

# The Learning Commons NEWSLETTER

The College of St. Catherine

<http://www.stkate.edu/library>

No. 3 Fall 2005

## MLIS in Norway

By Mary Wagner, Library Science  
Department Director

This past summer ten Masters of Library and Information Science (MLIS) students and their professor, Mary Wagner, attended the 71<sup>st</sup> General Conference and Council of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) held in Oslo, Norway, August 14-18, 2005.

Preceding the conference, the students participated in a three-day seminar developed by the Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs (HECUA), of which St. Catherine's is a member. The seminar focused on library services to new immigrants and allowed the students to compare U.S. library services to new immigrants, especially those provided by public libraries in the Twin Cities, to those of the Scandinavian countries, Norway in particular. As part of the seminar, students



National Library of Norway  
Photo: by Chris Heusers

visited the Multi-Cultural Museum, a library with anti-racism collections and programs, and interacted with speakers representing public libraries in Norway.

During the 2005 conference the students met with the U.S. Delegate Caucus and interviewed the president of IFLA, Ms. Kay Raseroka from Botswana. They also attended conference sessions with special attention to issues of access to information, intellectual property, and the work of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Two St. Kate's students were interviewed for the daily conference newsletter.

This year's seminar and conference were elements of an MLIS course in International Librarianship. In 2006 the IFLA Conference will be held in Seoul, Korea and in 2007 in Durban, South Africa. Professor Wagner plans to offer the course in 2007 in conjunction with the Durban conference and with an added service learning component.

## Graduate Assistantships at the College of St. Catherine Libraries

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

In 2003 the Friends of the College of St. Catherine Libraries decided to raise \$6,000 to add several new Graduate Assistantships to the five MLIS Assistantships already offered by the College of St. Catherine Libraries. Graduate Assistantships are a great way to enhance and expand library services while at the same time giving students concrete, real life experiences to add to their resumes. Faculty and staff mentor the graduate assistants and all parties benefit from the exchange.

MLIS Graduate Assistantships began in 2001 as a pilot program to improve evening and weekend service at the Minneapolis Campus Library. The first

Graduate Assistantship position in Reference was intended to add library patron support services and to provide the student with practice in reference collection development and instruction. The pilot was very successful and was expanded to include two additional assistantships in St. Paul, one in Reference and one in the Ade Bethune Collection. Today there are five library-funded

**Graduate Assistants in Reference  
are Eryn Hampton (Minneapolis)  
and Margaret Borg (St. Paul).**

graduate assistantships, four in reference and one in the Ade Bethune Collection. This semester's Graduate Assistants in Reference are Eryn Hampton (Minneapolis) and Margaret Borg (St. Paul).

The new Friends of the Libraries Graduate Assistantship will allow us to move in a different direction, perhaps

appealing more to the information specialist. This program is designed to work with the Centers of Excellence, specifically with the Center for Women and Health, in a collaborative project with the Northpoint Health & Wellness Center in Minneapolis. This semester's Friends of the Libraries

**This semester's Friends of the  
Libraries Graduate Assistant is  
Lynn Strand-Meyer, who has just  
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Excellence researchers.**

Graduate Assistant is Lynn Strand-Meyer, who has just begun her work with the Center of Excellence researchers on a literature search on racism, health, and community-based participatory action research. This collaboration can only lead to good results for the Center, Northpoint Health & Wellness Center, and the student.

# Ask a Librarian

By Sue Gray, Reference/Circulation Librarian,  
Minneapolis Campus

**Q:**

Why can't I just use Google to find a research article?

**A:**

Using an Internet search engine such as Google can be a great way to find information on a variety of academic subjects. However, because anyone can publish on the Internet and there are no content standards, it is often difficult to tell if a website's information is appropriate for scholarly research. Information from the Internet needs to be critically evaluated for accuracy, credibility, currency, and appropriateness.

Also, if you rely just on Google or the Internet you may be missing a lot of valuable sources. Searching a database instead can help you find research articles from journals, magazines, newspapers, and books.

The St. Kate's libraries have a variety of databases that have been carefully selected to provide access to comprehensive, well-respected, peer-reviewed academic information. If you don't know where to begin your research with databases, remember librarians are your partners in finding quality research information on and off the Web.



## Want to know more?

See the library's guide to Evaluating Web Sources:

[www.stkate.edu/library/guides/EvalWeb.html](http://www.stkate.edu/library/guides/EvalWeb.html)

Check out the databases at CSC Libraries:

<http://www.stkate.edu/library/connect/databases.html>

## Have another Question?

Minneapolis 651.690.7898  
St. Paul 651.690.6652

# Better Ways to Serve You:

## Reference Goes High-Tech

By Anika Fajardo,  
Reference Librarian

With the goal of providing the best possible library service to the St. Kate's community, we have invested in new and improved databases to help with research, and this fall we will be piloting an instant messaging reference service.

The CSC Library has re-subscribed to the familiar InfoTrac databases that were so popular at St. Kate's when they were available statewide through a government subsidy. InfoTrac is easy to use and includes a significant amount of full text. The most popular of the InfoTrac databases is *Expanded Academic ASAP*, which covers general academic topics.

In addition, the library is also re-subscribing to two history

databases: *America: History and Life* and *Historical Abstracts*. Together, these two databases provide indexing and abstracts to articles covering the U.S. and Canadian history and world history. A new database this year is *Catholic Periodical and Literature Index*, which covers all aspects of Catholic faith and lifestyle. *Catholic Periodical and Literature Index* includes over 370,000 index citations of articles and reviews published in Roman Catholic periodicals, Papal documents, church promulgations, and books about the Catholic faith that are authored by Catholics and/or produced by Catholic publishers.

If you need help with these or any of CSC Library's databases, you can stop by the library, call, or email a librarian. And now patrons have a new option for communicating with St. Kate's reference librarians. Anyone who has an account with AIM, Google Talk, ICQ, MSN/Hotmail, or Yahoo!Chat will be able to chat or instant message the librarians with their research questions. Talk to a reference librarian to find out more!

# How does Media Services keep up with the times?

By Ann I. Piotrowski,  
Media Coordinator and Anika Fajardo, Reference Librarian

Keeping up with ever changing technology, new student and faculty expectations, and various issues in the world of library media can be challenging. St. Kate's Media Services is brushing up on the latest at national conferences, connecting students and faculty with needed services, and keeping track of new technologies.

This October Ann Piotrowski attended the annual conference of the Consortium of College and University Media Centers in Portland, OR. This conference addressed various issues facing media centers across the

country. Ann has been watching the developments in the re-licensing of the popular out-of-print documentary series, *Eyes on the Prize*. These popular videos, shown in many St. Kate's classrooms, include original footage of the Civil Rights movement. They are caught up in a logistical nightmare of licensing and copyright, which prevents the videos being

**The popular videos, *Eyes on the Prize*, are shown in many St. Kate's classrooms and include original footage of the Civil Rights movement.**

reissued on DVD and having Closed Captioning (an assistive technology designed to provide access to film and television for persons with hearing disabilities). At the conference, Ann **Media Services** cont. on next page



## The Friends 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Fundraising Event

By Adam Marsnik, Friends of the Library President

an effort to enhance the Masters Degree program in Library and Information Science as it seeks accreditation from the American Library Association.

The evening began with a social hour during which friends were able to enjoy the delicious hors d'oeuvres, catch-up with associates and acquaintances, and visit with our guest speaker, author K.J. Erickson. As part of the program, I was pleased to report that the Friends group raised more than \$26,000 as of May 2005. As of the gala night, the appeal to increase the Sr. Marie Inez Endowment had already brought in \$3,100 bringing the level of the endowment up to \$57,000. What a wonderful start toward our goal!

Lynn Strand-Meyer, the first recipient of the Friends MLIS graduate assistantship, reported on her role as

research consultant to the college's Centers of Excellence. We look forward to hearing more from Lynn as she progresses with her assistantship. The highlight of the evening was Minnesota author K.J. Erickson, who explained her writing process, the role libraries and teachers have played in her life, the genesis of her Mars Bahr series, and her upcoming book entitled *Thirteen Steps*. Following the event, K.J. Erickson was available for a book signing. As always, the evening ended with a drawing for the many door prizes generously donated by local businesses and Board members.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to all of our friends for making our 8<sup>th</sup> fundraiser a success and for your ongoing generosity. Your kindness has, and continues to have, a profound impact on the Libraries. Information about the gala event, the Friends group, and membership/donation forms are available on our website at <http://www.stkate.edu/libray/friends>.

The goal for the Friends' Annual Gala Fundraising event was to raise the funds for the Sr. Marie Inez Johnson Endowment, supporting Information Management and Library Science. This effort is part of the Friends' three-year goal to raise the level of this endowment to \$100,000 in

## Blogs Afoot in MLIS

By Aimee Houser, Instructional Tech. Coordinator for MLIS

The Master of Library and Information Science program has been supporting faculty and student use of blogs since Winter 2005. Blogs, short for Weblogs, are web sites comprised of topical entries, or "posts," that appear in reverse chronological order. More than just another "hot new thing," blogs have become an important learning tool because they facilitate common online learning objectives—sharing, collaboration, and discussion—without requiring much time in skills adoption or site maintenance.

Professor David Lesniaski currently uses his blog for student discussion in LIS 748 Collection Development; over the summer, he used it to communicate with a practicum student. The blog was "the most convenient way to communicate," Lesniaski says, "since we could

comment on each others postings, organize the postings, and post relatively long messages in a very readable format." The blog made it easy to "see a lot of material at once" and "respond to postings or comments without the distraction of email headers and other symbols." Professor Deb Torres finds that blogs are helping her to provide students with spillover information from core courses she teaches. "I'm using the blog to 'fill in the gaps' for some class topics that I was not able to cover as thoroughly in class as I expected," Deb notes.

The MLIS program has an IT professional to administer and support the blogs, but faculty in other departments can strike out on their own with [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com), a free blogging service. While blogs promise efficiency and ease of use, like any online tool, there are issues to think about—such as privacy and control. For more about these issues and what constitutes "blogging," go to Stephen Downe's article "Educational Blogging" in the

Educause Review (available online at <http://www.educause.edu/apps/er/erm04/erm0450.asp>). A web site compendium of best practices in educational blogging is also available (<http://elearn.arizona.edu/blogs/bestpractices/>).

**Media Services** cont. from previous page

found out that the Ford Foundation has donated money to expedite the re-licensing process. Developments such as these will have a profound impact on the services we are able to provide for our students.

New technology can be overwhelming, but it also can provide services that never would have been possible before, especially for students with special needs. For example, can you believe that a cell phone can be a useful educational tool? One hearing impaired student is participating in classroom lectures through the use of a cell phone, an off-site transcription service, and her laptop. Fortunately, the advantages new technologies and new developments in media services offer far outweigh the challenges.

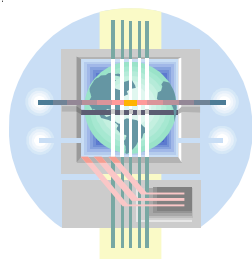
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**The Learning Commons Newsletter**

provides news on the academic partners in the Coeur de Catherine. These include: Libraries, Media Services, Archives, McGlynn Computer and Technology Center. The O'Neill Center, the Library and Information Science Department, and the Centers of Excellence. It is published once every semester, in the Fall and in the Spring.



## News from the McGlynn Computer & Technology Center: Streaming Media!

By Cyndy Krey, Instructional Technology

After much research and the involvement of faculty and staff, Computing Services is providing streaming media at St. Kate's. Streaming media is video or audio transmitted over the Internet that doesn't require the user to download large files. Streaming media saves time and space on your computer and allows viewers to experience "live" events via the Internet.

Last spring Montessori Education purchased a streaming media system (MediaSite from Sonic Foundry) and recorded and tested nine hours of lecture material with students this summer. Montessori Education will be recording 90 hours of content over the next year or two, reducing the amount of travel time for Montessori faculty and allowing them to focus on hands-on instruction.

Another application of streaming media has been in an astronomy course. During this course students come to campus to use the telescope on Mendel Hall only once or twice during the term. They use BlackBoard to participate in discussion and view lectures—which are recorded and distributed through the streaming media system.

Once recorded, students can view lectures on the web or on CD-ROM. Feedback so far is that they "love being able to review" the lectures. Some students have been reviewing the lectures several times during the week, which increases "time on task" and hopefully contributes to overall learning and mastery. For students interested in classroom technology and media services, assisting with this streaming media system may provide a valuable learning opportunity.

### Streaming Media: What's involved?

- ◆ Camera attached to MediaSite box
- ◆ MediaSite box connected to the internet with a data cable
- ◆ MediaSite box connected to laptop
- ◆ Faculty member gives lecture and shows PowerPoint, desktop applications, web sites
- ◆ Sound, slides, and instructor's lecture are synchronized and viewed via Internet Explorer from any Internet connected computer.