March 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans, Directors and Department Heads

FROM: Sarah E. Thomas, University Librarian

SUBJECT: Collection Development in Cornell University Library

There are several changes in Collection Development in the Cornell University Library that I want to share with you. I regret that some are the result from the untimely deaths of three dedicated, senior Cornell librarians, i.e., Ross Atkinson, Janie Harris, and Lenore Coral.

Personnel Changes:
Ross Atkinson, Associate University Librarian for Collection Development at Cornell since 1988, passed away on March 8, following a long illness. With initiative, passion, integrity and intelligence he led Cornell's collection development program for two decades. He was recognized for his research and publication on collection development and bibliographical theory and in 2003 received the Association of College and Research Libraries Research Librarian of the Year award. Ross was honored by the publication last fall of a collection of his work.1 John Saylor, whom many of you know from his leadership in the Engineering Library, has agreed to coordinate certain collection development activities for the Library system through June 2006 while we plan for Ross’s successor.

Janie Harris, Social Sciences Bibliographer since January 1978, passed away in February 2006. A deeply dedicated librarian, Janie was an invaluable resource for colleagues and researchers alike needing specialized assistance with resources in government, sociology, urban studies, peace studies, and economics. She was widely recognized for her expertise in data and statistical resources. Sarah How, Western European Social Sciences, and British and Commonwealth History Bibliographer, has agreed to coordinate Janie’s collection development responsibilities through June 2006.

Over the remaining months of this academic year, the Library will be planning the best organizational approach for the future as a result of these significant losses.

Bonna Bocottcher became Cornell’s Music Librarian in January 2006, filling the vacancy resulting from the death of Lenore Coral, long term Cornell Music Librarian, in the spring of 2005. Previously Bonna served as Professor, Chair of the Department of Archival Collections and Branches and Head of the Music and Sound Recordings at Bowling Green State University. She received her B.Mus. from Concordia College, her M.F.A. and D.M.A from the University of Iowa and her M.L.I.S from the University of Western Ontario. Currently, she is the President of the Music Library Association. In


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addition to her appointment in the Library, Bonna has an appointment in the Department of Music as Adjunct Professor.

Bronwen Bledsoe, will become the Curator of the South Asia Collection in April 2006. Bronwen received her Ph.D. from the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago and had served as the Assistant to the Bibliographer for Southern Asia at Chicago since 1997. Adnan Malik, the former Curator of Cornell’s South Asia collection resigned in November to take a position at the University of California at Berkeley.

Gregory Green will become the Curator of the Echols Collection in June 2006. He received his MLS from the University of Arizona and MA in Asian Studies from the University of California at Berkeley and currently serves as the Curator of the Don V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection at Northern Illinois University Libraries. Professor David Wyatt, who was serving as the interim Echols curator since 2004, completed his appointment in December. The Echols collection is known as the premier Southeast Asian collection in the United States.

Electronic Only (e-only) Journal Subscriptions
Many researchers prefer electronic access to published journal literature because of the flexibility of access provided. In three surveys conducted over the past five years, Cornell Library users have indicated that increased access to full-text publications was a highly desired service. In November 2005, Cornell administered a survey (LibQUAL) on service quality that was sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries to a random sample of undergraduates, graduate students and faculty. All three groups indicated that access to “electronic resources from home or office” and “electronic information resources I need” were priorities. Responding to this change in user behavior, the Library has begun a multi-year project to transition to e-only in circumstances where this format offers advantages over paper or when there is no loss of content. The decision to move toward e-only has come after serious consideration of how the Library can best serve the Cornell community with the limited resources it has at its disposal. Moving to e-only for a small fraction of Cornell’s 60,000 serials is resulting in savings in subscriptions, processing, binding, and shelving costs that are being used by subject specialists to protect other subscriptions. Were we not to take this move, we would be forced to cancel subscriptions to an even greater number of journals than is currently the case.

Cornell’s science librarians began converting selected titles to e-only two years ago. This year, subject librarians will be reviewing social science and humanities journals published by a dozen major publishers. Collection Development librarians (see http://www.library.cornell.edu/colldev/cdselectors1.html) are and will be working with faculty and graduate student representatives across the university to provide more information and solicit advice during this process. Our goal is to move to electronic-only subscription to most journals for which the electronic is an essential duplicate, or a richer source, than the print. For a list of exemptions see http://www.library.cornell.edu/scholarlycomm/serials/eonly.html. This practice is consistent with that of other peer institutions, including Columbia, MIT, and the University of Wisconsin.

Library Annex
Despite the ongoing transition in scholarly communication from paper to digital information, Cornell University Library continues to add more than 100,000 print volumes to its collections each year. Since 1997, more than one million volumes have been added to the Library’s collections. In order to make room for collections growth on the central campus, the Library is once again undertaking a move of older and low demand books and serials to the Library Annex. Located next to the Cornell apple orchard, three new high-density storage modules were added to the Annex complex in 2005. Over the next two years, more than one million books will be moved from campus libraries. You may recall material shelved at the Annex will be delivered to any library on central campus within 24 hours.
Monday through Friday. Electronic document delivery is also available at no charge, also with a 24-hour turnaround time. A reading room is open 9 am - 4pm Monday through Friday for on-site consultation. Finally, books may be transferred back to their home libraries if demand warrants central access.

**Scholarly Communication**

In October, 2005 I sent you a letter saying that Cornell University librarians will be making a special effort to contact academic departments and individual faculty throughout Cornell to discuss issues relating to scholarly communications, publishing, and copyright that are having a profound effect on the future of library collections, scholarship and higher education. Our subject specialists have visited seventeen departments, schools, and programs so far, with more scheduled for this academic year. The purpose of the visits is to engage faculty on these topics in pursuing the Library's goal to promote the broad, equitable, and effective dissemination and preservation of this community's scholarship. To learn more about the issues and services your Library is providing in this arena, please consult the Library's web site on scholarly communication at [http://www.library.cornell.edu/scholarlycomm/](http://www.library.cornell.edu/scholarlycomm/).

For further information on any of our goals and services, feel free to contact me (set9@cornell.edu), John M. Saylor (jms1@cornell.edu), Coordinator of Collection Development, or Terry Ehling (te32@cornell.edu), Director, Center for Innovative Publishing.