

The Learning Commons NEWSLETTER

The College of St. Catherine

<http://library.stkate.edu>

No.8 Spring 2008

From Filmstrips to Blue Ray:

37 years of service at the Media Services Department

Mary Ellen Brown Retires from Minneapolis Campus Library



By Cynthia Graham, Librarian,
Minneapolis Campus

In August of 1971 MaryEllen Brown began her career as an audiovisual technician for the nursing department at St. Mary's Junior College. In the early years of her career she handled classroom media and equipment, as well as the production of in-house media in order to demonstrate nursing procedures like bathing, bed-making, and even a birth. Her duties later expanded to include media service to the entire campus.

With the construction of the Education Building in 1975, MaryEllen supervised the new state of the art A/V learning lab, which housed 136 study carrels to accommodate independent learning with slides, audio tapes, and filmstrips. In 1989 MaryEllen took the title of Media Coordinator when the Library and Audiovisual Departments merged. She also undertook the responsibility of producing graphics as well as maintaining a media collection.



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Fifty Years in Libraries!

36 years of service at The College of St. Catherine

Karen Harwood, Associate Professor, Library



By Carol Johnson, Director,
Libraries, Media Services, and Archives



Karen Harwood, a graduate of Derham Hall High School and The College of St. Catherine, received her M.A. in Library Science in 1958 from the University of Minnesota. She began her career as a cataloger in the Science Section at the University of Minnesota Libraries, eventually spending eight years in the Acquisitions and Cataloging departments there. She is an experienced school librarian, serving as a high school librarian in Brainerd and as Assistant Supervisor for School Libraries for the Minnesota Department of Education.

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Library Historical Timeline

- 1958 – **Karen Harwood** begins her career in libraries
- 1962 – *The Music Man* is released, forever tying librarians with the shushing Marion
- 1967 – OCLC is founded
- 1968 – MARC is released as US standard
- 1970 – 3M installs the first “tattle tape” security system in St. Paul libraries
- 1971 – **MaryEllen Brown** is hired by St. Mary's Junior College
- 1972 – **Karen Harwood** teaches Library Science at the College of St. Catherine
- 1977 – First VHS videocassette recorder is introduced for home use
- 1981 – IBM releases its PC
- 1984 – Apple launches Macintosh
- 1986 – St. Mary's merges with St. Kate's
- 1990 – Microsoft introduces Windows
- 1995 – Netscape, the first web browser, is released
- 2000 – Google handles 100 million queries a day
- 2001 – Congress passes the *Patriot Act*
- 2003 – College of St. Catherine Library moves into the Coeur de Catherine
- 2008 – **Karen Harwood** and **Mary Ellen Brown** retire

Ask a Librarian

By Sue Gray, Reference and Circulation Librarian, Minneapolis Campus

Q I want to know the meaning and etymology of a word. Where would I look?

A You may want to try the Oxford English Dictionary, known as the OED, the most comprehensive English language dictionary in the world. It provides a rich resource for the meaning and pronunciation of over 600,000 words, tracing the evolution from their first recorded occurrence to present usage. The OED consists of 20 volumes and takes up four feet of space in the St. Paul Campus Library reference section. And now you can search it online through the library website at *OED Online*.

And what kind of things can you do with the OED? Lots! Search for quotations from a specific year or from a particular author or work. Look up the meaning of a word and how it has developed over time. Search for words that have originated in other languages. Can't remember a word but you know what it means? Look it up in *OED Online*! Have OED's "Word of the Day" e-mailed to you or receive it through an RSS feed. You can even search for words that were recorded in the year of your birth.

Here's an example of a typical entry for the word, "nacho." First, we see its definition: "a tortilla chip, typically topped with melted cheese, chilli sauce, etc.;" then the country of origin: U.S.; followed by the first mention of the word: "1948 *San Antonio* (Texas) *Light* 28 Jan. 14A (adv.) Latin Quarter Mexican Restaurant..." and its etymology: "Origin uncertain. Perh. < Mexican Spanish *Nacho*, pet-form of the male forename *Ignacio* (with reference to the supposed creator of the dish...)." Where else could you find this authoritative information so quickly but the OED?

Did you know that J.R.R. Tolkien, the author of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, was a member of the OED's editorial staff? He said that he "learned more in those two years than in any other equal part of my life."

Minnesota's New Virtual Reference Service



The College of St. Catherine Libraries are participating in a new cooperative virtual reference service with six other Minnesota academic and public libraries. The service will provide Minnesota residents with 24/7 access to librarians.

The libraries, including Hennepin County, Rochester Public, Mankato State, St. Cloud State, St. John's/St. Benedict, and the U of M Duluth, plus MINITEX Reference Services, will work together using OCLC's QuestionPoint virtual reference software. Staff at each of the

libraries will work together to answer questions Monday-Saturday, with back-up service provided by QuestionPoint's national cooperative service.

AskMN allows residents to ask a librarian a question online without any additional accounts or software. Look for the **Ask a Librarian** link on the St. Kate's website



New @ the Library

Study Space

The St. Paul Campus Library is such a popular place two new group study rooms were added. Find them in the northeast end of the Library, near the photocopyers and room 110.

Credo Reference

A digital reference library that places a world of factual information at your fingertips. The database contains dictionaries, encyclopedias, thesauri, and books of quotations, as well as a variety of subject-specific titles covering everything from the arts to accountancy and law to literature. Besides textual information, you can also find thousands of images, sound files (especially pronunciations of words), and animations. Find Credo Reference at <http://library.stkate.edu/connect/databases/credoref.html>. Available on-campus and to current students/faculty/staff.

Research Project Calculator

When should you begin your research? How much time do you need for writing the first draft? Get some help with time-management thanks to the Research Project Calculator from MINITEX and MnLINK. Provides a customized timeline and even mail reminders. See <http://rpc.elm4you.org/>

MaryEllen Brown

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In her 37 years with the College MaryEllen has embraced changes in technology as the state of art for learning with media shifted. She has seen audiocassettes with slides and filmstrips come and go. She's seen 1 inch and 1/2 inch reel-to-reel migrate to 3/4 inch videocassette and VHS tapes. CDs, DVDs and even Blue Ray have required her to stay on top of the changing world of media.

Even though new technologies have changed the way in which her work is done, her fundamental commitment to serving faculty, students, and staff have remained strong throughout her incredible career here. We have been so blessed to have her.

What People Have to Say About MaryEllen Brown

"Her personal style and dedication stand as a shining example of service that cannot be taught, that likely will not be replaced and that surely will be missed."

"She is our institutional memory and will be missed."

"No one believes MaryEllen's old enough to retire. It's her youthful spirit, her cooperative nature and her good humor that have made it such a joy to work with her for these many years."

Karen Harwood

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Her career at the College began in 1972 as a professor in the Library Science department. In 1981, she accepted a faculty position in the Library as Head of Library Technical Services following S. Marie Inez Johnson's retirement. Throughout her career, Karen has always contributed to the education of librarians and library workers, from her teaching in the Library Science program, her contributions to state continuing education efforts and training programs such as MOTSE cataloging courses and the Urban Libraries Program, to serving as the CE Chair for the Minnesota Library Association, and serving as a portfolio evaluator for the state library certification program.

In our Library, she has seen it all—from the end of the card catalog to an ongoing adventure with library automation—and on the way she taught

us all to live a balanced life. She manages the materials that come into the Library, and she sees that they are well cared for.

And Karen is a mover. She oversaw the move of the Library's collections not once, but twice—first to an interim location during the renovation of the Library in and then to its present home in the Coeur de Catherine in 2003. Through it all, she has served St. Catherine's with her heart and soul, and we are all the better for her presence.

Each year, her staff includes their appreciation of Karen's management and supervision style in their annual reports. Some examples:

"I want to thank Karen ... who saw us through these extra challenges, offering, as she does best, her support and encouragement. She is a thoughtful and grateful supervisor, which helps make the tough times 'history' in record time."

"Karen offers me every opportunity to be mindful of the importance of leading a balanced life not only through her words, but also through her actions. She is thoughtful, she is sensitive, and she is fun."

"I am most appreciative of her efforts to create an atmosphere in Technical Services that is supportive and flexible. For this she has my utmost respect and my heartfelt thanks."

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*Friends of the
Libraries*



Please join us for a
Thank You Reception

Thursday, April 24, 2008
5 pm - 7 pm

Sr. Marie Inez Johnson
Faculty Study, Room 123

Coeur de Catherine
College of St. Catherine Library

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Guest Speaker

Lydia Poor

*Educating Ourselves
about Immigrant
Communities*