



Computer Lab 101 Gets Plenty of Use

Notes from the University Librarian

Spring brings not just daffodils and forsythia to the W&L campus, but a fresh version of Annie, the Library's online catalog. Early reviews from our "testers" indicate that you'll like Annie's simplified interface, created through months of work by all our librarians under the able leadership of Head of Technical Services Dave Badertscher and Technology Coordinator Kyle Felker. Annie's content remains the same, but her interface is streamlined and similar to those you may be familiar with on some of the most popular Web search engines.



Planning goes forward toward a future renovation of the Leyburn Library. Space consultant Arthur J. Lidsky submitted his report in February 2006, with some exciting possibilities for the building including a "grand" reading room, a coffee shop, and improved space for books and technology. Since the boldest plan would mandate an expansion of the building, a feasibility study by another architectural firm begins this summer. Of course, none of this has yet been submitted to or approved by the Board, but we are doing the homework necessary to make a proposal possible. In the meantime, we're looking to make some improvements in the Main level Reference area. If you have ideas on how Leyburn (the building) could be improved, don't hesitate to give me a call or email me at <Taylorme@wlu.edu>.

Finally, we're delighted to welcome Mary Abdoney, our new Science Librarian, to the W&L community. Mary has been with us only since February, but has already begun to make her presence felt in a positive way. You'll find more information about Mary and the Telford Science Library in this newsletter; if you have occasion to pass Telford on your daily round, stop by and say hello!

Merrily E. Taylor
University Librarian

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"Annie" Gets a Facelift

After nine years, Annie, the University's online library catalog, has been redesigned. We have attempted to make the new Annie as easy to use as possible by conducting usability tests with W&L students and incorporating what we learned and their suggestions into the new design. The new Annie will be launched the week of April 10th.

This rejuvenated Annie incorporates many new features as well as a new look. Annie now offers an advanced keyword search that includes the ability to use multiple limits (so you can now search for DVDs and VHS tapes at the same time). The displays are improved and now include diacritics. From your personal library record, now you may save preferred searches as well as renew library materials. This redesign also allows new features to be incorporated as they become available. Coming in the near future will be the possibility of using the preferred-search feature to automatically notify you of new materials added to the collection (such as a book by a favorite author).

John Tombarge
Head of Public Services

Mary Abdoney Joins University Library As New Science Librarian

Relocating "up north" in the dead of winter was a bit of an adjustment for new Science Librarian Mary Abdoney. Having spent the last ten+ years in Florida, most any place would be north! Mary comes to us with a BA from University of Florida and her MLIS from the University of South Florida.

Mary has jumped right into things at W&L, meeting students and faculty and updating services.

"Communication" is one of Mary's strong points. If you haven't had a chance to meet her, stop by the office in Telford Science Library and introduce yourself. Better catch her before the weather warms up!

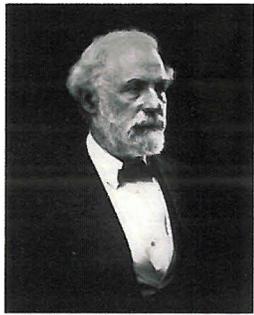


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Special Collections Acquires Another Lee Letter



Robert E. Lee, 1870

In mid-March 2006, The University Library purchased a letter to Mr. Walter H. Galt of Washington D.C. from Robert E. Lee and dated October 15, 1869. The letter, written while Lee was president of Washington College, thanked Mr. Galt for sending Lee a "coloured photograph" of George Washington Parke Custis (1781-1857), Lee's father-in-law. Lee, who served as executor of his father-in-law's estate, noted that he was pleased to have this particular likeness as so many other family objects had been lost from Arlington House. Federal troops occupied Arlington soon after the Civil War began in 1861. In the letter Lee also mentioned W.W. Corcoran, his friend and a donor to Washington College.

*Vaughan Stanley
Special Collections Librarian*

The Birds of North America Online

What do a Scarlet Tanager, a Red-eyed Vireo and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak have in common? They are all birds that you can see and hear in W&L's area in the spring. The University Library now subscribes to a new online database that can help you identify and learn all kinds of information about birds. [Birds of North America Online \(BNA Online\)](#) which is owned by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is an innovative resource that offers the latest scientific research on each of the 716 bird species found in the U.S. and Canada.

[BNA Online](#) offers what editors Poole and Gill describe as a "living resource" that will be updated continually with new information contributed by researchers as well as citizen scientists. This interactive resource offers detailed descriptions of each bird along with recordings of its songs and calls. Each species account offers information on distinguishing characteristics, behavior, range and migration routes, breeding, nesting and food habits. Conservation and management issues are detailed as well as priorities for future research.

To supplement or expand your knowledge of birds, check out [BNA Online](#) today. Do a search in Annie or go directly to <http://library.wlu.edu/details.asp?resID=827>

If you are off campus, you will need to submit your campus username and password to gain access.

*Wendy Richards
Serials assistant and amateur bird watcher*



Scarlet Tanager

Reference Services Now Available at Telford Science Library

With the arrival of new Science Librarian Mary Abdoney, Telford Science Library is now offering reference service on-site. All members of the W&L community are encouraged to use this service. From 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., a reference librarian will be available to answer reference questions from faculty and students. In addition, a librarian will be available Sunday and Monday evenings from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. to answer reference questions.

While there is no physical reference desk, staff will be on call during these hours for reference service. Please stop by the Telford circulation desk and ask for the reference librarian. Of course, research appointments are still available for more in-depth reference questions.

For a copy of the schedule, please visit <http://library.wlu.edu/TelfordReference.asp>

Encyclopedia of Philosophy Available in ebook form

The [Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#), first published by Macmillan in 1967, has long been one of the most valued reference resources in the world's libraries. One count indicates that over 2,700 libraries around the world own at least one copy and Leyburn Library itself owns 4 copies of the 8-volume set.

Part of the reason for the enduring popularity of this encyclopedia, aside from the high quality of the scholarship and writing, is its interdisciplinary appeal -- one need not be a philosophy major to have need of such articles as "Memory," "Religion and Science," "Problems of Ethics," and "John Locke." One curious endorsement of the popularity of this encyclopedia is that a survey once found its volumes to be the most often stolen items from library reference collections.

Now, for the first time in over one-third of a century, there is a completely revised edition of the [Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#), containing over 2,000 entries, including such newer topics as "Terrorism" and "Religion and the Biological Sciences." And Leyburn Library has no plans to acquire a single page of this ten-volume set. In paper form, that is.

Instead, we have purchased access to the online "electronic book" form of this new encyclopedia. Every faculty member can use this encyclopedia from his or her office, every student can search it from campus computing labs or dorm rooms, or even from off-campus residences, and articles can be printed or e-mailed around the world. Access is controlled by active campus computing network identification.

Dick Grefe, Senior Reference Librarian

FOL Update

As of March 23, 2006, the Friends of the Library has over 100 charter members and has received over \$24,000 in dues and donations. The Charter period ends June 30, 2006.

The next Friends event is scheduled during Reunion Weekend, May 6, 2006. If you would like more information or would like to join, contact the Friends Coordinator at 540/458-8642 or by email at ocallaghank@wlu.edu.