

Library services help students find truth

By Joan Herman
Of the Emerald

Inscriptions above the University library's cast iron doors read 'Ye shall know the truth; And the truth shall set you free.'

But finding the reams of truth shelved within Oregon's largest library is another matter.

The University's 'library' is actually six libraries within a library — the Main Library and its five branches: The Architecture and Allied Arts Library, Bureau of Governmental Research and Service Library, Map Library, Math Library, and Science Library.

The Main Library houses most of the University's 1.6 million volumes. The Reserve Section on the first floor contains required course readings reserved by professors for their students each term, says Pat Silvernail, assistant University librarian for public services.

Adjacent to the reserve section are most of the library's 5,500 current periodicals from all over the world.

Of much value to education students is the curriculum collection, which contains textbooks and administrative handbooks used in state school systems.

The juvenile collection, or children's library, contains thousands of old and modern children's classics. Although children are welcome to read books in the small room next to the reserve section, its primary use is for research by students and professors.

The first-floor reference desk can be a big boost for students beginning a research project. Although students will learn a lot by exploring on their own, they'll save time by using the reference desk, Silvernail says.

"It's astounding what kinds of things a reference area has," she says. Literally hundreds of dictionaries, bibliographies, directories — and even directories of directories — are contained within the first floor reference area.

The reference desk also offers computer information searches for help on research projects, Silvernail says. Depending on the topic, students can get tailor-made bibliographies — and sometimes students can even receive information directly from the computer.

Computer searches can be scheduled at the main Reference Desk and at the Science and Allied Arts and Architecture Libraries.

The Newspaper Reading Room, which contains newspapers from all over the state, country and world, lies at the Northeastern corner of the main library's first floor. The library subscribes to about 100 weekly and daily newspapers from Oregon alone, and another 100 from around the nation and world, Silvernail says.

The Documents Section on the main library's second



Photo by Dave Kao

The main University Library building actually only houses one of many library branches.

floor has state and federal U.S. governmental documents, as well as foreign and United Nations documents. Documents are not listed in the general card catalogs, but in their own index in the Documents Section.

The Douglass Listening Room on the main library's third floor has a large collection of recorded music and the 'spoken word.' Chaucer, Shakespeare and T.S. Eliot sit alongside Bach, Beethoven and Brahms on both records and tapes. The Listening Room also has two microcomputers for education students' use.

Also on the third floor is the Microform Reading Area, which contains college catalogs and newspapers on microfiche, as well as American educational research from the ERIC Clearinghouse on Education Management. ERIC'S index is in the main reference area on the first floor.

The Architecture and Allied Arts Library — often called the Triple A library — is located on Lawrence Hall's second floor. The library has 35,000 volumes on all subjects within the AAA School, including landscape architecture, fine arts, art education, urban planning and interior architecture. It also has a "very impressive" collection of slides and photos, which are used heavily by AAA faculty, although students

are also welcome to view them, Silvernail says.

The Bureau of Governmental Research and Service Library contains information on public affairs and political issues, especially as they relate to local governments. The index to BGRS material is at the main reference desk and other branch libraries as well. The BGRS Library is located in Hendricks Hall.

The University has one of the nation's 10 largest map collections in the Map Library, including trail, bike, wall and historic maps, as well as aerial photos and atlases. It is located in Condon Hall.

The Math Library on Fenton Hall's second floor primarily contains math and computer science books.

The largest branch library is the Science Library in Science II's basement. It contains 250,000 volumes covering all scientific fields — biology, chemistry, physics, geology and environmental science. Science Library holdings are listed in the main library's card catalogs, but its index is in the Science Library.

For further information, the library has published an eight-page guide outlining library services. It will be available in all the libraries throughout the academic year.

Soviet libraries exhibit barriers, treasures

by Charlene Bell
Of the Emerald

Imagine being up against a research deadline and searching frantically for that vital reference work in the nation's largest library.

Despite repeated attempts to show authorization and convince the librarian that you need the book and will not use it to undermine the government, she slams the door in your face with a no-nonsense "nyet."

Request denied, comrade.

It might sound like a far-out scenario from Orwell's "1984," but for book patrons in the Soviet Union this scene has been known to take place.

But privileged citizens with the proper authorization and political affiliation can open the doors to Xerox machines, foreign books and newspapers.

The place is Moscow's Lenin Library, the Soviet equivalent of our Library of Congress, where a group of U.S. librarians, on a two-week red carpet tour of the Soviet Union this summer, learned that for the

average Soviet citizen, "customer service" was not part of the latest five-year plan.

Howard Robertson, President of the University Russian and East European Studies Center, travelled through the Soviet Union in July as part of a unique contingent of 40 academic, public, and summer school librarians. Robertson is also a cataloguer-bibliographer in the University library.

The contingent was the first ever to carry out an official visit on Soviet soil.

Sponsored by America's Citizen Ex-

change Council, the visit was a brainstorm on the part of three American librarians who had travelled to the U.S.S.R. and hoped to bring together Soviet and American librarians to exchange information and learn from each country's approach to librarianship.

According to Robertson, the Soviets were looking forward to the Americans' visit and the opportunity to trade "shop talk."

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