University Librarian Celebrates 40 Years of Service at Duquesne University


University Librarian Dr. Paul Pugliese celebrated his 40th anniversary at Duquesne University on July 1, 2000. In honor of Dr. Pugliese’s 40 years of service to the University, with most of those years as University Librarian, we will be featuring excerpts from an informal interview with Dr. Pugliese in each of the issues of BiblioTech this year. Dr. Pugliese will share with us thoughts of his career in librarianship, the challenges and trends facing academic libraries today, some of the major turning points that have made for significant changes at the Gumberg Library, and much more. We hope you find this informal conversation with Dr. Pugliese interesting and enlightening. Please join us in congratulating and thanking Dr. Pugliese for his 40 years of service and for contributing to the enhancement of mind, body, and spirit of our Duquesne family!

How did you become interested in librarianship as a career?

It was really quite by accident. The seed was planted my junior year at the University of Pittsburgh. I was having lunch in Pitt’s Cathedral of Learning Commons Room and was reading the Pitt News. I read that a professor was holding a session in the Chinese Room to introduce a new Asian studies program. I was curious so I went. After the session, the professor and I happened to walk out together. He asked, “Are you interested in the program?” I said, “No, not really. I had some free time and I thought I would come.” He asked, “What are you majoring in?” I said, “I am a history major in the school of education.” He said, “Education! Education in America is bankrupt.” (He meant intellectually). He said, “Better that you should be a librarian and there is a library school right across the street.” At that time the library school was part of Carnegie Tech (which is now Carnegie Mellon University). That comment must have gone into the back of my mind since my real intention was to go to law school.

In the meantime, I needed a job so I decided to go to the Carnegie Public Library and apply. There was a vacancy. Miss Bernstein, a charming older woman, interviewed me. She gave me a test asking me to identify titles and authors of recently published books. Being an avid reader of the New York Times Book Review, I passed with flying colors. She asked me to wait a minute and she quickly returned with the Library Director. His name was Ralph (Continued on page 5)
Over the summer the Gumberg Library implemented many changes to improve electronic access for faculty, students, and staff. The most significant changes are the new and improved website, a new interface for DuCat, and enhancements to the SilverPlatter databases.

The design goals for the new site were to provide easy, user-friendly access and improved performance. Another important consideration was to simplify startup, maintenance, and support issues for the new website. Toward that end, the new site uses Macromedia’s Flash software for the homepage and standard HTML for the all other pages. Using Flash makes it possible to write one version of the homepage that all researchers can access regardless of their platform (Macintosh, PC, Netscape, Internet Explorer, etc.). Other technologies, like JavaScript, require the creation of several versions of the same page in order to support all platforms.

In order to access the Library’s website, researchers must install the Flash Player software, version 4.0 (or higher). If your computer does not have the software, the website will direct you to <www.flash.com>, where you can download a free copy of the Flash Player. The installation process is fairly simple but if you need assistance you can contact the Reference Department at 412-396-6133 or AskRef@duq.edu.

Another key aspect of the redesigned website is that all pages now have a consistent look and feel. Researchers should be able to easily navigate the site while the main page remains open to provide rapid access to other additional resources and information.

DuCat and Research Database Enhancements

In addition to changes in the Web pages, Library staff redesigned DuCat over the summer. The new interface is easier to use. It presents new ways to search and makes available all options on the first screen. Another significant improvement is that SilverPlatter research databases now provide a link with all references that allows researchers to search DuCat for holdings with one mouse click! The SilverPlatter research databases are some of the most heavily used resources; they include Medline, CINAHL, MLA Bibliography, ATLA, PsycINFO, Analytical Abstracts, ERIC, IPA, Philosopher’s Index, SPORT Discus, and Sociological Abstracts. The Library is also beginning to provide links to electronic journals from SilverPlatter databases. Although a limited number of these links are available now, Library staff will add more titles during the academic year.

Visit <www.library.duq.edu> to see these many improvements. The Library is continuously exploring new ways to improve access to information for Duquesne University researchers. Please forward any comments or recommendations to library@duq.edu.

Ariel Document Delivery Makes Its Debut at the Gumberg Library

The ceaseless evolution of information technology has again impacted on Interlibrary Loan service at the Gumberg Library this summer.

Ariel, a document delivery method for interlibrary loan materials, has only been in use at the Library since August, but it is already benefiting Duquesne University researchers who borrow materials from other libraries.

Ariel incorporates software created by Research Libraries Group, a well-respected, non-profit corporation dedicated to enhancing information access.

The advantage of Ariel is that the software works in conjunction with a scanner. Specifically, Ariel changes a scanned image of a journal article, or any page, into a compressed tagged image format file (TIFF). It then uses the Internet’s file transfer protocol (FTP) to send the image. The receiving location decompresses the TIFF, views it and finally either prints the image or transfers it to the researcher.

“The whole idea is to provide faster and better service. It creates a faster turnaround time,” said Kathryn Julius, Interlibrary Loan Coordinator at the Gumberg Library. According to Julius, the average photocopy request turnaround time for Duquesne researchers in 1999 was 11 days. Initial results indicate a significantly lower turnaround time for Ariel. It is the method of choice as long as the lending and borrowing library have both the software and compatible e-mail accounts.

“The clarity of the materials is also better,” said Julius. “It’s clearer than a fax. When you photocopy or fax, you lose quality as it goes down the line.”

An important advantage is that many researchers can now access their interlibrary loan requests at home or office via email instead of picking up the documents in the Library. E-mail access requires that the researcher’s computer must be able to receive and open attachments. For more on document viewers or Ariel contact the Interlibrary Loan Department (412-396-5341 or illservice@duq.edu).
The New DuCat: Gumberg Library’s Online Catalog

The Library’s online catalog, DuCat, has undergone many improvements including a new look. DuCat still provides information on the Library’s materials, but now includes many new features. The new DuCat, as well as the previous version (for those who prefer the old interface), is available at the Gumberg Library website <www.library.duq.edu/ducat> for easy access to the catalog outside the Library.

The “My Account” feature, new this semester, offers patrons a practical way to use the Library online. Patrons can now renew items, place reserves, and view due dates on materials currently checked out by accessing their personal Library account page. Accessible using the sixteen digit Duquesne ID number and personal PIN number, “My Account” provides useful Library services formerly unavailable via the Web.

With the recent additions to DuCat’s capabilities, searching the Library’s collection is more efficient. There are many search options to choose from, including title, author, subject, ISBN #, and Call #. A keyword search is automatically used if another is not chosen. There are also a variety of ways to narrow a search. Users can limit a search by material type, location, and language, along with a date limiting feature that looks for materials published only within a specific decade. Search results initially provide the brief record display of items. From these records, users can find the call number, availability, and location of the item. New features allow users to access a map to the item and place a reserve directly from the brief record. The full record of an item is available by simply following the “Display Full Record” link. In many of the Library’s newer books, a full record lists detailed information about the item, including chapter titles. For newer collections of works, the full record often lists titles of short stories, plays, or pieces of music.

These changes to DuCat have been developed to make using the Library an easier and more convenient experience. If you have any questions or problems regarding DuCat, contact the Reference Department at 412-396-6133 or AskRef@duq.edu.

SciFinder Scholar Enhancements Improve Access to Chemical Abstracts

Gumberg Library recently purchased enhancements to its SciFinder Scholar subscription, which provides access to Chemical Abstracts. Duquesne researchers will now have the capability to perform substructure searches in addition to the previously available search methods, such as chemical name, chemical structure, chemical reactions, formulas, and CAS Registry Numbers.

In response to the heavy use of SciFinder Scholar, the Library also purchased an additional license. For the first time Duquesne researchers now have 24 hour a day access to Chemical Abstracts! In order to use SciFinder Scholar outside the Library, you must register for a PASS account and download the PASS software. More information on SciFinder Scholar and PASS is available on the Gumberg Library home page in the “e-Resources/Research Databases/Natural Sciences” section.
Web of Science Now Available at Duquesne

During the summer, Gumberg Library began subscribing to the Web of Science, a collection of highly regarded scholarly databases that includes Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, and Arts and Humanities Citation Index. The three databases are available from 1995 to the present. The Library hopes to purchase additional backfiles in the future, as funds become available.

One of the major advantages of the Web of Science interface is that it allows researchers to simultaneously search the literature of the natural sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities. For research questions that require interdisciplinary solutions, Web of Science is a great timesaver. In addition to standard Boolean searching (and, or, truncation), Web of Science allows researchers to search for cited articles. For example, researchers can track who cited specific authors and/or where articles were cited.

In the future Web of Science will be able to link to electronic full text versions of journals as well as to DuCat in order to check the availability of journals at Duquesne. Gumberg Library staff is currently working to make these features available. The first set of links is anticipated to be functional by the end of the Spring 2001 semester.

Web of Science represents a substantial addition to Gumberg Library’s collection of research databases. As additional features are made available, it will likely become one of the most heavily used databases at Duquesne. Web of Science is available in the “e-Resources/Research Databases” section of the Gumberg Library home page. It is listed under the name “Web of Science,” as well as the names of its component databases. Try it today!

Past Masters: Electronic Collections of Great Philosophers’ Works

Gumberg Library recently added the Past Masters series to its growing collection of electronic texts. The series provides Duquesne scholars Internet access to the works of Anselm, Aquinas, Augustine, Berkeley, Calvin, Kant, Kierkegaard, Plato, and Wittgenstein among others. The objective of the database is to provide the complete works of the great philosophers in both original language and English translation. Past Masters’ producers license the scholarly editions of the works from academic publishers including Blackwell, Cambridge, Harvard, Indiana, Marquette, MIT, Oxford, Walter de Gruyter, and others.

Past Masters is available to all Duquesne University faculty, students, and staff via the Gumberg Library home page “e-Resources/e-Texts” section. For additional information on accessing and searching Past Masters, contact the Reference Department at 412-396-6133 or AskRef@duq.edu.
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Munn. He was internationally known for promoting international aspects of librarianship, particularly in Australia. Miss Bernstein introduced me as the applicant for the County Bookmobile and then asked the Director, “Do you think we can hire him?” The Director looked puzzled and said, “If you say so, why not?” Her answer was, “He’d be the only male down there.”

Needless to say I got the job. I then decided to go to library school. When I was ready to graduate from library school I found out that there was one vacancy at Pitt’s Library and two vacancies at Duquesne. I applied at Duquesne and got the job as Head of Circulation on July 1, 1960. I told Eleanor McCann, the Library Director at that time, that I really intended to go to law school in the night program. She encouraged me to wait a year. Since I had just completed six years of school – 48 straight months as an undergraduate and two years at graduate school – I decided to wait as she suggested.

I took the LSATs and passed. However, I was beginning to get more and more involved in my job at the library. I kept postponing going to law school and eventually realized that I would never go to law school but would stay in librarianship. Two years later I became Administrative Assistant to the Library Director while still heading the Circulation Department. I became Assistant University Librarian in 1964 and in the summer of 1969 I became University Librarian, following Eleanor McCann’s retirement.

Librarianship has been an interesting profession and has been the perfect place for me to have worked and had a career. Who knows how successful of a lawyer I would have been but I guess I could still go to law school – its never too late! I tell this story because I truly do believe that the chance meeting with the professor had planted that seed of going to library school. I am not so sure I would have tumbled to librarianship had he not mentioned it.

Describe the campus setting when you started to work at Duquesne in the 1960s.

When I arrived at Duquesne in 1960 it was a much, much different place than it is now. The present campus extends from Forbes up to the Bluff and over to Mercy Hospital. Back then it was a thriving urban community. There were row houses, grocery stores, a bakery, small restaurants, and hundreds of people living here.

The only true signs of the Duquesne University campus were the Administration Building and the current School of Health Sciences building which was then the gym and the power plant. Canevin Hall and the Administration Building were the same as they are today. Faculty offices were in occupied row houses. The bottom of Canevin Hall now occupied by small classrooms and offices was a huge cafeteria. The basement of the Administration Building was the faculty lounge and dining hall. The Library was located in what is now the Law School with the entrance at the side of the building across from the School of Health Sciences.

Eventually, urban redevelopment came to the Bluff and assisted the residents to relocate. Duquesne took over the property during the administration of Fr. McAnulty. He started the renaissance here at Duquesne University. Once the renaissance began there were a number of buildings that were tucked away on campus that were not apparent since they were surrounded by row houses. The School of Music was a maintenance garage at one time for postal trucks. College Hall was used in part as a parking facility.

The building now known as the Gumberg Library was three stories and had a number of tenants over the years but the last tenant was a motor pool for governmental vehicles. When the building went on the market, Duquesne bought it. There was jockeying to decide who on campus would use this building. Fortunately, the library got the building. We added two floors to the building to make it five floors and moved out the wall facing Forbes as far as we could in keeping with city ordinances. The library staff moved into the refurbished library during the summer of 1978.
J. L. Heilbron, The Sun in the Church: Cathedrals as Solar Observatories


By Dr. Bernard F. Beranek, Associate Professor of English and Director of Undergraduate English Studies

Gumberg Library Call Number QB 29 .H33 1999

If you make a small hole in the south wall, or the south-facing roof, of a large hall, an image of the sun will be projected onto the floor. This image will move across the floor in an arc. As the seasons change the position of the arc will change. If you make a mark on the floor at the apex of each daily arc, these marks will fall on a straight line. Such lines, running north and south, were actually inscribed or embedded in the floors of several churches during the Renaissance. This remarkable book by J. L. Heilbron, a professor of the History of Science and Technology at Berkeley, is an examination of the history of these meridiane, as they were called.

The meridiana appears to be such a simple device that one wonders what Heilbron has to say that can possibly fill 366 pages. The first sentence of the “Introduction” unambiguously sets forth the surprising thesis of the book: “The Roman Catholic Church gave more financial and social support to the study of astronomy for over six centuries … than any other, and, probably, all other, institutions.” After briefly setting the scene of the Renaissance, Reformation, and Counter-Reformation involvement with astronomical questions, Heilbron identifies several other areas that are brought into sharper focus through the study of the meridiane. In addition to fleshing out a hitherto skeletal chapter of the history of astronomical instruments, this engaging work probes the subtle, and occasionally devious, ways in which the Church and the scientists worked around the censorship of astronomy books after the condemnation of Galileo. The practical problems that had to be solved in the construction of meridiane, and in the correction and reduction of the data they yielded are another area of interest that Heilbron addresses, since the refinement of data continued to yield new understanding of delicate long term changes in the motion of the earth into the middle of the eighteenth century. And the learned author promises that this study “provides an opportunity for people unacquainted with the elements of astronomy to learn them easily and pleasantly.”

Although The Sun in the Church achieves all these purposes, it is not a book for casual reading. The ease and pleasure of the encounter with the elements of astronomy are not to be fully enjoyed without patiently working through a good deal of technical detail, presented through dozens of geometric diagrams. Fortunately, for readers intimidated by such demonstrations, it is possible in most cases to shirk the details, and proceed to the conclusions that follow from them. Some diagrams should emphatically not be skimmed: in particular, a careful reading of the exposition (pp. 51-63) of the ten celestial circles defined in Johannes de Sacrobosco’s classic thirteenth-century textbook, On the Sphere, will equip the reader with the requisite grounding in medieval astronomy.

In his first chapter “The Science of Easter,” Heilbron identifies the nature of the Church’s interest in astronomy. Sound astronomical data are necessary to predict the correct date for the observance of Easter. Failure to make such predictions is not only embarrassing—in 1424 Easter was celebrated five weeks late—it could have grave theological implications: advisors to Pope Clement VI warned him that miscomputation could destroy the miracle of the solar eclipse that accompanied the Crucifixion. The calendrical debate was protracted, heated, and extraordinarily complex. After this excursion into the subtleties (and the politics) of epacts, golden numbers, embolistic
years, and cycles, both Paschal and Metonic, the reader turns with relief to the solidity of geometrical figures, no matter how complicated.

Paolo Toscanelli constructed a meridiana of sorts in the cathedral of S. M. del Fiore, in Florence, as early as 1475, but it was not until a century later that Egnatio Danti installed, first in Florence, then in Bologna, in the great church of San Petronio, meridiane that can be regarded as serious astronomical instruments. Heilbron recounts in detail the perfection of the art of the meridian, from the engineering problems involved in laying out and leveling the line, to the astronomical problems created by the refraction of light by the atmosphere. The final product was an instrument of a precision difficult to believe: seventeenth and eighteenth century measurements made with the oft restored and improved meridiana of San Petronio determined the length of the tropical year within .03 seconds of the modern value.

This is a learned and delightful book. Heilbron accomplishes his primary task of correcting the long standing error: that the Renaissance Church was hostile to scientific investigation. To the reader who is not a specialist in the history of science, it offers an opportunity to correct some of the oversimplifications that have come to characterize the Copernican revolution. It may come as a surprise to many readers to see how careful and sophisticated astronomical thought could be in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The meridiane turn out to have connections to a surprising number of significant concerns of the period: the motion of the earth, calendrical reform, chronometry, the determination of longitude, along with the general development of scientific method, and the canons of exact observational science.

The tale that Heilbron tells is also full of interesting characters: Egnatio Danti, astronomer, mathematician, surveyor, cartographer and monk whose technical skills were not less well developed than his inherited genius for self-promotion, or his sensitivity to the niceties of ecclesiastical and secular politics; Giovanni Cassini, whose genius in securing patronage was exceeded by his mastery of exact science and practical ability, a formidable mathematician, and an unexcelled observer, patriarch of four generations of Directors of the Paris Observatory; Leonardo Ximenes, “the only Sicilian genius in astronomy,” one of the most eminent of the “mathematical Jesuits” of the eighteenth century.

Occasionally Heilbron cannot resist the temptation to stuff one more bit of interesting, though inessential, bit of information into a subordinate clause, but in general, The Sun in the Church is enlivened by the broad reach of his historical knowledge, and by occasional flashes of an arch sense of humor: “When God made everything according to measure and number, He chose hard ones for astronomy.”

Heilbron tells us that this book had its origins in the pleasure of viewing the meridian lines in the churches in which they were installed. He has succeeded admirably in communicating, not only an interesting episode in the history of observational astronomy, but also the pleasure of reconstructing it.
Gumberg Library has been awarded a grant to improve service to students with special needs. Funds from the grant will be used to purchase equipment and create a suitable workspace for the hearing impaired, visually impaired, learning disabled, and students with limited English to do library research in the Library as well as the in Living Learning Center’s 24 hour lab.

The technology the grant will provide includes equipment with the capability to convert printed text to spoken words, save scanned text to disk, and convert screens (including Web pages) to speech for people with low vision/blindness and learning difficulties. It will also provide print magnification software and continuous speech recognition for people with learning difficulties. Braille translation software and a Braille embosser will open a previously untapped avenue to access for some visually impaired students.

This grant will enable Gumberg Library and Duquesne University to move much closer to the goal of providing comparable access to all students by improving library access within the Library and living quarters.