5-2002

Issue Number 18, May 2002

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Recommended Citation
Bell, David and Booth Library, "Issue Number 18, May 2002" (2002). NoteBooth. 20.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/lib_notebooth/20

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New Booth Opens!

Interim President Lou Hencken and Dean Allen Lanham cut the ribbon on February 14, officially reopening the Booth Library building.

Booth Library is in the final stages of a $22.5 million renovation which has dramatically updated our facilities for the 21st century. All library services and materials are once again conveniently available in one campus location. For more images of the opening ceremony as well as archival views of the renovation’s 30-month progress, visit the library website and click on “Library Renovation.” Official rededication events are planned for September.

Video and Music Lists Available

Booth Library has an extensive collection of videos in several formats including DVD and VHS cassette. The library also has a growing collection of music in compact disc format. In order to provide easier access to these materials, the library maintains an online list of new media items. To view the list, go to the library website (www.eiu.edu/~booth) and click on “About Booth Library / Library Departments / Online Video and Music Lists” (under Library Technology Services). As with all library materials, these items are also included in the ILLINET Online library catalog.

Teachers’ Center offers collections and workshops

With the reopening of Booth Library, students, faculty, and area teachers are able to benefit from the generosity of Florence Coles Ballenger, a 1925 alumna of Eastern Illinois State College’s teacher diploma program. Part of her legacy to the University is being used to provide funding for the Ballenger Teachers’ Center, a place for users to examine and check out textbooks, children’s trade books, and a wide variety of print and non-print supplemental teaching materials. Examples of these teaching materials include puppets, percussion musical instruments from Africa and Asia, games, flashcards, puzzles and videos.

In addition to the materials available in the Center, there is seating for 44 users and a seating area with child-sized furnishings for children whose parents bring them to the library. There is also video and audio equipment in the Teachers’ Center for previewing tapes, DVD’s and CD-ROMs.

The Teachers’ Center reaches beyond its physical confines as well. A series of workshops has been provided during spring semester, with topics covered that include developing WebQuests, Conflict Resolution, Making Story Bags and Building your own Web Site (May 11). These workshops, made available through a Library Services and Technology Act grant administered by the Illinois State Library, provide in-service teachers with continuing education credit.

A web site linking the Teachers’ Center with a variety of education and teaching resources can be accessed by going to the library homepage and clicking on “Ballenger Teachers’ Center.”
As part of the Booth Library renovation project, the Art-in-Architecture Committee selected 25 new art pieces for permanent display. This feature highlights selected works from this collection. The two pieces represented above hang on the 4000 level, in the new South Reading Room. Most of the library’s new artworks feature prairie landscapes of central Illinois.

This project is part of the Capital Development Board’s (CDB) Art-in-Architecture program. Illinois law requires that one half of one percent of all CDB project funds be invested in public art installations.

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**New Electronic Resources**

**Illinois Sanborn Insurance Maps**
Dating from 1867 to 1970, the Digital Sanborn Maps project encompasses most towns and cities in Illinois. Funded by a Higher Education Cooperation Act (HECA) grant from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Sanborn maps are valuable to genealogists, local historians, city planners, environmentalists, geographers, architects, and others who are interested in the history, growth, and development of U.S. cities, towns, and neighborhoods. Access this resource from our Article Indexes page under Fulltext Databases: Arts, Literature & Humanities and Political & Social Sciences.

**ITER: Gateway to the Middle Ages and Renaissance**
This research tool provides a comprehensive bibliography of all scholarly materials pertaining to the study of European culture between 400 and 1700. The main database presently contains citations to the full runs of 632 scholarly journals, published since 1842. Access this resource from our Article Indexes page under Arts, Literature & Humanities.

**The Gerritsen Collection - Women’s History**
In the late 1800s, Dutch physician Aletta Jacobs and her husband C.V. Gerritsen began collecting books and periodicals reflecting the evolution of a feminist consciousness and women’s rights. By the time their successor finished their work in 1945, the Gerritsen Collection was the greatest single source for the study of women’s history in the world, with materials spanning four centuries and 15 languages. Access this resource from our Article Indexes page under Fulltext Databases: Arts, Literature & Humanities and Political & Social Sciences.

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**Library Welcomes Two New Faculty Members**

**Stacey Knight** joined Booth Library’s Reference department in January. She is the subject librarian for physics and geology/geography. Before coming to Booth, Stacey worked at the Library of the Health Sciences-Urbana. She earned her B.S. in biology from UIUC in 2000 and her MLS from the same institution in 2001.

**Sarah Nesbeitt** joined Booth Library’s Reference Department in February. In addition to reference service, she will offer bibliographic instruction, provide collection development for mathematics and economics, and provide expertise in the area of electronic resources. She comes to Eastern after seven years at Bridgewater State College, Massachusetts, where she served as Reference/Systems Librarian. Her research interests include librarianship as a career, electronic resources management, and reading interests in genre fiction. She has published one book and numerous articles in these areas. She also serves as the American editor for two journals in the library field: *Reference Reviews* and the *Historical Novels Review*. Her MLS is from the University of Michigan, and she holds an MA in Linguistics from Ohio State University.