LINC network progress:
Grolier’s on-line, Pardee soon

By Les Lloyd

During the winter break, much work was accomplished on our campus network:
- On the LINC main menu, there is a new choice, Grolier’s Encyclopedia. The text of the encyclopedia, which will be updated quarterly, was purchased from Grolier. From any PC connected to the network, whether in an Academic Computing site, a faculty office, or a student room, you can search the entire text (over 30,000 articles) of the encyclopedia.

What’s inside —
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- Listserver functions on LINC
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Paul Galvin ’91 wrote the search software. Options provided include searching through the index (the article titles) or looking through the text of each article (an exhausting and time-consuming process). You can read any of the articles on the screen. Future enhancements will include the ability to download articles to a PC disk for reference information.

If you cite the on-line encyclopedia in a bibliography, use the following format:
(The date of the last update will always appear on the first screen of the Grolier’s program.)

- David McCandless ’90 has just about completed the conversion of the UNIX news system for the LINC server. This means you will be able to access from the LINC main menu any of the hundreds of newsgroups UNIX has long been known to provide. Watch for that addition very soon!
- Upgrades to the Career Planning software are discussed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Campus Network updates
- The internal design of the cabling for Pardee Hall has been completed and is with a construction company. They will begin the wiring shortly.
- The fiber-optic cable design has been completed. As soon as the cable is in stock, the construction company will begin by connecting Pardee and Skillman, plus the five residence halls that were wired last summer.
to AHE. That will provide the people in those buildings with access to LINC and our other mini-computers.

- Both Pardee 218 (the computer classroom) and AHE 310 have been networked! Faculty interested in using the functions of the network in Pardee 218 can contact Tracy Logan for information. Users will notice that there are additional menus on the systems (similar to the ones in the networked classroom in Skillman).

When these systems are booted up, a network screen will appear asking for a user-id. The name you should use is on a label on the front of the computer you are using. You will be logged onto the network and be presented with the PC network menu. Among the choices are SAS and MENU. If you will not be using SAS, choose MENU and you will get the usual Academic Computing Services PC menu you have been used to. The only difference is that it will tell you it is the Network Menu at the top of the screen—all the software should run just as it did before. The advantage is that files can be shared with others in the room (and eventually anywhere on campus). Also, since the software all runs off a network PC server, there is only one copy of the software to update. If there is ever a problem, only one computer would need to be updated, instead of 20, 50 or 150! This is one of the key advantages of networking, for Academic Computing and for users.

Implications of the Pardee wiring

Student employees will soon begin placing token-ring boards and related software in faculty PCs in Pardee Hall. When the fiber and internal wiring are complete, we will instruct faculty on how to use the new connections. Batch files will provide immediate connection to the VAX, UNIX or LINC systems with no other modifications necessary to individual PCs. Later, as time permits and faculty are interested in additional functions, we will begin to create the same PC menus on faculty systems as are used in the networked classrooms. This would allow a faculty member to connect to any server on campus, perhaps accessing a CD-ROM in AHE or Skillman, software in Pardee: something else in Simon. The process is evolutionary, and we don’t expect to push anyone faster than they wish! The need for electronic mail will probably do that by itself!

Student rooms with network connections will be handled much the same way as the above. If students wish to connect when their hall is completed, we will install the PC board and provide the software necessary to use LINC. We will wait until the Fall to install the PC-LAN software on student machines, though.

If you have questions about this process, or about the functions or capabilities of the network, contact Patrick Ciriello, ext. 5503.

Upgrading to WordPerfect 5.1?

WordPerfect on ACS computers will stay the same through spring. We have no plans to move up to the newest version (5.1).

Because 5.1 provides a markedly better way of doing equations, some departments may want to upgrade immediately. We have a limited number of copies of 5.1 for purchase at an educational discount. But beyond that, purchasers of 5.1 will be on their own, as we will not be in a position to support it this semester.

The software library has the book WordPerfect from 5.0 to 5.1, if you’d like to read more about the newest version.

Should you upgrade to 5.1?

That question was raised on the BITNET list WP50-L, and the two best-written opinions submitted were:

"If you really truly need some of the new features, buy it. If you buy everything with new features because it’s the American Way, buy it. If you’re a sensible user, i.e. very much in the minority, forget it." —Norman Miller, Trinity College.

"I’ve been using WordPerfect 5.1 for about a week now, and I frankly can’t imagine not wanting to upgrade. It seems to me that the only people who would not benefit from an upgrade are those whose word processing needs
are extremely basic—simple letters and memos using the default format settings. Any use of the program more sophisticated than that will benefit from several of WordPerfect’s thoughtful enhancements. Believe it or not, I'm not normally one to gush, but 5.1 looks like an obvious way to go for almost any 5.0 user.” — Paul Knight, Princeton University.

Listserver functions available on LINC

Although E-mail to BITNET and other nets has been flowing reliably, the LINC mail system has not been able to communicate successfully with list servers. That roadblock is now gone.

Using LS, a new option on LINC's main menu, you can easily send messages to list servers. You can subscribe to electronic magazines and mailing lists, access archives, and transact other business.

LS works much like mail, though the sending operation is more like the one you use for posting something to LINC's B-Boards. Read the screen carefully the first time you use LS and you'll have no trouble.

If you are unfamiliar with the operation of list servers, see the help available on LINC. And if you are wondering what on earth list servers are, and what purpose they serve, read the article "Electronic mailing lists" elsewhere in this issue.

Nota Bene software at bargain prices

Lafayette faculty, students, and staff can now acquire the Nota Bene wordprocessing package for $199 (regular price $495). Nota Bene is widely used by humanists, social scientists, and attorneys. For a description and order form, see Dale Oswald or James Woolley.

Nota Bene users at Lafayette include Jim Lusardi, June Schlueuter, David Johnson, Randall Knoper, James Woolley, Stephen Lammer, Howard Marblestone, and Jill Riefenstahl.

ACS student employees promoted

Academic Computing employs almost 60 students. We believe we have an outstanding group, but some rise above the rest. The following students have earned promotions:

To Level 5, the top category of student employee:

Paul Galvin has been promoted to Lead Technical Supervisor for his work for the LINC system on Career Planning, Campus Events, Grolier's Encyclopedia and much more. David McCandless, Rohini Sharma and Xiaofeng Pan promoted for programming and systems management. Amer Akhtar and Nik Sathe for site and student supervisors respectively. Tai Yeoh for Computer Repair Shop Assistant and Bala Ramanathan for all-around PC skills.

To Level 4:

Gabe Gagliano and Eric Ziegler promoted as outstanding new employees for systems work. Dan Murphy, Marco Principato and Anthony Barravecchio promoted for PC skills. Computer Repair Shop and Shop/networking efforts respectively.

Other students recognized for their contributions include Salil Athalye, Kopal Jha, Mike Recker, Tonia Simmonds, Rich Soto, and Ken Stemmler. Congratulations to all!

Career Planning program updates

During January, some enhancements were added to the Career Planning system. The two most visible ones are changes to the waiting-list procedure and the new, on-line resume service.

When you ask to be put on the waiting list
of a company, you will be asked for a one line description of what hours you are available during the day the company is on campus. Previously, you had to pick one specific time. Now you can write things like 8-10 am, 12-3 pm, 4-5 pm and Career Planning can place you in any available spot. They will then notify you of your interview by electronic or campus mail, or by phone call, depending on the time frame.

The on-line resume service, PROFILE, is available from the main menu of the Career Planning system. When you choose that option, you will be prompted for personal, school and employment information, including free-form fields called Activities and Honors, Personal Statement and Academic Statement. In these areas, you can write about special activities and any other items you would like potential employers to know about (study abroad, internships, etc).

The resume will be used in two ways. Career Planning will give the standardized resume generated by the program to employers in advance of the interview. It is often difficult to get resumes from all students before an employer comes to campus (you can bring your formal resume to the interview and hand it to the interviewer). Secondly, a magnetic tape of the resume information of all seniors who use the service will be sent to a firm that provides a database to companies around the country to search. So, you might get a call from a company that searched for specific information and found you!

In case of any problems or inquiries, seniors can always contact the Career Planning and Placement office by sending E-mail to CPP0. Seniors should make sure they regularly check their electronic mail (choice ML on the main LINC menu) and also check the Career Planning bulletin board on LINC. That is accessed by choosing IN from the main menu, then B-BOARDS, then CPP. Messages of interest to many people are posted on that bulletin board.

If you do not already have an account on LINC, go to any ACS computer site and locate a computer that offers the LINC (LOGON IBM) option. Press the appropriate key, and when prompted for the username, type NEW, then follow the prompts to create your new account.

LINC raffle winner

In November, ACS announced that the nifty telephone on display in the corridor of AHE would be given away to a student chosen at random from the first 500 students who signed up for a LINC account.

The number of LINC users hit the 500 mark in January, so we reached into the 'hat' and pulled out a winner: FLOO. In real life, that is Lori Frank '90, an electrical engineering major.

Standard software supported by ACS

By Les Lloyd

Academic Computing Service's job is to assist students, faculty and academic support staff in their use of computers for academic work. That is our broadly defined mission.

We support the software packages that are 'standard' on our campus (see list below), and will do our best with other software used as part of a course. (But if your department uses the word-processor MS-Word, for example, we will not be able to provide assistance.) That means we have to know, in advance, what software is being used in a course. Also, not everyone in ACS will be familiar with every package used on campus.

We offer short courses and provide documentation to assist you in using the standard software. And we can help you with purchases of PC's, printers and some of our standard, supported software. Hours for this service are posted each semester on the door of AHE 304.

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There are thousands of software packages on the market. Though we might be able to answer questions on some of them, it will at times be necessary to refer you to the manufacturer or place of purchase for answers.

**What we don’t do**

There are limitations to what we can do:

- We don’t do one-on-one tutoring. We offer workshops and provide documentation on our ‘standard software,’ and we can answer your questions when you have a problem, but we don’t have the resources to teach each person on campus our standard software individually.
- We don’t make ‘house calls.’ That means you should bring whatever the problem is to the Computer Center when possible.
- If something happens to a fixed or ‘floppy’ disk and you have not made the proper backups, we will not be able to help recover the disk. Recovery can take hours and each user has the responsibility of making backups. We can refer you to a student who can try to recover your files (for a fee).
- Except for lines directly connected to our mainframes, your department is responsible for all wired and modem lines in your office.
- Users of the administrative computing system should contact Administrative Data Processing for assistance with their questions about WordPerfect, Quattro, etc.

If you have a problem that falls outside our guidelines, we can refer you to a student who will work with you on an hourly-rate basis. Call Dale Oswald, ext. 5504.

**Networks, taste and censorship**

“Messages in questionable taste on computer networks pose thorny problems for college administrators,” reports *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. The spread of the new technology is raising issues of “privacy, censorship, ownership, and liability.”

Fortunately, not at Lafayette, at least not yet. But as our networking expansion continues, there’ll be more users and more opportunities for trouble. For instance, we will soon be providing access to the usenet network. Usenet brings in—from the wide wide world—much valuable material that is entirely innocuous. but there are categories and content that might be offensive to some or all readers on campus.

Or take our electronic bulletin boards. Any member of the Lafayette community may post a message on LINC’s B-Boards. Not so at Cornell, Princeton, SUNY Binghampton, or Nebraska. These colleges have decided to solve the “running conflict between freedom of expression and bad taste” by eliminating all bulletin boards except those initiated and monitored by administrators or faculty, reports *The Chronicle*.

The entire article (in the January 24 issue) is worth reading. You’ll find a wealth of paradigmatic incidents, reactions by admin-
administrators, and retreats from those reactions. While there are more questions than answers, the article ends on an upbeat note, provided by Peter Lyman, the director of the Center for Scholarly Technology at USC, who thinks the problems will solve themselves.

"The first people to use new technologies, he says, tend to be those who seek to challenge accepted standards....As the technology becomes more accepted, he adds, mainstream users take over, and impose mainstream standards." Or as a student observed, "now the world is watching us, and we can no longer be vulgar and idiotic with abandon. The issue is not 'free speech.' the issue is common sense."

Perhaps this is an appropriate point to remind all users of the LINC network about Lafayette's Network Usage Guidelines (LU on the menu), which state, among other things, that postings to public areas or private electronic mail messages that are offensive or abusive to others could result in revocation of network privileges. Disparaging racial or sexual remarks will not be tolerated.

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The Chaplain's Office is sponsoring a "brown-bag" discussion of the issues The Chronicle article addresses, on May 4.

How to avoid diskette trouble

By Nikhil Sathe '90

"Disk Error 31 reading drive A." This message has been the bane of a number of computer users here at Lafayette. It indicates serious trouble, perhaps even the loss of your file. There are many ways to save your nerves from the unnecessary strain of losing important documents — the most obvious being to back up all your work. Since you are going to depend on your backup copy in case of an emergency, please use reliable diskettes. If you are using a diskette that is over two years old, you should buy a new one!

Unfortunately, even users who do back up their work can run into trouble if they travel from site to site using different computers. From what I have noticed at the sites, the probability of disk trouble is considerably reduced if one stays with the same type of computer. That is, use only Model 25's (Skillman), only Model 50's (AHE 206 & Simon Center), or only Zeniths, etc.

Another likely source of trouble is the use of double-density 3½-inch diskettes formatted as high-density. And even if you use high-density diskettes, not all ACS computers are equipped with compatible drives. While many of the 3½-inch drives can read high-density diskettes, the computers in Skillman and most of the computers connected to laser-printers cannot. The high-density drives are all capable of reading double-density (regular) diskettes, but not vice-versa. Therefore, be safe and use double-density diskettes only.

As Murphy's Law predicts, something is bound to go wrong even when you take all the precautions. Sometimes, simple methods of 'fooling' the computer help. Here are a few of the do's and don'ts regarding disks:

- If in WordPerfect, don't change to another diskette if WordPerfect comes up with an error. This could result in messing up the new diskette too. Instead, try to save the document on the hard drive (usually drive C) of the computer. Exit WordPerfect and then copy the file from the hard drive onto a good diskette. The student assistant at the site can help you with these operations.
- The Zenith computers seem to be able to read 3½-inch disks that other computers' drives can't. It is always worth trying to read a 'bad' file on a Zenith.
- Copying the bad file onto another diskette sometimes helps in retrieving lost data. If you get a message "Abort. Retry. Ignore. Fail" choose 'Ignore' and if all goes well, the copied version may contain a good deal of usable information. However, if you get a General Failure error, this method might not work.

If all else fails and you have no backup copy to return to, you may want to hire an expert to try to recover your file using special software. To use this service, take the diskette to 310 AHE and fill out a disk recovery form. Fixing a 'simple fracture' costs $5 (all labor); if the disk is completely garbled, and the information extremely precious, you can pay an hourly
rate. Expect a turn-around time of a day, at a minimum.

The moral of the story: Save yourself trouble and BACK UP!

Nikhil Sathe is the ACS Student Supervisor.

Lafayette to host networking conference

The College will host a conference, "Using Computer Networks on Campus," in mid-June. It is a non-technical conference, focusing on ways campus computer-networks, like our LINC, can be utilized in the educational process.

Faculty, students, and academic computing personnel at other colleges have been invited, by letter and advertisement, to come share their ideas and experiences for academic and non-academic applications of networks.

For more information, contact Les Lloyd, ext. 5505.

Setting type with WordPerfect5

You can now do typesetting right here on campus, using WordPerfect5. If you already know WordPerfect (version 4 or 5), and feel comfortable using commands like Indent and Reveal Codes, it probably won't take you long to learn enough about the typesetting commands to get rolling.

In the September issue of Bytes & Books, we claimed that 'you can compose and view your document on any WordPerfect computer at any site.' In the turmoil of an especially busy semester, we never got the requisite files any farther than AHE 206, but a number of students learned to cope and made good use of the fonts for resumes and crucial papers.

You should be able to count on finding the files everywhere now. Please don't forget that you can View your work anywhere, but you can produce the final file, the one to take to a Laserjet11 printer, only on computers that have room for the font-files, which are huge.

The computers in Simon Center and the non-networked side of Skillman do not have sufficient room so cannot make the final file (FONTS.OUT).

If you are interested in trying out this new feature, the userguide "Typesetting Resumes with WordPerfect5," available in AHE 310, provides a step-by-step introduction and some typesetting hints. Included are two sample resume-fragments that are also available on disk (at the desk in 310) so you can peek to see how the tricks were done.

If you undertake a typesetting project, please remember that many student assistants are just about as new at it as you are. Don't attempt critical projects unless you are prepared for the consequences of being a pioneer!

Electronic mailing lists

A slightly edited version of an article by Allen Renear and James Mathiesen that first appeared in Brown University's The OPEN WINDOW, May 1989.

The international networking of university computer systems has resulted in new vehicles for communicating information in the academic world: electronic mailing lists.

Consider an example. A literary scholar in Toronto, Canada is trying to find allusions in a text and wonders whether there is a computer program that could help. He explains his problem in a letter which he sends from his local university computer over Bitnet to an electronic mailing list. Within minutes, his query is automatically copied and distributed via electronic mail to other scholars at institutions around the world who are also interested in using computers to study literature. By the end of the day hundreds of people read the request and several—from Chicago, Waltham, Philadelphia, and Providence—send responses. Not surprisingly, no one has a ready-to-ship allusion-finding program to offer, but many participants describe very interesting research projects or offer strategies for computer analysis of literary texts.

Over the next week the discussion
continues—participants suggest relevant books and articles and criticize proposed techniques. Soon, a related theoretical exchange on defining allusion ensues. The best definition, according to a classics scholar in Claremont, California, is offered in a paper by the contributor from Providence, a Miltonist turned software engineer. The participants now include scholars from England, Germany, and Holland as well as the United States and Canada.

A few years ago a passage like the above would have been a visionary promise of what the future would be like for academic computing. But the exchange just described not only actually occurred—on December 2-23, 1988 on the Humanist list—but such exchanges are now quite commonplace in many disciplines.

**Kinds of lists**

There are thousands of electronic mailing lists covering many disciplines and special topics. For instance, there is a list for geologists studying volcanos (VOLCANO), and one for critics studying Finnegans Wake (FWAKE-L). There is a list for plant molecular biology (PLANT) and a list for Gender and Communication (GENDER), a list for laser medicine (LASER) and a list for Latin-American Studies (LATIN). And so on.

Although electronic conferencing is still new and lists vary considerably in the quality of their contributions, at their best they provide the advantages of a traditional academic conference (timeliness and interaction) without the drawbacks (travel and scheduling). In fact, a Brown University faculty member in Cognitive Science has been quoted as saying that in his field, neural networks, announcements of cutting-edge research appear first in electronic lists, not the journals. The mechanisms of refereeing and publishing take so long that journal articles usually present results already familiar to researchers.

There are several kinds of lists. Some lists are forums, where any contribution is immediately distributed to all subscribers. Others are digests, where contributions are organized and sometimes edited by a moderator. A few of these digests are like regular scholarly journals, only accepting contributions that meet certain standards of relevance, originality, and quality. While most lists are open to automatic subscription by any Bitnet user, some have special requirements for subscription or for contribution.

**Some recommended academic lists**

Among the better academic lists are HUMANIST (humanities computing), MUSIC (use of computers in musicology and ethnomusicology), FINEART (computers in art, art history and museums), NL-KR (natural language and knowledge representation), and NEURON (neural networks). All of these are moderated digests. Some examples of good quality forums are PHILOSOP (topics in academic philosophy) and METHOD (statistics and research methodology). These tend to be faster paced but often uneven.

From the Articles database of CCNEWS, the Electronic Forum for Campus Computing Newsletter Editors, a BITNET-based service of EDUCOM.

**The Social Science Computing Association**

From an announcement by the nascent Social Science Computing Association:

“Most advanced statistical techniques now appear as independent computer programs years before commercial packages like SPSS ever adopt them, if they do at all. But now computers provide invaluable new tools for analysis of text, for datagraphics, for expert systems and artificial intelligence, not to mention that CD-ROM and online data now eclipse traditional social science data sources like ICPSR.”

Social scientists are invited to “keep up with this exploding field” by subscribing to the journal of this new association, the Social Science Computer Review. And to attend the Association’s organizational meeting, to be held at the Williamsburg conference this spring (see related story.)

For more information, contact Tracy Logan, ext. 5502.
Conference —

Advanced computing for the social sciences

Drawn from conference publicity-material received via BITNET:

"GOALS: This conference will serve as an ideal forum for industry, academia, and government social scientists to exchange ideas about the current trends, future directions, and applications that center around the rapidly advancing capabilities of electronic data capture, computation, analysis, and information processing. The conference will focus upon endeavors in social sciences that either advance or exploit the development of current computing technology.

"SPECIAL WORKSHOP: Jerry Mechling (Director of Strategic Computing and Telecommunications in the Public Sector, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University) will ... present thought-provoking statements about advanced computing in the Social Sciences.

"TUTORIALS: Knowledge Engineering, Hypertext, CD-ROM, Networking Technologies, Parallel Computation, Machine Learning, and Qualitative Analysis."

The conference will be at Williamsburg, Virginia, April 10-12, 1990: For a complete conference agenda, send an E-mail message to LFA@ORNLST (Lloyd F. Arrowood, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-6207)

At other colleges —

Laser-printing fees

The director of Academic Computing at Hiram College posted this question to ADVISE-L (a BITNET discussion list on user-services-topics):

"We have been allowing students virtually unrestricted access to laser printers for about 18 months now. This has been very popular with the students, but our laser printer costs are going through the roof. Has anyone developed a good system of charging on a 'per page' basis? We want to be fair to both heavy and casual users, and encourage more conservation of resources (e.g., don't use the laser printer to make 50 copies of some flyer)."

Here are some typical responses:

- "At Drew we have a publicly accessible HP Laserjet+ but we keep the paper tray behind the desk. If a student wishes to use it, we take an ID card for the tray and paper (if they didn't bring their own). When they return the tray, we ask them how many copies they made, and charge them $0.30 a sheet for using our paper, or $0.10 if they use their own. We also warn them we charge for all copies whether it's what they wanted or not."

- "Here at North Dakota State University we have students, staff, and faculty purchase a $5 punch card (50 punches) and charge $.10 per page of laser output from our public clusters. Of course, this means we have to staff our public clusters."

- "At Syracuse, we charge per page for laser printing. Coupons are purchased through the bookstore. Cost is $2 for 25 copies or $4 for 50 copies. Another method we thought of but did not try was to have users buy their own paper to use. We thought that this way people would not waste something they paid for."

- "At Franklin & Marshall we use the VendaCard from XCP, Inc. It has been a reliable system for almost four years now. There is the distinct advantage that this setup can be completely unattended. It also works in conjunction with several copiers on campus. We are a 2000 student college and have found these units to be cost effective."

- "At Oberlin College, non-laser output is free, but we do charge for laser output. One laser printer, an original LaserJet, has a coin box cabled between it and the attached MS-DOS computer so that the user inserts quarter(s) to complete the connection and receive output. The timing setting is generous, so that the person probably averages 10 pages per quarter, but it does weed out frivolous printing. The other LaserJet and the LaserWriter are located in our machine room: users have to claim their output at the Operator Service Window, at which time they pay 7 cents per page rounded to the nearest nickel, minimum charge 25 cents."

- "At the University of Texas at Austin, the
Computation Center offers individually funded accounts for its laser printing services: you put your money down first (a minimum of $5), then you're given an account number which is automatically billed every time you log on to the system (via modem, or at a computer or terminal in a Computation Center facility)—the rate is $.08/page (including one cover sheet for each job).

Similar schemes were reported for the University of Wisconsin, University of Glasgow, and several colleges in Ireland.

LIBRARY NOTES

Spring Exhibits in Skillman. “From Nast to Trudeau: 100 Years of American Political Cartoons” is the major exhibit in the Special Collections Reading Room for the spring semester. Mounted to coincide with the College's Comic Spirit Symposium, the exhibition will feature original drawings from some of America's most noted cartoonists. Hours are 1 to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, or by appointment.

In honor of Presidents' Month, the Library will be featuring selections from the sheet music collection on Abraham Lincoln. Look for these interesting pieces in the catalog area during February.

Full-text Newspapers Available. The full text of a number of major newspapers from cities throughout the United States is now available at Skillman Library. In addition to the newspapers received through the Library’s regular subscriptions, electronic access to newspapers from Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Chicago and a number of other cities is also available. The newspapers are especially useful for retrieving information about state and local politics and government, regional business news and other topics of local interest.

Among the newspapers included are the Los Angeles Times, the Miami Herald, the Chicago Tribune, the Detroit Free Press, the Allentown Morning Call and the Philadelphia Inquirer. Years of coverage included in the electronic file vary from newspaper to newspaper, but much of the coverage begins in the early 1980s. To find out whether newspapers from a particular city are included in the service or to schedule a search, please call the Reference Desk at ext. 5155.

Great Book Recall of 1989-1990. The recall of books for barcoding and closing of the old manual circulation system is entering its final stages. The library thanks all the faculty members who have returned the books checked out to them. We ask everyone who still has books to bring them in as soon as possible. We would like to finish this project by February 9. If you have questions concerning items that are checked out to you, please call the circulation desk, ext. 5151.

Research Assistants. The reference department is eager to help research assistants make the best use of the library. Any faculty member who is working with a new assistant or who wants to explore ways to increase his or her assistant's library productivity is urged to contact Richard Everett, ext. 5156, to discuss what the library can do for the assistant and/or schedule a one-to-one session for the assistant with a reference librarian.

Course Reserves. Please bring your course reserve material to the appropriate library as soon as possible. It does take some time to process reserves, especially lists which include personal copies and photocopies.

When adding material to a previously created reserve, make sure that the new material is at the circulation desk by 3 pm. if you expect students to read the new material that evening.

“You don't mean the library wants them back, do you?”

(Cartoon by Vivian Hixon. Reprinted from The Chronicle of Higher Education, with permission.)
‘Status’ —

Online catalog update

The status part of the information box of an online catalog screen display has been revised. The status for books available for use in the Libraries or for borrowing is stated as "AVAILABLE." Library patrons should check the shelf according to the location stated in the left part of the information box. This status applies to items in the general collections of Skillman & Kirby and all Reserve Desk items. The status "ASK AT DESK" is now used for items in Closed Stacks, Special Collections, and other areas with restricted shelf access by patrons. When an item is charged out the status will display the date the item is due. For further information, please consult library staff.

Vital Statistics. You may be interested to know the current size of the database. Combining both libraries, there are over 241,000 bibliographic records. This represents titles in the collections. There are nearly 78,000 words of more than 2 characters in the indexes. In an average week of a semester there are approximately 15,000 searches conducted on the catalog. The most frequent search is by subject and accounts for 35-40% of the total. Title searches are next in rank and account for about 30%; authors are third with 20-25%. Searches by call number or keyword account for the rest of the total.

Recent gifts
to Special Collections

English book illustration —
A large collection of works from the private library of Sumner H. Babcock '24 was presented to the Skillman Library on Homecoming Weekend this fall. Mr. Babcock presented the collection of nearly one hundred titles in memory of his wife Catharine Jones Babcock.

English book illustration, especially of the Victorian period, is the primary focus of the collection. The work of one of the most famous turn-of-the-century illustrators, Arthur Rackham, is represented by twenty-one titles, including a signed copy of Undine. Rackham was most noted for his illustrations of fairy tales, and his books have become classics, loved by all ages and prized by collectors. Another popular illustrator of the period, Hugh Thomson, is represented by twenty works, among them his most notable work Cranford by Mrs. Gaskell (1891). Other well-known illustrators included in the collection are Edmund Dulac; Edmund J. Sullivan, and Randolph Caldecott.

The Babcock Collection also contains some important rare works in the area of history and biography. Of particular note are William Douglass’s A Summary, Historical and Political of the First Planting, Progressive Improvements and Present State of the British Settlements in North America, etc. (London, 1760) and John Marshall’s Life of George Washington (London, 1804) and the Atlas to Marshall’s Life of Washington (Philadelphia).

Sumner Babcock, now a Trustee Emeritus of the College, has been a longtime friend of the Skillman Library. In 1963, when the Library was built, he contributed a seminar room and endowed a special book purchase fund. This latest gift will become part of the Rare Book Collection at Skillman and will be available to students and scholars.

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The Skillman Library was the beneficiary of two additional fine gifts this fall from two of our most generous Friends of the Library.

Early printing —
Mr. Eugene P. Pattberg '26, who has endowed a fund for preservation and has most recently been helping to establish a history of printing and typography collection, presented the library with its fourth piece of incunabula. The work, St. Thomas Aquinas’ Opus Aureum, was printed in Venice by Bonetus Locatellus in 1493. The date of publication places it in the first century of printing; known as the incunabula or cradle period, which makes it an especially valuable acquisition. It joins the College’s three other 500-year-old works in Special Collections.

The American Indian —
Through the good offices of Dr. Wilson E. Hughes ’38, the library was able to acquire the limited edition facsimile of George Catlin’s North American Indian Portfolio issued by the
Library of Congress and Abbeville Press this year. Made from the extremely rare American edition of 1845, the facsimile contains thirty-one of the artist's magnificent lithographs recording life on the great American plains. The American edition was selected for the facsimile because its colors differ markedly from the British edition—they are much bolder and more vivid—the buffalo blood is a much brighter shade of red. This remarkable work will also be housed in Special Collections. In conjunction with this gift, Dr. Hughes also purchased for the Library two prints by noted Boston artist Jack Coldwell of Sitting Bull and Red Cloud. Look for a future exhibition to feature our growing collection on the American Indian.

New Book —

E-mail/network 'bible'

For months the electronic networks were buzzing with advance info about a book that promised answers to questions about this rapidly expanding area of computing. The book finally materialized under the title The Matrix: Computer networks and conferencing systems worldwide.

Author John Quarterman has indeed produced a valuable guide. His book was described by one critic as "the triumph of order over chaos...without peer—authoritative, comprehensive, and above all, pragmatic."

You can borrow a copy of The Matrix from the Software Library, AHE 307, open 3-5 pm.

RAW BITS

• Skillman has acquired The MSDOS Encyclopedia. Foreword by Bill Gates. 1.57 kilo-pages.

• "Mechanical codes—Pascal, BASIC, FORTRAN, Logo, or whatever—shouldn't be dignified with the title of 'language.' They are systems of notation which are designed to be mechanically processed and they fall considerably below the standards of flexibility, subtlety and expressiveness required for communication between intelligent beings." — Richard Bornat in Programming from First Principles.

• When Susanne Barstad, a resident of the Sheyenne Care Center in North Dakota, was offered a chance to learn to use a computer, she jumped at the chance. "I knew computers are going to be the wave of the future," the 90-year old commented. She uses the computer to write to pen pals around the country via SeniorNet — AP report.

• Michigan Technical University has established computing laboratory fees "compatible with current long-standing laboratory fee procedures to which all departments are accustomed." The fees run $10 per course for PC access, $25 for Sun access, and $10 for mainframe access, plus a monthly usage fee.