music journals and magazines covering every aspect of classical and popular world music.



HOLD THAT (NEW) ELEVATOR!

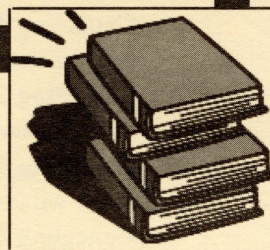
The past year has proven to be a busy one in the Library as we continue to improve our look, and, in response to your concerns, our elevators. As part of a five year plan to remodel many areas of the library we have completed the following projects during the past 10 months:

- All three public elevators were replaced, including the hydraulic system and the cars. The Out of Order signs should be a thing of the past and you should notice a much smoother and cleaner ride.
- New carpeting was installed on the 1st and 3rd floors.
- The ceiling tiles on 1st and 3rd floors were replaced and the air circulation system was inspected and cleaned.
- New window shades were installed on the south, east and west windows on all floors and all of the old window curtains were removed.
- New informational, directional and room signs were installed on all floors.
- The security gates at the front entrance on the 1st floor were replaced.
- All older public workstations on the 1st and 2nd floor were upgraded and an additional eight workstations were added on the 1st floor. An additional printer was purchased and installed on the 1st floor.
- A new instructor's podium and projection system was installed in the 3rd floor classroom. The new podium contains a new computer with Internet access, connections for a laptop computer, a DVD player and a VCR and a document camera.
- Modifications were made to the 1st floor Circulation desk to meet ADA guidelines.

RONALD WILLIAMS LIBRARY

ANNUAL BOOK SALE
November 5-8, 2003

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
NOW!**



LIBRARY HOURS

Hours of operation for the Fall term have been reduced slightly from normal due to budget and staffing constraints. For the Ronald Williams Library, these hours will be:

Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

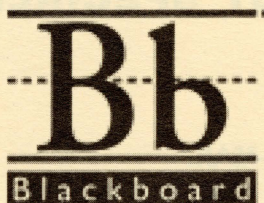
The branch library at the Center for Inner City Studies will be open:

Monday-Thursday, 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

In the exhibit space:

Sept. 14-26	Karen Wise, ceramics
Sept. 26 - Oct. 4	Brad Wotkun, Artist Educator
Oct. 5-17	Kerri Thomas, photographs and computer graphics
Oct. 26-Nov.7	Eric Cruz, photographs, mixed media
Nov. 5-8	ANNUAL BOOK SALE
Nov. 9-21	Orysia Ostap-Demianczuk, paintings
Nov. 22- Dec.6	Kamelia Hristova, paintings



BLACKBOARD NEWS

Center for Teaching and Learning is pleased to announce the successful upgrade of the NEIU Blackboard system to Release 6. This new version includes dozens of upgrades in functionality that will be welcomed by NEIU faculty and student users alike. For a description of the enhancements, go to <http://www.neiu.edu/~etlt/> and click on the link for the hand-out on moving to Blackboard Release 6. For assistance with setting up a course in Blackboard for use with courses you are teaching or to schedule a training session, contact Paul Heydenburg in the Center for Teaching and Learning at ext. 4463 or at p-heydenburg@neiu.edu.

LIBRARY SERVICES FOR BLACKBOARD

Staff in the Ronald Williams Library are expanding support for additional services and content that faculty members can make available in Blackboard course offerings. New this fall is the ability to imbed a link to the library's electronic reference service called "Ask a Librarian" (see separate item in this issue). This service now includes options both for e-mail and web chat responses to questions. The Library's Circulation staff continues to support a number of options for faculty with electronic reserve to provide web access to the text of journal articles. In many cases, direct links can be imbedded in your Blackboard course offerings to electronic copies of full text articles from databases licensed by the Ronald Williams Library. In other cases, the Library will scan and create PDF versions of articles (with appropriate copyright clearance) for your use and for inclusion in our electronic reserve service. For information on these e-reserve services contact Craig Althage at ext. 4404 or CLalthage@neiu.edu.

How do I USE BLACKBOARD?

You can go to NEIU's web site (www.neiu.edu) and click on Information Resources, or go to the Ronald Williams Library web site: www.neiu.edu/~neilib. Then click on the icon for Blackboard.

Use your e-mail user name and password to log in. E-mail accounts are automatically created for students enrolled at NEIU. To obtain your account information, use a web browser and go to the web address: <http://www.neiu.edu/~scs>. Click on the "Student Email Account Look-up" link. Enter your information in the spaces provided and click on the "Submit" button.

To access an FAQ sheet from University Computing about e-mail services, go to www.neiu.edu/~deptac/Client_Support/faq.html

For University Computing's student guide to the Blackboard system, please go to: http://www.neiu.edu/~deptac/Client_Support/Documentation/Blackboard/Intro_Blackboard.pdf.



Jane Peller, of Social Work, joins NEIU's Blackboard team as part-time, faculty associate in the Center for Teaching and Learning.

LIBRARY BIBLIOGRAPHERS/SUBJECT SPECIALISTS

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