

A newsletter for the Friends of the Geisel Library

December, 2006

## From the Librarian

By Joseph W. Constance, Jr.

As we enter the Christmas season, I want to wish you all the very best for the holidays and for the approaching New Year. Though we always seem to be so very busy at this time of the year, everyone at the Library is thankful for your support of our efforts. Our best to you and your families throughout the coming year.

As many of you know, the Geisel Library was completely renovated in 1992, a time when nearly 80% of our existing walls were demolished and some 20,000 square feet of study and work space was added to the building. Since that time thousands of students have used the Library for study and research in a clean and quiet environment that Library staff has worked hard to maintain. As the years have progressed, however, we have seen the need for group study areas grow significantly as student study habits and course assignments have become much more collaborative. Not only do these projects require collaborative space, they also require the proper tools such as a sufficient computer workstations, a wireless networking environment, graphic scanning capabilities and specialized software packages.

In response to this new challenge, Library staff is now in the process of re-examining our public space to better accommodate these changing student needs. This innovative idea known as Information Commons describes an area that provides students with a combination of study space and access to both innovative hardware and software in order to create the more sophisticated projects now demanded by professors at Saint Anselm. This effort, moreover, requires close cooperation with the Department of Information Technology and the student body to insure that all technical and logistical needs are appropriately accommodated.

Over the course of the next semester we will be considering different plans for an Information Commons which will change the face of the main floor of our Library. A number of libraries have already pioneered innovative designs for such commons and we will spend some time considering a variety of different alternatives. This project will take some months and much effort on the part of the Library staff. In the end, it will also mean a re-direction of our services for the benefit of the entire academic community. I will keep you apprised of all developments related to the Information Commons as our Spring semester progresses.

Again, I wish you all the best for a safe and happy holiday season.

## Researching a Humanitarian Crisis: the Conflict in Darfur, Sudan

By John Dillon, Head of Technical Services and Systems Administrator



Many of us probably have been hearing about Darfur in the news for quite some time. Yet many of us may not know much about what is still going on, even though varying accounts have described events in Darfur, the Sudan, as genocide, ethnic cleansing, and "the world's worst humanitarian crisis". Indeed, as of late November 2006, this crisis continues nearing its worst levels of violence, with a resulting estimate of 400,000 ethnic tribal members dead and another two million civilian refugees, according to U.N. statements and Associated Press reporting.

Recently my own concern about Darfur reached a high point when I read a letter in the [Goffstown News](#) from concerned Goffstown High School students who have formed an organization called "Raising Awareness for Darfur". They wrote: "... thousands of men, women and children are being killed or worse... With the suspicion that there are others unaware of the events, we have made it our aim to educate the public about the genocide and encourage everyone to do the same...." At the same time, an NBC reporter this week urged that "the better informed the American people are the sooner there is going to be change in that region." In that spirit, let us look at how an academic / research library might also be able to help out.

Geisel Library provides access to a rich array of resources that can help Friends and our campus community learn more about what is happening with developing news events like the Darfur conflict. An excellent starting point that gives an overview of many relevant resources in this area is Geisel Library's online *Politics Subject Guide*. More specifically, the following is a short list of resources for gaining a better understanding of this particular ongoing crisis:

### Books:

[Darfur: The Ambiguous Genocide](#) by Gerard Prunier, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2005. DT159.6D27 P78 2005

[Darfur: A Short History of a Long War](#) by Julie Flint and Axel

(Researching a Humanitarian Crisis, continued on page 2)

## Googling for Books

By Jeffrey H. Waller, Assistant Head of Reference Services

Not content with being many people's first stop for information, Google has now entered the world of books. The Google Book Project (<http://books.google.com/>) is a massive undertaking to digitize millions of books and make them fully searchable through their well-known search engine. In the beginning, publishers and authors volunteered to have their books scanned, with up to 20% of each book's pages made fully viewable through Google, and "Buy Me" links set up to encourage purchases of the full book.



But the project took a huge step up two years ago when Google signed agreements to digitize large portions of several major university library collections, including Harvard, Stanford, and the University of Michigan. Books not under copyright (including nearly everything published before 1922) can be read online in their entirety; for most other books, the search results allow viewing of 4-5 line snippets and provide a link to check whether nearby libraries own the book in question. Several publisher's organizations have filed lawsuits alleging copyright infringement since books were being scanned without the publisher's permission, but the project continues nevertheless.

How can this benefit students and professors at Saint Anselm College? Most obviously, the full-text availability of pre-1922 books from the country's best academic libraries opens up a wealth of valuable primary source material in disciplines such as history and literature studies. From first-hand accounts of the Civil War to seminal theological treatises to reviews of Dickens novels by his contemporary critics, these books offer unique perspectives for students (and faculty) to explore.

In addition to making these rare books accessible for research, the free online nature of this project makes it easy for professors to assign readings from them. Furthermore, when researchers find useful modern books that are only available in partial or "snippet" form through Google, they can borrow those titles through our Interlibrary Loan service and receive them (for free) within 1-2 weeks. By broadening the universe of searchable books, the Google Book Project brings us one step closer to that fateful day when everything ever published will be online! ~

### Quote.....

*"Like the old miner on the Mother Lode, the antiquarian bookseller never abandons the hope of striking a rich deposit. A nugget of gold, while hidden in the earth is worthless until found by the miner, and to the finder goes the reward. Rare or unusual books are worthless while hiding in the dust of an attic, or gathering mould in the basement. Not until they are rescued from oblivion by an informed bibliophile do they eventually find a worthy repository."*

Harold C. Holmes, 1878—1965

## Geisel Library Website Recognition

The American Library Association's Academic and Research Libraries Section has chosen the Geisel Library's website as one of its top picks for November/December 2006. The Geisel Library is one of two sites selected. The ALA/ACRL site notes the following:

"While New Hampshire, the Granite State, may not have a large number of college and small university libraries, it does offer two sites that are worthy of your review. The library's (Geisel Library) site is noteworthy for a striking use of colors and graphics. The homepage facilitates user access by focusing on major areas such as finding books and more, finding articles and databases, and obtaining research help. A particularly valuable feature is a rotating new bookshelf where viewers are able to see the jackets of books new to the library together with two catalog searches. The library is to be commended for its efforts promoting greater use of books". □

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(*Researching a Humanitarian Crisis, continued from page 1*)

de Waal. London: Zed Books, 2005. DT157.673 F58 2005

### Websites:

Catholic Relief Services ([http://www.crs.org/our\\_work/where\\_we\\_work/overseas/africa/sudan/dafur\\_crisis.cfm](http://www.crs.org/our_work/where_we_work/overseas/africa/sudan/dafur_crisis.cfm)) - the official international relief and development agency of the U. S. Catholic community, with web pages on their work in the Sudan.

CIA World Fact Book (<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/su.html>)

United Nations ([www.un.org/search](http://www.un.org/search)) and type in the keyword Darfur then click on the Sudan link to access News Focus on Sudan, covering the latest reports and actions.

U.S. Department of State website (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5424.htm>)

### Databases available at the Geisel Library:

#### CQ Researcher

Weekly reports offer in-depth, non-biased coverage of political and social issues, with regular reports on topics in health, international affairs, education, the environment, technology and the U.S. economy. The reports include background information, tables or maps, pro/con statements from opposing groups, and a list of key sources.

#### Lexis/Nexis

A powerful full-text resource available to our campus community members; great for extensive current and background news reporting from sources such as major newspapers, periodicals and television and radio transcripts.

#### Campus Events:

Weekly evening "Stop Genocide" meetings organized by the Student Anti-Genocide Coalition for those who want to become more informed or involved regarding the Darfur conflict. See the College Campus Calendar (<http://www.anselm.edu/campus+calendar/stopgenocide.htm>). ♠

# Betsy's Books

By Elizabeth Holmes, Collections/User Services Librarian

## Digital Collections and Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science

This fall I attended a talk given by Christine Madsen, a digital librarian and project manager from Harvard. She was discussing Harvard's recently launched latest digital collection "Immigration to the United States, 1789-1930" <http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration/>. It was an interesting presentation, discussing the process by which the team conceived and developed the collection, which includes approximately 1,800 books and pamphlets as well as 6,000 photographs, 200 maps, and 13,000 pages from manuscript and archival collections. As is always the case with a Harvard Open Collection, the product for the end-user is superb. I encourage you all to take a look at this, and other Harvard Open Collections.

It was, however, the discussion around the process of developing the contents of this collection that I found of particular interest. The team considered *The Five Laws of Library Science*, a book written in 1931 by Shiyali Ramarita Ranganathan. It was fascinating to hear about a title that had gotten a brief mention while I was in library school, but was considered relevant to the creation of a digital collection.

After the talk, I decided to take a look at this book and consider further the implication of these laws in a web environment.



The Five Laws of Library Science are:

1. Books are for use.
2. Every reader his/her book.
3. Every book, its reader.
4. Save the time of the reader.
5. A library is a growing organism.

I'm limited in space as to fully discuss these points in relation to online resources, but please consider them for a moment in a digital context:

1. Books and other resources are to be accessible, not hidden, locked up, or segregated in special-use-only areas. An online environment will continue to improve this law to make resources accessible: not only are the books (and other materials) available to anyone who has access to the internet, but now access will not be limited to circulation rules or hours of operation. The materials for the collection are available to all, whenever they chose, without the limitation of passwords (and in Harvard's case, ending the publication date of materials in the collection before copyright becomes an issue as well).
2. The collection team needs to be very clear as to who are the "readers" of the collection. When establishing the mission/purpose of the collection, a good understanding of the needs of the identified readership will assist in the overall collection plan. This in turn will make for a collection that has a rich depth of information for its constituency.
3. Traditionally, this law implies that a library is an "open access system", where a user can examine its contents with as much understanding of the collection's arrangement as if it were the readers' private library. In a library like Geisel, this would include a variety of finding aids to help the reader locate the book: a structured cataloging system, research guides, newsletters, etc. This becomes all the more critical on the web, which has literally infinite possibilities of linking information. Online materials can be found easily by a reader with appropriate indexing, hot linking, and the ability to be "Googled" and located on a variety of search engines. And as referred in #1, the question of internet access for all needs to be addressed.
4. In our digital age, users are impatient and will often only look at the first page of data they access on-screen. This law becomes ever more critical to library work in any environment: you are not serving your constituency if you are wasting their time. Design the website to minimize keystrokes, build in redundancies by listing indexing in a variety of places and make visuals simple and clear.
5. There is no better example to validate that the Library is a growing organism than to view the changes of the web in the years. Materials being made available to collections are growing, and technologies that allow for delivery are constantly being improved. Librarians of every stripe must work harder than ever to keep up with these changes, and a digital collection needs to be reviewed constantly to be sure it is still meeting its mission and needs of its intended users.

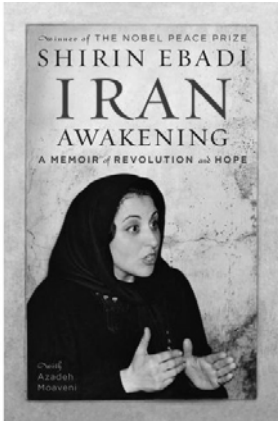
As a result of reviewing Ranganathan's Laws, I feel I can readdress issues faced daily in developing the collection at Geisel Library. I'm also very pleased to see that a document that could not anticipate the World Wide Web is still appropriate and concise in its application today.

If you would like to read a copy of the *Five Laws of Library Science*, it is available, easily and for free in the Digital Library of Information and Technology hosted by the University of Arizona. <http://dlist.sir.arizona.edu/1220/>. I suspect S.R. Ranganathan would be pleased. »

## Book Review

By Elizabeth Holmes, Collections/User Services Librarian

**Ebadi, Shirin with Moaveni, Azadeh: *Iran Awakening: A Memoir of Revolution and Hope*. Published by Random House, New York 2006 256 pp. (KMH110.I23 A3 2006)**



In 2003, Shirin Ebadi won the Nobel Peace Prize. Her book, *Iran Awakening* is memoir of her life as a lawyer, judge, and human rights activist. Ebadi writes in an surprisingly breezy style (with Azadeh Moaveni, California born author of *Lipstick Jihad*). She weaves stories of her life with the history of Iran, from the time of the Shah, through the Islamic Revolution and the current state of Iran. This book has not been allowed to be published in Iran, and was specifically written for a Western audience.

Ebadi at the age of 23 was appointed the youngest, and first female judge in Iran. The year was 1970 and Mohammad Reza Pahlavi had been shah since 1941. While being given status equal to men, Ebadi (as most intellectuals in Iran at that time) became increasingly disillusioned with the shah's regime and welcomed the Islamic Revolution. In 1978, the then exiled Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini called for Iranians to eject ministers from their offices. Ebadi, with other legal colleagues stormed the office of the Minister of Justice. An older judge sitting in the room spoke to Ebadi: "You of all people, why are you here? Don't you know that you are supporting the people

who will take your job away if you come to power?" Ebadi recalls that she self-righteously replied: "I'd rather be a free Iranian than an enslaved attorney."

The Iranian clerics quickly consolidated their power, and the following year Ebadi was demoted because she was a woman, first to a clerk, and then to a secretary in the courtroom over which she had presided as judge. In 1980 Iran's new Islamic penal code was adopted (without discussion). A woman's life was to be worth half of a man's in the eye of the law.

The decade after the revolution was one of war and repression. Ebadi writes about political imprisonment and murder of a family member. During this period she both raises a family, and takes on the most challenging human rights cases pro bono. The stories of rape, imprisonments, and police killings are chilling. While digging through documents preparing for a trial, Ebadi discovers the official authorization for her own assassination.

Sadly, Ebadi's story does not end with a democratic government in place in Iran. A good summation occurs in a passage where Ebadi recalls her thoughts on a plane ride after learning she had won the Nobel Prize:

"In the last 23 years, from the day I was stripped of my judgeship to the years doing battle in the revolutionary courts of Tehran, I had repeated one refrain: an interpretation of Islam that is in harmony with equality and democracy is an authentic expression of faith. It is not religion that binds women, but the selective dictates of those who wish them to be cloistered. That belief, along with the conviction that change in Iran must come peacefully and from within, has underpinned my work."

The director of the Saint Anselm College Multicultural Center, Donnamarie Pignone attended a conference where Shirin Ebadi was a speaker. Geisel Library was fortunate that Donnamarie was able to meet with Ebadi, and obtain a signed copy of her book for the collection.\*\*

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## New Virtual Tour of Geisel Library

A new Virtual Tour of Geisel Library, can now be accessed from the Library homepage. Assistant Reference Librarian Jeffrey Waller and Library Web Page Coordinator Maggie McAleese have worked diligently on this project for almost three months, and we hope that you like the results. It will replace the tour previously given to all third-year English students, and also serves as a nice welcome and orientation to our visitors (both real and "virtual").

You can take the tour from the comfort of your home or office by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.anselm.edu/library/tour/tourstart.html>

## 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](mailto:dlabore@anselm.edu).

