

# Library CONNECTION

Vol. 2, No. 1  
September 1987  
Colorado State University Libraries

## From the Director

### Libraries' ARL Membership in Jeopardy



Joan Chambers

Membership in the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) is by invitation "to major university libraries whose collections and services are broadly based." Such libraries are defined as "those whose parent institutions broadly emphasize research and graduate instruction at the doctoral level and grant their own degrees; which support large, comprehensive research collections on a permanent basis; and which give evidence of an institutional capacity for and commitment to the advancement and transmittal of knowledge." To meet the membership criteria, a university must exhibit the depth and breadth of its research programs by offering the Ph.D. degree in a required number of fields. Once this definition has been met, the library's similarity to the current membership is assessed by calculating its ARL Library Index Score. Continued membership in ARL requires a continuing commitment to research support. Libraries unable to maintain an overall index score greater than -2.25 for each of four consecutive years will not be able to remain a member of the Association.

The index is not made up of categories selected at random. Rather, factor analyses were performed on the 22 categories of data collected by ARL, and the elements chosen for the index were those in which ARL libraries most resemble one another. It is essentially a collection-based index, influenced somewhat by total expenditures and staff. For the first time since the founding of ARL in 1932, two universities have failed to demonstrate the continuing commitment to research support required to remain a member — Oklahoma State with an index of -2.30 and Colorado State with an index of -2.38.

### What Will it Take?

Page 5 lists the institutions which qualify for membership in ARL — virtually every comprehensive research university in the country. The chart on page 4 shows how Colorado State University compared in 1985/86 with its peer institutions (as designated by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education) and with a selection of other similar ARL institutions.

To maintain membership in ARL, Colorado State University would have to maintain on a one-time and continuing basis the following levels of library support:

#### Variable 1: TOTAL VOLUMES

Add 100,000 volumes to the base collection in a one-time catch-up effort.

#### Variable 2: VOLUMES ADDED

Add 40,000 volumes annually on a continuing basis instead of 32,000 volumes.

#### Variable 3: CURRENT SERIAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscribe to 15,500 serials on a continuing basis instead of 11,800.

#### Variable 4: TOTAL STAFF

Add staff to select, order and process the additional volumes and subscriptions.

#### Variable 5: TOTAL EXPENDITURES

Increase total library expenditures on a permanent basis to cover numbers 2-4 above and on a one-time basis to cover number 1 above.

Any institution which fails to meet the membership criteria for four consecutive years is dropped from the ARL. The information on pages 4 and 5 demonstrates that Colorado State University failed to meet the criteria in 1985/86, and it is anticipated that we will fail to meet the criteria in 1986/87. That gives us two years, 1987/88 and 1988/89, to come up to standard. At 86/87 costs of approximately \$40 per volume and \$160 per subscription, the magnitude of the resources required to achieve even minimum standards is staggering.

### Does it Matter?

Colorado State University's membership in ARL matters to the extent that it matters whether or not Colorado State University is a comprehensive research university. It is generally accepted that included among the required components of a comprehensive research university is a research library. Membership in ARL is the nationally (even internationally) accepted standard by which a library is identified and recognized as a research library. Membership in and of itself is not an important factor. Membership gives Colorado State University a benchmark against which to evaluate its library, and membership gives the rest of the research and scholarly community confirmation of Colorado State University's continuing commitment to research support. Membership in ARL is a conventional indication of the quality of an institution's commitment to research and graduate education.



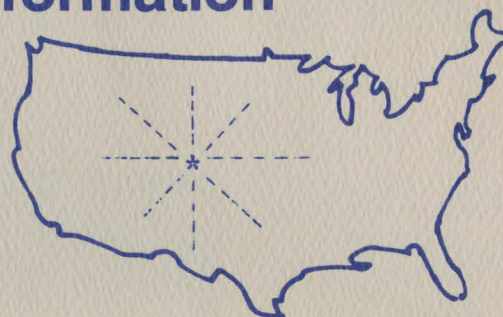
## Reciprocal Borrowing Privileges —

# Expanding Access to Information

Faculty members at Colorado State have borrowing privileges at other schools in the state, region and nation. Twenty-nine state colleges and universities in Colorado have signed the Colorado Council of Academic Librarians Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement, allowing faculty and students access to their collections. A complete listing of the Colorado institutions participating and their loan policies can be obtained from the Reserve Desk, Morgan Library. Ask for Institution Lending Policies.

Colorado State also has separate agreements with the University of Denver and the University of Wyoming allowing reciprocal access to their library collections. In addition, a long-standing agreement with the schools of the Mid-America State University Association (MASUA) gives faculty members access to the collections of the Universities of Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Kansas State, Iowa State and Oklahoma State.

Colorado State's membership in the Research Libraries Group (RLG) also provides opportunities for faculty members to use the collections of some of the greatest research libraries in the nation, including Columbia, Stanford, Yale, Cornell, Michigan, Princeton and the New York Public Library. The combined RLG collections are available to all



qualified constituents of member libraries through reciprocal access — using materials in an RLG library but not borrowing them directly. Faculty members may, as always, order any item not in Colorado State's collections through interlibrary loan, but RLG also provides the opportunity to use major collections on-site. On-site access procedures vary from institution to institution in the 36-member group. A complete list of libraries is available at the Reference Desk.

Halcyon Enssle  
Acting Assistant Director  
Access Services

## Libraries Welcomes New Staff Member



Stephanie Chase

In April, Stephanie Chase joined the staff of the Libraries as Sciences and Technology Librarian, with responsibility for forestry, biological sciences, and agriculture. Her academic training includes a B.S. in Psychology with an emphasis on animal behavior, an M.L.S., and a postgraduate fellowship in Environmental Studies.

Ms. Chase was the librarian at the Denver Museum of Natural History for 9½ years before coming to Fort Collins.

Currently Ms. Chase is interested in developing expert systems as guides to the scientific literature.

### • Did You Know . . .

797 computer literature searches were conducted for students, faculty and staff through the CLASS service in fiscal year 1986-87?

### • Did You Know . . .

LI 280, a 7-week, 1-credit course **Developing Library Research Skills** is being offered as an experimental course in the fall and spring semesters?

## Gifts to The Libraries

The Colorado State University Libraries welcomes gifts which add to the body of scholarly knowledge, enhance the existing collections and support the instructional and research programs of the university.

Donations are reviewed by subject specialists before selection for the collection. All material selected by the subject specialists is catalogued, shelved and made available to all patrons. Material not selected for the collection is generally offered to other institutions and public agencies.

Gifts are acknowledged in writing by the Head of the Acquisitions Department. The letter states the exact count of the donation but cannot provide an appraisal. Generally, the fair market value of the gift of books is tax deductible, if the tax return is itemized.

For additional information and the Libraries' written policy for accepting gifts, write, telephone or visit the Gifts and Exchange Section in the Morgan Library (x1823).

Diana Wess  
Library Assistant II  
Gifts & Exchange



## Stretching the Book Budget Dollar —

# Collection Development

Collection development is the organized manner in which books, journals, conference proceedings, etc. are selected for the Libraries' collections. There are generally four ways materials end up on the Libraries' shelves:

- **Approval plan**

Similar to most academic institutions, the Libraries has contracted with a vendor to supply it with a weekly shipment of books from major publishers based upon a clearly defined set of subject and non-subject parameters. Books sent for approval are examined by the assigned subject selector with an eye towards retaining or returning any particular book. The Libraries welcomes interested faculty to review these books and initial items they would like added to the collection. The approval plan is the basis for acquiring a large percentage of core Libraries' materials.

- **Faculty/student requests**

All selectors give high priority to requests initiated by both faculty and students. As many of these requests as possible are seriously considered within the constraints of the annual book budget. Faculty receive notification slips for specific books or journals they have recommended which are later received by the Libraries.

- **Selector requests**

Public service librarians are specialists in designated subject areas. While working closely with faculty and students, the selectors order various library materials to support faculty research as well as the study needs of Colorado State University undergraduate and graduate students. Some recreational materials, such as travel guides and popular fiction, are purchased to a limited extent.

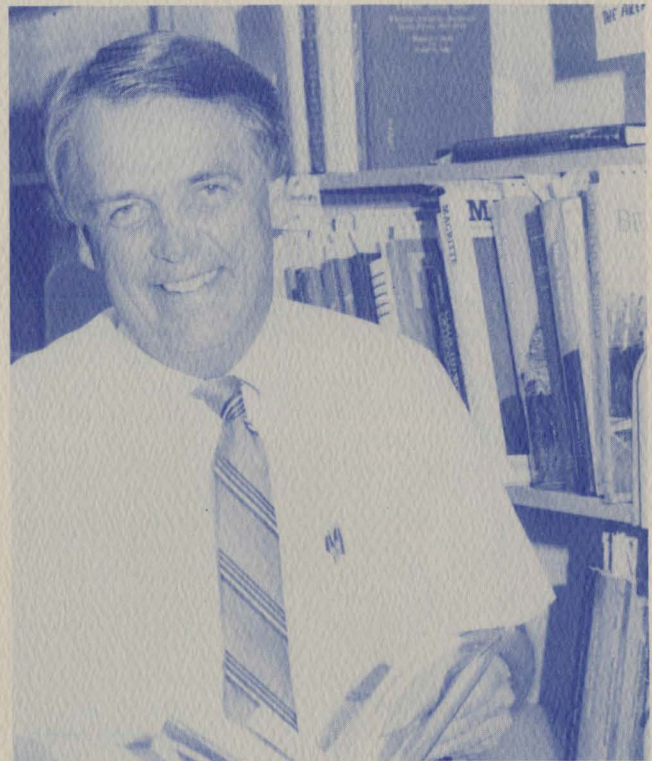
Selectors also rely on book reviews that appear in standard library publications and in more scholarly or discipline-oriented journals, such as the *American Political Science Review*. All selectors are required to become familiar with the curricula and emphases of their respective academic departments on campus.

- **Gifts & Exchange**

The Libraries receives materials through a number of exchange agreements with other universities and professional groups. In addition, a steady stream of gift materials arrives regularly. Subject selectors then look over these gift items and identify those most appropriate for the collection.

A large segment of the Colorado State University community, including faculty, students and Libraries' staff, is drawn into the book selection process. This collaborative effort helps ensure that the Libraries' collection reflects both a wide range of legitimate interests, and a depth necessary to support Colorado State University faculty and students in their studies or research.

Stephen Green  
Head, Social Sciences & Humanities Department



*Bob Hoel, Chair of the Marketing Department, reviews new books on the approval shelf.*

## What's New?

- All microfilm and microfiche which were stored at the University Libraries Depository have been returned to Morgan Library.

- CLASS has moved! The searching service now occupies Room 218AX, attractive, roomier quarters which are more suitable for searching demonstrations.

- A reader-printer has been placed in the Government Documents area to facilitate use of technical reports and government publications which are issued in microform.

- **The Datapro Reports on Electronic Publishing Systems** are available at the Reserve Desk for 24-hour loan. This regularly updated loose-leaf service includes evaluations and cost information for various types of desktop publishing systems.

- **Did You Know . . .**

*The 1983 America's Cup race might have had a different outcome if competitors had done a computer search? Details of the winged keel were available online only days after they were published — weeks before the race.*

# Comparison of Colorado State University Libraries With Other Institutions

	A	B	C	D	E	Variable 1	1985/86 Variable 2	Variable 3	Variable 4	Variable 5	
	Full-time FTE Enrollment	FTE Graduate Enrollment	Ph.D.s Awarded	Ph.D. Fields	% of Univ. Budget (median=3,6)	Total Volumes	Volumes Added	Current Serial Subscriptions	Total Staff	Total Expenditures	Overall Rank
*Illinois	32,859	5,733	531	94	3.1	7,000,170	198,837	92,913	556	15,428,361	5
*Ohio State	43,555	6,003	512	121	2.5	4,077,575	110,862	31,312	469	13,811,139	16
*California, Davis	19,835	5,234	231	53	3.2	2,082,128	92,477	50,564	316	12,177,242	22
*Michigan State	34,504	3,429	416	156	2.3	3,129,802	81,521	24,859	325	9,723,470	34
Hawaii	14,046	1,826	129	38	N.A.	2,089,176	77,913	33,889	223	8,420,637	42
Wayne State	14,297	1,827	150	54	3.5	2,129,392	54,781	23,336	231	9,682,030	48
California, S.B.	16,636	2,028	153	57	6.0	1,745,803	49,381	21,247	239	9,763,294	50
Connecticut	16,319	2,381	181	66	3.6	2,013,043	68,312	19,872	225	7,874,952	52
*Texas A&M	33,229	3,517	474	72	2.0	1,655,652	59,997	16,772	298	8,851,483	54
S. Carolina	15,089	3,298	138	44	3.1	2,175,766	58,724	18,898	204	5,788,807	57
*Purdue	28,126	3,510	380	50	1.9	1,695,718	50,815	18,224	264	6,602,987	64
Kentucky	15,755	1,681	89	47	2.7	1,992,499	44,363	15,072	261	7,395,619	69
*Iowa State	23,236	2,098	256	66	2.5	1,663,235	63,139	19,683	211	6,074,302	70
Houston	14,557	1,838	143	44	6.2	1,485,706	52,513	22,581	222	6,757,350	75
Colorado	18,777	1,666	242	48	3.4	2,096,954	50,783	13,803	203	6,575,349	77
Utah	15,154	2,304	188	60	2.2	1,588,466	56,818	14,348	226	5,810,603	81
Florida State	16,684	2,062	224	69	3.4	1,624,138	47,477	17,233	230	5,951,851	83
*Washington State	14,966	1,521	143	40	3.4	1,456,181	39,594	20,181	209	6,535,747	85
*N. Carolina State	16,863	1,188	196	42	2.5	1,153,720	47,280	15,439	213	7,215,356	88
*Oklahoma State	17,434	1,513	155	37	5.2	1,420,618	30,313	10,350	167	4,699,819	100
*Colorado State	16,005	1,681	157	35	2.6	1,071,104	31,814	11,761	141	4,214,993	101 (last)
High					7.4	11,136,662	296,309	102,000	1,044	30,988,429	
Median					3.6	2,029,455	65,942	20,590	264	8,390,864	
Low					1.9	1,071,104	29,359	7,375	111	4,214,993	
						(Colo. State)				(Colo. State)	

Source: ARL Statistics, 1984-85. Wash., D.C. Ass'n. of Research Libraries, 1986.

\*CCHE designated peer institutions.





## 1985-86 ARL membership criteria index

Institution	5-Variable Index <sup>1</sup>	Institution	5-Variable Index <sup>1</sup>
Harvard	2.20	Connecticut	-1.12
Calif., Los Angeles	1.66	Cincinnati	-1.13
Calif. Berkeley	1.63	Texas A&M	-1.14
Yale	1.29	Vanderbilt	-1.19
Illinois	1.21	Laval	-1.22
Texas	1.19	South Carolina	-1.26
Toronto	1.09	New Mexico	-1.27
Stanford	1.05	Nebraska	-1.27
Columbia	0.88	Southern Illinois	-1.28
Cornell	0.82	Washington, St. Louis	-1.28
Washington	0.54	Massachusetts	-1.29
Wisconsin	0.53	Temple	-1.31
Minnesota	0.32	Purdue	-1.32
Chicago	0.22	Miami	-1.32
North Carolina	0.18	Brown	-1.32
Ohio State	0.14	Brigham Young	-1.35
Princeton	0.13	Virginia Polytechnic	-1.36
Pennsylvania State	0.02	Kentucky	-1.37
Pennsylvania	-0.05	Iowa State	-1.38
Duke	-0.13	Waterloo	-1.39
Arizona	-0.16	Oklahoma	-1.40
Calif., Davis	-0.20	Rochester	-1.41
Georgia	-0.22	Delaware	-1.41
British Columbia	-0.23	Houston	-1.43
Virginia	-0.25	Calif., Irvine	-1.45
New York	-0.26	Colorado	-1.51
Arizona State	-0.29	Notre Dame	-1.51
Alberta	-0.30	York	-1.56
Northwestern	-0.32	SUNY-Stony Brook	-1.59
Rutgers	-0.33	Utah	-1.59
Southern California	-0.47	Tulane	-1.59
Iowa	-0.51	Florida State	-1.59
Florida	-0.51	Manitoba	-1.60
Michigan State	-0.55	Washington State	-1.62
Kansas	-0.56	Oregon	-1.62
Johns Hopkins	-0.61	Tennessee	-1.65
Calif., San Diego	-0.75	North Carolina State	-1.67
Maryland	-0.77	Queen's	-1.67
MIT	-0.78	Dartmouth	-1.69
McGill	-0.79	Georgia Tech	-1.81
Howard	-0.82	Guelph	-1.82
Hawaii	-0.83	McMaster	-1.82
Louisiana State	-0.99	Alabama	-1.85
Boston	-1.00	Calif., Riverside	-1.90
Missouri	-1.01	Case Western Reserve	-1.92
Syracuse	-1.02	Saskatchewan	-1.96
Western Ontario	-1.04	SUNY-Albany	-2.05
Wayne State	-1.07	Kent State	-2.08
Emory	-1.09	Oklahoma State	-2.30
Calif., Santa Barbara	-1.10	Colorado State	-2.38
Georgetown	-1.11		

The following member libraries are not included: Indiana, Michigan, Pittsburgh, Rice, SUNY-Buffalo.

<sup>1</sup>5-Variable index listed on reverse.



## The Successful Library Exercise

### Number 3. Assessing Student Skills. "How Much Do They Really Know?"

Students can benefit greatly from fulfilling independent learning assignments: answering questions, solving problems, testing assumptions, making choices, and evaluating information. These assignments will often require individual or small group research efforts using the resources of the library. It is important that students be given adequate preparation in how to do the necessary research, just as they are instructed in how to perform laboratory experiments or fulfill the requirements of a practicum. If not adequately informed, students may find their research efforts to be an exercise in frustration or even failure.

It is often assumed that college students have learned the necessary rudiments of using the library by the time they reach college. Librarians have always known that such is not the case, but objective information has been lacking to back up their observations.

For several years now, the Colorado State University Libraries has been giving a pre-test to students in the CO150 classes prior to their coming to the library for instruction in research methods. Analysis of the results from over 1000 test samples has revealed some startling information! Almost three-fourths of the students tested do not understand how titles are filed in the card catalog — one of the most basic and elementary skills needed to use a library. Over seven out of ten do not know how the call numbers work — understandable since the Library of Congress system used in this library is new to them — but indicative of the need for some explanation. Approximately eight out of ten do not know how to read all the parts of a periodical index citation, and over half do not understand the use of subject cross references that direct them to usable terms in the card catalog.

These skills provide the working tools needed for information research: locating appropriate information, choosing the best information available, evaluating the information

obtained, and using it to generate new understanding and knowledge. Without the basic tools, students may not reach the ultimate goal of research — independent learning.

Before turning students loose in the library to "sink or swim," why not consider the possibility of assuring that they have some knowledge of how to proceed? Ask the library liaison for your department to give a class presentation to introduce your students to basic library research and/or special requirements for the assignment at hand. Your librarian can also serve as a resource person for your students when they encounter individual problems.

Evelyn Haynes  
Social Sciences & Humanities Librarian



### Library CONNECTION

*Library Connection* is published twice during the academic year to acquaint users with the resources of the Colorado State University Libraries. Requests to be placed on the mailing lists, comments and questions about the content may be referred to members of the faculty newsletter committee, Jennifer Monath, chair; Barbara Burke; and Martha Traynor.

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