CHEMISTRY LIBRARY

Annual Report
July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999

Prepared by Tina E. Chrzastowski

1. The Year In Perspective

   **Major Events and Activities:** For the first time in over 20 years, the UIUC Chemistry Library moved into new, contiguous space in May 1999. This addition increased the size of the library by approximately 1,500 square feet. The new space allowed the library staff to conduct a major move and shift which has affected every volume in the library. The shift is scheduled to be completed by the end of fall semester 1999.

   The implementation of ORA in August 1998 was definitely a major event and occupied many, many hours of training time. Even before its implementation, preparation for ORA seemed to take over the year 1998. Following implementation, educating our users and introducing them to ORA required many months of individual attention and service. One of the ways the Chemistry Library responded to this challenge was with the help of a great library friend, Charlie Wert. Dr. Wert created the Lucille and Charles Wert Educational Endowment. This endowment created a quarter-time graduate assistant position in the chemistry library responsible for online training, promotion, and publicity.

   **Notable Acquisitions:** One of the most notable acquisitions of the year was providing access to SciFinder Scholar, an end-user, online version of Chemical Abstracts. SciFinder Scholar is accessible after 5 p.m. weekdays and all day on weekends. In addition to this contract, we increased campus-wide access to Chemical Abstracts via CD-ROM. Added this year were data for 1998 and 1999, as well as full abstracts for the 12th Collective Index (1987-1991). The School of Chemical Sciences funded the purchase of the 12th Collective abstracts. In April 1999, the Chemistry Library, following a windfall redistribution of library funds, contracted to purchase the American Chemical Society (ACS) electronic publications. The ACS journals are among our most heavily-used print journals and have quickly become welcome additions to our electronic journal subscription list.
New Services Offered: As previously mentioned, new and increased access to Chemical Abstracts and the ACS electronic journals top the list of new services offered by the Chemistry Library. In addition, and with the help of the School of Chemical Sciences who provided the scanning equipment, the Chemistry Library expanded our Online Reserves program. Online Reserves scans and electronically mounts class tests and notes for upper division chemistry courses, providing 24-hour access to these materials. The Chemistry Library has also continued to keep abreast of emerging electronic journals in full-text, offering up-to-date links through our home page: http://www.library.uiuc.edu/chx/.

2. Outlook for Next Year and Beyond

Forecast: There are uncertainties facing the Chemistry Library which will need to be resolved in the coming year(s). These include collection funding, space allocation and remodeling, and, very broadly, access versus ownership. Marshaling our resources of time and energy and expending them judiciously will take thoughtful planning and management. Our expansion plans are proceeding, although painfully slowly. We continue to work on every aspect of the collection: space, shifting, weeding, preservation, acquisition, and budgeting.

Circulation statistics in the Chemistry Library dropped again this year, reflecting the expansion of online reserves. Moving the core Biochemistry classes (350, 352, 353, 355) to online tests and notes meant a dramatic reduction in the number of manual circulations taking place. This is a very positive change, and simply moves a very labor-intensive statistic (checking out reserve material) to a online “hit” statistic. With this type of positive migration taking place, the importance of measuring circulation shifts from manual circulation to online use of library resources. Online Reserves for spring semester 1999 held materials for 13 chemistry courses and received 69,117 hits.

New Products and Services: A number of new initiatives are “online” for the coming year. First, we plan to continue to support Chemical Abstracts on CD-ROM. We will be seeking funding to purchase newly-available older sections of Chemical Abstracts, the 10th and 11th Collective Indexes (together covering the years 1977-1986). Second, commercial document delivery has passed the test with patrons, meaning that it now needs to be continued and expanded. Third, electronic journal subscriptions need to be expanded both in the Chemistry Library and library-wide, as this means of access is growing increasingly acceptable to, and expected by, patrons. Fourth, the graduate assistant for online training, promotion and publicity will continue to focus our patrons on our resources and services.

Resources Required: This section is repeated from last year’s report, which succinctly stated requirements for this library:
"Many types of resources will be called upon during the coming year. Financial support is critical, but not the most critical. Time, energy, and personnel support are also important to achieving goals, or for even staying the course. The resource most required is the talent of good decision making based on facts and faculty input. We will be building a future for all chemical sciences research in both physical facilities and material collections. How this future is funded, shaped, and serviced will be decided in the coming few years.

One of the most critical resources is the staff of the University Libraries. We need a full staffing review in order to use people to their full potential, to serve users to our best ability, and to reward our staff by better identifying the level of their jobs and setting their pay scale appropriately."

3. Technology and the Unit

**New Implementations:** SciFinder Scholar was implemented in July 1998, and continued throughout the fiscal year. Its launch was successful and we are presently conducting a first-year assessment of the cost-effectiveness of this product. Chemical Abstracts on CD-ROM is also an important tool which we intend to keep current, as well as add backfiles where available. The implementation of ORA was another major installation and continues to involve considerable staff time and training. As stated earlier, implementation of the ACS electronic journals package took place in April 1999, with a one-year subscription made possible by redistributed library funds. During fiscal year 1999, the libraries also gained access to the Wiley suite of titles to which we hold print subscriptions, and those of the Royal Society of Chemistry. These additions to our electronic serial holdings helped to make it even more possible for patrons to find citations and full-text articles through library-provided electronic resources, without physically visiting the library. Another new virtual service added this year was the “email a chemistry library GA” program. A library email address allows us to welcome email from patrons about any library service, or to set up a personal appointment.

**Continuing Activities:** Most virtual resources and services continue to be supported. These include Beilstein/Gmelin, SciFinder Scholar, online reserves, CA on CD, SDI searches in Current Contents, and document delivery, to name a few. Our patrons are gradually becoming more familiar and comfortable with all the online options we offer. Also continuing this year is the Graduate Assistant sponsored by the Wert educational endowment, who is responsible for education and training in all library resources, with an emphasis on online resources.

**Planning and Priorities:** Fiscal year 2000 will be another “migration” year as we plan to offer more online services and to continue to educate our
users and help them take full advantage of the array of electronic resources now available.

4. Space and Facilities

**Work Done During the Year:** As previously mentioned, and after many years of planning and work, new space was added to the Chemistry Library in May 1999. Approximately 1,500 square feet of remodeled, contiguous space was moved into over summer term 1999. In addition, about 1,400 linear feet of shelving was added, easing very crowded conditions and opening up the library to more breathable conditions. On the negative side, a number of steam pipe leaks led to minor disaster situations over the past year, and reminded us that our wet neighborhood remains close at hand.

In addition to the remodeling and occupying of new space, a number of meetings took place during the year to plan for Phase II of Chemistry Library remodeling. Thanks to the efforts of Howard Guenther, School of Chemical Sciences, an architectural firm, Severns, Reid & Associates, was hired to study the space and to provide architectural drawings to shop to possible donors.

**Planning and Priorities:** The number one space/facility priority for FY2000 is to continue to work on new space planning and remodeling. This project's success depends on the cooperation between the Library, SCS, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to join together in development efforts to locate donors interested in the Chemistry Library. From the Chemistry Library's perspective, we are anxious to work with our partners and our patrons to create the environment that will best suit chemical research into the next century.