

Ohio State University Libraries
January 2007
ALA Midwinter Round Robin
ALCTS Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries Group

Renovation of Thompson (Main) Library Begins

By the first week of November, all personnel (about 150) and collections (over 1 million general collections plus reference, microforms, maps, and several special collections) were moved out of the Thompson Library. The majority of personnel--including those in Technical Services--and collections were relocated to a "swing space" facility several miles away. Circulation, research and reference services, and administrative services retained a presence on central campus by moving into another library facility. The construction fence went up around the Thompson Library at the end of December, marking the official beginning of the long-awaited major renovation that is supposed to be completed by May 2009.

Technical Services personnel in all departments worked very hard to process as many materials as possible before the move, often dealing with the "dregs" of catalog maintenance and retrocon projects. They also provided support for the transfer of thousands of volumes from the Science and Engineering Library (SEL) to the OSU Book Depository to make room for more user services and study space to compensate for the closure of the Thompson Library. These efforts were complicated by severe problems that resulted from replacement of the server running the library catalog in mid September and persisted for about 6 weeks. Nevertheless, the push to process materials in SEL, in special collections, and in selectors' offices, and in Technical Services areas before the move helped to keep OSU among the top ten contributors of original records to OCLC.

Acquisition Activities

Agreements were worked out for new gathering plans for modern Greek and Byzantine Studies and for Korean imprints.

Accommodation of the ISBN-13 and the switch to EDIFACT were accomplished by the year's end.

Cataloging Activities

The OSU Libraries' Cataloging Dept. just worked out an agreement to catalog 4000 titles for OSU's Moritz Law Library on a cost recovery basis. This project also will serve as a pilot for potential cooperative arrangements with other institutions.

Relative to LC's series decision, Magda El-Sherbini, head of Cataloging, is leading the development of a survey to be sent to users of OSU's catalog to assess the extent to which they search for series and how they search (e.g. keyword, title, etc.).

New Responsibilities and Opportunities for Technical Services

The Scholarly Resources Integration Dept. entered library faculty CV data into OSU:Pro, the developing campus expertise system, so that faculty could produce their 2007 CVs from the system with only minimal updating. SRI personnel continue to work closely with the system developers to get the necessary modifications accomplished to allow library faculty to produce their entire required annual reports from the system. The library is a pilot site for this use of OSU:Pro.

Trisha Davis, Rights Management Coordinator and head of the Serials and Electronic Resources Dept., assumed responsibility for e-reserves operations as well. Trisha's licensing and copyright expertise and availability of staff in her department to work on rights management issues matched up well with the need to assess and manage copyright issues related to e-reserves. The e-reserves staff who had been reporting to the head of Circulation were transferred to Trisha's department organizationally but continued to work from their office in the Science and Engineering Library where they can interact more easily with campus faculty. Trisha and her staff who have offices in the swing space facility now regularly also spend time in the e-reserves office on central campus.

Trisha initiated reviews of print reserve and e-reserve requests to determine how many items are already available as library e-resources. Her staff calculated that, of the 1,415 articles on e-reserve fall quarter, the library owned or owned electronic access to 1,091 (77%) of the requested materials, with 277 (20%) available via electronic content. In terms of copyright issues, only 60 (4%) had copyright concerns that required further attention.

Trisha and her staff also worked with administrators of the campus course management system (Desire2Learn, called "Carmen" at OSU) to start adding e-reserves to Carmen course shells. This project was to be a pilot during fall quarter but had to expand quickly when serious problems with the library catalog prevented it from being used to support reserves satisfactorily, as had been the case to that point.

Copyright and e-reserves presentations are being provided to a number of groups on campus to raise awareness of copyright issues and support available from the library. This type of outreach represents a new role for Technical Services personnel in the Serials and Electronic Resources Dept. Author's rights workshops also are being conducted, and Trisha was invited to attend the September meeting of the new ARL Campus Copyright Educator's Committee. The work of this committee and other interested parties will result in a new ARL brochure and website focused on author's rights information campaigns on ARL campuses.