Oesterle Library has a new resource, unique in the world, and it’s one that I very much hope everyone takes a little time to get to know. For the first time ever, the entirety of the North Central Chronicle is available, in searchable online full text, from the first issue in 1873 through May of 2008. The files are full page PDF scans of the actual newspaper, captured in high resolution, and are really impressive to see.

The search engine is integrated as part of the project, which has been overseen by Kim Butler, North Central’s Archivist and the paper is freely available via the Web. You can search by all the normal methods: dates, keywords, and combinations. There are also links to smaller thumbnail images of the text that allow for a better sense of what the articles will look like before you choose to open them.

What you’ll find in the Chronicle is amazing. It’s interesting to search among the earliest editions of the paper to see how things have changed, both on campus and on the pages of the paper itself. Also fascinating is to choose important dates in history and then search around that timeframe to see how the Chronicle covered the important stories of the day. Of course, interspersed among those important topics you’ll also find the same kinds of articles the Chronicle features today: events on campus, interviews, and a view of the time and place that was difficult to acquire before this resource was available.

We’d like to particularly thank Marguerite Waters, the Sesquicentennial Coordinator and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Rick Spencer for their support of this project! You’ll find the North Central Chronicle under “Find Articles” on the library website!

John J. Small
Clare and Lucy Oesterle Director of Library Services

JOHN SMALL RECEIVES ENDOURED CHAIR

John Small received the second Clare and Lucy Oesterle Director of Library Services endowed chair at a faculty meeting on October 16. Trustee Jeffrey Oesterle ’76 was on hand for the presentation. Oesterle’s father, Clare, a 1939 graduate of North Central, member and chairman of the College’s Board of Trustees, presented the first endowed chair to Carolyn Sheehy in October 1992. The college library was renamed in honor of Oesterle and his late wife, Lucy, in 1983, and the endowed directorship furthers the Oesterle family connection to Library Services on campus.
LIBRARY SERVICES STAFF: COMINGS AND GOINGS

A familiar face to the campus community, Aimee Sayles Walker ’06 has returned to Oesterle Library in the full-time position of Coordinator of User Experience. This position, formerly held by Ryan Williams, has been retooled from Information Services Librarian, to better reflect the current heavy emphasis on technology now inherent in the job. She will serve as library liaison to the Division of Economics and Business. Aimee has most recently worked as the Instruction Librarian at the University of St. Francis. While she was a student at North Central she served as both Library Student Assistant and Student Coordinator. Upon graduation she moved on to Dominican University to earn her master of library and information science degree, working as one of Oesterle Library’s two part-time Reference Services Librarians at the same time. Aimee finished her degree in December 2007, after completing a library practicum fall term with Rosemary Henders, Instructional Services Librarian. She has served on a national library instruction conference planning committee for LOEX 2008 and is currently a member of a statewide committee, the I-Share Instruction Team, providing continuing education experiences for the members of The Consortium of College and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI). Aimee enthused, "I'm so excited to be back on the campus I call home.  I'm looking forward to working with the faculty in the Division of Economics and Business and implementing new and exciting library technologies that will benefit the entire campus community."

Also returning to Oesterle Library is Janet Miranda, in the role of part-time Reference Services Librarian, a position she previously held before moving to the Carol Stream Public Library. Janet stated, “I am very excited to be returning to Oesterle Library.  I miss working with the students and look forward to helping them with their research needs.” She brings a wide variety of experience to her job, having worked in both public services and technical services in large and small academic libraries. She has a BA from Northern Illinois University in English and journalism and earned a Master of Library and Information Science degree at Dominican University in 1996.

PHOTO CONTEST: THIS IS MY CENTRAL

New presidents are not the only ones espousing change. It’s inevitable that a new library director will want to make changes, striving to make the library reflect his personality, philosophy, and vision. John Small, Clare and Lucy Oesterle Director of Library Services, is no exception. One of John’s initial observations was, “I've been giving some thought to the relatively bare walls in the library, and have come up with a plan. We're going to have a small contest, and while participation is completely optional, I do hope that all of you will give it a try.” And thus the first ever Library Photo Contest was born. The theme of the contest was: This is MY Central. Judges were: John Small, because he’s the boss, and Tom Gill, by virtue of his photographic talents and fine arts background and degree. The winner, out of a pool of extremely talented photographers, was Jan Smallwood, Oesterle Library Secretary, for “Ride and Read.” Jan explained that the campus “Cardinal Red Bikes” program began about the same time she took up biking, creating a special bond with North Central’s eco-friendly shared bike program. The winning photograph, reproduced here, hangs in the library’s Reference Room. The photo contest is an ongoing, seasonal event. The winter term contest requires some aspect of (what else?) winter to be in the photo. The winner will be announced in the spring edition of EX LIBRIS.

THE GALLERY OF OESTERLE LIBRARY FALL EXHIBITS

The Gallery of Oesterle Library will present seven art exhibits throughout the academic year, featuring paintings, sculptures, photography, drawings, ceramics and various mixed media by local and international professional artists and by North Central College senior art majors. Winter term exhibits include:

Jing Zhou - “Ch’an Mind, Zen Mind” January 11 to February 20, 2009
Jing Zhou, a Chinese artist and member of the art and design faculty at Monmouth University, creates images that are computer-generated artworks, incorporating traditional art forms, such as photography, painting, printmaking and drawing.

Jack Siegel - “Places and Faces” February 22 to April 3, 2009
A modernist painter with influences by the great 19th and early 20th century painters, Jack Siegel creates colorful scenes of people, places or whatever inspires him.
Spice up Your Presentations with Pictures, Video, and Sound

Not only does Instructional Media provide audiovisual equipment to the College, we can also help you learn to create content for your courses or web pages. Our digital still cameras and digital video cameras may be borrowed to capture college events that you may wish to share with students, other classes or the world. Once you have the video or still images on your tape or memory card, you can edit them in the Instructional Media Lab. The lab is available Monday –Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. when the Instructional Media Coordinator is on campus. The lab includes software to scan documents, photos and 35mm slides, edit photos with Photoshop, create Flash content, edit and create video for DVD or the web, make web pages, duplicate and/or convert VHS and DVDs. We can even convert music from cassette tapes and records into MP3 or CD!

Need a quick lesson on creating a presentation or using a piece of equipment? New items are always being added to the “How To” section of the Instructional Media web page. How to convert cassettes or records to MP3, adding audio and video to PowerPoint, and digital photography basics are just a few of the new “How To” instructional pages and videos available on our web site. Check it out at http://library.noctrl.edu/instructional_media/instructions.htm!

If you have an idea for a project but aren’t sure how to begin, contact Tom Gill, Instructional Media Coordinator for help; he will be happy to help you create an interesting and useful multimedia project.

For more information about Instructional Media, or to reserve equipment, please visit our web page at http://library.noctrl.edu/instructional_media/.

HIDDEN GEMS: CURIOUS ARTIFACTS FROM LITTLE KNOWN COLLECTIONS
By: Kim Butler

Gertrude Hildreth Diaries

A descendent of the college’s first President, A. A. Smith, Gertrude Hildreth ’20 was the first woman graduate of North Central College to earn a Ph. D., a degree in educational psychology from Columbia University in 1925. During her professional career, she became known as a leading authority in the educational testing field. While her professional papers are at the Educational Testing Service archives in Princeton, N.J., her personal papers were donated to her alma mater in 2005. The diaries in this series particularly pertain to Dr. Hildreth's life following retirement from Brooklyn College.

The diaries contain nearly daily entries from Dr. Hildreth's overseas residences in Istanbul, where she taught at the University of Istanbul as a Fullbright Scholar during the 1959-1960 school year, and Beirut, where she was a member of the faculty of the American University from 1964 to 1968. Dr. Hildreth appears to have begun keeping these diaries as a series of travel journals and she used them to record what she saw, did, and even her thoughts on a myriad number of issues. Subjects in the diary entries range from the weather, local flora, her health and daily exercise, to dramatic events such as the evacuation of Americans from Beirut and travel difficulties in Cold War Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

ARCHIVES EXHIBIT: by Kim Butler

The Archives exhibit in the lobby of Oesterle Library winter term follows the development of the music program at North Central College. An instructor of music was one of the early positions, filled in 1862 by Henry C. Smith. Music was a part of the oratory contests throughout the 19th century and as the 20th century began, men’s and women’s glee clubs, orchestras, and choirs were organized. Pfeiffer Hall’s construction in 1926 included a beautiful pipe organ. In 1970, due to financial conditions of the College and changing desires in higher education, the College cut its bachelor of music and music education degrees. In more recent times, however, the College’s music program has experienced a renewal with new faculty, groups, and the construction of the Wentz Concert Hall. The rich heritage of music at the College is told through a display of programs, photographs, and artifacts from the College Archives.
The College has begun plans to celebrate its 150th anniversary in the 2011-2012 academic year. Leading up to this event, the College will be sharing its history through various outlets. In this column “From the Archives: 50 Years Ago This Term,” Kim Butler, the College Archivist, will highlight items of interest that happened 50 years ago in the history of the College.

In December 2008, the Archives had the North Central Chronicle converted into a digital format for increased accessibility. For the first time ever, the Chronicle is now keyword searchable and delivered via the library web site under “Find Articles.” The image for this article was copied from the digital version of the March 20, 1959 issue of the Chronicle.

Fifty years ago marked the glory days of the men’s swimming program at North Central. In March 1959, the North Central College men’s swimming team traveled to Muncie, Indiana to defend their national title, first won in 1958. The team came in 2nd in 1959 and 1960, but came back to win three consecutive NAIA titles in 1961, 1962, and 1963. The team’s dominance is not entirely surprising given the individuals involved. Several, including Dick Blick, Rueben Roca, Jim Hartzell, Ernie Alix, John Molitor, and Jim Rank were All-Americans and individual and relay team national champions during the 1958 through 1963 era. Both Dick Blick and Rueben Roca competed in the 1960 Olympic games, with Blick winning a gold medal for the USA. All have been included in the North Central College Athletic Hall of Fame, accessible through the College’s website at: http://www.northcentralcollege.edu/x4804.xml.

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EX LIBRIS: From the Library is published Fall, Winter and Spring Terms. Also available online at the library’s Web site: http://www.nocirl.edu/library_ncc/about_us/exlibris/exlibris.htm

Editor: Rosemary Henders; Graphics: Tom Gill

Please address correspondence to: Oesterle Library/ North Central College
320 E. School St., Naperville, IL 60540. Telephone: (630) 637-5700