

# Overdue notes

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## November Hours

Monday - Thursday:

7:30 A.M.-11:00 P.M.

Friday:

7:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Saturday:

12:00-6:00 P.M.

Sunday:

5:00-11:00 P.M.

### Thanksgiving Vacation

Nov. 26 : Close at 5:00 P.M.

Nov. 27 : 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Nov. 28-30 : Closed

www.lib.snow.edu

Phone: (435) 283-7363



## RANDOM RUMINATIONS . . . on books and sundry matters

By: K. Michael Seibt,

Associate Professor of History/Political Science

A week or so ago, I lectured on classical Greek civilization and endeavored to motivate my students to purchase the Bollingen edition of Plato's Collected Dialogues, published by Princeton University Press, edited by the renowned classical scholars Edith Hamilton and Huntington Cairns.

This book is printed on extremely thin paper (the same as the traditional Christian scriptures) and comprises 1743 pages. My best guess is that it costs about \$ 40 today. I promised my students, that study of this work would expose their brains to one of the best minds the human race has ever produced and would furnish them with wisdom, train them in the Socratic method of analytical critical thinking, and would provide them with intellectual stimulation as well as entertainment, for a lifetime.

The students looked at me as if I were an apparition from Mars. I could see their reaction to my suggestion on their faces: 'Yeah, right, that's exactly what we want to spend our scarce financial resources on. Get real.' Well, right then and there, I knew that I was confronting sales resistance by an unmotivated audience.

As a teacher, it is my professional duty to sell my product, i.e., knowledge and learning, to this market. It was incumbent on me to use all of my powers of persuasion to induce my class to change their

attitudes and rearrange their existential priorities.

I began my sales pitch by inquiring of the male students how much of their limited capital they would expend on an important first date, where the object is to impress the young lady so as to encourage her to engage in a relationship. One student was appointed to keep track of the expenses which included: a haircut, gas for the trip to Salt Lake City, washing the car, either chocolates or flowers as an introductory gift, dinner at a decent restaurant, and a movie. I interjected that one could not take the lady to McDonalds, since she would then have your number as a cheap-skate, whereupon one of my creative thinkers shouted: "Well, just supersize it." That cracked me up. Such responses are one of the factors that keep me in the classroom. The total for the date ended up somewhere around \$122.

The next questions were: ". . . and what did you get for all of that money and effort at the end of the evening? What's the usual conversation about? Your family, your friends and room mates, your classes, your professors, the weather? So, you've had a pleasant evening, perhaps resulting in a hug and a chaste kiss (keep in mind that I'm a geezer!), when you could have used this money to purchase the volume by

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## Workshops & Training

# Student Drop-In Sessions

Please invite students needing research assistance to attend these sessions.

**Tuesday,  
November 19**

**Thursday,  
November 21**

**Tuesday,  
December 3**

**Thursday,  
December 5  
1:30 - 4:00 pm  
in the Library's  
Training Lab**



## The Bookish Dark

By: Lynn Anderson, Technical Services Librarian

Last year, Russ had a student employee survey faculty to see what you think of our newsletter. Because several responders indicated they would much rather read something I write than have toothpicks inserted under their fingernails, Russ asked me to write a "column." My goal is to not bore and possibly to inform and amuse. I'm going to try to be a little "edgy." Go ahead and draw a goatee on my picture if you think that might help.

Among the topics Letitia Baldrige says polite people should avoid inflicting on others are: your children, your health, rumor and gossip, "lugubrious" subjects, and matters concerning money. I'll save my kids, what I just heard about Snow Richfield, and my "Healthy Utah" results for another article, but for today, I want to talk about money.

I've heard several variations of the following quote from a faculty member: "I would really like to have this [fill in the blank] in the library for my students. It's really expensive though, so if you can't, I understand . . . whimper, whimper, whimper."

### Pop Quiz

**Question 1:** The Library's annual collection development budget is funded by:

- A) stealing cans from the Dead Cats recycling bins
- B) Envirocare of Utah
- C) being the first Nike sponsored library in the state
- D) the college/state with over \$100,000 in ongoing funds

**Question 2:** The percentage of the collection development budget spent on faculty requests last year was:

- A) Zero (your requests all end up in the "round file")
- B) 15

- C) 25
- D) 50

**Question 3:** Match the division with the number of library requests (and dollars spent) for the past fiscal year:

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Business & Tech.     | 4 (\$200)     |
| Fine Arts            | 50 (\$2,300)  |
| Humanities           | 102 (\$3,300) |
| Natural Sciences     | 193 (\$9,900) |
| Social & Behav. Sci. | 57 (\$1,500)  |

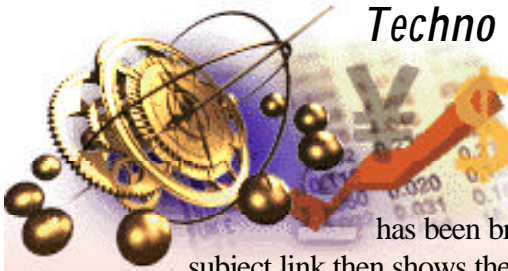
The answers are: 1D and 2B. If you really want to know the answer to question three, give me a call.

We also spend over \$30,000 per year on subscriptions and databases.

What's the point? The point is I don't want anyone thinking they can't ask for library materials that will help them and their students. Now this doesn't simply mean, "The Tiki Bar is open!" I will continue to evaluate requests and make my own purchases based on what we already have in subject areas and on the potential use of the requested items. We are simply too small an operation to buy items that will be of interest to one person every ten years.

The Music and Life Sciences Departments have not been shy in requesting items. They have also spent some time evaluating the collection in their areas. It's my opinion that attention to adequate research resources is one reason these two groups have been moved to the front of the line for President Benson's push for four-year programs.

Now I feel a little undressed. Maybe Ms. Baldrige is right. Proper people just don't talk about this. Maybe education people are too concerned with portraying themselves as the most destitute of the tin-cup holding wretches standing near the legislative off-ramp. If anyone finds out I'm not forced to buy my paperclips with personal funds, the daggers might come out. Well, let them come. Half of you think I'm Jon anyway. ■



## Techno Tip Age of Collection Report

Every other year I have run a report for the library, which may also provide useful information to faculty. We call the report “The Age of Collection Report.” It can be found online at <http://www.lib.snow.edu/AgeofCollectionAug2002.htm>. The report has been broken down into the familiar Dewey subject headings. Each subject link then shows the book titles for the given subject, oldest title first. At the end of each subject there are four metrics: **Avg** = average, **Min** = oldest title, **Max** = newest title, and **Total** = number of books in the subject. The dates used are the copyright dates. The **ncko** column shows the number of checkouts. For many subjects this report may be just a good listing of books held by the library. But for other subjects, the Avg value may flag faculty members that some titles may be too old for the curriculum being taught. Another thing to note is that any particular course may be covered under multiple Dewey headings. Please feel free to contact either of our librarians for guidance on the Dewey system. This report provides the library with a good tool for managing our collection. This report can be used to help us keep the collection vibrant and timely.

*(Continued from cover)*

Plato, thereby enriching your life and mind forever. What are your priorities?”

Another male student immediately responded by sticking both arms straight out from his body and, while imitating ascending and descending scales by alternately raising one arm and lowering the other, exclaiming: “HmMMM,

Plato.... GIRLS, Plato...GIRLS,” culminating by elevating the “GIRLS” arm way above his head and concluding the demonstration with an exasperated grunt: “Well, DUH!!!!!!!”

Notwithstanding this eloquent presentation of student priorities, I continue to pursue my goal of redirecting my students’ priorities toward books and their repository in

the library. Mind you, not at the cost of total exclusion of interaction with members of the opposite gender, just to establish and reinforce the fact that inasmuch as they are engaged in academic pursuits while at Snow College, their priority interest should focus on the acquisition of knowledge contained in that ingenious human invention . . . BOOKS. ■

**Florence King, a wonderful essay writer, recently retired from her *National Review* column “The Misanthrope’s Corner.” A portion from 2/11/02 reflecting on her 66<sup>th</sup> birthday:**



I’m saving the corks from my wine bottles. I don’t know why, except that cork is expensive, and Marcel Proust lined his walls with it to keep out noise while he wrote. I found myself thinking that when I save enough of them, I can make myself a life preserver. Why I should want a life preserver I can’t say, since I don’t go near the water. But it just seems a shame to throw away all those perfectly good corks, so I save them in an old duffel bag. I can’t wait to see what it will look like when it’s full. Go figure.

I have none of the conventional symptoms of geriatric depression, though I did feel sad when Rachel Gurney died. She played Lady Marjorie in *Upstairs, Downstairs*, and was my favorite British actress next to Judi Dench. I don’t have any American favorites; they all look alike, sound alike, and expose what I could swear is the same bosom.

Sometimes I think about spending my final years in France, where I could smoke in peace, or England, where my blood began. I would live in Lincoln because Lady Katherine Swynford, the heroine of my favorite novel, is buried in the cathedral. When the time came, I would want to shoot myself beside her tomb. Unfortunately, there’s no way to transport my gun to England, so I shall have to swallow a cork.



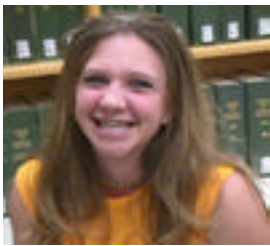
## Online Spotlight

### Electronic Magazine & Newspaper Holdings

Have you ever tried to determine if the library has the content to a particular journal or newspaper on one of its many databases? It was once a difficult task, but no longer. We now have a list of all full text titles available electronically. From the library homepage click on "Electronic Magazine & Newspaper Holdings." This will take you an alphabetic list of over 15,000 full text titles with the availability dates. When you find the particular periodical you want, click the link and you will be redirected to the appropriate database. The list has been a great help to manage the thousands of titles available online.

## New In The Stacks Books on CD

Our Books on Tape collection receives heavy use. Responding to persistent rumors that some of the new-fangled cars now have CD players, we have started a small, but growing collection of Books on CD. Some of the titles are: *Something wicked this way comes, A wrinkle in time, The old man and the sea, Of mice and men, Juneteenth, Shiloh, On the road, To kill a mockingbird, Terms of endearment, Jazz, Tar baby, Back when we were grownups, Tortilla Flat, Animal farm, The fellowship of the ring, Bridget Jones's diary, Portrait in sepia, The Iliad, and Darkness at noon*



## International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences

By: Allison Wells, WTL Technical Writer

I am excited to introduce you to the *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences* which is a landmark publication that has been quoted as, "an important publishing event that organizes and highlights knowledge, theories, and methodologies of a new generation of scholars in the social sciences and related fields." The Library is very excited to have this new encyclopedia in their reference section and we would like to share some of its most helpful features with you.

IESBS has an extensive range of social and behavioral science headings that were designed by scholars to provide a helpful index of available topics. The subject index is helpful when searching for a keyword or looking for ideas for research topics. As with all encyclopedias, the IESBS provides an overview of subjects but it also adds some helpful specifics. In IESBS you are able to read about any changes in focus or emphasis that may have occurred over time. It also offers probable future directions of theories and research as well as problems evident in the current research. IESBS can provide names, dates, concepts, and possible key words that are useful in jump-starting additional research in online databases and/or additional reference material. It is a great starting tool for students and faculty alike that can aid them in pinpointing the focus of their existing social science research as well as give a foundation for additional research.

When researching topics such as philosophy, linguistics, developmental psychology, and many more, the IESBS is a great researching tool. It is located in the Library's reference section on the first floor. ■

*"The library is the very heart of university life. It is simply and always the scholar's laboratory. No matter what his work may be, the scholar turns to the library daily and hourly for counsel, assistance, inspiration, and newness of life. He recognizes the best books as men and women at their best, always ready to be his most beloved and helpful companions."*  
James Canfield, Columbia University Librarian, 1910