E-Reserves in the Allen Library: A Cooperative Venture

Providing course reserve materials to students has always been an integral part of the University Libraries’ mission. These days, however, students registered in a class can access their required assignments anytime and anywhere. Online access to class materials (e-resources, as they are called) is popular with students, and it is particularly advantageous for music students who have rehearsals and concerts scheduled at varied days and hours of the week and may not be able to study during traditional library hours.

The University Libraries’ first digitizing project began in Mortensen Library in 1998 with text materials such as periodical articles or chapters of books. The process for digitizing music audio resources is more complicated, however, and it developed later within the national music library community. On our campus, the Allen Library’s project to digitize music course reserves was begun in 2001 and is a fine example of a collaborative effort developed by Allen Library staff, Hartt School faculty, the university’s Faculty Center for Learning Development (FCLD), and the Information Technologies Librarian of the University Libraries. Several factors came together in the spring and summer of 2001 that enabled us to begin digitizing audio materials:

- Building upon the progress made by academic libraries throughout the country to digitize text reserve items, a number of music libraries had begun trial projects to digitize audio materials used for course reserves. This information was circulated both informally over DAL-L (Digital Audio Libraries listerv) and in a published article (Richard Griscom, “Distant Music: Delivering Audio over the Internet,” Notes 59, no. 3 [March 2003]: 521-41).

- The Allen Library Evening Coordinator (who is also responsible for course reserve materials) was Peter Kemble, someone skilled in technology, especially as applied to music. Following the lead of other music libraries, he had begun to explore digitizing possibilities for audio materials in the library.

- During this period, the Hartt School Technology Committee began to survey existing uses of technology at Hartt to determine what and how to incorporate some of the new technologies that had become available for music instruction. As a member of the committee, the head of the Allen Library participated in the deliberations. The committee selected digitizing audio reserves for its first project because it believed this would have the greatest impact on the most students as they did their course work.

- The university’s FCLD then awarded Professor Ken Steen (chair of the Hartt Technology Committee) a faculty grant to begin this audio digitizing project. These funds enabled the purchase of appropriate software and the employment of part-time staff to do the actual digitizing, under the supervision of Allen Evening Coordinator Dan Román (who had succeeded Kemble) and in collaboration with the University Libraries’ Information Technologies Librarian Debbie Herman (a former Allen Library staff member with music librarian training).

- The University Libraries provided hardware in the form of additional servers and use of the existing Access database for course reserves.

Significant progress has been made in the six semesters that this program has been in place. From its deliberately cautious beginning with only two music classes, the program’s next step was to expand...
Linda Solow Blotner, Head of Allen Library, will complete a four-year term as Editor of Notes, Quarterly Journal of the Music Library Association with the publication of volume 61, no. 1 in September 2004. During her tenure, she produced six issues totaling more than four thousand pages. Currently, Notes is available in print and online to more than 2,500 members and subscribers. With a staff of fifteen, the journal includes substantial reviews of books, music, sound recordings, periodicals, and digital media, as well as lengthy lists of new books, music, and music publishers’ catalogs. Articles, at the heart of any journal, are written by music librarians and musicologists from around the world. Notes has included topics as diverse as:


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With the audio reserves project now well underway, the Hart Technology Committee decided to expand the digitizing effort to music scores which are also used for course reserves. Additional grant money was received from FCLD last semester to this end. With a new set of complexities, this project is in its developmental phase. Nevertheless, this fundamental shift toward online access of multiple formats from the libraries’ collections is an extraordinary new library service with much potential because it appeals to students while enhancing their learning experience.


It has been a stimulating four years, but Blotner feels it is time for a return to civilian life.

The University of Hartford recently recognized three Library Staff members for years of service: Mariellen Baxter, Head of Access Services, for 15 years. Barbara Hoover, Web Applications Developer, and Judy Kacmarcik, Business Manager, both for 10 years. Congratulations!

Technical Services welcomes Laurie Haggan, our new Technical Services Specialist. Laurie comes to us with eight years of experience in acquisitions and cataloging. She will surely be an asset to the University Libraries.

Susan Boss, Serials and Stacks Coordinator, received her Master’s in Library Science on May 27, 2004 from Southern Connecticut State University. Congratulations, Susan!

Dan Román, Allen Library Evening Services Coordinator, who is earning a DMA in Composition at The Hart School, received three commissions for new works this year. The Alturas Duo (Scott Hill, guitar, and Carlos Botles, viola) commissioned a piece for their 2003-4 chamber music residency at Hartt. In addition, Hartt faculty members Katie Lansdale (violin) and Robert Black (double bass) along with John McDonald (piano) commissioned a new work that will be performed in Merkin Hall, New York, in February 2005. Finally, the Alturas Duo in conjunction with the Torrington Symphony commissioned a new concerto for viola, guitar, and orchestra.

Román is also having his music performed during the 2004 season of the Connecticut Classical Guitar Society and during the 2004 Simsbury Chamber Music Festival.

Debbie Herman, Head of Library Technologies, left the University in February to take a post at Central Connecticut State University. Debbie started at the University in the Allen Music Library as a cataloger in April of 1996. Over the years, she was promoted to Assistant Head of Allen and then to Head of Library Technologies. It was because of Debbie that many of the Libraries’ best practices are in place today. Congratulations and all the best to Debbie in her new position!

The event was sponsored by the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, the Da Vinci Code.

We show up in Many Places!

On April 21st, George was the guest lecturer, to a sold out crowd, at Beth El Temple reviewing The Da Vinci Code. Because of George’s expertise and interest in the subject the evening was a great success – full of entertainment, history, and all attending received more than they had anticipated. The event was sponsored by the Sisterhood of Beth-El Temple.
Leisure Collection at Mortensen Library

Mariellen Baxter

Over the years, the University Libraries have been the grateful recipients of many gift collections, including musical scores, recordings, and videos, but most notably books. As needed by the Libraries’ collections, gift items have been cataloged and have found their way to the stacks. Some materials that did not support the University’s curricular needs were not added to the collections.

In the last few years, the Student Government Association (SGA) has asked the Libraries for a collection of popular materials for recreational reading. Many librarians see advantages in encouraging recreational reading (for example, as an educational and independent activity, can increase general and specific reading interests). Thus an effort was made to respond to the SGA request, without the Libraries having a budget for such a project. For a couple of years, recent best sellers and titles in the sci-fi and mystery genres were set aside from gifts, with an eye toward developing a recreational reading collection to be housed somewhere on campus. When the recreational collection grew to be “bigger than a breadbox,” it was offered to the SGA as a gift, no strings attached. The Libraries hoped that the books could be taken by people who wanted to read them and returned—or not. (Really, no strings!)

Other books would be added as suitable titles were received in future gifts.

Unfortunately, SGA was not able to pursue this plan and the idea was put aside while Libraries having a budget for such a project. For a couple of years, recent best sellers and titles in the sci-fi and mystery genres were set aside from gifts, with an eye toward developing a recreational reading collection to be housed somewhere on campus. When the recreational collection grew to be “bigger than a breadbox,” it was offered to the SGA as a gift, no strings attached. The Libraries hoped that the books could be taken by people who wanted to read them and returned—or not. (Really, no strings!)

Other books would be added as suitable titles were received in future gifts.

During the Fall, CDC took a serious look at developing a recreational reading collection using materials that had found their way into the stacks over the years and from donations. Reviewing previous discussions, CDC decided that the best place for this collection would be Mortensen Library. The books, named the Leisure Collection, were given a prominent location on the Main Floor. They are shelved near the Libraries’ reference office, to the right of the University model.

A useful call number browse feature of the new Endeavor library system made quick work of identifying authors for the Leisure Collection. Faculty, student, and staff recommendations of favorite authors were also taken into account. When the author lists were printed, a flurry of activity began, as CDC wanted the collection in place by April 1, 2004. Once pulled from the stacks, the books were given new location codes and spine labels and the Leisure Collection was born—prematurely, in fact, in mid-March! It already has grown from its original 127 volumes to 713 books, and in the two months since the collection was created, 133 books have been borrowed.

The collection features standards in popular fiction from roughly the last twenty-five years and classics in sci-fi, action adventure, and mystery fiction.

James Bond is there and Miss Marple and Lord Peter Wimsey and so many other friends old and yet to be made.

If you want to know what is available, and you’re not in the library browse in person, go to the online Libraries Catalog. Type Leisure Collection in the “Find This” box. Select “Subject phrase” from the “Search by,” and choose “on Search.” An alphabetic title list will be displayed.

The Leisure Collection has the same circulation policies as other books in Mortensen’s collections. If your favorite author is missing, please drop a note in the suggestion box on the wall to the left of the Circulation Desk in Mortensen Library. We will see what we can do about adding to the roster of authors.

Happy Summer Reading!
Endeavor User Group 2004 Annual Meeting

With generous support from the University Provost, three University Libraries staff attended the Endeavor User Group 2004 annual meeting. Mariellen Baxter, Head of Access Services; Tani Eckstrand, Head of Technical Services; and Kitty Tynan, Head of Reference Services, spent April 15 through 17 in Des Plaines, IL with over 980 others from 40 states, Puerto Rico, 6 Canadian provinces, and 12 countries, learning about Endeavor and its components.

Endeavor is the company which created and supports the integrated library system the University Libraries purchased last year. Its most visible component is the libraries’ catalog, but it includes far more than that. The ILS handles acquisitions, keeping track of orders and accounts. It allows us to check in issues of journals, enabling the periodicals staff to know what has been received and what is late. It handles all circulation, including overdue notices and billing for lost materials. The libraries are working to implement an enhancement by next month which will allow for a direct connection between a citation in one database and the full text of the article in another. Another enhancement will allow researchers to search multiple databases simultaneously.

A Year in the Woods Family Center for Learning and Instruction

The Mortensen Library’s Woods Family Center for Learning and Instruction was officially dedicated last September. It’s a wonderful learning space. As each class walks in for the first time, a murmur can be heard. The classroom is a beautiful, comfortable, well-designed room, and the students recognize that. So do faculty, especially those who had instruction in the old library classroom (a dark, claustrophobic, uncomfortable room on the lower level).

Demand for library instruction has increased significantly this year, due in large measure to the new facility. There have been 259 library instruction sessions this academic year, a twenty percent increase over last year. That’s over 4,500 students in two semesters! Classes have included a large number of freshman writing sections, covering everything from folklore to rocketry, as well as upper division psychology; graduate marketing, public relations and accounting; and doctoral educational leadership and nursing classes, to name just a few. Each class includes a presentation, using both a whiteboard and computer projector to demonstrate specific online library tools. There is also time for students to use the computers in the room to practice what they have been taught. Many leave the class with part of their research assignment done.

The Faculty Center for Learning Development, whose offices are part of the Center, uses the classroom for larger workshops as well. They held 33 sessions in the classroom this year (in addition to those held in their smaller training room) and already have several, including a three day annual conference, scheduled for the summer. Individual faculty are using the classroom to take advantage of all the multimedia equipment available. They show movies, teach students how to use software like SPSS (a sophisticated statistical software package used in the social sciences), and have “guest lecturers” via speaker phone. Library staff have used it for “webcast” training seminars.

The Reference Services staff is extremely grateful to the Woods Family and all the others who made the wonderful Center for Learning and Instruction possible. We anticipate next year being even busier, as word of the classroom and its wonders spreads.

Endeavor User Group 2004 Annual Meeting – Kitty Tynan

In over 90 formal sessions and dozens of special interest group meetings at the meeting, librarians and computer representatives presented information about what is coming from Endeavor and ideas of how to make its wide range of features work best for library users. Presentations were practical in many cases, and showed the creativity of librarians and librarians in taking a useful tool and making it even better. A keynote address by Neil McLean, Director of IMS Global Learning Consortium, Australia, challenged librarians to become active in the rapidly growing e-learning activities on campus, particularly as the most responsible source for organizing and managing resources.

The Endeavor User Group meeting is designed to allow customers and the company to collaborate and to share fresh ideas and plans to take advantage of the system. It was challenging, exhilarating, and exhausting. Mariellen, Tani and Kitty, having learned a lot, are looking forward to the implementation of new components of the Endeavor system that will provide enhanced library services to the University community.

Exhibit of the Jews of Dresden to Open at Sherman Museum

“Sources of Memories,” an extraordinary exhibition about Jewish life in Dresden, Germany, before and during World War II, will make its only stop in the United States at the George J. Sherman and Lottie K. Sherman Museum of Jewish Civilization. The Museum is located in the former Senior Common Room in Mortensen Library.

“Sources of Memories” opened on Thursday, May 13, with a conference at 7 pm at Mortensen Library, and will continue through Monday, December 20. After completing its only stop in the United States at the University, the exhibition will travel to Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust memorial park and museum. The exhibition’s opening conference featured remarks by Gunter Wehrmann, Deputy Consul General of Germany, who discussed “The Jews of Germany Today.” Other speakers included Lilli Ulbrich of Dresden, an originator of the exhibition, and Peter Breit, professor emeritus of politics and government at the University of Hartford. Breit, whose family is featured in the exhibition, left Dresden as a child in 1939.

The exhibition consists of 16 large panels that illustrate the many aspects of Jewish life in Dresden before and during World War II — ranging from music and culture to sports — and the families who lived there. School photos, letters, and other memorabilia, like a grandmother’s passport to the United States, will be on display. “Sources of Memories” is sponsored by the William Singer Pre-Holocaust and Holocaust European History Collection of the Sherman Museum, and, in part, by the Consul General of Germany in Boston.

“The panels in our exhibition illustrate in a most microscopic form how the relationship (between Germans and Jews in Germany) emerged, prospered, and finally ended,” said Breit, who has written extensively on this period.

“By having a long-term exhibition like this at our museum, students, faculty, and community members will experience for themselves the lives of the Jews of Dresden and put themselves into the lives of European Jews and think about how they felt instead of just reading about it in a book,” said Richard Freund, director of the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies and the Sherman Museum for Jewish Civilization.

The Dresden exhibition joins the “Cities of David: From Bethsaida to Jerusalem” archaeology exhibition that is currently on display at the Sherman Museum until December 20. Together, the two exhibitions will be called “A Tale of Two Cities: From Bethsaida to Dresden” and a specially created poster and catalog is being prepared for museum visitors.

Summer hours for the museum, which are in effect from June 1 through September 1, are Tuesday through Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm. Docent-led tours are available by appointment only. In the fall, the museum will resume its regular hours.

For appointments, contact Diana Lencoff, program coordinator for the Greenberg Center, at 860.768.4963 or lencoff@hartford.edu.

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Ed Diemente

The University Archives consists of materials relating to the history and development of the University of Hartford. Much of the history revolves around the founding of this institution as well as special collections highlighting faculty.

Over the past year, library staff worked with Edward Diemente to establish a special collection reflecting his musical contributions and work at the University of Hartford.

Edward Diemente was born in Rhode Island in 1923 and received musical training from Boston University, Hartt College of Music and the Eastman School of Music. His principal teacher was composer Isadore Freed who was a pupil of Vincent D’Indy (who was a pupil of Cesar Franck).

Diemente taught at the Hartt School of the University of Hartford for over forty years. As former chairman of the Theory and Composition Department, he was a strong force in the early years of Hartt’s Institute for Contemporary American Music. The Electronic Music Studio, with Diemente as Director, was established by his pioneering vision. Diemente also served as organist and Music Director at various churches in the Hartford area, including the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Upon his retirement in 1988, Diemente was elected Professor Emeritus of the University of Hartford. A scholarship was established at that time to be presented annually to a composition student.

Diemente’s many grants and awards include a Rockefeller Commission, an American Music Center Commission, and fifteen annual ASCAP awards. His compositions have been performed by the Boston Symphonic Chamber Players, by members of the New York Brass Quintet, and others including Bertram Turetzky, double bassist, Donald Sinta, saxophonist, and Leonard Raver, harpsichordist, and in locations as far-flung as Canada, England, Scotland, France, Germany, Poland, Sweden, the Soviet Union and Australia. His music has been published by G. Schirmer, Theodore Presser, Belwin Mills, Smith Music, Donn Productions, and Gregorian Institute among others. Diemente has been called “one of the most eloquent and knowledgeable composer-performers of our day”.

The composer’s varied musical background, which includes church music, gave him experience in polyphonic music and Gregorian chant. This combined background, with a deep passion for the music of the past, an expanded vocabulary of twentieth century music gained from years of directing the electronic music studio at Hartt, and a love for jazz from his teen years, can be heard in his compositions.

For Diemente, it comes down to these questions: Is the composer’s music engaging? Is the audience caught up by what it hears? Will they leave the concert hall with a memory of something that has touched their humanity?

The compositions of Edward Diemente are held in the Mildred P. Allen Memorial Library, the University Archives and online at http://proxy.hartford.edu/archives/diemente/index.html. Diemente is continually adding to the collection of his complete works in the archives. These materials are available to anyone who applies to see them.

Mortensen’s Rainbow makes the Big Time

Dave Kelley, Director. Technical & Network Services in Information Technology Services, just happened to catch the most beautiful rainbow over the W. H. Mortensen Library during a walk on campus. This photograph was on display at the Connecticut State Capitol in 2003.

It was recently highlighted on the NELINET homepage. NELINET is a member-owned, member-governed cooperative of more than 600 academic, public, and special libraries in the six New England states. Their primary aim is to promote the advancement of libraries and to facilitate the ongoing sharing of library and information resources and services.

You may need to refresh the screen a few times, as library photos come up randomly.
Every April, the Mortensen Board of Visitors recognizes five outstanding student employees from the Libraries. This spring’s winners represent the Allen Library and three departments in Mortensen Library. They received their awards and gift certificates from the University bookstore at the April 19 meeting of the Board.

Tracy Bacher is a sophomore English major working in the Mortensen Library’s Technical Services department, where she assists with cataloging and physical processing of new books. Tracy was nominated because of her strong work ethic, attention to detail, service commitment, and willingness to change tasks when priorities suddenly shift. According to her supervisor, “Mortensen Library owes a debt of gratitude to Tracy for all that she has contributed in only a year and a half.”

Lisann Campbell is a senior Marketing major working in the Mortensen Library Access Services department. She was nominated for her exceptional work ethic, reliability, responsibility, and willingness to go beyond the requirements of her position. When she is working on tasks that take her away from the service desk, she remains aware of service needs, and steps in to help. As her supervisor states, “She is among the best student workers the department has employed...” The nomination goes on, “Given the critical importance of patrons’ perceptions of Mortensen Library upon entering or leaving, almost no one on staff could be a better example of intelligent service to the University Community.”

Sam Cook is a senior majoring in Music Performance. An Allen Library Technical Services student employee, Sam was nominated for his commitment to shared goals, including high levels of accuracy, his adaptability and willingness to handle any task, and his reliability and diligence. His supervisor notes, “He is an example of the type of student we want to attract, retain and award...”

Romain Floyd is also a senior, majoring in Psychology and employed in the Mortensen Library Reference Services department. His public service personality, ongoing desire to learn, willingness to spend extended periods with users when possible, and patience and good humor, earned him a nomination. His supervisor notes that, “More than one older returning student has commented or written us about the way he took the time to help an insecure student understand how to locate the information needed.”

Evan C. Paul is a graduate Composition student working in the Allen Library. Evan was nominated because of his going the “extra mile” to handle additional details of assigned tasks and special projects, his friendliness and patience, his adherence to policies and procedures, and his willingness to take on extra tasks without being asked. “His friendly nature and strong work ethic,” states his supervisor, “help to make the library’s day to day operations run smoothly.”

Every year, supervisors say that it is a challenge to select just five “outstanding” employees from a group of wonderful students. The Libraries are grateful to these and all of the student employees who help keep things running.

Professor Robert Carl
Campus Bookstore
C. Tracy Dorman
Eric Ewazen
The Hartt School
The Juilliard School
Professor Katie Landsdale
Professor Steve Larson

Mr. George Lechner
David Lederer
Professor David Macbride
Maelos Music
Susan Mardinty
Mrs. Ionis Martin
M. T. McManaway
Mr. Paul Melvin
Professor Patrick Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Paul R. Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Steven B. Nachbar
Dr. J. E. Pengel
Dr. Elizabeth Petry
Professor Gordon Clark Ramsey
Dr. Donna M. Randall
Mr. David H. Rhinelander
Mrs. Belle Ricoff
Mr. Charles L. Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Howard S. Rude
Dr. Dora Rytmn
Mr. Julius Rytmn
Sasaki Associates
Dr. Marilyn Schaffer
Mrs. Anne T. Shafer
Dr. Phillip Skleman
Mr. Thomas N. Smith
Mr. Michael Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Smith Jr.
Dr. Humphrey Tonkin
Mr. Mark Turpin
Dr. Thomas Tynan
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent A. Urbanowicz
Ms. Karen VanCott
Mrs. Judith Wawro
Dr. S. Edward Weinswig
Mr. John A. Woods
Mr. & Mrs. Ray S. Yacoubly
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Mrs. Judy J. Kacmarcik
Ms. Annie Garcia Kaplan
Dr. & Mrs. Frederic H. Kass III
Dr. Lynne Kelly
Ms. Barbara Klemmer
Mr. David LaBau
Mrs. Janet M. Larsen
Dr. Malek Lashgari
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald A. Layaw
Mr. George Lechner
Ms. Louise Earle Loomis
Ms. Marsha Lobstein
James B. Lyon, Esq.
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Manners
Dr. Regina Miller
Mr. & Mrs. William Miller
Ms. Grace P. Mitchell

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