President's budget includes $10 million to recruit new librarians

President Bush's FY 2003 budget contains an increase over last year of $15.8 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), $10 million of which is earmarked for a new initiative to recruit and train a new generation of librarians. Based on census data, more than one-quarter of all librarians with master's degrees will reach retirement age before 2009. This does not take into account early retirement, death, or other reasons for leaving the profession before the age of 65.

The IMLS initiative, 21st Century Librarians, will support scholarships and fellowships in support of master's programs; doctoral students, who will be the professors teaching the next generation of librarians; distance learning technology to support training programs for librarians in underserved rural areas; and recruitment of a diverse and skilled workforce, including librarians with diverse language skills and up-to-date technical knowledge.

ebrary launches international library program

Digital library provider ebrary has rolled out its ebrarian product to 36 pilot libraries, including Stanford University Libraries and Academic Information Resources, Yale University Library, and the 34 members of California's Peninsula Library System, and expects to make the product available to libraries worldwide during the first quarter of 2002.
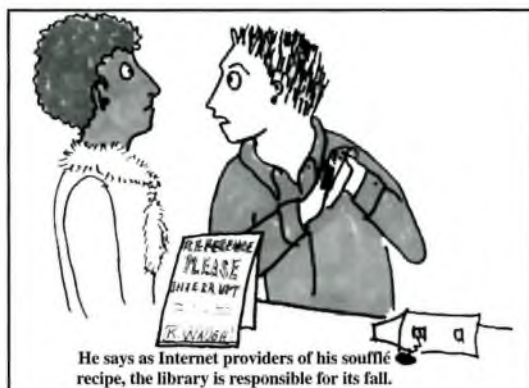
ebrarian offers patrons unlimited multiuser access to copyright protected books, journals, and other documents from more than 100 publishers, including Elsevier Science Publishing, The McGraw-Hill Companies, Random House, Harvard University Press, Cambridge University Press, and Penguin Classics. The collection includes 5,000 titles in subject areas such as language and literature, social science, medicine, history, science and technology, and philosophy.

ebrarian is delivered through custom, cobranded Web sites, which are created, hosted, and maintained by ebrary. The system is designed to integrate with libraries' existing workflow, digital resources, and catalog and administrative processes, specifically through full MARC records for all titles in the ebrary repository. ebrarian is based on the portable document format (PDF), which is used by the majority of printing houses worldwide and ensures that documents maintain the look and feel of the originals, and includes research tools that allow users to interact with content at the word level.

CIC brings 19th-century American fiction online

Through a cooperative digitization project of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), more than 1,700 works of 19th-century American fiction are now online, with full text and images, and searchable. Compiled by Lyle Wright in his landmark 1957 bibliography, *American Fiction 1851–1875,* the digitized works include novels, novelettes, romances, short stories, tall tales, and allegories. The bibliography is part of Wright's three-volume work listing American fiction from 1774 through 1900, considered to be the best bibliography of American adult fiction of the 18th and 19th centuries.

The project, which will ultimately include nearly 3,000 works, involves a complex se-

He says as Internet providers of his soufflé recipe, the library is responsible for its fall.

They're not just using Web sites: A citation study of 116 student papers

A fear often expressed by today's academic librarians is that students at their institutions are using Web sites at the expense of more reputable resources, such as books and journals. In order to study just how true this perception might be at the College of Mount St. Joseph, a private college with an enrollment of 2,500, I requested faculty to forward to me bibliographies of student papers. Six faculty members, each from a different discipline, responded, leaving me to compile statistics from a total of 116 papers. The results from this sample are discussed below.

As Table 1 indicates, the papers yielded 854 citations. A look at the totals reveals that the traditional research sources, articles and books, remain those most often used. Together they made up 76 percent of the citations, Web sites accounting for the remaining 24 percent. Exceptions to this pattern are the sociology and humanities papers, for which Web sites were used more than any other resource.

No consistent pattern emerged from an examination of course levels for the papers submitted. The only upper-level courses were those from humanities and religion. The physical therapy and nursing courses were mid-level, and those from sociology and chemistry were lower level. Resource requirements outlined by instructors varied from course to course and had a more profound effect.

The physical therapy instructor did not allow the use of any Web sites; the nursing instructor required that students obtain her permission to use them as sources for their papers. As the numbers in Table 1 indicate, the instructors in the other disciplines adopted a more lenient stance.

Certainly the addition of Web sites has influenced how students conduct research. If my institution is any true indicator, faculty acceptance of Web sites as legitimate resources is by no means universal, but seems to have become valid for many. Students have embraced Web sites and seem to use them with books and articles. For the time being, however, the more traditional resources remain in the ascendancy.—*Paul O. Jenkins, College of Mount St. Joseph, Paul_Jenkins@mail.msj.edu*

Table 1. Percentage of citations by resource type

Discipline	Citations	Articles	Books	Web Sites
Sociology	260	20%	36%	44%
Physical Therapy	234	82%	18%	0%
Religion	149	20%	54%	26%
Humanities	83	11%	42%	47%
Nursing	66	41%	56%	3%
Chemistry	62	48%	27%	24%
Totals	854	41%	35%	24%

ries of steps, including digitizing the microfilm, converting more than 400,000 page images to text, correcting any errors resulting from the optical character recognition software, and creating the search feature.

Works currently available online are from authors such as Bret Harte, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Washington Irving.

Indiana University's Digital Library Program is the project host for *Wright American Fiction*, which is freely available on the Web at http://www.letrs.indiana.edu/web/w/wright2/.

New Web site profiles Sanford Berman Papers at UIUC

The personal papers of prominent library cataloger and activist Sanford Berman are now profiled in a Web site at the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Maintained by the University Archives, the Web site highlights the career of Berman, former cataloger at the Southdale Hennepin County Library in Minnesota and best known for successfully challenging the outdated terminology of widely accepted library catalog subject headings.

The Berman Papers are part of the ALA Archives held by the UIUC library and pro-

vide an unvarnished look at controversial issues, such as censorship and the socioeconomics of information. The Web site, developed by Madeline Douglass, a librarian who worked with Berman at the Southdale Hennepin County Library, offers a glimpse into the rich primary source materials held in the ALA Archives. The site is available at http://web.library.uiuc.edu/ahx/ead/ala/9701040a/berman/intro.html.

Northeastern University creates Cyber Cafe in library

Designed as a technology gateway, Northeastern University's Cyber Cafe in Boston was carved out of an area of the Snell Library that was once a reserve reading room. The cafe contains an "e-bar," which hosts 6 flat-screen computers, an adjacent computer lab with 25 additional computer stations, and another 70 stations down the hall.

Responding to requests by students, Northeastern and the cafe's designers, Prellwitz/Chilinski Associates of Cambridge, provided laptop accomodations, network connections, and Internet access on all public computers at the e-bar. The Cyber Cafe also includes booth seating and oversized group work spaces, which have become some of the most popular places in the library to study.

Students using the e-bar at Northeastern University's Cyber Cafe. The e-bar is the physical hub of the space, hosting six flat-screen computers surrounded by comfortable lounge seating and study spaces.

The cafe combines warm, vibrant colors with wood textures and metals to create a space that more resembles an urban coffee shop than an academic library space. Besides access to technology, one of the main attractions of the Cyber Cafe has been the introduction of food into the library. Beverages, salads, sushi, bakery goods, fruit, and yogurt are available 12 hours a day, with self-serve vending machines available 24 hours a day.

The Cyber Cafe has become a popular 24/7 destination on campus for small groups, individual studying, and socializing, with 200 to 300 people coming through the doors overnight. The Cyber Cafe has brought a renewed focus to the Snell Library as the heart of learning on Northeastern's campus.

NISO establishes Networked Reference Services Committee

The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) is organizing a new committee to develop standards that will enable interoperable, networked reference services.

The committee will be formed into two teams. One will develop a question processing transaction protocol for interchange of messages between digital reference domains, which will support processing and routing of questions and responses and packaging of other information to be exchanged. The other will build a metadata element set to identify and describe key components of both question and answer data and institutional and personal data.

The Networked Reference Services Committee will be chaired by Sally H. McCallum of the Library of Congress. NISO standards are developed by consensus under the guidance of experts and practitioners in the field to meet the needs of both the information user and the producer.

Baker & Taylor and Alibris help libraries acquire hard-to-find books

Users of Baker & Taylor's The Title Source II product now have access to Alibris' inventory of out-of-print and rare books. The Title Source II will display Alibris' current inventory of nearly 400,000 out-of print, publisher out of business, unable to locate publisher, publication cancelled, or apply direct titles. Librarians considering rare or out-of-print books are able to link directly from The Title Source II's bibliographic records to Alibris' listings on its fulfillment Web site.

College of William and Mary library undergoes renovation

A major expansion and renovation project underway at the College of William and Mary's Swem Library includes a 98,000-gross-square-foot addition to the library and a complete renovation of the existing 168,000 gross square footage. Funded by a $24.1 million appropriation from the Virginia General Assembly, the project is designed to redefine the needs of a library of the 21st century. An additional $6 million of private money is funding a 20,000-gross-square-foot pavilion that will house the library's manuscripts, rare books, University Archives, and Warren E. Burger Collection.

The library's infrastructure is being updated to accommodate developing technologies and provide space for new print and electronic acquisitions, increased microform and multimedia collections, special collections, and general user areas. All of the environmental systems within the library are undergoing significant upgrades to preserve valuable materials and to add to the general comfort levels of users and staff. One of the highlights of the new facility is the Information Commons on the first floor, with clusters of integrated computer stations and collaborative study rooms.

The new addition, consisting of two attached pavilions on the east side of the library, is complete. The entire building and renovation project, which began in 1999, is expected to be completed by summer of 2004. ∎

RBMS to offer 43rd preconference in Atlanta

Special collections librarians are undertaking new responsibilities and duties, and learning new ways of doing things. This includes coping with ever-changing technology and interacting with new types of users and new methodologies of research. Access is being digitized and collections are being commodifed. Prospective professionals have fewer educational and employment opportunities and are becoming more difficult to recruit.

Special collections must now compete harder for the financial and institutional commitment that they have so long enjoyed.

ACRL invites you to explore the changing role of special collections librarians during the 43rd Rare Books and Manuscripts Section preconference, to be held June 11–14, 2002, in Atlanta, Georgia. Entitled "New Occasions, New Duties: Changing Roles and Expectations in Special Collections," the preconference will examine the different aspects and implications of change, and show ways in which special collections librarians can take advantage of change for their own use and development.

Preconference sessions will be a combination of plenary sessions, short papers, and seminars. Speakers include Carla J. Stoffle, dean of libraries and Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona; Robert L. Byrd, director of the Duke University Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library; Michael Lomax, president of Dillard University; and James Vinson Carmichael Jr., Department of Library and Information Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The preconference will be held at the historic Georgian Terrace Hotel and Emory University. Housing is available at both the Georgian Terrace and in the Emory University dorms. Attendees will also have the opportunity to visit the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum, and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site.

Registration materials are available. Additional information about the preconference is available on the RBMS Web site at http://www.rbms.nd.edu/.

For more information, contact program chair Nora Quinlan (e-mail: nora@nova.edu) or the local arrangements cochairs Steve Enniss (e-mail: librse@emory.edu) and Laura Micham (e-mail: lmicham@zemory.edu). ∎