
The Compass



...Pointing the way to a community of learning

Volume 9 Issue 2

The Newsletter of Emma Waters Summar Library

November 2005

Listen Up! ————— Books on CD available

By Melissa Moore

Reference Librarian and Reader Services Librarian

Are you *listening* to books yet? Here are a few things that the Audio Publishers Association (http://www.audiopub.org/files/public/APA_Fact_Sheet.pdf) has to say about audiobooks:

- Readers are increasingly turning to audiobooks as a way to supplement their reading time, and publishers say it's now expected that an audiobook will account for 10 to 15 percent of a book's overall sale. ("Analysis: Some of the Factors Contributing to the Growth of Audio Books," *National Public Radio*, January 27, 2005)
- Americans make 51.3 billion trips to and from work in their own vehicles every year. ("Commuter Consumer," *The Washington Post*, April 24, 2005)
- One factor driving sales is, literally, driving. "The number-one place people listen is in their cars," says Mary Beth Roche, publisher at Audio Renaissance. As commuter times lengthen, she says, avid readers are driven to books that let them keep their eyes on the road. ("Now Hear This," *American Way*, May 15, 2005)
- The average annual delay due to traffic congestion has more than tripled since 1982.
 - More than 19 million commuters travel more than 45 minutes each way to their jobs;
 - More than 97 million workers drive alone to work each day;
 - The average rush hour driver will spend an additional 62 hours stuck in traffic—at standstill—each year. (Texas Transportation Institute 1002 Urban Mobility Study)

If you aren't tuned in yet, you should be! The holidays (and its inherent traveling) are just around the corner. Here are some titles in Summar Library to get you started:

- **Machiavelli's The Prince**: read by Shelly Frasier on four CDs (almost four hours): *Call number 1080-68*
- **Virgil's Aeneid**: Robert Fitzgerald's translation is read by Christopher Ravenscroft on eight CDs (nine hours): *Call number 1079-68*
- **Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice**: read by Sharon Williams on nine CDs (almost 11 hours): *Call number 1081-68*
- **Mary Shelley's Frankenstein**: read by Tom Casaletto on seven CDs (eight hours): *Call number 1082-68*
- **Charles Dickens' Great Expectations**: read by Michael Page on sixteen CDs (20 hours): *Call number 1083-68*
- **Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer**: read by Norman Dietz on six CDs (seven hours): *Call number 1078-68*
- **J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**: read by Jim Dale on 17 CDs (nineteen hours): *Call number 1073-68*
- **George Orwell's Animal Farm**: read by Richard Matthews on 3 CDs (hours): *Call number 1055-68*
- **Thomas Cahill's Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea: Why the Greeks Matter**: abridged version read by Olympia Dukakis on six CDs (six hours): *Call number 1063-68*
- **Rick Warren's The Purpose Drive Church**: abridged and read by the author on two CDs (two hours): *Call number 1074-68*
- **Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol**: read by John Lee on three CDs: *Call number 1053-68*

Complete lists of books on CD and on audio cassette are available on the library's website (www.uu.edu/library) in the sidebar under resources.

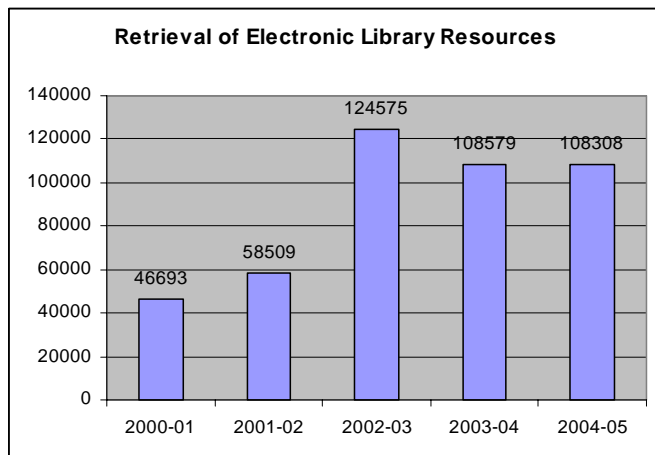
From the Director's Desk

By Steve Baker

Equilibrium

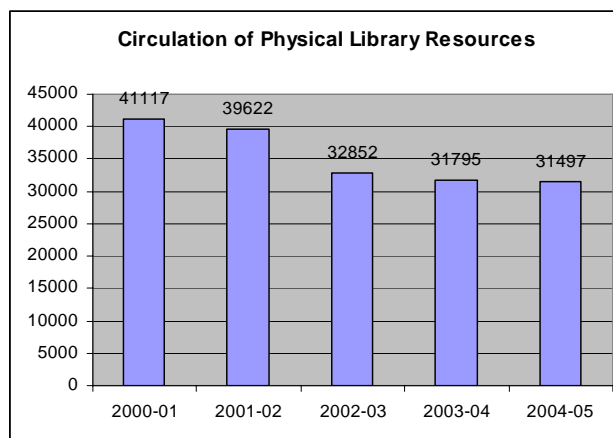
At a summer meeting of CCCU library directors there was talk of a new sense of balance emerging in some of our libraries. The past decade had been rather chaotic as our libraries reallocated resources from traditional print materials to accommodate new electronic resources. One result of this shift at some of our libraries was a decline in print circulation and gate count as use of electronic resources climbed precipitously. Union's library seems to have achieved equilibrium between the forces that push us toward more electronic resources and away from print materials.

Electronic resources represent an important segment of the library's collection of materials. Currently, faculty and students have access to 17,874 full-text journals, periodicals, and newspapers through the library's primary providers of digital serial content. They also can access a collection of 35,779 electronic books through the library's online catalog. These electronic resources are accessible both on and off campus. The following chart illustrates the usage of all forms of electronic content provided by the library.



Even with the significant use of electronic resources the library continues to collect vigorously in the more traditional print and media resources. The library's collection of print materials includes 145,935 volumes and subscription to 718 periodicals. In addition, the library now has a collection of media resources totaling 14,070 items primarily in visual and musical materials.

One important issue for the library as it plans for the future is analyzing the impact of electronic resources on the use of physical library resources. When statistics on the circulation of physical resources are compared with use of electronic resources an interesting picture emerges.



In the late 1990s and into the first two years of the current decade there was a clear correlation between the increase in electronic access and the decline in circulation of physical library resources. There now seems to be evidence of a new balance being established between physical and electronic resources. It is encouraging to see that the circulation of books has essentially stabilized for the time being. These numbers will be monitored to see if this trend toward balanced library use sustains itself over time or whether the shift toward electronic accelerates again at some point.

Recommended Reading from the Library Staff

Light on Snow, by Anita Shreve

Available in the Recreational Reading section of the library

The crux of this story is gathered up in a line from the heroine narrator. Reflecting some years later on one honest but painful conversation with her father she recalls, "I watch him walk toward the house, grief a hard nut inside his chest." Grieving the loss of his wife and infant daughter Robert Dillon retreats from his pain into a self-imposed exile. An exile his pre-teen daughter Nicky reluctantly shares. Only the chance (providential) encounter with another's tenuous life cracks the "hard nut" in this soul's heart. *Light on Snow* is set in the captivating splendor of the New England winter. Anita Shreve has crafted some memorable characters in this story of grief and healing. Characters that are enlivened by small mundane but meaningful details; like a little girl's beads, a man's sawdust covered clothes, or a young woman's blue parka. This book is a quick read. Some who have experienced great loss may find it difficult, even cathartic.

– Steve Baker, Library Director

Long Time Gone, by J. A. Jance

J. P. Beaumont continues his more than 20-year career in law enforcement in the Washington State Attorney General's Special Homicide Investigation Team as he is assigned to a 50-year-old murder case in which memories have resurfaced of an eyewitness who was five years old at the time of the crime. He runs into several bureaucratic roadblocks as he investigates this case and as he tries to help his friend who is accused of murdering his ex-wife. This author charmed us at the ACRL conference this year.

– Dr. Pat Morris, Collection Development Librarian

It Can't Happen Here, by Sinclair Lewis

Available in our library stacks: PS 3523 .E94 I8 1935
Although this book was written in 1935, it is eerie in its dead-on depiction of today's political and societal atmosphere in America. The dated satire would still spark a chuckle or two if the parallels weren't so bone-chillingly accurate. Get a copy for your favorite dittohead for Christmas...while you still can.

– Louella Stewart, Cataloging / Media Resources

At First Sight, by Nicholas Sparks

This sequel to *True Believer* continues the romance of Jeremy and Lexie as Jeremy moves to Boone Creek, NC. The lifelong New York City resident has

a difficult time adjusting to life in a small town and experiences writer's block for the first time in his life. Though the first half of the book moves slowly, it picks up from there and maintains interest to the end. Neither this nor *True Believer* are his best books, but fans of the author will enjoy them.

– Dr. Pat Morris

Making Children Mind without Losing Yours,

by Kevin Leman

Father of four and Christian radio speaker, Dr. Leman knows his stuff! He advocates "reality discipline," letting children make choices and experience the consequences, so that they learn from those experiences. His book addresses inconsistencies we parents are guilty of and issues of birth order that impact our children. His method of discipline encourages responsibility and makes children feel valued. While I don't agree with everything he advocates, there are some precious jewels of wisdom for parents who will read this book.

– Melissa Moore, Reader Services Librarian

In the Company of Cheerful Ladies,

by Alexander McCall Smith

Smith's latest installment in the "No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Series" set in Botswana shows Precious Ramotswa's skill in solving problems, such as the disappearance of a Zambian financier, the mysterious appearance of a pumpkin on her doorstep, and the re-appearance of her abusive ex-husband. She is helped in her investigations by her able assistant, Grace Makutsi and a new employee Mr. Polopetsi.

– Dr. Pat Morris

A Woman's High Calling: Ten Essentials for Godly Living, by Elizabeth George

Elizabeth George is one of the best writers I know of that spur women on to both a deeper understanding of the Scriptures and a stronger commitment to their practical application. In *A Woman's High Calling*, George exposites the Biblical commands from the famous Titus 2:3-5 passage in a clear yet commanding way. I walked away from this book knowing God deeper, following Him more closely in relationships and responsibilities, and being challenged in arenas where it sometimes hurt. This is serious stuff, yet accessible to even the non-Christian-studies-major like me. I will read this every few years, to stay on the right track. – Melissa Moore

RECOMMENDED READS

by Melissa Moore

Looking for a good read over the holidays? Something to entertain you after you finish grading exams and cooking for your family?

- The Scarlet Thread, by Francine Rivers, reminds us of what Rivers does best: juxtaposing the past with the present in a way that challenges us and refreshes our faith. Sierra Madrid is a modern woman who discovers her ancestor's quilt and journal (from the Oregon Trail), and finds herself thinking of God and his sovereignty in a new light.
- The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón is an intriguing, moody, and suspenseful read. Set in Barcelona in the 1940s and 50s, a young man finds a rare book which seems to have powers of its own which lead him on a trail of murder and madness.
- Inkheart by Cornelia Funke. Have you ever wondered if the characters in a book can come to life? Meggie's father is a bookbinder and gifted reader who inadvertently lets the evil Capricorn and his henchmen escape from the book that holds them. The resulting adventure is clever and a delight for booklovers of all ages.
- The Wedding, by popular demand, has now appeared on the kiosk. This is the sequel to Sparks' bestseller, The Notebook.
- Midnighters: The Secret Hour, by Scott Westerfeld (of Australia), explores the idea of a hidden 25th hour in the day through this hold-on-to-your-seat-fictionalized tale set in an Oklahoma high school.
- Shiloh and Other Stories by Bobbie Ann Mason. I first discovered Mason (appropriately enough) when I was living in Kentucky and fell in love with the cadence of her prose, her ability to craft characters I felt I had always known, and the quiet resonance of her stories. This collection is perfect for a winter's day with a cup of hot tea. Amazing!

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE VIDEO COLLECTION

Frédéric Chopin
ML410.C54 K64

Rivers and Tides
NB497.G64 A4

Tour of Duty.
The complete third season
PN1992.77 .T687 v. 3

Genesis
PN1992.8.M87 G4

Conspiracy
PN1997.C6 C667

His Girl Friday
PN1997 .H58

Heaven Can Wait
PN1997 .H61

Molly Maguires
PN1997.M65 M6

39 Steps
PN1997 .T48

Zulu dawn
PN1997.Z8 Z85

Jack's Life: The Life Story of
C. S. Lewis
PR6023.E926 Z6647

Global Warming
QC981.8.G56 G56

Miracle Cell
QH588.S83 M5

Cancer Pioneers
QP606.P76 C352

Genetic Discoveries,
disorders, and
RB155.5 .G453 2003

Toxic Wastes
TD1030 .T69

October Sky
TL789.85.H53 O2

Summar Library Face-Lift Continues



Photo by Kathryn Johnson

View of the new Circulation Desk.
Summar Library also installed tile in the
entryway. Look for more changes soon.