



Creighton Cornerstone

Number 13

Reinert/Alumni Library

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Library Offers Research Skills Course

During Fall 1986, the Library began offering English 105, "Library Research Skills," a one-credit hour course. Developed in cooperation with the Special Services Department, the course is designed to address the needs of the educationally disadvantaged student. Since funding for the development of the course was provided through a grant to the Special Services Department, only students enrolled through that department were eligible to take the course this semester. The course will be open to all Creighton students beginning Fall 1987. The Library Instruction Librarian teaches the course.

The course focuses on the "library search strategy," a method of systematically coordinating the planning of a term paper or project with the types of library resources available to meet specific information needs. Students are introduced to basic categories and major titles of reference works: almanacs, directories, biographical sources, guides to the literature and periodical indexes. In addition, subject access to the card catalog and government publications is covered.

Although practical library skills are emphasized throughout the course, pertinent theoretical concepts are also covered. This allows the student to cope with inconsistencies such as the lack of uniformity in subject indexing from one periodical index to another and the card catalog. Further, it permits the student to place his/her local library within a broader context by examining areas in which one library is likely to differ in practice from another. The goal of this strategy is

to allow a student to be a better informed, more independent library user.

The Library is currently planning to offer the course Fall semesters only, with a limit of 20 students. If demand for the course were to exceed our present expectations, we could provide two sections per semester with existing staff. -Mike Poma

Tackling Your Taxes

It's time once again for Uncle Sam to collect his due! To make the task easier, the Library offers a supply of federal tax forms, as well as Nebraska and Iowa forms, in the Reference area. To take advantage of tax-saving opportunities that apply to you as a university employee, ask for the following guides and "how-to" sources:

Complete Guide to the Tax Reform Act of 1986 (Prentice-Hall)

Federal Income Tax Guide for Education Employees (Nat'l Education Association)

H & R Block Income Tax Workbook

How to Save Time and Money in Filing Your Personal Tax Returns (Prentice-Hall)

Price-Waterhouse Guide to the New Tax Law

Tax Guide for College Teachers and Other College Personnel (Academic Information Services)

Teachers Income Tax Guide (Library of Congress)
-Mary Nash

Faculty Check-Out Policy Revised



For 1986-87 the faculty is represented on the Library Committee by Father Thomas Hoffman (Chair), Dr. Don Yoder, Dr. Eleftheria Bernidaki-Aldous, and Dr. Gary Dean. At the last meeting the Committee considered the policy regarding faculty check-out of Library materials, and as a result, the policy has been revised. This revision was prompted by the fact that over 400 books checked out to faculty, and due May 1, 1986, have not been returned or renewed. Should these books be presumed lost, the dollar loss to the University would exceed \$8,000. In a few cases items have been checked out with repeated renewals for as long as ten years.

The policy is this: general Library materials checked out on a valid I.D. card to full- or part-time faculty and administrators are due on May 1 of each year. On May 1 all items are to be returned to the Library; there will be no office renewals. A number of these items, not to exceed 50, may be renewed. A second renewal may be secured the following May, so that any one item may be checked out for a total of three years.

The following procedure will help in applying the policy. 1) A notice of material due May 1 will be sent in April. 2) If an item is not returned or renewed by June 1, a second notice will be sent. 3) If no response is received by July 1, a copy of the notice will be forwarded to the Department Chair and the Dean. 4) No response by August 1 will result in the cost of the material being deducted from the Department's Library allocation. Such a deduction will show on the August 31 financial report to the Department Chair. 5) A similar pattern will be followed with University administrators. -Ray Means

Price Increases Continue

Book prices increased 4.9% between 1984 and 1985, with the cost of a hard-bound book averaging \$31.46. This increase seems relatively small when comparing prices for the years 1977-1985. During this eight-year period, hardbound book prices jumped from an average of \$19.22 to an average of \$31.46, an increase of 63.68%.

Prices varied according to subject matter, with higher average prices set for publications in the sciences (\$51.19), technology (\$50.37), and art (\$35.15). All subject areas experienced inflated costs between 1977 and 1985 with the following areas showing the largest percentage increases: education (111%), science (105%), philosophy/psychology (94%), and languages (92%).

Other materials also continue to place demands on the library budget. Computer software can cost between \$100 and \$400 per program, while videocassettes range from \$29.95 to \$89.95 per title. The demand for these formats, along with needed hardware, is increasing.

Within the past year a 4.9% increase in materials costs, coupled with a 4% decrease in the budget, has resulted in 8.9% less purchasing power. Unfortunately, increases in the budget have not kept pace with the rising cost of materials. Such developments once again emphasize the need for librarians and faculty to practice wise materials selection and collection development. -Lauralee Grabe

Display Case Available

The glass display case, located on the north outer wall of the Rare Book Room, is now being offered for use to faculty and staff. If you have put together a special collection or display, or have done other work that you would like to share with the campus community, contact Director Ray Means at 2217. The interior of the display case is lighted, and measures 52 inches tall, by 47 inches wide, by 20 inches deep. It contains one movable glass shelf. For security, it locks from the back and is located in a high traffic area. -Mike Poma

Media Mania

This is the first in a series of articles about the Library Media area, to bring readers up to date on our services.

The Library LVS rooms are now equipped with one VHS, a 3/4-inch Umatic, and two beta VCRs. Thanks in part to Fr. Lubbers, the rooms have eight color televisions, all connected to the Creighton Satellite Network. Tier I channels are received automatically; converter boxes for Tier II may be obtained at the Media desk. The TV GUIDE of the Satellite Network is Satellite TV Week, available in Periodicals. While students must reserve LVS rooms on the day of use, faculty are permitted to reserve a viewing room one week in advance. Rooms may be used for two hours. Also, faculty may check out videos for two weeks. The Media staff cannot tape programs for viewers, however Instructional Technology is set up to do so.

With the arrival of the VCRs has come a sharp decline in the usage of other media equipment. Please note that the Library has not yet pitched out its film, slide, or overhead projectors! Tape recorders and calculators are also available. Need to have an audio cassette tape copied? Media can do it at no charge. Patrons must supply the blank tapes. -Chris LeBeau



R. Page

Mutilation to Building and Resources

There is a disturbing trend in the Library this year. The staff has observed an increasing amount of mutilation of library materials, furnishings and walls.

Reference materials have been hard hit. Particularly popular targets are Masterplots, Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Social Issues Resources Series, and Moody's manuals. Style manuals and resume books are repeatedly vandalized.

The ever vulnerable periodical is even more so this year. Psychology journals, which are the most heavily used, account for the greatest wear and tear, as in "torn out" articles. Imagine the frustration of binding volumes missing pages and issues. The newspaper collection bears more resemblance to Swiss cheese than to newsprint, as articles are routinely clipped out.

Students have demonstrated their artistic talents with ball point pen on the sofa fabrics. Grafitti, once reserved for restroom walls, has ventured beyond to other walls and table tops. Lamps no longer stand up to increasingly careless usage; switches must be replaced constantly. Even light bulbs are regarded as favors to be taken home and must be replaced on a daily basis. In general, equipment is treated roughly, particularly typewriters and microfiche readers.

Could you help? Now that you know the problem, could you as a faculty member help us "get out the word." Mutilation hurts everyone. -Ray Means

Babel Abounds

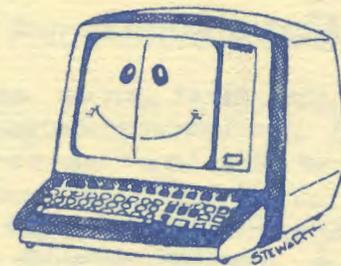
Although "babel" may be too strong a word, conversational noise in the Library has reached a disturbing level. The Library should be a pleasant, welcoming place--not a tomb--but also a place for study and research. Where is the medium?

Until this year the problem has been under control. But there are now times and places where the noise level makes study difficult. Areas of greatest concern are the southwest corner of the lower level, and south of the entrance on the main floor. Staff monitor these areas in shifts, but fewer staff are available at night, when students gather. It is also demoralizing to operate like a study hall.

Although we do not expect absolute silence, we do expect students to respect others' rights to a quiet study area, and many seem reluctant to do this. Your help and concern are appreciated. -Ray Means

Library Hosts Meeting

The Library will host the annual meeting of the Nebraska Library Association's College and University Section on May 28-29, 1987. "AccessAbility: Overcoming Information Barriers" will be the theme, featuring speaker Dr. Carl Orgren, Director of the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Iowa. Papers presented by librarians throughout the state will occupy the remainder of the program. -Mary Nash



Computer Search Corner

The Library is supplied by three vendors, although there are hundreds. Our biggest vendor, and largest nationally, is DIALOG, offering more than 200 commercial and government databases. Most are subject-specific and contain abstracts.

Our second vendor is WILSONLINE, a relative newcomer to the online industry, but no stranger to the information field. If one knows of Readers' Guide, Social Sciences Index, and the like, then one knows the Wilson Company. Wilson now offers 22 databases. At this time, no abstracts are available. The beauty of WILSONLINE is its affordability.

Our third supplier is the Nebraska Library Commission, which provides libraries in the state with access to a handful of free (tax-supported) databases. At present, databases are available for Nebraska state publications, statutes, bills, and Attorney General's opinions. The statutes and bills databases present the full text of a document. Online catalogs for films and books in Nebraska are also available. -Chris LeBeau

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1987

Year of the
Reader

 in the Library