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CONNECTIONS

Steve Portrait of Queen Elizabeth I, circa 1580-83
Circle of Quentin Massys the Younger
Private Collection



**HUZZAH! ♦ THE ALA/NEH TRAVELING EXHIBITION
WILL BE AT ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
OCTOBER 25 ~ NOVEMBER 30, 2006 ♦ HUZZAH!**

By Christine Fagan, *Collection Development/Acquisitions Librarian*

It is hard to believe that the long anticipated exhibition, *Elizabeth I: Ruler and Legend*, will soon be arriving at Roger Williams University Library. Since the application was submitted in the fall of 2002 and the award was made in May 2003, the planning for this event has been in motion. As the Project Director for this exhibition and associated programs, Christine Fagan has been busy collaborating with many colleagues on campus to produce a major cultural event for the RWU community as well as the surrounding public communities. The enthusiasm that has developed for this project is infectious as evidenced by the wide variety of faculty, administrators, staff and students who have volunteered to help plan this event.

Even before the exhibition opens the School of Education will be hosting an Educator's Workshop in September featuring curriculum for grades 1 to 12 written by RWU students. At this workshop, Marilyn Meardon will perform as Elizabeth I followed by the distribution of curriculum CDs presented with tips for classroom applications. It is hoped that area teachers that attend this workshop will bring their students to the exhibition while it is on display at the RWU Library.

The exhibition will open on Wednesday, October 25th with a Keynote Lecture in FCAS followed by the official opening in the Mary Tefft White Cultural Center in the Library. The Keynote Lecture will

feature Carole Levin, the Willa Cather Professor of History at the University of Nebraska, historical consultant to the Elizabeth I exhibition and author of numerous books about Elizabeth I, including *The Heart and Stomach of a King: Elizabeth I and the Politics of Sex and Power*. Dr. Levin is a captivating speaker who is passionate about all things Elizabethan. The lecture will be followed by the Opening Ceremony in the Library including refreshments provided by the Elizabethan Society as well as music and costumed characters.

On Sunday, October 29th, the Alive Arts! Program will feature a workshop with the Renaissonics followed by a performance in the Performing Arts Center. Renaissonics delivers a lively performance of music of Elizabeth's court, theatre music of the Shakespearean stage and popular songs of the city, court and countryside. This popular band from Cambridge is sure to deliver a historically accurate and rousing afternoon of entertainment.

On Tuesday, November 7th, Clark Hulse, Professor of English and Art History and Dean of the Graduate College at the University of Illinois at Chicago will deliver a Featured Lecture entitled, "Elizabeth I Revealed." Dr. Hulse is an engaging speaker with an infectious enthusiasm for his discipline. His presentation will provide fascinating details about the life of the Virgin Queen as well as stories related to the images featured in the exhibition.

continued on next page



Elizabeth continued...

Marilyn Meardon will be spending an evening with us in a stunning performance as the Virgin Queen entitled "Elizabeth I: in Her Own Words." Ms. Meardon created this role as Elizabeth Tudor through an invitation from the Women Writers Project at Brown University and with the support from the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities. Dressed in Tudor costume and using speeches, prayers, poetry and letters of Elizabeth I, Ms. Meardon will provide a performance that truly brings the Queen's words to life.

In addition to all the visiting lecturers and performers that will be coming to our campus to celebrate this event, members of the RWU community will also be sponsoring events. The Theatre Department will be staging *As You Like It*, a hilarious Shakespearean comedy for three weekends in October. Dining Services will be hosting an Elizabethan Banquet with sumptuous foods fit for kings and queens accompanied by Renaissance music. A film series featuring films with Elizabethan themes will be held on Monday evenings throughout the exhibition period. Faculty members will be lecturing on the Spanish Armada and Women in Politics. Professors in a variety of disciplines will be incorporating various aspects of the Elizabethan Age into their courses. With this cross-disciplinary approach the Roger Williams University community will have a unique opportunity to bring the Age of Elizabeth to life here on the Bristol campus. Keep your eye out for the Elizabeth I Calendar which will be available this fall featuring the events mentioned above and even more festivities that are currently in the works.

The Digital Commons: A Vehicle to Access Intellectual and Scholarly Assets

By Mary Wu, *Catalog/Database Management Librarian*

In March 2006, the University Library launched "Digital Commons @ RWU" with the generous support of the Davis Educational Foundation and the collaboration of the HELIN consortium. This exploratory service is one of nine institutional repositories currently under development within the consortium. With the accumulation of experience and the establishment of future plans, the new repository will gradually grow to its full capacity.

An institutional repository (IR) is a centralized platform where intellectual assets of the host institution are stored and can be retrieved for later use. The advantages of an IR have been recognized by a variety of academic institutions worldwide. One reason for the success of an IR is its capability to preserve digital documents that would otherwise be neglected. For instance, data stored on a computer's hard drive may eventually become inaccessible due to an outdated format or storage

medium. In an IR, the same digital documents would be under the deliberate attention and care of librarians, guaranteeing their long-term preservation. Another benefit of an IR is that it removes the barriers created by standard publishing procedures, thereby providing opportunities for open access and open publishing in the dissemination and discovery of information resources that support research, learning and administrative processes. It also eliminates the need for the conventional information distribution services such as postal or electronic mail, making distribution much more efficient.

Although technology has made it possible for anyone who has a computer to create websites from which digital objects can be accessed, an IR provides far more sophisticated search capabilities as all objects in the repository are cataloged by librarians based on international standards of resource description for open access. Finally, an IR showcases the research, teaching and scholarship at an institution by providing a centralized digital stage through which members of the institution can highlight their work. A simple Google search can link prospective students and faculty to the types and areas of scholarship in progress.

During phase one of "Digital Commons @ RWU," conference papers and preliminary project proposals generated by The Center for Macro Projects and Diplomacy were uploaded. Architecture student theses will also be considered for uploading if they can be obtained or converted into a digital format. While all theses have been cataloged for inclusion in the library catalog, they cannot be efficiently accessed. Once they are in the repository, a full text version can be accessed with just one click. As with many other new library initiatives and services, we are attempting to assess our users' work practices and needs in relation to the digital repository while defining the purposes and objectives of the service. We are also soliciting content for the repository. They can be, but are not limited to: faculty papers, research documents, undergraduate or senior honors theses, course materials, book chapters, journals, presentations, historic records documenting Rogers Williams University, etc. The repository is able to manage text, sound files, images, videos, and datasets.

To get a sense of the Digital Commons @ RWU, please visit <http://digitalcommons.rwu.edu/>. You will also find other interesting digital objects such as a photo of Anne Bosworth, the first woman professor of mathematics at URI, and an audio collection of Senator John H. Chafee by browsing other institutional repositories in the HELIN consortium at <http://helindigitalcommons.org/>.

We are looking forward to hearing your comments and suggestions. Please let us know if you are looking for digital space to showcase your research and teaching, or if you are seeking to have your journal article published.

DATABASE

focus



By Susan McMullen

Reference and Information Resources Librarian

The Library subscribes to 125 research databases – both general and subject-specific. Becoming familiar with the major databases of your discipline will help you be a more productive scholar and researcher. For a full listing of all of the Library's Databases go to <http://library.rwu.edu/articles/database.html>.

What is a database?

“Database” is a broad term used to describe a variety of online resources. Essentially, a database is a collection of information arranged in individual records and searched by a computer. In libraries, the term database is used to describe the library online catalog, periodical indexes and abstracts, full-text journal archives, online reference sources, full-text specialized resources, and multimedia.

How do I access these databases?

Connect to Library databases from the Library home page (<http://library.rwu.edu>) by selecting *databases and article searching* under *Finding Information*. You can then locate databases alphabetically or by subject area. Most of the Library's databases may also be used from off-campus locations. You only need an activated library barcode (found on the back of your RWU ID) to access from home.

Do databases provide full-text content?

Some do, it depends on the nature of the database. For example, *Mergent Online*, a business research tool used to find company information, is totally full-text. However, some periodical databases, such as Ebsco's *Academic Search Premier*, may provide full-text for only a selection of the periodicals they index. If the full-text is not available within the database you will need to use the citation information provided to locate the article.

How will I know if the article I need is available full-text online?

Last Spring, the Library purchased a new online tool called *Article Linker*. If the database you are using does not provide full-text access to the article you need, simply click on the link: [Check Article Linker for Full-Text availability](#) to see if the article is available online in another library database or if RWU Library subscribes to the journal you need. If it is not available online or in print, you may request an interlibrary loan.

Featured Databases: Business

Listed below is a selection of three of the Library's most frequently used business databases. For a complete listing of all of the Library's business databases, check out the Business Research Guide located at <http://library.rwu.edu/subjectguides/business.html>. If you need assistance in using any of these resources, please contact the reference desk at 401-254-3375 or libref@rwu.edu.

ABI/INFORM Global

Recognized as a leading source for business information, this database covers more than 1,600 business and management periodicals from 1971 – present. *ABI/INFORM* includes scholarly journals and business periodicals covering topics such as business and economic conditions, management techniques, theory and practice of business, advertising, marketing, economics, human resources, finance, taxation, computers, and more. Full-text content is provided for 700 of these periodical titles, including the *Wall Street Journal*.

Use this database when you want to search an exclusively business-oriented article database; when you need to locate business articles from scholarly or peer-reviewed business journals; when you need information on over 60,000 companies; when you want to find full-text articles from the *Wall Street Journal*.

DATABASE *focus*



S & P NETADVANTAGE

S&P NetAdvantage is a comprehensive resource for business analysis. The home page features S&P analysis of the stock market, the economy, and prospects for equities, bonds, funds, and industries. The Industry area offers full-text, in-depth S&P Industry Surveys including an overview of the current environment, industry trends, key industry ratios and statistics, a comparative company analysis and more. Sub-industry reviews are also available. In the Company section you can search by company or ticker symbol and receive a company profile, fact sheet, stock report or bond report. You can also search company executives.

Use this database when you need an in depth industry analysis; quick company information, a stock or bond report; or to find information about a business executive.

MERGENT ONLINE

Mergent Online is a powerful research tool providing detailed financial data and company information on U.S. and International companies, 1995 – present. Each Mergent report includes historical information, past and current annual reports, company financials, EDGAR SEC filings, information about properties, subsidiaries, officers,

directors, income statements, bond ratings, statements of cash flow, annual stock price ranges, and more. The U.S. and International Company Archives list companies that have merged, were acquired, went bankrupt or otherwise disappeared from 1995 forward. Additionally, you will find Industry Reports, Equity Research Reports and Country Profiles. Enhanced features allow the researcher to create custom comparison reports for comparing a company against the industry or against a custom group of companies.

Use this database when you want to find financial information about a particular company or industry; locate a company's annual report; download financial data into Excel spreadsheets; create a customized report where you can specify specific companies, data fields, and output formats; search SEC (EDGAR) filings; search for companies in a particular industry; compare a company against its industry and locate key business ratios.

Other Business databases include: *ABI/INFORM Trade & Industry*, *ABI/INFORM Business Dateline, Disclosure, EconLit, Hoover's Online, Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, RIA Checkpoint for Tax Research, SRDS, Stat USA*, and *Worldscope*.



Learning Commons Update

By Susan McMullen, *Reference and Information Resources Librarian*

In the Fall 2005 issue of *Connections*, Dean Deekle introduced the RWU community to an innovative new paradigm in academic library services called the Learning Commons. In the Learning Commons model, library space is reconfigured to support the scholarly research and production needs of the end user. This environment supports individual and collaborative work and encourages curriculum renewal through teaching development. In addition to blending library resources and appropriate technologies in a comfortable and aesthetic physical space, this model relies on a blending of staff knowledge – a functional integration of library, information technology, and media services.

This spring we began a collaborative process with Information Technology, Media Services, and the Center for Academic Development to re-design our public spaces and services for the future. Working with the architectural firm of Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott (SBRA) we have met throughout the semester to develop a building program that will help us realize our vision. During our

This spring we began...
to re-design our public spaces
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initial meeting with the architects, we were asked to consult with all of the Library's constituencies – students, faculty, various staff groups, and administration to get input about the spaces, services, and resources each group desired of their library. During this process we are learning that our users need collaborative learning spaces, quiet spaces, a variety of computer spaces, and spaces to produce multimedia presentations.

We also have learned just how much this campus has changed since 1991 when the Main Library was built. So much so, that it appears that the Library's entrance is no longer facing the center of the campus. A major issue for discussion has been a proposal to move the library entrance to coincide with the new campus center – closer to the new Dining Commons, and facing the SAAHP. In June, this initial planning process will conclude and the architects from SBRA will deliver a set of plans for reorganizing library space that will include a phased approach for implementation. We look forward to sharing this plan with all of you.

Successful Architecture Accreditation

By John Schlinke, *Architecture/Art Librarian*



The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) is the sole entity authorized to accredit professional architecture programs in the United States. All architecture programs accredited by NAAB are assessed on a periodic basis to insure that they substantially meet “those standards that, as a whole, comprise an appropriate education for an architect.” In February of this year, a NAAB accreditation team visited the RWU School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation to take a comprehensive look at the architecture program. Prior to the arrival of the team, the school made extensive preparations for the visit, gathering evidence to demonstrate how the degree program meets and exceeds the criteria established by NAAB.

A very positive initial report from the visiting team has recently been received by the school, indicating that all the hard work of the SAAHP faculty, staff, and administrators was well-received. The school will have the opportunity to respond to the report and then the team will make a recommendation regarding accreditation and the length of the term of accreditation to the NAAB board. The final accreditation decision will come from the board during the summer.

The University Library was pleased to be able to contribute to the school's accreditation effort. Information resources that support the architecture program (including library collections, facilities, and staff) are some of the many elements that are assessed as part of the visit. The Architecture Library has the good fortune to be well-used and well-supported by SAAHP students and faculty. The library looks forward to maintaining a close and supportive relationship with all the SAAHP programs as they continue to evolve over the coming years.



Technology Update: Library 2.0

By Tim Spindler, *User Services/Systems Librarian*

One of the latest technological concepts for libraries is “Library 2.0,” which is, in effect, Web 2.0 applied to libraries. Web 2.0 is considered a concept, not an application such as the all-familiar Microsoft Word. There has been a lot of hype surrounding Web 2.0 and much of this hype has been created by its designer, Tim O’Reilly. However, there is also substance behind the hype. He and others coined the phrase at a conference where attendees were discussing the impact of the “dot com bust.” Attendees did not look at the bust as an end to Web development and innovation but an incentive to look at new opportunities for development and creation on the Web. They viewed the Web as a platform, not an application. In other words, the Web is a place to create, publish and distribute, entertain, and collaborate. It was also understood that these activities are not mutually exclusive, so Web users can collaborate to create and publish information throughout the Web. The “new” part of the Web in Web 2.0 involves supporting a number of functions including data “mixing” or “mashing,” tagging, customization, and working collaboratively in real time or on your own time. One of these functions or all of these functions may be included on a Web site or Web application.

“Mixing” or “mashing” involves combining data from different sources to create new applications and uses. There are library sources that have been doing this for quite a while. The library’s purchased resource Cambridge Scientific Abstracts searches not only the indexes supported by specific databases like *Medline*, *Biological Sciences*, and the *Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals* but also selected Web sites while at the same time linking to the HELIN Catalog to show if RWU owns the journal or Article Linker to check for full-text availability. Another Web 2.0 feature, “tagging,” is a fairly recent phenomenon which allows

users to add indexing or commentary to a source. If you have used sites like “Flickr” or “del.icio.us,” you have noticed that these sites allow users to share and tag. Some libraries are looking at implementing this kind of service in their online catalog. One site, “LibraryThing” (<http://www.librarything.com/>), allows users to catalog and tag their own personal collections of books. Standard library management software does not currently support this function but many libraries are looking for ways to implement it. Tagging, in some ways, is an extended form of customization. However, there are many sites that allow customization of content delivery. You have probably seen “myRWU” or “My Yahoo.” Each allows a certain level of customization or online access to personalized information. RSS feeds and blogs can also allow customization. RSS represents the ultimate in

customization. With an RSS Reader, you can pull in only the information you want from a specified source. Sources of RSS feeds include a huge number of sites such as the *New York Times*,

TVGuide, and *ESPN*. The library

resources produced by EBSCO include a large number of periodicals and journals which support RSS feeds. For instance, from EBSCO, you can receive journal alerts from your favorite magazines or journals like *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Sports Illustrated*, or the *Journal of American History*.

Libraries are looking at taking advantage of these tools to improve services. Here at Roger Williams University we are investigating the possibility of supplying an RSS feed for new books. The current new books list (<http://library.rwu.edu/about/newbooks.html>) already pulls information from separate sources to allow the thumbnail display of book covers and then links out to the catalog allowing you to browse books on a similar subject, look at detailed information in the catalog, or see what other books we have by the same author. At Miami University (Ohio), the library has teamed up with the IT department to allow students to create lists of preferred online library resources, receive notices on new books in specific subject areas, and access course guide information to help them identify the sources most applicable to the courses they are currently enrolled in using their single interface, MyMiami.

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Editor
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