WE’VE SPUN A NEW WEB!

Culminating months of hard work by the library's Web Committee, James White Library unveiled its new web site on the first day of the 2003 spring semester. The new “James White Library Information Gateway” (pictured below) models the university colors in a layout that is eye-catching and provides direct links to major resources and services. Highlights of the home page are its distinctive banner and eight graphics, all clickable, and a quick catalog search box.

In developing the site, the web committee chose a strong user focus. “We wanted our web site to be user-centered and user friendly,” said Marilyn Gane, who chaired the committee. “Our students and faculty are not librarians, so we decided to conduct usability testing to see if our proposed design and structure really worked for them. That meant trying out an idea or arrangement, testing user reaction to it, making changes or modifications, testing it again, and so on.”
NEW WEB continued
The user focus topped a list of criteria that the committee used to evaluate all ideas. Other criteria included: consistency, avoidance of jargon, quick download, easy navigation, and minimal graphics. The last one is important because international users often find it difficult or slow to access sites that are loaded with graphics.

Students and faculty are encouraged to get acquainted with the new site and explore its features, including extensive cross-linking at all levels. Check out the options on the yellow (gold) bars. Don’t miss the new alphabetical listing of more than 10,000 library periodicals (click on Library Catalogs, then scroll down to Periodicals A to Z). Click on any periodical title and you will be linked to its source, whether it is electronic text or the library’s print holdings.

The library’s website will be under continual development, reflecting the dynamic nature of information retrieval. If there is anything you don’t like or understand, send us a message by clicking on “Tell us what you think...” at the bottom of the home page. Feedback will help us make a great web site even better.

LIBRARY AGAIN HOSTS CREATIVE ARTS

Check out these events at your library during the Creative Arts Festival, February 18-22.

Tuesday, February 18
12 Noon – Brown Bag Concert of American folk music featuring Carl Payne with hammered dulcimer and other early instruments.
1-3 pm – Payne demonstrates instrument making.
2-4 pm – Brian Manley, demonstrates drawing.

Wednesday, February 19
12 Noon – Brown Bag Concert featuring music from the 13th - 17th centuries performed by the AU Early Music Ensemble.
2-3:30 pm – Jan Burda demonstrates instrument making.
2-4 pm – David Knauf demonstrates watercolor painting.

Thursday, February 20
1:30 - 2:30 pm – “Fun With Yarn” - Donna Darrikhuma makes simple animals.
2-4 pm – “Paper Arts” – Demonstrations of rubber stamp art by Sabrina Riley, hand papermaking by Lauren Matacio, and calligraphy by Wolfhard Touchard.

Exhibits

Library Gallery – Artwork by students of Charles Zuill’s Printmaking Class.
Main Floor Display Case – Instrument making (Jan Burda), Drawings & Oil paintings (Brian Manley), and Watercolors (David Knauf).
Top Floor Display Case – Prize-winning poetry by Lake Union Conference academy students.
Music Materials Center – “Catching Sound: 500 Years of Musical Notation and Printing.”
Architecture Resource Center – Functional pieces designed by architecture students and faculty.

SHARING OUR TREASURES

Among the valuable items in the library’s seminary collections is the definitive critical edition of the Latin New Testament, in three volumes. The Medieval Institute at the University of Notre Dame has lacked the set and used every possible means to acquire a copy for their collection. Noticing that James White Library had the item, they contacted Terry Robertson, Seminary Librarian, and he arranged for the Institute to borrow our set. They then made preservation quality photocopies, including a beautifully bound set for us. They also made some minor repairs to our originals. “This is one anecdotal instance of the quality of our collection,” Terry commented.

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