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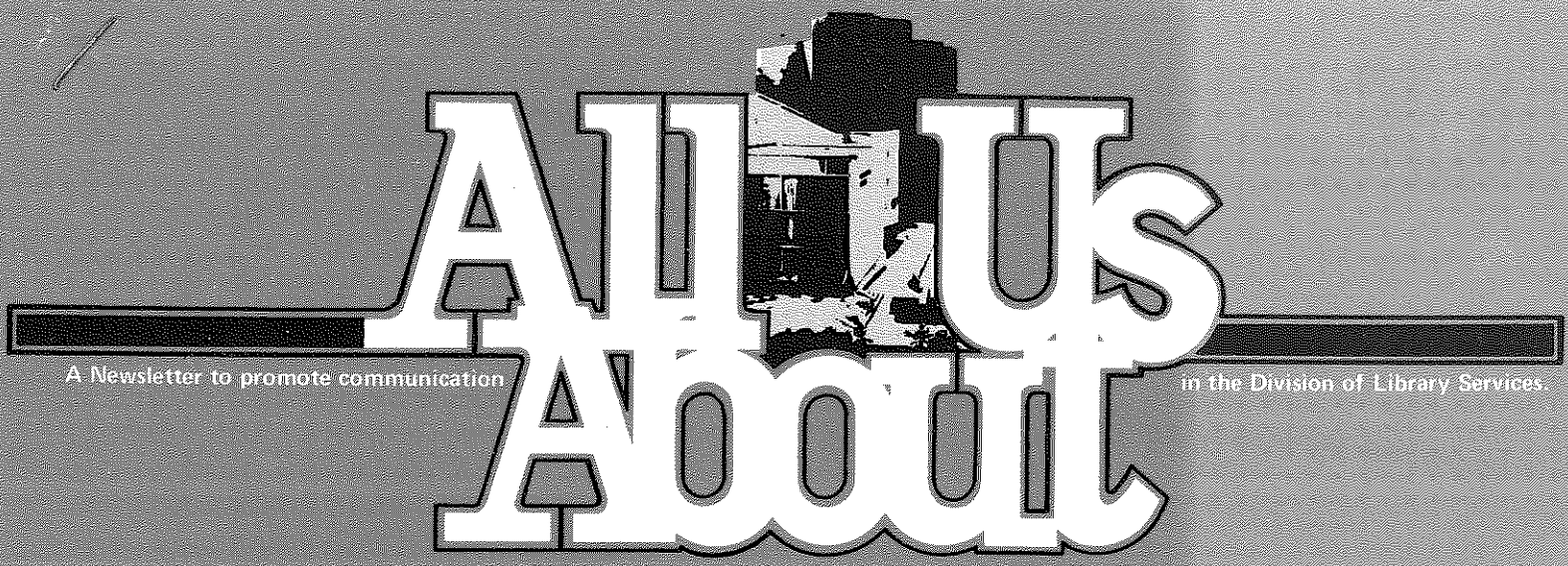
UA51/1/4 All About Us, Vol. 2, No. 7

WKU Libraries



A Newsletter to promote communication in the Division of Library Services.

Vol. 2, No. 7 January 16, 1978

Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY 42101

SHORT SUBJECTS

Nelda Wyatt has joined the library staff as the clerical assistant in the Government Documents Area. Nelda, who has a BA in history from Western and is nearing completion of her MA in history, is from Kettle, Ky. Nelda replaces Beth Vaccaro who transferred to Acquisitions.

The Kentucky Museum opened a new exhibit, "Patterns of a Lifetime", on January 17th in the Museum Gallery. The exhibit features ten quilts from the museum collection. The quilts were all made in Kentucky beginning in the mid-19th century to modern times. The most popular types of quilts are in the exhibit as well as some unusual examples of handwork and patchwork patterns. The gallery hours are 11-4, Tuesday-Saturday.

Kerry Moorman who works at the Computer Center has been assigned to applications and computer systems pertaining to the library. He started on November 1, 1977, and has been becoming familiar with the many different programs that make up the library's automated systems. Kerry is now in the process of completing the programs for the microfiche that will list the library's Journal Holdings. Kerry was graduated from Western in 1975 with a degree in Computer Science. Prior to coming to work at Western, he worked as a programmer for Union Underwear and Airtemp Corporation.

There is an opening for a Science Librarian at Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Ind. Letters of application should be sent by January 31 to R. S. Lamb, Science Librarian Search Committee, Cunningham Memorial Library, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana, 47809.

SO NICE TO HEAR

James Kuklman, Public Services Librarian at Kentucky Wesleyan, wrote recently to Dr. Earl Wassom, "I want....to express my high regard and appreciation for the outstanding performance of your interlibrary loan staff. During the past year we have frequently borrowed material from the Western Kentucky University library system. Your interlibrary loan staff has handled each transaction promptly and with professional efficiency."

ANAGRAM SOLUTION

A.	Curriculum Guide	I.	Basal Readers
B.	Periodicals	J.	Kits
C.	Education Index	K.	Globe
D.	Preschool	L.	Flannel Aids
E.	Realia	M.	Tests
F.	Career Ed	N.	Toys
G.	Records	O.	Model
H.	Reserves	P.	Tour

The message is, "There is lots to see at the ERC faculty and students do agree. Maps, games, puzzles, textbooks and more at the CEB - third and fourth floors. Materials we have are free when we see a valid ID."

OH, MY ACHING BOOK, PART II

Paper is made in a variety of ways which helps determine whether the material will be inherently stabel or not. For example, the basic process for making wood pulp paper involves simply grinding up wood in water, leaving in all the gums, oils, and resins, particularly lignin, an acidic resin which acts as a binder. The resulting paper is cheap, but is necessarily weak, brittle and short-lived. Semi-chemical pulp is made from hardwood that is chemically treated before grinding to reduce the lignin content; this process can be used to produce anything from coarse cardboard to reasonably good quality paper. Chemical pulp has been cooked with chemicals to break down lignin and other materials, and can yield very high grade paper. Each of the three basic processes--soda, sulphite and sulphate--produces papers with different properties, fibers from different processes are sometimes combined to produce a paper of specific qualities.

It is often surprising that paper over 150 years old may be in better condition than paper barely 50 years old. One reason is that wood pulp paper was not commonly produced until after 1840; cotton or linen paper made before that time contains no acid, and so is quite stable. It is the acid content in newsprint which embrittles the paper in a relatively short time, and the acid transferred from wood or cardboard mounts which can destroy artifacts on paper in short order. For that reason, material used in museums, libraries, and archives are sometimes all-rag, and usually acid-free. Wrapping paper, glassing, and tissue are not successfully made from cotton and linen fibers, but they can be made safe and stable through careful processing and the addition of alkaline buffers to de-acidify the material. Mounting and mat boards are available in all-rag formulation, and a few companies have developed safe colored boards, as well as the common white and ivory tones.

There are other materials harmful to the health of paper and at the top of the list are rubber cement and pressure-sensitive tape. Both adhesives tend to dry out and lose adhesion, leaving behind a dark stain. In applying hinges or repairs to paper, the recommended adhesive is still rice or wheat starch paste; the paste must be mixed fresh for each usage, and may be less convenient than other adhesives, but it will definitely not turn acidic and harm paper. Valuable paper items should never by dry mounted or otherwise rigidly attached to a support; patching and laminating of damaged paper should be left to experts. When framing a paper artifact, the object must be separated from the glass or Plexiglas by a mat, or at least by narrow skims at the edges of the mounting board. If the surface of the paper is against glass, there is a good chance that condensation will form and the paper will adhere partially to the glass.

The primary care of paper is best summed up by the fice practices given below (from Perguldbeck's Care of Historical Collections):

(1) Avoid exposure to fluctuations in relative humidity, which results in cockling or buckling.

(2) Avoid constant exposure to light, expecially sunlight and fluorescent light, both of which are strong in ultraviolet rays and cause fading and brittleness.

(3) Avoid dampness, especially with coated or enamel finish papers which will stick together.

Oh, My Aching Book, Part II (continued)

(4) Store documents and prints flat rather than upright, and in proper storage boxes to keep edges from being torn, frayed, or bent.

(5) Check the storage are periodically for insect infestation and keep the area dusted and vacummed.

Bruce MacLeish contributed the above article.

Check College and Research Libraries News, No. 11, December, 1977, page 331 for a short article on the Helm-Cravens' COM Catalog.

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