Migration? What Migration?
Barbara Fister

No, we’re not talking geese. PALS, our online catalog system introduced to Gustavus in 1987, is being transformed into MnPALS in 2004.

Some years ago the state legislature appropriated funds to develop a new state-wide catalog that would offer one interface for the University of Minnesota libraries, the Minnesota State College and Universities system libraries, and those of many private colleges.

The look will be different, but we think you’ll like the change. Refining and limiting a search should be easier than ever. There will be new options for users to keep track of books that interest them. And, once the integrated interlibrary loan function is up and running, it will make it easier to place requests for books from many Minnesota libraries, including those at the University of Minnesota, which is already using this new system.

As with any change, there will be a period of adjustment. The library staff are working hard to migrate data to an entirely new system and we know there will be occasional glitches. We’ll keep you apprised of issues as they arise through the library’s Web site.

What About Interlibrary Loan? We will continue to order the books and articles you need from other libraries. For a few months, you won’t have the option of ordering books from other libraries found through our catalog at the click of button—though the MnLink union catalog for Minnesota libraries will continue to offer that feature and an online form will still be accessible from our Web page.

For more information about the migration, or to see how the new catalog is working at other libraries including the University of Minnesota, click on the migration link on the library’s Web page.
Books Make an Impression:
An Interview with Mary Solberg

Michelle Twait

Recently I sat down with Mary Solberg, associate professor of religion and frequent library user, to talk about books, reading, and libraries. The following are excerpts from that conversation.

MT: How have libraries played a role in your life?
MS: Well, my father taught history at a church-related college and so the academic and intellectual life was always a big part of my family. There were always a lot of books visible in my home… I ate books alive as a kid. Part of it was because we didn’t have a TV until I was nine and part of it, I’m sure, was that both of my parents were avid readers. There were a couple of things in grade school that I remember very vividly. One was… my fifth-grade teacher, one of the things I loved about her was that she read aloud to us. I think it was right after lunch for maybe a half an hour. I mean, it never was long enough. I remember going to the grade school library. It was an old, old one-story brick school and there was a very long counter all the way across the width of the school and behind that were all the stacks…

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We Get By with a Little Help From Our Friends:
Gustavus Library Associates

Ginny Bakke, GLA Board Member

Gustavus Library Associates (GLA) was organized during a budget crisis with the goal of raising funds for the library. Twenty seven years later these friends of the Gustavus Library have built a healthy endowment and sponsor regular fund raising events. Their generous support and strong leadership are a great success.

Regular events include an annual membership tea; Author Day, which brings nationally know authors to speak to our membership and guests; St. Lucia, a tradition of the college Swedish heritage; and Easter Bunny breakfast, an event for future Gusties.

A Royal Affair, otherwise known as the “Great Gustavus Holiday Get-Together,” is the biennial gala produced by Gustavus Library Associates. It features fine dining, extraordinary entertainment, and a silent/live auction. Proceeds from previous A Royal Affair events total in excess of $1.6 million.

The Gustavus Library Associates take great pride in providing endowment funds and special project funds. All of these activities support the ongoing mission of Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, while keeping alumni and friends connected with Gustavus.

Link to the Gustavus Library Associates Web site:
http://www.gustavus.edu/oncampus/gla/index.cfm
I remember taking four to six books home every week. And I remember thinking to myself, ‘Isn’t it great? I’m never going to run out of books to read. There’s always going to be more books to read than I’m going to have time to read. And they are always going to be ahead of me.’ Of course now I just wish they’d stop publishing books for about five years so I could catch up! [laughs] I loved reading biographies and I read about Florence Nightingale and Kit Carson and Daniel Boone and Amelia Earhart. I think I was trying to figure out who I was going to be. I loved books, just loved books.

MT: … I’ve worked with you on [library] sessions [ranging] from your First Term Seminar on Joan of Arc to, most recently, your senior thesis students. How do you view the role of library research in your courses?

MS: I’m really concerned that students get some level of practice reading and using libraries. I really don’t think people get very much of that in school – middle school or high school… [Some students only have exposure to] the banking method – where you learn what the teacher thinks you should know and you are evaluated based on how much of that you can reproduce. Then, suddenly, if you go to college, you’re expected… at least nominally, to start thinking for yourself and you’ve had no practice doing that.

But there’s also been no association between what you could find out that might be different from what the teacher would know. And I am somewhat romantic in the sense that I really think it’s wonderful to be in a library and to hold books and wander through the stacks and all that stuff. But I think there is a great deal that is not just the good old days or romance about reading a book, holding a book, casting your eyeballs across the page, turning the pages, putting it down, thinking about it. Seeing all the books, imagining how many people have thought about how many things. It’s… more difficult to develop that disposition, that awareness, if you don’t have the practice of spending time in a library.

Getting students into a library is obviously for me the first step in… helping them learn a practice that one would hope would be further developed and last a lifetime. And, really, whether it is [an] FTS or senior thesis, it’s important. It’s essential. All the way along the line.

MT: To switch gears, or perhaps not, what books have had the greatest impact on you?

MS: The whole series of The Stupids… they are really funny books. I would say the books that I mentioned when we first started talking, that I read when I was a child, had a very, very profound impact on me. Partly just the fact that they were the books I read and that I loved reading. Partly because I had a chance to go so many places through books. I really wanted to know who I was supposed to be and what I could be. Because my parents told me that I could do anything I wanted to and once I got to junior high school, I realized that there were things that girls couldn’t do. Not because anyone told me that, but because it seemed perfectly evident from my experience of physical education and mathematics and things like that. Very clear messages were sent. But it was so wonderful to read these biographies, because these were very specific people who did very specific and important things. So those books, collectively, mattered to me a lot.

I’ve had a top ten list of novels and I don’t know how important any one or any collection of them would have been, but I think of books like The Brothers Karamazov, Portrait of a Lady, One Hundred Years of Solitude, Beloved. You know I say Beloved and I think, that book just moved me so much. I think it was the first time I ever really saw with my heart what slavery must have been like. It was just astonishing to me that [Toni Morrison] could bring that to life… just the power of the story and the way it was told. And now what I’m discovering is reading Hebrew texts. Hearing the translation of the Hebrew and knowing enough of the Hebrew to be dangerous, you know. [laughs] To see that the translation is really what those words are saying because I know enough about the words to know that’s what they’re saying. It’s just so moving. So powerful. Hearing something read in another language that you’ve heard read in English.

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From Tin Box to College Archives:
A Brief History of the Archives at Gustavus Adolphus College

Edi Thorstensson

When Reverend Eric Norelius opened a congregational school in 1862 in Red Wing, Minnesota, he did so in response to a request from the Minnesota Conference of the Lutheran Augustana Synod, the immigrant Scandinavian, (mostly Swedish) church body. The following year, the school was moved to East Union, christened Minnesota Elementar Skola, and, in 1865, incorporated as St. Ansgar’s Academy.

The earliest reference to an archives appears in the minutes of the Minnesota Conference’s meeting, held at East Union on June 2, 1864. Translated from Swedish, the minutes state the following: “Resolved, that the Conference’s secretary be assigned the purchase of a tin box for the purpose of depositing there for safe keeping the Conference’s minutes, papers, and documents.” In October 1868, a similar entry was made into the minutes, with the additional recommendation that the box should be kept in the library of St. Ansgar’s Academy. This became the nucleus of the present Lutheran Church Collection and College Archives. When the Academy was closed in 1875 and the college at St. Peter opened, the archives were brought to the new school, which, like its predecessor, was under the legal ownership of the Conference.

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Books Make an Impression

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MT: So what you’re reading now is…
MS: Well, every once in a while I’ll go to Barnes and Noble and grade papers and I’ll putz around and I’ll find a book that looks just really wonderful and it turns out that these books often are connected to things I’m thinking about or teaching. In the last three or four months, I read a book by Elaine Pagels called Beyond Belief, which is about the very first couple of centuries of the Christian movement. Then maybe six weeks ago, I picked up a book called The Doctors’ Plague because I teach Ethics and Medicine. I’m going to take a book with me to Atlanta for [a] conference. It’s a book by Steven Pinker and it’s [called The Blank Slate: The Modern Denial of Human Nature]… One of the things I want to think about very deeply… is human nature. Whether we have the capacity to do what is right consistently. So I’m very interested to see what this neuroscientist has to say about human nature.

…[Now] I go much more specifically to books that will help me figure something out, but it’s the same thread that goes back to when I was a little girl and I read biographies because I wanted to know who I could be. I wanted to go somewhere else and see it from another angle. I was kind of working on the general problem then and now…there are things I really want to know more about and I want to see how somebody else has thought about it and so I find books specifically that will help me do that.

MT: Are there things I’ve forgotten to ask or other things you want to mention?
MS: I’m sure I probably told you much more than you wanted to know! [laughs] I hope that libraries will be around for centuries more. I hope that libraries and books, physical books, are not displaced and not, as I say, not for romantic reasons, so much as for the kind of weightiness. Not that the books are heavy…but this is like evidence. This is the evidence of awfulness, of adventure, of great lives…and there’s something just very impressive…it makes an impression.
In 1910, the Conference instructed the trustees of the College to appoint the college president as archivist *ex officio*. From that time until 1943, the archives of both Gustavus Adolphus College and the Minnesota Conference remained under the immediate authority of the president, and, although they had long since outgrown their tin box, were kept for a while in the president's office, after which they migrated from place to place, as space availability allowed. In 1943, however, the Executive Committee of the Minnesota Conference and the Board of Trustees of the College entered a joint agreement to engage the services of an archivist, Joshua Larson, a recently retired professor of Swedish and astronomy, who for years had been working with the archives on a volunteer basis. By then, the archives had been moved to the basement of Uhler Hall, where Larson plugged away, organizing the mass of documents, books, and artifacts that had accumulated over the years. His successors, beginning with history professor emeritus Conrad Peterson, were employed to work with two separately managed archives, that of the Conference (later, Synod) and that of the College. The Archives staff eventually grew to include two archivists and many volunteers and student assistants.

It is noteworthy that the archives were established by the immigrant founders of the church and school and intended to preserve evidence of each body's activities, which were to a large extent interrelated; and that, from the time of its founding, this school was singled out to serve as a repository.

The fact that the College listed the archivist in the college catalog from 1945 on and authorized the archivist to administer these records indicates an official commitment to an institutional archival program that would reflect the organic nature of the church’s and school’s relationship. The Minnesota Conference has, through a succession of mergers, become one with the many descendants of pioneer ethnic Lutheran church bodies that today comprise the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Recently, the College renewed its commitment to the Lutheran Church Archives, asking that the collection be appraised and defined to emphasize its historical value. Last summer, I began working on this project and will continue, one way or another, until it is accomplished. Already opened are more functional channels of communication and cooperation with the archives staff at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, which serves as the ELCA District 3 repository. This is an essential step towards together serving congregations, researchers here and abroad, genealogists, students (among them, budding genealogists!), and interest groups, such as the Augustana Heritage Association, which will hold its annual meeting here next summer. Ahead lie preservation issues to be addressed, collection descriptions, basic indexing, and photo digitization.

The Lutheran Church Collection includes primary sources, statistical information, regional history, records of missions and missionaries, early social assistance, the immigrant experience, women’s organizations, youth and teaching, and much, much more.

Finally, I will share this anecdote: While sorting through hundreds of books relocated from the archives to tiger cage storage in Norelius Hall, my husband, Roland and I ran across a modest volume, published in 1839, *The Dakota First Reading Book*, prepared by Gideon Pond and Stephen Riggs, founder of the first mission at Traverse des Sioux. Its inside cover is stamped to show that it was once in the library, and that its donor was A.W. Williamson, son of Thomas Williamson, the Presbyterian missionary and linguist at Lac Qui Parle. A.W. Williamson held a master’s degree from Yale and served as professor of mathematics, philosophy, U.S. History, geography and English, the courses taught in the English language from 1876 to 1880. In spite of being let go because he was neither Swedish-speaking nor Lutheran, Williamson respected Gustavus and the work it was doing, and he gave this rare book and many more to the College.
Library Policy and Patron Privacy
Kathleen Baril

I worked for three years in an academic library at the circulation desk before I understood the importance of privacy and confidentiality in the library. I knew that patron library records should not be divulged to anyone but the patron, and that no matter how much they argued, I could not tell patrons who had recalled their books from them. But until I began library school, I did not realize we were bound legally to keep these records private.

Patron privacy is relevant not only for circulation issues, but for other areas of the library as well. For instance, a few years ago, while I was attending a training session for an online repository of e-books, the sales representative demonstrated that those with an administrative password could review the names of library patrons who had created accounts in the system. Several librarians gasped as the names of patrons appeared on the overhead screen. Although in this case, no violations had been committed, as only certain individuals (i.e. library administrators) could see these records and only library employees were attending the session; this example showed librarians the potential information that could be collected and saved in an online database.

Librarians have long recognized the importance of privacy, and the American Library Association states in its code of ethics: “We protect each library user’s right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.” In the age of the USA PATRIOT Act, libraries should be especially clear what their policies and procedures are regarding privacy and their library patrons. Librarians need to inform library staff about privacy and also let patrons know what rights they have; one way to do this is to develop a privacy policy.

Two sources that provide information on how to formulate a policy are the American Library Association’s “Guidelines for Developing a Library Privacy Policy” and an article by Karen Coyle titled “Make Sure You Are Privacy Literate,” which provides a checklist for auditing patron information. Examples of privacy policies can be found at Duke University’s library Web site (http://www.lib.duke.edu/privacy.htm), University of Michigan’s library Web site (http://www.lib.umich.edu/policies/privacy.html) and Florida State University’s library Web site (http://www.fsu.edu/library/explore/policies/privacy.shtml).

A privacy policy not only aids the library in deciding what kinds of data to keep but also informs its users what information is collected about them and what is discarded. A policy also allows libraries to formulate general standards that they wish to follow in all library operations from licensing agreements to circulation policies. We immediately think of circulation records when talking about patron privacy in the library but privacy in the library also includes reference transactions, interlibrary loan requests, collection development requests, Web transactions, library surveys and any information collected by accessing online databases. As the Minnesota library and historical data law (13.40, Subd. 2) states, private data include “data that link a patron’s name with a specific subject about which the patron has requested information or materials.” Once a policy has been formulated, academic libraries should have their policy reviewed by campus legal counsel to ensure it adheres to all federal and state laws.

Privacy will only become more important as the library utilizes more electronic resources, as technology progresses and while the larger world changes. Librarians should make it a priority to protect patrons and essential library values. The Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library is currently in the process of drafting a patron privacy policy.

Works Cited


Further Reading
I’ve Got the Citation, Now Where’s the Journal?
Anna Hulseberg

Once you have a citation to a journal article, actually getting your hands on that article can sometimes be confusing. There are at least three different ways to acquire journal articles:

- in print in our periodicals collection (lower level)
- in full text through one of our many online databases
- via Interlibrary Loan

Here are some tips for locating journal articles:

1. Search for the journal title in WebPALS, our online catalog (click on “Books, Videos, etc.” under “Search Resources” on the library’s Web page)
   - WebPALS includes all of our active and inactive print subscriptions, as well as selected online subscriptions
   - Click on “Location details” to see if the volume you need is available
   - Please note that in early 2004, WebPALS will be replaced by MnPALS

2. Search for the journal title in our Journal Holdings List (click on “Journal Holdings” under “Search Resources” on the library’s Web page)
   - The Journal Holdings list includes our full text online subscriptions, as well as our active print subscriptions
   - You may search by journal title or browse by journal subject
   - Click on the journal title to access the full text online, or to view the WebPALS record for the print journal

3. Interlibrary Loan
   - If the journal is not available from our library in print or in full text online, you may request it via Interlibrary Loan. Some databases include an Interlibrary Loan button. For those that do not, you may submit an online request by clicking on “Interlibrary Loan” under “Services” on the library’s Web page

4. Still confused?
   - If you’re still confused, ask a librarian at 933-7567
Spotlight on RefWorks

Barbara Fister

Have trouble remembering whether you capitalize all the words in a journal title in APA style? Whether you need a colon or a comma between date and page numbers in MLA? Do you wish you had an easier way to keep track of citations as you do your research?

RefWorks is a new citation management program offered through the library’s Web page. Once you set up a personal account, you can save references in any of the CSA databases with the click of a button. Using an import feature, you can save off citations in many other databases as well, then import them into your RefWorks account. And you can add references by hand. Stored references can be sorted into different files, annotated, and searched. You can even search the University of Minnesota catalog and download references to your own folders. References are stored on a remote server, accessible by password.

The most amazing feature of RefWorks is that you can select references and generate a bibliography in one of dozens of formats, including MLA, APA, Chicago, or in the styles used by a number of science journals.

This won’t make documenting sources a breeze—you still need to proofread your list of works cited since imported references sometimes need tweaking and you’ll want to ensure your in-text citation matches the work in your reference list. But it can help you manage your citations and save a lot of time.

Check it out by clicking on the RefWorks link on the library’s home page.

Save references directly from:
ATLA Religion Database
CSA Biological Sciences
MEDLINE (through CSA)
Physical Education Index
Plant Science
PsycINFO
RILM
...and more

Import references from:
America History and Life
Expanded Academic ASAP
FirstSearch
JSTOR
MLA
SportDiscus
Web of Science
...and more