

A newsletter for the Friends of the Geisel Library

Summer, 2006

From the Librarian

By Joseph W. Constance, Jr.

Summertime is always a pleasant time at Saint Anselm, a point where we get a few weeks to clean things up and get ready for what always seems like a hectic semester. As usual, our Library staff has about 18,000 projects planned for the



summer, and I never cease to be impressed with the energy they all generate even after the busiest of semesters. This past year was especially productive for the Geisel staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our department heads for their magnificent efforts in coordinating all our endeavors. If you have never met or corresponded with them, our department heads include Betsy Holmes, Head

of Collection and User Services, Judy Romein, Head of Reference Services and John Dillon, Assistant Librarian and Head of Technical Services. They are simply, the very best department heads that any Librarian could ever hope for, anywhere.

April once again witnessed our annual St. Bede dinner which, as always, was immensely enjoyable. This year, Fr. John Fortin, Director of the Institute of Saint Anselm Studies gave an inspiring talk on the prayer life of Anselm of Canterbury, as well as bringing everyone up-to-date on what was happening at the Institute. If you are interested in learning more about Saint Anselm and the Institute you may do so by checking the Institute web site at <http://www.anselm.edu/administration/isas>. Remember, too, that the Institute also publishes its own online journal where you can read, for free, all kinds of interesting articles related to the life and works of Saint Anselm.

Our dinner was also the occasion where I was please to announce our newest Friends initiative, sponsored by Ms. Mary Menner of Bedford, New Hampshire, one of the very best Friends of the Library. Mary, as many of you may know, is a lifelong student of geography and has long been concerned that students everywhere are lacking in this fundamental un-

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Classifying Internet Resources

By Beth Bloomquist, Head Cataloger

Recently, the Cataloging staff at Geisel Library assigned a Library of Congress classification number to each of our Library's "online" resources.

The Geisel Library has always assigned Library of Congress classification numbers to books and other materials: these numbers are based on a scheme designed by the Library of Congress to keep similar materials together on the Library shelves. Books on the works of Saint Anselm will be shelved together, as will the biographies of Franklin D. Roosevelt. The classification number ("call number") also serves as a location code for Geisel users to find materials.

The classification system works well for keeping similar materials together and as a locator tool for researchers. But why would a Library assign classification numbers to materials that reside in the stratosphere of the World Wide Web? There are no "locations" per se for these materials within the Library, and these electronic resources do not reside in the Library's stacks.

The Library of Congress classification scheme, besides a location indicator, is also a useful tool in analyzing the scope and content of a Library's collection. By running a special program based on the Library of Congress classification scheme, we can determine how many titles are in each subject area of the Library. We can use this information for purchasing purposes, for weeding decisions, and for an ongoing view of how the Library's collection grows through time.

Because "online" or "electronic" resources are becoming an increasingly important part of the Geisel Library's overall collection, they are a significant aspect of how the collection is growing and changing. The decision to assign a classification number to each of these electronic websites was based on the need to ensure that their increased presence in the Library is noted in the program analyzing the collection.

A newly "acquired" website "Decisive Day is Come" about the Battle of Bunker Hill, has been assigned the class number E241.B9 This theoretically puts it "with" three books on the Battle of Bunker Hill. One is online and the others are on a shelf, but they are all important and valuable resources for the students at Saint Anselm College. Now all four re-

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Betsy's Books

By Elizabeth Holmes, Collections/User Services Librarian

Major materials provided by Moose!

Treasure arrived in my office a few weeks ago. Returning from a meeting, I found two reels of microfilm, waiting on my desk. Not just two ordinary reels of microfilm – these are copies of the oldest records in the Manchester City Archives.

These records are truly remarkable: in the early 19th century, the Manchester town clerk used journals to record the town's business. Frequently, one journal served many needs. For example, in 1836 the town clerk recorded the business licenses, mortgages, election warrants, liquor licenses and marriage licenses in one slender volume. On page 6 it is recorded that Mr. Jesse Bosworth of Lebanon married Miss Betsy Davis of Goffstown. On page 7, the town selectmen allowed Frederick Kimball to keep a tavern at his house.



Moose plate photo courtesy of the Moose Plate Program website, an official New Hampshire Government website

These records provide a fascinating look into the early days of Manchester. One interesting type of document is the promissory note or mortgage deed. These were transactions between individuals that were transcribed into town records rather than in private contracts. For example, in 1838, Donald P. Little borrowed \$173.63 from John Harvey, Jr. Mr. Little pledged items that included three bushels of oats, six chains, two mahogany tables, one clock, one rocking chair, one bed lamp, two washbowls, one tea set, one drop table, and two stone jars in return for the money borrowed.

I'm always on the lookout for primary source material, but it is a rare day that so great a find comes unbidden. It turns out it came to us from the City of Manchester, who had received a grant from the New Hampshire Conservation License Plate Fund, better known as "Moose Plates". This grant enabled the Office of the City Clerk to restore the earliest records of Manchester, and then to have them microfilmed. In addition to Geisel Library, copies were given to Manchester Public Library, the New Hampshire State Library, and New Hampshire State Archives.

Moose plates are a great investment in cultural heritage as well as conservation projects in New Hampshire. In 2005, the program awarded \$303,133 to 19 different recipients. Past projects have included renovation of the Lebanon and Franklin Opera Houses, preservation of early documents from many NH towns; acquisition of a 76 acre orchard in Derry; acquisition and rehab of the Athens Building in Manchester; funding for the Common Nighthawk restoration project; development of a solar powered irrigation system for Willow Pond Commu-

nity Farm; and on and on. Library records, old portraits, wetlands—all of these areas covered by the "cultural heritage" and "conservation" umbrella.

For only \$30/year, you can sport Moose plates, and show your support of cultural heritage and conservation programs like the Manchester city records project received by Geisel Library. For more information, check the website: <http://www.mooseplate.com/index.html>

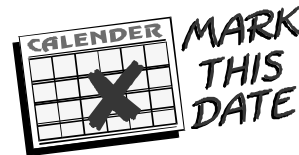
Check Out The Geisel Library Online

More information about the Geisel Library is only a click away. Looking for a book, or current hours of operation? Perhaps you'd like to donate a book through the Geisel Book Fund, or give the gift of a Friends of the Library membership, but don't have the form required to do so. Do you need to contact a library staff member? Would you like to read an issue of *Friends Forum* online?

All of this information and more can be accessed on our website at <http://www.anselm.edu/library/>.

Search the Geisel Catalog of locally available books, music, movies and more. See which new books have arrived. For your convenience, printable forms are accessible for the Geisel Library Book Fund as well as for membership in the Friends of the Geisel Library Society. Issues of our newsletter, *Friends Forum*, are available online, as well as news about upcoming Friends gatherings and Friends sponsored events.

We hope that many of you will take a moment to check out our website and take advantage of the many great features it has to offer. T



The annual Geisel Library Book Sale will be held during Family Weekend. The sale will begin on Friday, October 20, 2006 and continue through Sunday afternoon October 22, 2006. A wide selection of books will be on sale, including hardcover titles for only one dollar each and paperbacks for fifty cents each. There will also be a "specials" table with unusual selections at value prices.

Everyone is welcome, and we hope that many of you will be able to stop by sometime during this popular event. 4

The Library of Congress

By Denise Labore, Friends Secretary

It has been several years since I've had the privilege of visiting our nation's capitol. At that time, my family visited popular tourist attractions such as the White House, the Capitol Building, the Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian, and the Museum of American History to name a few. Each building in itself is a work of art and within the walls of these buildings are historical treasures beyond compare. It was impossible to see everything in one week, and we hope to return sometime in the future.



There is no doubt that high on my list of places to visit will be the Library of Congress. The nation's oldest federal cultural institution is the largest library in the world and its resources are unequalled. On the Library of Congress website, it mentions that their "collection houses more than 130 million items on approximately 530 miles of bookshelves. The collections include more than 29 million books and other printed materials, 2.7 million recordings, 12 million photographs, 4.8 million maps, and 58 million manuscripts." Items of note making up this remarkable assortment is the largest rare book collection in North America, and the world's largest collection of legal materials, sheet music and sound recordings.

But the Library we see standing today is not where the collection was first kept. The original library was small and had been housed in the Capitol building to be used as a reference library for Congress only. The Capitol Building was burned and pillaged by invading British troops in 1814 .

Shortly after, Congress accepted Thomas Jefferson's offer of his personal collection of books as a replacement for those lost. The collection, amassed over a fifty-year period, totalled a staggering 6,487 volumes, and was considered to be one of the finest in the country. Congress appropriated \$23,950 for this collection and "the foundation was laid for a great national library". It was Ainsworth Rand Spofford, Librarian of Congress from 1864 to 1897 who was responsible for the copyright law of 1870. Once instituted, all copyright applicants were required to send the Library of Congress two copies of their work. As a result, an enormous amount of materials poured in, and shelf space at the Capitol was being rapidly used up. Spofford convinced Congress that a new building was needed and in 1873 it authorized a competition to design plans for the new Library. Construction was finally authorized in 1886 after considering many proposals. The Library of Congress building opened its doors to the public on November 1, 1897.

Beginning with the Jefferson Building (1896-1897), it was followed by the Adams Building (1930-1939) and the Madison Building (1965-1980). Each is an architectural work of wonder, filled with art, mosaics, sculptures, murals, etc. Inscriptions and quotations adorn the inside walls and ceilings, as well as on the exterior walls of the buildings.

The Library of Congress is a tribute to knowledge, American pride and accomplishment. James Madison, on the importance of knowledge said, "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: and a people who mean to be their own governours, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives".

A trip to this remarkable institution is not to be missed. It's at the top of my list, and I hope someday that you'll put it at the top of yours. U

(Information for this article was obtained from the Library of Congress website. If you would like to learn more, please visit the Library of Congress online at www.loc.gov)

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derstanding of the world around them. What Mary would like for the library is a globe, a really big globe, to adorn our atrium and one that could act as a visual resource for our students to use along with the many others that are available to them in our library. To that end she has donated money to begin a fund that would bring us such a resource for our library. What will this globe look like? Right now, Judy Romein, our tireless Head of Reference, is researching the globe (a pun I couldn't resist) to give us some alternatives which I hope to present to all by the time of the next newsletter. If you would

be interested in supporting this new Friends initiative, please feel free to contact me for more information. As promised, I will have more to say about this in the fall newsletter. *GL*

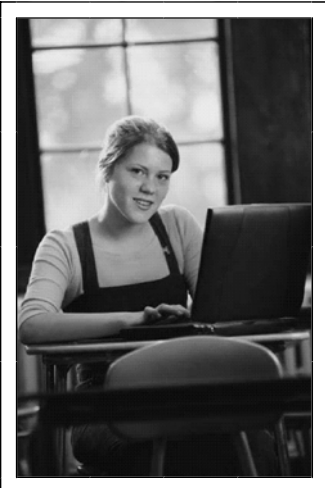
I wish you all a very pleasant summer and hope to see you

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sources will be counted when we assess the collection this summer. x

BEST FREE REFERENCE WEB SITES 2006

Judy Romein, Head of Reference Services



As you know, there are websites created for every possible reason known to mankind. The .com sites are commercial sites, .edu are education sites, .gov are government sites, .net are network sites, and .org are organization sites. Helping people to discern which of these countless sites are worth visiting, several academic and organization committees have created “best of the internet lists.” So here is mine--top five free reference websites.

As a person who is constantly online, I thought I would share with you free reference websites that are considered to be the most outstanding in their particular subject or field. Every once in a while “free” really means free, and happily, this is one of those times.

#1 All Recipes (<http://allrecipes.com>)

I stopped buying recipe books a number of years back, except when I had to have the images, not just the recipes. There are many recipe websites, but I find this one particularly interesting and helpful. The recipes are primarily submitted by amateur home cooks who are more in line with the way I want to prepare meals. If famous professional chefs and their favorite dishes are what you’re looking for, try the Food Network (<http://foodnetwork.com>). Please notice that food is always #1.

#2 Consumer Search (<http://www.consumersearch.com>)

This site summarizes the research available for most top-rated products, with background, reviews, and pricing information. Links are also available to rankings of products and to sites offering the product for sale.

#3 Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)

This web-based encyclopedia is edited by its readers. Everyone is encouraged to update, correct, and edit the over one million entries. The site’s aim is to “create a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge.” This laudable goal is truly going to take some time— meanwhile, login [you don’t really have to login, do you?] and see what this is all about.

#4 MedLine Plus (<http://medlineplus.gov/>)

This is a carefully selected set of links to web resources aimed at a consumer health audience. There are 700 topical essays on conditions, diseases, and wellness-related issues. A drug encyclopedia explains prescription and over-the-counter medicines, herbs, and supplements. There is also a directory to find doctors, dentists, and hospitals.

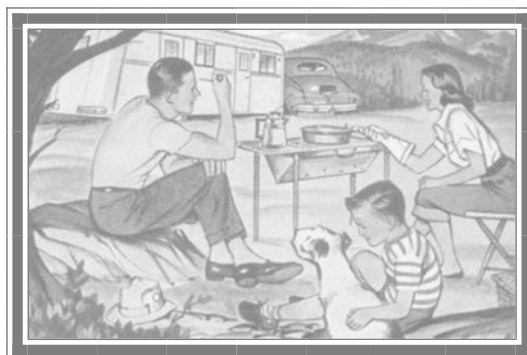
#5 Google Earth <http://earth.google.com/>

This site is more fun than solitaire. Google Earth combines satellite imagery, maps, and the Google search engine to put the world’s geographic information on your screen. View exotic locales like China’s Great Wall and the Eiffel Tower in Paris as well as your favorite points of interest. The sky is really the limit with this site.

As always, I am happy to help you find information and resources. Just by call or email, and let me know your favorite sites too. j

Contact Us...

To notify us of a change in address or for information on making a donation to the Geisel Library, please contact Denise Labore, Geisel Library, Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, NH 03102. You may also telephone (603) 641-7301 or e-mail dlabore@anselm.edu.



*Wishing all of you a pleasant
and restful summer!*