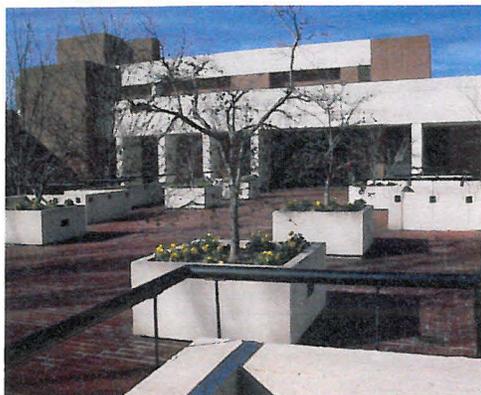


# LIBRARY LETTERS

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## Notes from the University Librarian



Things have been quite busy since the start of the year! To mention just a few items of interest:

- The University funded the new position of Library Technology Coordinator to take the lead in developing the Library's Web presence and assist librarians in managing our increasingly complex technical environment. Since more and more of our users now utilize the Library's web page in finding information and doing research, it's especially important that this gateway to knowledge be well-designed and easy to use.
- We have begun the search for a new Science Librarian (see piece about Hugh Blackmer's retirement) who—among other things—will be expected to develop the science collection, create appropriate documentation for the use of electronic resources, promote the wide range of services offered by Telford Science Library, build strong working relationships with faculty and students, and stay abreast of changes in the curriculum and in the teaching methods being used by the Sciences academic departments. An exciting challenge for the new incumbent, hard though it will be to replace Hugh!
- We got some great ideas from all who participated in a recent Friends organizational meeting! We hope to get the Friends underway with a membership drive and a kick-off event in the Fall. For more about this, see the piece in the newsletter.
- A library space study, the first stage of planning for the renovation of the Library should begin this spring with the report due in the fall. The space study will include faculty and student focus groups to give our users ample opportunity to weigh in on their views of the best library facility for W&L.

We hope to have the new librarians on board early in the fall, and by then, too, to have a better sense of the scope and potential cost of a renovated Leyburn. As you can see, 2005 looks likely to remain an exciting and challenging year! We are blessed to have so many loyal and experienced staff members to see us through these changes.

Regards...

Merrily E. Taylor  
University Librarian

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## Hugh Blackmer Retiring After 13 Years @ W&L

Hugh Blackmer, Telford Science Librarian, is retiring to coastal Maine in September. But don't expect him to slow down! Hugh brought his impressive credentials - graduated from Harvard with a degree in Anthropology, served two years in the Peace Corps, received his PhD from Stanford, professor of Anthropology in Nova Scotia for 18 years, MSLIS from Simmons - to Lexington and W&L in August 1992.

While at W&L, Hugh has taught Anthropology of East Asia for five years, Geography of Human Cultures, Landscapes of Computer Science, and University Scholars courses, among *many* others; in addition, he has presented "Blogging and Beyond" for Faculty Academy. Another recent interest is podcasting. He has served on numerous committees and provided informative public lectures.



As with most librarians, there's more to Hugh Blackmer than his love of books and learning. He is a musician, instrument builder, haiku poet, photographer, hiker - he day-hiked the Appalachian Trail over 11 years - and a self-described "foodie".

Hugh is looking forward to returning to the north in early September. His ready smile and incomparable contributions to the Library and W&L will be sorely missed.

## Did You Know...

- the Library employs 21 full time staff?
- the Library purchased 9620 new books in 2004?
- the Library has 49 foreign languages represented in the video collection?
- almost 4500 video recordings list a language other than English as their primary language?
- the average Library experience of the staff is 10.86 years, with 5 people here over 20 years?
- the Library has over 50 books on CD?
- Special Collections has over 3400 original items from or to Robert E. Lee?
- Special Collections has over 38,000 rare books?

## Friends of the Library

On March 24 twenty interested people met in Northern Auditorium to discuss the formation of a Friends of the Library group at W&L. Representing alums, current and retired faculty, and Library staff, the consensus of the group was to proceed. Future meetings will start the detailed work of establishing such a group: selecting a Board, preparing by-laws, and defining more specifically how this organization will function.



## RefWorks Makes Life Easier

The University Library now provides faculty and students with a new tool to manage bibliographic information and prepare bibliographies. *RefWorks* is a Web-based bibliographic software package that enables users to create personal databases of bibliographic information by importing citations, abstracts, links to full text, and other information directly from library databases or from saved text files.

Once in *RefWorks*, citations can be organized into folders for different research projects and then retrieved when needed to prepare bibliographies for output from *RefWorks*, or used within Microsoft Word using the Write-N-Cite software available on the *RefWorks* Web site. With Write-N-Cite, a student with an Internet connection may add footnotes, endnotes or parenthetical citations and automatically prepare works cited lists simply by pulling the information from their *RefWorks* database. Help Bibliographies may be created in a variety of document formats including Word, RTF, and HTML. Thus, *RefWorks* provides flexibility for users to manage their research sources and more easily prepare appropriate documentation of their research. Help with *RefWorks* is available at the Reference Desk.

## Noteworthy On-line Acquisitions

### Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

<http://library.wlu.edu/details.asp?resID=572>

### American National Biography

<http://library.wlu.edu/details.asp?resID=573>

### ArtSTOR

<http://library.wlu.edu/details.asp?resID=544>

### International Medieval Bibliography

<http://library.wlu.edu/details.asp?resID=538>

### Historic Documents

<http://library.wlu.edu/details.asp?resID=587>

### West's Encyclopedia of American Law

<http://library.wlu.edu/details.asp?resID=560>

### Encyclopedia of Islam

<http://library.wlu.edu/details.asp?resID=484>

### World Powerbase

<http://library.wlu.edu/details.asp?resID=536>

### International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences

<http://library.wlu.edu/details.asp?resID=589>

## The Oldest Book in Special Collections is *Historiae adversus paganos* by Paulus Orosius, ca. 1475

