The books in the Dezember Reading Room showcase three collections that librarians consider unique and illustrate that, despite the digital revolution, the printed book remains the key to the transfer of knowledge at a university. Everyone knows that the digital revolution has changed the way libraries do business, but in academic university libraries, books remain central to the academic mission. "The World Wide Web changed everything," said Library Dean Rod Hersberger, who, along with Librarian and Reference Services Coordinator Johanna Alexander discussed the effect of the digital revolution on libraries with Valley Public Radio’s Quality of Life host Terry Phillips on April 6. "We have very few print journals anymore, but academic libraries continue to rely on books very heavily, particularly in some of the traditional liberal arts like religion, philosophy, economics, and, of course, history and literature. We have strong and growing collections in those areas and we expect students will continue to use those for a long time."

Hardware such as Kindle and iPad now make accessing digital books convenient but they will not be able to replace the printed word until millions of academic books are available in digital format. The Dezember Reading Room is a great resource for students to explore these unique collections.

Librarian presents research findings at Denver conference

Librarian Sarah Fay Philips presented a paper at the First Year Experience (FYE) Conference in Denver earlier this year. The CSUB First Year Experience program requires all first-time freshmen to take CSUB 101, a ten-week course to introduce them to important skills and resources on campus so they can be successful. Since hiring Philips as Outreach and First Year Experience Librarian, the role of the library in the CSUB 101 course has been expanded.

The paper, presented by Philips and CSUB FYE program coordinator Emerson Case, discussed embedding information literacy modules into introductory classes at CSUB.

Philips and Case described rough data from pre and post tests which illustrated the comparisons between the CSUB 101 sections that had only one day with a librarian and the ones with more extensive information literacy instruction. The session was very successful with extensive audience participation and discussion continuing after the session ended. Philips was able to attend a number of sessions on libraries working with first-year students at the FYE Conference. She was inspired by a number of ideas about how the library can better serve our population of new students. Some of the ideas include expanding the First Year Experience Book Collection in the Dezember Reading Room.
Long-time CSUB Librarian Dies

Long-time CSUB librarian David Kosakowski died of cancer on March 18. The 61-year-old senior assistant librarian had been a member of the library faculty since 1977.

“David will be missed,” said Library Dean Rod Hersberger. “Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.” He went on to describe David as an innovative librarian who, as collection development coordinator, helped guide the library through difficult budget times.

David earned three master’s degrees—an MA in History and an MLS in Library Science from State University of New York, Albany, and a MPA in Public Administration from CSUB. He was originally from upstate New York.

Over the years, David held a variety of leadership and coordinating positions in the Library. He was the Library’s first expert in online searching and later its systems librarian. He developed several popular library research courses. David was also a founding board member and treasurer for the Foreign Language International Film Society (FLICS). On February 10, FLICS honored David with a star in his name on the sidewalk in front of the historic Fox Theatre in Downtown Bakersfield.

Poet held public reading in Library

Poet Eric Gudas read for the California Writers Series this spring in the Dezember Room of the Walter Stiern Library and drew a large audience.


His poetry has been widely acclaimed by other writers.

The California Writers Series, begun in 2006, is sponsored by the Walter Stiern Library, Associated Students, Inc., the CSUB English Department and Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honors Society. Previous readers have included Kay Ryan, Wanda Coleman, Joe Wenderoth, Susana Chavez-Silverman, Pam Houston, Ngugi wa Thiong’o, Brian Turner, Aimee Phan, Frank Bidart, and Alex Espinoza.

Conference (continued from page 1)

Reading Room, highlighting basic library sources on the upcoming FYE Learning Communities website, and making sure that our library instruction is organized more effectively, building skills from Summer Bridge through English Composition.

Philips and Case have also been asked to present their findings for a web conference on First Year Experience programs because the organizers had yet to find a program that had so effectively imbedded information literacy in an FYE program. The web conference, scheduled for late May, will have attendees from a variety of colleges and universities from all over the United States.

As CSUB focuses on serving larger classes of first time freshman it is important that the library has a voice and evidence of success in our instruction with this population. Librarians continue to develop the information literacy component of the FYE program at CSUB.

Books (continued from page 1)

Titles can be purchased or downloaded, the Dean said. The breadth and depth of academic content available electronically will have to expand exponentially before that can happen.

However, the library does maintain a substantial collection of electronic books associated with research databases. And many government documents are only available electronically. Some librarians argue that instead of replacing books, digital materials represent a third format.

The broadcast is available at the Valley Public Radio website at www.kvpr.org, under the Programs. The Quality Literacy in an FYE program. The web conference, scheduled for late May, will have attendees from a variety of colleges and universities from all over the United States.

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