

# Stay Connected

A newsletter for library friends & supporters

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## From the Dean

Being able to provide better service because of technological innovation is the reason I have spent more than 30 years in academic research libraries.

However, it is not only computers and the Internet that have made the difference, but the ways my colleagues and I changed our work to ensure that libraries have an impact on student and faculty success.

In addition to providing what can be thought of as traditional library services, today's library is all about inventing new ways to share, store, and exchange information. We work to develop new tools that literally put knowledge at our students' and faculty members' fingertips.

This issue of *Stay Connected* explores some of the exciting projects that are on our horizon.

The development of a sophisticated discovery system to search our collection will help our patrons more readily find the information they seek. And the development of CSU's Digital Repository — an online collection of scholarly work created at CSU — promises to give CSU faculty and students an electronic venue to share their work worldwide.

As you read, I hope you become as excited as I am about the new research and learning opportunities your gifts are

*Catherine*

Catherine Murray-Rust  
Colorado State University Libraries

# NEXT ON OUR HORIZON

## CSU Libraries Embarks on a New Project to Revolutionize Information Discovery

In an increasingly electronic world, where users expect to get instant information just as they can from the Internet at large, research libraries everywhere are redefining their roles as conservators of information. Gone are the days when patrons are required to walk into the library building, step up to a card catalog or an electronic catalog kiosk, arm themselves with a call number, and go hunting the stacks for a book or printed journal.

For today's library user, the library has no walls. Instead, libraries offer their rich, cutting-edge collections on the Internet through a wealth of digitized content and access to subscription-based electronic publications and research tools (databases).

With 73 percent of current research materials online, CSU Libraries is no different than our peers. We offer the CSU and greater communities access to library materials from homes, dorms, classrooms, labs, and offices. Our interlibrary loan service, which is powered largely by CSU's homegrown RAPIDILL automated interlibrary loan technology, digitizes and electronically delivers printed materials on demand to our users.

Users, in essence, no longer have to come to the library building. They still do, as Morgan Library offers the best study and research space on campus with the largest computing center, high-tech group presentation rooms, and a team of experts to help patrons with research and assignments. Yet, more and more, we are bringing the library to our users through an ever-expanding online collection.

In this changing library environment, traditional ways of discovering information — hunting the stacks with a call number, for

example — no longer apply. Instead, the next frontier for libraries has become helping users discover and navigate the wealth of information now offered on the Web.

“One of the most important services of libraries is helping users discover the information they seek,” notes Carmel Bush, Assistant Dean for Digital Services, who oversees the Libraries' Research and Development Department (R & D). “Yet, libraries around the country have struggled to develop a simple interface that allows users access to the plethora of library collections.”

CSU Libraries hopes to change that reality. This spring, in a cooperative effort between R & D and librarians from various other departments, the Libraries will embark on a project to develop a discovery system that will enable users to uncover the abundance of resources in one simple search.



A group of students access electronic library collections while working on a research assignment.

## The Quest for a Single Search Box

One of the most common complaints voiced by today's library user is "Why can't the library be more like Google?"

For anyone who understands the way searching works, the success of Google is the algorithm it uses to mine data. To most of us, the benefit Google provides is a single search box that returns an organized result list which points us to information sources matching our entered search terms.

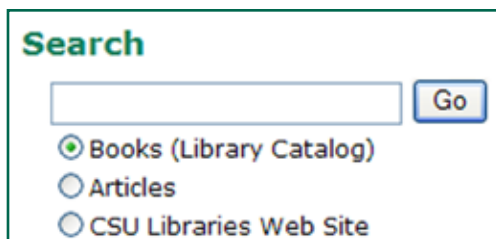
So why can't a library make its collection just as searchable? Part of the problem is the heterogeneous nature of library resources. A library collection consists of a wealth of material types. This can mean books and journals (both print and electronic) or maps, photographs, etc. Not only are these materials located in different places both physically and virtually (even electronic materials are housed on a variety of servers), the metadata — the words used to describe the contents of an item and therefore render it "discoverable" — also exist in a variety of locations.

The result is that currently library users must choose what sorts of resources, and in some cases, which subjects or exact resources they want to search before they can perform the actual search. Patrons search the online catalog for books, but are required to search databases (which are often organized by discipline) for specific journal articles. Digital content — images, letters, and other materials digitized from CSU Libraries' special collections — require yet another search.

The goal of the new discovery system will be to bring as many library resources as possible under one "virtual" umbrella so that patrons will be presented with a single search box that will yield results across the variety of collections, including books, journals, and other materials to which the library subscribes.

This type of search is known to the library industry as "meta-searching," and a system that searches across many collections at once and meets the specific needs of CSU users simply doesn't exist — yet.

Although some vendors offer meta-searching products, many have found these products are difficult to customize and CSU Libraries has decided that the best way to offer this service to our patrons is to develop



The image shows a search interface with a title "Search" in green. Below the title is a search input field and a "Go" button. Underneath the input field are three radio button options: "Books (Library Catalog)" (which is selected), "Articles", and "CSU Libraries Web Site".

*The current search box on the Libraries' home page requires patrons to select a material type before performing a search.*

a discovery tool ourselves.

The challenge ahead is twofold. First, the process will involve developing a search interface with features that patrons need and want. Second, the process will involve pulling together the variety of items that make up the library collection and the accompanying metadata that describes each item into a single index or databank.

## Studying Search Behaviors

In order to develop this tool, the R & D team plans to take a variety of approaches, seeking input from patron groups such as graduate students, doctoral candidates, faculty, and undergraduate students, as well as members of the library staff who are providing library services to patrons.

"In developing a user interface, we have to understand what our users want," notes Dennis Ogg, a program developer in the R & D unit. "We need to provide features they expect and want in a discovery system. Ideally, patrons will be presented with one box to enter their search terms and get back results that point them to books, journal articles, digital collections, etc."

Developers also hope to employ some of the "user-friendly" aspects featured on commercial Web sites. For example, a search on "monitor" at [www.bestbuy.com](http://www.bestbuy.com) shows categories including computers and TV and also shows brands including Apple, Dell, Samsung, Sony, etc. CSU's discovery tool may incorporate some of these kinds of features; for example, allowing a search results page to show results listed in categories such as books and journal articles.

The tool might also incorporate features such as "Did you mean..." when a patron hits a dead-end and their search appears to yield "no results." Or the tool may allow users to organize results in views other than a list, such as a cluster diagram.

# Join Us!

## 2007/2008 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Writers on the Plains Presents

Two Evenings with Acclaimed

Nonfiction Author

**Hampton Sides**

**“History with A Pulse: The Art & Craft of Making the Past Come Alive on the Page”**

Thursday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.

Oklahoma Room

Hilton Fort Collins

425 West Prospect Rd

Fort Collins, Colo.

**“The Epic Story of Kit Carson: National Hero. Genocidal Maniac. Pick One.”**

Friday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.

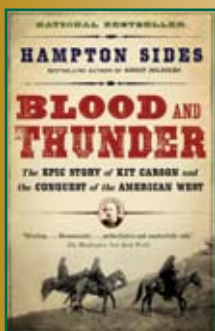
Cottonwood Room

Laramie County Library

2200 Pioneer Avenue

Cheyenne, Wyo.

Hampton Sides is the bestselling author of *Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West*. It was voted the best history title of year by both the History Book Club and the Western Writers Association. It has been optioned by Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks, and is the subject of a new PBS documentary on “The American Experience.” Both events are free and open to the public.



“We are also going to examine the possibilities of user-supplied metadata such as tags in Flickr or del.icio.us and the reviews and ratings in Amazon or Netflix,” notes Ogg.

Integrating a feature of this kind would allow users to rate top resources and supply feedback to the library and other users about which resources are the most helpful in their work.

“This type of ‘collaborative’ information is part of what Web 2.0 is about — a more interactive experience of the Internet,” says Ogg.

Another part of “discovering what users want” will involve an anthropological approach to studying the use of libraries and their resources.

This approach has been used at the University of Rochester Libraries. The basic idea is that the best way to understand the needs of library users is to observe them as they work as well as ask them about their needs and preferences in an interview or survey forum.

In today's networked society, library resources are commonly accessed outside the physical library, perhaps even while the user is multitasking.

To gain insights into how we can better meet the needs of our users, the Libraries needs to understand what tasks they are trying to accomplish and how they are going about doing their work.

With this goal in mind, CSU Libraries will launch a study to analyze the information seeking behavior of CSU doctoral candidates beginning in May.

The study team, led by anthropologist C. Todd White, will design and implement an online survey to examine research preferences and behaviors.

Next, the team will conduct a comprehensive interview with a cross section of survey participants, which will include observing participants in situ.

“We hope to gain significant insights into how we might improve library services to meet the needs of our patrons,” notes Assistant Dean Bush. “The outcome of the study will have great potential to influence the development of the information discovery tool as well as the development of future software projects.”

## Creating the Code

While the Libraries seeks user input in developing the interface, programmers will also begin the challenging work of developing the software that will support the single search discovery tool.

“Part of this process will involve normalizing the data,” says Ogg. In other words, the challenge will be to pull together item descriptions (metadata) from all different locations into one databank so as to yield homogenous results of a heterogeneous collection.

CSU Libraries plans use open-source tools — software that anyone can utilize without charge — to maximize the flexibility and customization of the discovery tool. Using open-source software also will mean that the tool can be developed in a collaborative environment and shared with other libraries.

“Using open source and developing a homegrown product means that we can collaborate with other libraries and share our successes,” notes Ogg. “It also enables the library community to take back control of our data and its presentation.”

“A key part of the benefit for using open-source software is flexibility,” notes Greg Vogl, also a member of the R & D team. “Source code can be viewed, customized, and repurposed by anyone. It gives us the freedom to share.”

Inventing new tools is nothing new to CSU Libraries. In the wake of the devastating flood of 1997, CSU Libraries developed RAPIDILL, an automated interlibrary loan service that electronically delivers print materials to patrons within 24 to 48 hours of request. This automated system is now used by 90 libraries around the world and has reduced the cost of interlibrary loan by 70 percent.

CSU Libraries is optimistic that an investment in this new discovery system will have a similar payoff in serving the needs of today's and tomorrow's library user.

Although development of the completed discovery system will happen over the course of the next few years, CSU students and faculty can expect to see a new interface with upgraded features applied to the online catalog as early as December 2008.

# CSU'S DIGITAL REPOSITORY

## A New Effort to Share the Scholarly Work of CSU Faculty & Students Worldwide

With more than \$267 million in annual research expenditures, the faculty and students of Colorado State University are generating a vast body of scholarly work. Now Colorado State University Libraries aims to store and preserve this groundbreaking scholarship and make it accessible worldwide.

The new CSU Digital Repository (DR) will present an online collection of work produced by CSU faculty and students including publicly funded research results and research data; theses and dissertations; public performances, presentations, and exhibitions; undergraduate research projects; University produced publications; and faculty produced peer-reviewed publications.

"The Digital Repository will enable CSU scholars to safely preserve and manage their intellectual assets," says Dawn Bastian, coordinator for the project. "It will help faculty communicate with colleagues both inside and outside the University and to the rest of the world."

Currently, the Libraries is recruiting content from CSU faculty and students and has begun offering access to both faculty work and electronic theses and dissertations.

Brian Ott, Associate Professor for Speech Communication, has already taken advantage of the Libraries' call for materials during this early implementation of the DR and has submitted several of his research materials for posting.

"Dramatic changes in the production, format, and flow of information (fueled by the rapid development and proliferation of IT) suggest that ideas, insights, and scholarship will increasingly be stored, distributed, and circulated electronically in the global village of the 21st century," notes Ott. "I want my work to be easily available internationally. I believe the repository will help facilitate and sustain a new era of international collaboration and global academic networks."

The CSU Digital Repository can be accessed by logging on to <http://digitool.library.colostate.edu/R?RN=685792768>.

## Creating a Legacy of Knowledge

As an alumnus, a former instructor, and two lifelong friends of Colorado State University, we believe in the power of education and the importance of lending it our support.

We've had a long and gratifying relationship with CSU that began in 1958 with Genny teaching computer science courses in the Mathematics Department and Warren beginning coursework that would culminate in a master's degree in zoology.

After five years of teaching and studying, we set off to travel the world to film animals on location for the Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom. Our 25-year adventure took us to more than 100 countries around the globe and we filmed in more than 30 of them.

For us, our work has been our pleasure, our passion, and our joy. We believe that a teacher lives in all of us and during our travels we had the power to open doors and teach people about animals and the natural world in a way not previously experienced.

Much of it would not have been possible without Colorado State University. Our connections with alumni and friends of CSU led us into places as far away as Iran and Africa and enabled us to capture never-before-seen images of animals and the natural world.

When our travels concluded and we found ourselves back in Fort Collins, professors and students would often visit us asking to borrow photographs of animals and wild places to include in their theses, dissertations, and research. Because we felt a need to make this work available to students and professors of CSU long into the future, we gave our collection of 19,500-plus slides of animals to the CSU Libraries.

We thought the Libraries would check out slides as they do books, but they did more than we imagined possible. They digitized our collection and created an interactive website that receives more than 100,000 visits each year and has become a key resource — not only for the students of CSU — but for students throughout the world. We were so pleased by this effort that we created an endowment to support this work and the future development of educational resources using our collection.

We are extremely proud to support Colorado State University because CSU has helped us pass on the knowledge and experience we have gained throughout our lives. There is no greater thrill than creating a legacy of knowledge and knowing that our gifts to the University will serve many generations of students to come. We've left our legacy with Colorado State University and you can too.

—Warren and Genny Garst

If you would like to discuss your planned giving opportunities to support the library, contact Andrea. [Lapsley@Colostate.edu](mailto:Lapsley@Colostate.edu) or access the planned giving Web site at [www.plannedgiving.colostate.edu](http://www.plannedgiving.colostate.edu).



The Garsts pictured filming on location in Sterling, Col., 1969.

**Getting content on the Web calls  
for a digital superhero.**



**SUPPORT THE ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

# Yes! I want to Support Colorado State University Libraries!

Enclosed is my/our check payable to the Colorado State University Foundation for a gift of:

\$50  \$100  \$500  \$1870\*  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is from  me  my spouse & me  my partner & me.  
Spouse's/Partner's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Home  Work

Charge this gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my/our

VISA  MasterCard  American Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please apply this gift to:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Electronic Resources & Service Fund (50553)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Library Collection Enhancement Fund (General) (58513)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Morgan & University Libraries Endowment (45115)

A matching gift form is enclosed.

**Additional Information (check all that apply):**

Please send me information on making a planned gift.

**Please return this form with your gift to:  
Colorado State University Foundation,  
P. O. Box 1870, Fort Collins, CO 80522-1870**

\*A gift of \$1,000 or more entitles you to a personalized message stone. Please fill out the boxes below with your message. (Two lines of 14 characters, including spaces. Please print in uppercase. No punctuation except "-" and "&")


In today's world, hardly anyone is asked to work without a computer, so how can we ask our students to learn without one?

The Electronic Resources & Services Fund supports Morgan Library's Electronic Information Center, equipped with 300 computer stations; the Library's fleet of 200 laptops available for checkout; and the wireless network that supports computing throughout the building.

With your support, Morgan Library serves the nearly 40 percent of CSU students who don't own their own computers and the countless number of students who want to research and study between classes but can't bring their computers to campus.

With an ever-growing digital collection that includes more than 73 percent of the Libraries' current research materials online, a heavy reliance on electronic course reserves, and interactive classroom tools such as RamCT, our students could not learn without access to technology.

Your gifts to the Electronic Resources & Service Fund will immediately support the maintenance costs of hardware and software within Morgan Library as well help to purchase new items such as these:

- Ergonomic Key Boards (\$50): Increases accessibility by enabling students to adjust computing stations.
- Printers (\$250-\$500): Enables students to print completed assignments on their way to class.
- Presentation Kits (\$1,000): Projectors and screens students use to practice group presentations.
- Laptops (\$1,700): These computers provide flexibility for students to use throughout the building depending on the type of space they need.

Thanks in advance for your support!

*Shu Liu (left) is a Digital Content Librarian in CSU Libraries' Digital Repositories Services Department. She holds a B.A. in Library Science and Economics from Beijing University and an M.L.I.S. from the University of British Columbia. Shu is currently working on CSU's Digital Repository and her primary responsibilities include providing scholarly CSU digital resources online.*

**& SERVICE FUND**

# Yes! I want to join Friends of Colorado State University Libraries!

Your gift will support cultural programming for the campus & community.

Enclosed is my/our check payable to the Colorado State University Foundation for a gift of:

- \$50 (Basic)                       \$100 (Donor)  
 \$250 (Supporter)               \$500 (Patron)  
 \$1,000 (Cornerstone)\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is from  me  my spouse & me  my partner & me.  
Spouse's/Partner's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Home  Work

Charge this gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my/our  
 VISA  MasterCard  American Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I am joining *Friends* at the Donor/Supporter/ Patron/ Cornerstone level, but I would like to opt out of membership benefits above the Basic level (with the exception of a message stone) so that all of my membership dollars are a charitable contribution to the *Friends* program.

**Additional Information (check all that apply):**

- Please send me information on making a planned gift.  
 Please send me information on engraving a personalized message stone on the walls of Morgan Library. (For gifts of \$1,000 or more to any library fund.)\*

**Please return this form with your gift to:  
Colorado State University Foundation,  
P. O. Box 1870, Fort Collins, CO 80522-1870**

# AMONG FRIENDS

## Community Members Enjoy Art in the Morgan Library

On March 7, nearly 200 community members gathered for the opening reception of "The Very Near & The Very Far: Recent Works by Artists Joel Rutstein and Ann Wilmsen" in the First National Bank Gallery.

Both artists' work represented an investigation of landscapes, ranging from the familiar — one painting of Wilmsen's captures Horsetooth in winter — to the far away — a block print of Rutstein's renders an abbey in Conques, France.

"My paintings grow out of my love for the outdoors and the natural world," noted Wilmsen. "They are explorations, seeking an intersection between what I see, what I feel, the medium I use, color, and how to create a visual entity — a finished painting."

"In spending more time with my art, I have discovered new ways of interpreting reality which allow for a stronger emphasis on form and color, relegating linear perspective to a more secondary role," added Rutstein. "Many of the paintings on display reflect this evolution, and like so much of art, are inspired by natural design."

"The evening was an exploration of the natural world," said one elated guest.

Joel Rutstein is an emeritus faculty member of the CSU Libraries. Part of his career included being the art librarian and managing the gallery spaces in the Morgan Library. Ann Wilmsen is a graduate of CSU's fine arts program. The exhibit was sponsored by the Lilla B. Morgan Memorial Fund as part of the Art in the Library Series.



Artists Joel Rutstein and Ann Wilmsen at the opening reception of "The Very Near & The Very Far."



## CSU Celebrates National Library Week

Every day, Colorado State University Libraries connects CSU and the greater Colorado community to a world of knowledge. Through collections and services, the Libraries helps our faculty, students, and researchers develop projects and ideas, achieve academic success, and simply better understand the world.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the people who power the library. From librarians to data management specialists, from archivists to student employees — this library would be nothing without our people. During National Library Week (April 13–19), the Morgan Library hosted “Faces of the Library,” a poster exhibit to honor CSU Libraries’ faculty and staff who have dedicated their lives to helping others discover that the taste of knowledge is sweet. To view an online version of the exhibit, visit the link below.



<http://lib.colostate.edu/about/news/nationallibraryweek/2008/>

# NOTABLE DEVELOPMENTS

## Special Thanks to Our Recent Donors

### Program Support

- Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and guests, Water Tables raised \$31,500 to support the Water Resources Archive. At the event, the Water Resources Archive was also proud to announce that the papers of a water legend, W.D. Farr, will find a permanent home in the Archive’s collections. As part of the Archive, the Farr materials, which document his remarkable contributions to water, agriculture, and banking, will be available to researchers, industry professionals, historians, students, and citizens for long into the future. View event photos at <http://lib.colostate.edu/develop/events/2008/watertables/webgallery/index.html>
- The faculty and staff of CSU Libraries celebrated their passion for CSU by donating \$5,200 to support library initiatives and Universitywide programs during the annual Faculty/Staff Drive.
- This academic year, your gifts have enabled the Libraries to purchase \$20,000 of additional print and electronic materials for the collection.
- Your generosity is also helping to build the library of the future. This year, your gifts have increased endowed library funds by \$33,340.

## Make Your Mark on Morgan Library Message Stones Honor Students, Faculty Members, and Your Time at CSU

The walls of Morgan Library tell the story of thousands of donors from across the nation who have contributed to CSU Libraries since the mid-1990s. Carved into native Colorado sandstone, 9”x9” personalized message stones recognize the contributions of donors who give \$1,000 or more to any library fund.

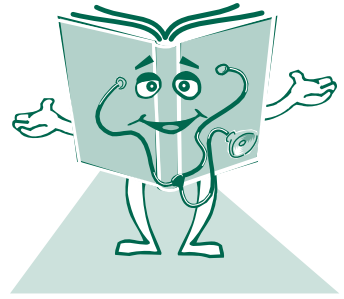
The message stone program is a great way to honor anyone who has made a difference in your CSU experience, honor a loved one or friend, or simply leave a message for the future.

To make your mark on the walls of Morgan Library and make an immediate impact on the success of CSU students, faculty, and staff, return the donation form included in this issue of *Stay Connected* with your gift of \$1,000 or more. Be sure to fill out the message stone portion of the form. Message stones will be engraved during summer session, so it is important to act now!

For questions regarding the message stone program, please contact Andrea Lapsley at 970-491-6823 or write to [andrea.lapsley@colostate.edu](mailto:andrea.lapsley@colostate.edu).



# ASK DR. BOOK



*Dear Dr. Book:*

*When cleaning out my grandfather's basement, I found some old family letters. Unfortunately they are very dirty and moldy. Is it safe to handle the documents, and how can I get rid of the mold?*

*—Inquisitive Granddaughter*

**D**ear Inquisitive Granddaughter:

Mold and mildew are among the worst “disasters” that can occur to paper documents as it causes permanent damage and can be a serious health risk. Luckily with Colorado’s dry climate we do not often see moldy materials.

Mold and mildew are generic terms that refer to various types of fungi that reproduce via spores and depend on other organisms for sustenance. There are more than 100,000 known species of fungi, with only a few common to paper materials. Mold spores are everywhere just waiting for the right moist condition to activate. Mold can be either active or dormant. Active mold is soft and smeary. In early stages of growth, it appears as a fine web of filaments on the surface which will develop a bushy appearance at later stages. Dormant mold appears dry and powdery and may leave colored mold stains on the materials and cause an unpleasant odor.

Mold can pose a major health hazard as airborne mold spores can enter the body by inhalation and through small breaks in the skin. If you have allergies, avoid exposure to all molds. Identification of the type of mold and associated health risks can be determined by a trained microbiologist.

To handle the letters, wear protective clothing (apron or smock, gloves, and mask) and work in a well-ventilated room. After each work session, discard any disposable clothing or wash other items in hot water and bleach. Wipe down and disinfect all work areas with a 50/50 mixture of water and alcohol. Wash your hands even if you have used gloves.

If you have active mold, I would recommend that you place the documents in plastic bags and freeze them. Later the mold can be dried by putting the materials in the sunlight; however, limit the exposure as sunlight is also detrimental to paper. Use of chemicals to treat the mold is not recommended. Do not try to clean active mold.

Because of mold’s nature, seriously consider making duplicates of the damaged documents and then discarding the original letters. Before photocopying on acid-free paper, put the mold letters in plastic folders to protect you and the photocopier. The paper copy also can be digitized to share with your family members. Put the copies in acid-free folders for permanent storage.

If you want to keep the original letters, the materials can be cleaned with either a HEPA vacuum cleaner or brushes. Protect your working surface with clean scrap paper, removing a sheet when you finish cleaning a letter. If using a vacuum cleaner, make sure the vacuum suction is at the lowest effective strength possible. If you cannot regulate the suction, place a plastic mesh screen over the letter to prevent suction of bits of the letter into the hose. If using a brush, work lightly over the letter so you do not rub the mold into the surface. To avoid spreading the mold spores, brush directly into a lined wastebasket to ease in cleanup and disposal. Clean both sides of the letter.

After cleaning, rehouse the letters in acid-free folders. To prevent the possibility of future contamination, isolate the folders from other family records for longtime storage. *(continued on page 11)*

For additional information on preservation in general, please write to “Dear Dr. Book” in care of *Stay Connected*, Colorado State University Libraries, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1019 or visit the Libraries’ Preservation Services Web site (<http://lib.colostate.edu/preserve/>).

# FAVORED COMPANIONS

*Like other favored companions, great books are forever part of those who encounter them. In this column, we ask participants to name a book or books that have impacted their lives.*

Time travel is possible. Writing made it so. Reading the oldest literature whether history, epic poetry, or otherwise allows the reader to travel to the past without violating the laws of physics or discovering something which Brian Greene can write about (*The Fabric of the Cosmos*). This travel is more than knowledge, it's truly a journey. It's not just about "he who knows only his own generation always remains a child." It's about a voyage into the labyrinth of thoughts, superstitions, religions, lifestyles, viewpoints, mental processes of humans 1,000, 2,000, even 3,000 years ago.

The oldest written epic poetry is *Gilgamesh*. This recently has been uncovered and more complete and better translations are coming out almost every year. As most great literature, the tension is about good overcoming evil, battling natural forces, and allying with others to do so. On your journey, follow this with the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. Before a people go to war, they should read the *Iliad* — experience the rage of Achilles against his fellow Greek; when at war, read the *Odyssey* — anticipate and suffer the aftermath.

The oldest history is *Herodotus*, a history that tries to capture a universal scope of the known western world. One of the stories tells of an Egyptian king who rounds up all the judges who sentenced him to jail as a profligate youth, then rewards them for their honesty. He fires all the judges who found him innocent!

The oldest scientific history is *Thucydides*, the descriptive unfolding of the leadership, battles, and consequences of the decades-long Peloponnesian War. This is still relevant

Guy Kelley,  
Friend of CSU  
Libraries



and one of the first accounts of the jingoism and blind fury that can lead a country into an inadvisable, but popular-at-the-moment war. How charismatic leaders can lead a country into a false sense of confidence!

The oldest English literature is *Beowulf*. However, the oldest novel is *The Tale of Genji* that describes the relationships and hierarchy of 11th century Japan.

The oldest writing capturing the beliefs, hopes, fears, love, sadness of humanity is the Egyptian pyramid and tomb texts, often more than 3,000 years old. Reading these allows us to explore what it meant to be human 3,000 years ago. Included in these writings and dated about 1500 BC is *The Instruction for Little Pepi on His Way to School*. Little Pepi was told to love learning more than his mother. Learn to read and write, become a scribe. Avoid having to work in the mud (farmer), handle dangerous chemicals (tanner), or get up too early (baker). The work lists other trades to avoid. Become a scribe where you can read good stories and work where it's warm and comfortable.

In any time travel of reading, it is remiss not to mention the anthology of great men in *Plutarch's Lives*. Its didactic, but entertaining tales of success, failure, greed, ambition, and political jealousies, along with illustrations of wisdom and ingenuity, are more then apropos for today's future leaders.

And there is more, much more. Find the oldest writings and enjoy the journey.

## Dear Dr. Book

(continued from page 10)

Although it is unlikely the mold will reactivate, you should be proactive in controlling the environment to minimize the risk.

For further information on mold see the Conservation OnLine website at <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu> and search under "Mold."

*Guy is a friend of the library — Colorado State University Libraries. A graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder, B.A., physics ('77), Guy was an engineer for National Semiconductor, Motorola, and Hewlett-Packard Co. (HP). Graduating from the University of Denver College of Law ('88), he joined the HP legal department, currently an Associate General Counsel. He was a regent of the University of Colorado (1993-1999) and Chair of the Board (1994-1995).*



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*Brian Gilbert, CSU Libraries Systems Administrator, pictured with Sage, the online library catalog.*

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