Renovation Continues

The Lamar Soutter Library renovation/remodel project is entering its final phases. Carpeting and painting of the second and third floor public and stack areas is complete. The new comfortable lounge seating for these floors is on order and should arrive any day now. The computer lab on the first floor is complete, with new equipment and furniture, and a system for operating the teacher workstation and student workstations in sync. Carpeting and painting of the first floor has begun. All the tall panels of the old Library Computer Area (LCA) have been removed. Core drilling continues on the first floor in order to accommodate increased network connections and electricity.

Some of the new computer furniture for the first floor public areas has arrived, and some of the computers from the old LCA area have been relocated there. An additional 28 new workstations and computer furniture stations are expected to be installed by the end of the month. This will bring the total number of public access computer stations to more than 75.

What is truly remarkable is how much bigger the Library’s first floor seems without those tall panels—and brighter, too! The next few weeks will bring work on the new Reference desk area and new shelving for the Reference collection. In addition, work in the new Access Services staff areas, Circulation Desk, and Technical Services areas will begin. A temporary Circulation/Reserves Desk will be constructed until the new desk and staff areas are completed, hopefully by August 12th.

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Staff Involved at MLA

Several LSL staff members have recently returned from Dallas, where they were heavily involved in this year’s MLA annual meeting. The Medical Library Association is the premier professional organization of health information professionals, consisting of more than 4,000 individual medical librarians and institutional members. Active participation by Lamar Soutter Librarians promotes the visibility of the high quality information resources and services of the UMMS and is consistent with the UMMS goal of being recognized for programs of national distinction.

Associate Director for Research, Education and Information Services Jim Comes staffed a poster session entitled “Point-of-Care Reference Service in a Pediatric Clinic,” prepared by Reference Librarian Nancy Harger. This poster chronicled the development of the Pediatric-Family Resource Library, located in the Benedict Building of UMass Memorial Health Care, as a collaborative effort between the Lamar Soutter Library, a hospital library, and the Department of Pediatrics.

Associate Director for Systems Mary Piorun and Associate Director for Technical Services Barbara Ingrassia presented their poster “Creating Digital Collections: the Original Research of Gregory Pincus, Ph.D.” Working with glass slides and negatives prepared by Dr. Pincus during his research to develop an oral contraceptive, this poster reported on the process of digitizing a special collection. Issues addressed included funding, scanning options and formats, image enhancement, watermarking, cataloging and indexing, and evaluating presentation options.

Several members of the RML/NER staff attended the meeting of the eight Regional Medical Libraries with the National Library of Medicine National Network Office staff. The RML staff members were able to plan activities and priorities for the coming year, in consultation with representatives of the funding agency. They also participated in smaller group meetings with their counterparts. Representing the RML/NER were Elaine Martín (Director), Debbie Sibley (Associate Director), Donna Berryman (Outreach Coordinator), Javier Crespo (Consumer Health Coordinator) and Mark Goldstein (Network Coordinator).

Elaine Martín, Director of Library Services, also participated in a panel discussion on mentoring, sponsored by the Leadership and Management Section of MLA. She was later elected to serve as that section’s chair for the coming year. On Wednesday, May 23, she coordinated and chaired the post-MLA symposium “Leadership Reconsidered: Developing a Strategic Agenda for Leadership in Health Sciences Libraries.”

Mary Piorun also spent time staffing the Learning Center, assisting conference attendees in reviewing new software and videotape programs. Debbie Sibley served as the Facilitator for a roundtable luncheon discussion on PDAs (personal digital assistants) at the Chapter Sharing Roundtables Luncheon. Barbara Ingrassia, chair of the Government Relations Committee for North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries (NAHSL) served as the Recorder for the Government Relations roundtable at that luncheon. Debbie attended the MLA Membership Committee and Chapter Council meetings, representing NAHSL.

Continuing education courses are an important offering at MLA. Several staff enrolled in classes to advance their skills and knowledge. Jim Comes attended “Copyright Law in the Digital Age”; Donna Berryman chose to review resources in “Molecular Biology and Genetics for Librarians”; and Mark Goldstein studied “Library Website Architecture and Design.”

Digital Age Copyright

Copyright in the digital age has taken on added importance for libraries, students, and educators. The increasing use of technology to transmit, store, display, and manipulate information in the electronic format has created new considerations for copyright law.

In order to meet the challenges of managing electronic information and to increase awareness of educators’ rights and obligations in copyright legislation, the Lamar Soutter Library and the Office of Medical Education recently sponsored a presentation: Copyright in the Digital Age. Karen Hersey, Senior Counsel for Intellectual Property at MIT and Lucretia McClure, Special Assistant to the Library Director, Countway Library of the Harvard Medical School, spoke to a group of 35 faculty, staff and students on April 10.

Ms. McClure provided an overview of copyright law. She described when copyright begins for a work, how long it lasts, and how it works in the public domain. She concluded with four factors that govern Fair Use:

- The purpose and character of the use.
- The nature of the copyrighted work.
- The amount and substantiality of the portion used.
- The effect of the use upon the potential market.

Ms. Hersey reviewed the copyright issues for the educator. She began by asking: Who owns the copyright? Since educators develop classroom materials and use a variety of resources created externally, the four-factor test described by Ms. McClure becomes very important. She noted some challenges educators face with distance education programs, using electronic materials under license, and pending database legislation. Ms. Hersey encouraged the audience to be aware of copyright law, especially in this age of electronic course delivery. Persons with questions should contact Jim Comes, Head of Reference: 508-856-6810.
New Preservation/Conservation Specialist

We have a new Preservation/Conservation Specialist here at the Lamar Soutter Library. Amanda Noe has been working in Technical Services since February, 2002. Since then she has attended two workshops in addition to weekly trips to Clark University for training, which she receives from Jane Foti, formerly Cornell’s Preservation Specialist.

At Clark, Amanda has learned several things, including how to properly handle books, journals, and AV equipment. She has been trained to fix torn pages, broken spines, and books that have become separated from their cover. Also she has been taught how to tip in loose pages, reinforce books that are falling apart, stiffen paperbacks, make folders for smaller books, make pockets in the backs of books for extra materials, and even how to convert paperbacks into hardcovers. Back at LSL, Amanda uses these techniques to extend the life of such media as books, journals, maps, posters, photos, compact disks, videos, and audiocassettes. To date she has restored over 200 various items. She is also training LSL shelvers and staff in the proper handling and care of the Library’s books and journals. She is looking forward to rehabilitating the items in the Library that require attention.

Amanda’s latest workshop has also interested her in library disaster preparedness. She will be joining a team that will help in salvaging many of the Library’s items if there were a disaster.

If anyone has questions, they may contact Amanda at 508-856-2200 or at amanda.noe@umassmed.edu.

The Rare Books Room: A Treasury of Medical History

Are you curious about what Renaissance physicians knew about medical science? The Lamar Soutter Library can provide this information from original texts dating back to such 16th century primary sources as De Fabrica Humani Corporis (1543) by Andreas Vesalius, the oldest in our Rare Books Room collection.

Including over 1,500 works of historical value, the Rare Books Room’s holdings were originally the result of a collection purchased from the Pittsburgh Academy of Medicine and a contribution of the Worcester Medical Library of the Worcester District Medical Association, one of the three oldest medical libraries in the country. Donations also came from the American Antiquarian Society as well as members of the medical community, staff and faculty of the medical center, and the general public.

A work of art with carefully crafted woodcuts and virtuoso workmanship, the Vesalius text, a seminal contribution to medical science, was one of two gifts from Dr. Francis D. Moore in honor of H. Brownell Wheeler, M.D., the Harry M. Haidak Distinguished Professor and the Founding Chair of the Department of Surgery. Dr. Moore also donated Oeuvres (1614) by Ambroise Paré, often considered the “Father of Surgery.” Published in French rather than Latin, making it more accessible to the medical world of the time, Paré’s manual of surgery broke new ground in medical knowledge.

Among early medical texts, the Rare Books Room houses a three-volume translation of a treatise by Hippocrates, Medicorum Omnium Facile Principis Opera (1557), along with nineteenth century translations of the works of other ancient physicians including Discorides, who healed headache by electrical

Book Review: Leonard Kriegel’s Flying Solo

Having lost the use of his legs to polio while a boy growing up in the Bronx, Kriegel offers us a meditation upon paraplegia from a non-clinical perspective. A literary historian and maven of men’s studies, he has also written affectingly of his illness in such works as his memoir, The Long Walk Home (1964) and Falling into Life: Essays (1991). In this 1998 book, he writes with insight, candor, defianc, and some understandable bitterness about how his affliction has narrowed and otherwise colored his view of the world.

With equal facility, Kriegel fleshes out his ideas by visiting the arenas of baseball, Greek mythology, supermarket culture, and Freudian theory. He enlivenes his arguments and illuminates his examples with references to figures from Sal Maglie to Cotton Mather, to films from “On the Waterfront” to “Stagecoach,” and to landscapes from the Netherlands to New Mexico.

Kriegel cuts to the soul of subjects, as when he mentions a surgeon who would gladly exchange his present operating room deftness for the dexterity he once possessed that allowed him to run a pool table: “It is not vanity but that moment of fulfillment that feeds a man the sense of self he cannot do without.”

Kriegel’s language is erudite but unpretentious: his words home in on targets via gentle arcs of cultural allusion before his rhetoric explodes with depth charge force. His voice is at times provocative, as in his spiced remark that, “Ours is a nation content to worship the purity of power and the imposition of force. Not by accident has football surpassed baseball in the affections of American men.”

Although the author’s tone occasionally verges upon self-pity, the reader should refrain from judging Kriegel too harshly, given the lifetime of obstacles he has faced and overcome. Other writers who have written perceptively in the genre of paraplegia memoir include John Hockenberry (Moving Violations), Andre Dubus (Broken Vessels), and Christy Brown (My Left Foot).

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stimulation from torpedo fish, and Galen, a Greek physician to the Roman gladiators, author of 500 scientific treatises, and one whose medical authority remained undisputed for centuries. We also have a modern translation of Surgery and Instruments (1031) by Albucasis, the Middle Age’s greatest surgeon who was from Cordova, capital of Muslim Spain.

In addition, our holdings include L’ Homme et la Formation du Foetus (1677), a study of embryology by Rene Descartes, the renowned French philosopher and mathematician. One recognizes other famous names in our collection including Noah Webster, better known for his dictionary, but also author of a study of “bilious fever” (1796); Oliver Wendell Holmes, father of the great jurist, and author of Homeopathy and Its Kindred Delusions (1842); and Charles Darwin, represented by twelve books including his Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, 6th edition (1896).

Treatise on the Circulation of Blood (1846), by Emma Willard, (an educator and scholar well ahead of her time) is one of the few works in the collection by a woman. An outmoded 19th century notion is represented by How to Read Character: A New Illustrated Handbook of Phrenology and Physiology (1869) by Sumner R. Wells, who claimed that we can read a person’s character by examining the shape of the skull. Other controversial works include Kraft-Ebbing’s Psychopathia Sexualis and Havelock Ellis’ The Psychology of Sex.

Access to the Rare Books Room of the Lamar Soutter Library is by appointment only. Please contact Barbara Ingrassia at 508-856-1041.