

# Books and Bytes

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A Newsletter of the Hiram College Library

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## Library Launches News Center

The Library has rearranged its current periodicals to open a News Center on the west end of the main floor. It is located behind the current-periodical shelving and consists of three elements with comfortable seating available:

- A large-screen TV that runs CNN News with the sound muted and closed-captioning turned on.



- Current print newspapers and 15 news magazines shelved nearby. These titles were previously shelved at the beginning of the current periodicals, but are now at the end of that collection. Some titles that were at the front have been reintegrated into the alphabetically arranged collection.



- *Library Press Display* is an online database (available from anywhere on campus – we are working on the off-campus access) that contains same-day delivery of some 1,700 newspapers from 92 countries in 48 languages. The database contains the most recent 60 days of each title and presents each paper on the screen just as if you had the print in hand.

The News Center is a great way to keep up with what is happening in your world, whether that world is your hometown or the entire globe. Come by and check it out.



## Coming to the Library in February

**Library Forum** – Wednesday, February 1, at 4:15 p.m. in the Pritchard Room of the Library. Dr. Michael Benedict, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, will be the speaker.



**Library Forum** – Wednesday, February 8, at 4:15 p.m. in the Pritchard Room of the Library. Dr. Sarah Mabey, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, will be the speaker.

**Library Forum** – Wednesday, February 15, at 4:15 p.m. in the Pritchard Room of the Library. Dr. Tina Dreisbach, Associate Professor of Music, will be the speaker.

## Database Roundup

- The **ProQuest** databases (*ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health*, *American Periodical Series*, and *Dissertation Abstracts*) have a new interface, which provides a cleaner look with an easier-to-use search screen.
- Remote users of the **EBSCO** databases are not be able to access any folders they have created while on campus. This issue has to do with how EBSCO organizes and finds folders given that on-campus use identifies you as a Hiram user, but the off-campus login identifies you as an OhioLINK user. We are currently working on a fix to this issue, as it affects some of the library's most-searched databases, including *Academic Search Premier*, *Business Source Premier*, *CINAHL*, and *Communication and Mass Media Complete*.
- *Value Line* is now available to off-campus users with a valid library account. Please use the barcode on the back of your Hiram ID when logging in using the Off-Campus link.
- The Library has begun a subscription to *Library Press Display* as part of its News Center. The library has a number of newspaper databases, both current (*Newspaper Source*, *Ohio Newspapers*, and *Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe*) and historical (*African American Newspapers, 1827-1998*, and *The Civil War: Antebellum Period to Reconstruction*).

## Hiram History

### The East Hall Plumbers

As College Archivist, I normally spend part of my day answering questions about the history of the College, its faculty and staff, and alumni. Recently, I was doing just that when as usual something completely off-topic caught my eye and I had to share it with you.

Some of you know the current East Hall was not the first East Hall. Previously in this column, I explained that there was an East Hall in the late 1940s to the mid-1950s. It was located in the same basic area as the Coleman Center is today. The Federal Government gave the college three former military housing units for the price of deconstructing, moving, and reconstructing. It served as a men's dormitory at a time of extreme crowding following WWII. However, I am willing to bet that perhaps only a handful of people know the following story.

First, we will introduce the cast of characters, I mean, faculty members: Don Dooley, Physics, 1927-1962; James Clague, Philosophy and Religion, 1947-1950; Arthur Benedict, Political Science, 1943-1970; Frank Harsh, Education, 1946-1956; Aaron Kelker, Physics, 1943-1953 (and Director of Admissions, 1944-1960, Director of Alumni Relations, 1960-1969, and Alumni Associate, 1969-1972); Paul Miller, History, 1947-1971; Edward Rosser, Chemistry, 1946-1976; John Davis, English, 1946-1956 (and Dean, 1947-1950); and President Paul Fall.



East Hall opened to students in October 1947. It had 12 bathrooms but only eight were working at that time. From the January 1948 *The Hiram Broadcaster*: “Apparently the plumbers who were doing the work had every intention of prolonging it until Christmas and the college authorities finally lost patience and dismissed them with the job unfinished. Since then the regular maintenance staff of the college has tried to find time to finish the work but they have been too busy to accomplish much beyond their routine tasks.

“At the beginning of the Christmas recess President Fall, who has unlimited faith in the versatility as well as the

loyalty of the members of his faculty, asked for volunteers from among them to help him install the fixtures in the four bathrooms. [His] faith was entirely justified on the loyalty count... as these lines are being typed, all of them are busily engaged threading pipe, caulking joints, etc. Whether or not they can sustain their leader's confidence in their capabilities in the plumbing field is a question that only time can answer. We do know that their daily progress is much greater than was that of their professional predecessors on the job. Even if the toilets leak and the hot water taps run only ice water where else but in Hiram could one find bathroom fixtures installed by doctors of philosophy assisted by masters of the various arts and sciences.”

The makeshift plumbing crew was later honored for their work, as they were “guests of the College at the football banquet at the Mid-Day Club on Jan. 15. While the men were at the banquet, Mrs. Frank Harsh held a party for their wives. The sign on her door said, ‘Welcome to Members of the Plumbers’ Auxiliary.’ Favors were pipefittings, gaskets, etc. Winners in the various games got boxes of Sani-flush and Plumbers’ Friend as prizes.” (*Broadcaster*, February 1948)

For more information regarding old East Hall or any other Hiram history subject, please contact Jennifer Morrow, College Archivist, at [morrowjs@hiram.edu](mailto:morrowjs@hiram.edu) or x5361. The Hiram College Archives is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Appointments are strongly recommended.

By Jennifer Morrow, College Archivist

## Changes in Current Periodicals

There have been two changes made in the current-periodicals collection on the main floor. First, the periodicals have been rearranged. The newspapers and news magazines, previously on the front section, have been moved to the back of the collection to become part of the Library's News Center. The remaining titles are arranged alphabetically beginning on the front shelf with *Advertising Age*.

The collection is also smaller because some 50 titles have been moved to online versions. In these cases, the library is able to save money because the online version costs less than print. Most of these titles are scholarly journals. All will be listed in the library's Periodical Holdings List, along with a link, which is the official listing of the library's periodical titles. The Periodical Holdings List may be found on the library's Web page.

In addition, the library continues to look at how to maintain back issues of the periodical titles it currently receives. Traditionally, back issues were either bound or kept on microfiche or microfilm. Both of those methods remain options. Online, through OhioLINK's Electronic Journal Center (EJC) or JSTOR, offers new alternatives with stability and easy access.

**The Hiram College Library: Learning Unshelved**