

# Ex Libris

Newsletter of the West Virginia University Libraries

Winter 2005

www.libraries.wvu.edu

## WVRHC Launches Digital Photograph Database

From union miners lining up in Matewan to a World War I pilot showing off his plane to crews constructing the State Capitol to Eleanor Roosevelt touring Arthurdale, a glimpse into the past of West Virginia is now only a few clicks of the keyboard away.

West Virginia History OnView, a new digital photograph database, provides online access to more than 5,000 historical photographs housed in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. The database is expected to eventually swell to more than 25,000 images.

"The West Virginia Collection has the finest collection of historical photographs relating to West Virginia in existence," WVRHC Curator John Cuthbert said. "We are now making the best of them available for viewing by anyone with Internet access."

To explore the database, go to the Libraries' website, [www.libraries.wvu.edu](http://www.libraries.wvu.edu), and click on the West Virginia History OnView icon on the right of the page.

The popular collection, containing more than 150,000 images, is used regularly by students and

a specific Morgantown business or school, for example, might have to had to wade through the entire Morgantown group of several hundred photos. If the desired photograph was a shot of a steamboat on the Monongahela River passing under the Westover Bridge, the photo might not even be housed in the Morgantown section but filed instead under steamboats, rivers, or bridges.

The new database, which incorporates detailed cataloging and descriptive information for each image, will enable users to perform instantaneous searches on any word or combination of words. The person hunting for that steamboat photo could find it through at least three paths: steamboats, rivers, or bridges. Or, if the photo has a description, a search would lock onto a word in that paragraph, such as the name of the boat, its owner, or any other identifying feature included.

Dr. Ken Fones-Wolf, an associate professor of history at WVU, has high expectations for the image database. His teaching and research work requires regular trips to the WVRHC to search through the historic photographs for images capturing industry and other aspects of life in West Virginia.



The State Capitol under construction, circa 1931.

"Looking at the visual images of Wheeling over time, you really get a sense of underlying changes that are going on - the way in which the town is growing, the way in which the town is changing. You can see evidence of the arrival of industry and immigrants," Fones-Wolf said. "You can read about it, but photographs really drive home those changes."

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This soda fountain probably made Ream's Drug Store a popular downtown Morgantown fixture. This photograph was taken between 1900 and 1910.

faculty at WVU and other institutions, researchers, historians, and members of the media. Pictures found often end up in term papers, classroom presentations, newspaper and magazine articles, and documentaries. However, finding that one sought-after photograph has traditionally required a hefty investment of time, thought, and patience. The creation of the databases should alleviate many of the common frustrations.

First, Internet access brings convenience. Rather than making a trip to Morgantown, a researcher can simply search through the user-friendly database from the comforts of home or office. Gone also are the time limitations that stump people pressed to complete their work within the limited operational hours of the WVRHC.

The greatest advance, however, is surely the enhanced search capabilities. Broad subject headings and the absence of a cross-indexing system for the physical photograph collection confounded many users in the past. A researcher looking for a photo of

## Research Now E-Z at the WVU Libraries

Finding information in the WVU Libraries' online databases just got E-Z. E-ZSearch, the newest addition to the Libraries' web site, allows users to simultaneously search several of the Libraries' 150 electronic databases and the MountainLynx catalog for a selected topic. Previously, users would have to identify which databases related to their chosen subject and then search through each of the databases one at a time.

"It will make searching library databases more like using Google," said Penny Pugh, Head of Reference for the Downtown Campus Library. "E-ZSearch gives researchers a way to sift through the huge body of published scholarship in a simple fashion."

A link on the Libraries' web site takes users to the E-ZSearch page. Once there, users have two options before the search engine casts its net for information.

The basic, or default search, focuses on four of the Libraries' most heavily used databases: Academic Search Elite, JSTOR, Lexis-Nexis, and MountainLynx. Another option is an advanced search, which limits the parameters to databases pertinent to a particular discipline, such as biology, business, and psychology.

The researcher simply keys in a term and hits search, and the results are returned, grouped according to database. Pugh expects all users, especially undergraduates, to appreciate the broad search capabilities.

First, the time savings is incredible. On their own, even people who know what databases to search would have to run individual searches on five or six databases. Someone new to research might end up running a dozen searches before finding needed resources. E-ZSearch can scan through several of the Libraries' databases in one quick swoop.

It also helps novice researchers and those unfamiliar with all of the available resources. A common problem for many people is that several databases have names not associated with their contents, such as ABI/Inform which covers business. While someone might overlook the database, E-ZSearch would include it in business searches.

Pugh speculates that E-ZSearch could carry the side benefit of transforming users into better researchers. After a few searches, most will begin to notice a trend of which databases produce the best results. In the future, they might choose to head to those databases first.

Anyone seeking help with using E-ZSearch or any of the Libraries' resources can go to the Reference Desk for help or send questions to our online reference service, Ask a Librarian: [www.libraries.wvu.edu/instruction/ask.htm](http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/instruction/ask.htm)

# Ex Libris

## Book Lovers' Road Show Makes Second Stop at WU Libraries

Norma Whitaker possesses the most important attribute for book collecting, according to Jack Walsdorf, antiquarian book collector and appraiser. She

loves books.

She joined a crowd of more than 60 people standing in line at the Charles C. Wise Library to have their books appraised by Walsdorf, who returned to Morgantown with his Book Lovers' Road Show.

Whitaker enjoyed the afternoon, even though Walsdorf failed to assess either of her books as unearthed treasures.

"I just thought it would be interesting to see what really constitutes the value of a book and what detracts from making one valuable," Whitaker said. "Maybe I can get some knowledge in case I want to try my hand at it."

Everyone seemed to share that same sentiment.

"We've been to other library events, and we thought this was a unique opportunity to learn something different," said Dr. James Shumway, who brought a book founding father John Adams wrote on the Constitution.

"As academics, we have a lot of books, and we enjoy books, but most of us are not familiar with collecting books," Shumway said.

Larry Jackson and his son, Bret, came armed with two books each and a desire to gain better insight about collecting.

Bret Jackson handed Walsdorf a four-volume French dictionary and a 17th century Latin Virgil book. He found it interesting how much information can be gleaned simply by examining a book's cover.

"I think it would be fun to learn more about different printing," he said.

Whitaker also gained some useful keys during Walsdorf's talk. While she knew the condition of a book is important, she didn't know the impact a dust jacket has on the value of a book. She plans to put the knowledge to work at book sales and rummage sales she visits.

Walsdorf is a fan of both.

He advises book collectors to invest time into digging through stacks of hardbacks at second-hand stores and yard sales. As for the

fill his home with at least 7,000 books, 1,000 of which are signed first editions.

Also in Walsdorf's favor is about three decades in the bookselling field, a Masters of Library Science from the University of Wisconsin, and 15 titles about the history of printing he has either authored or edited.

This visit was Walsdorf's second stop in Morgantown.

Two years ago, about 65 people gathered to have books appraised. The most valuable selection brought in for appraisal was copy of the first account of Lewis and Clark's westward expedition, valued at \$125,000.

A common thread between both events was Edger Allen Poe. Last time, someone had a copy of *The Raven*. This time, it was a pamphlet written by Poe. While Walsdorf couldn't attach an exact dollar amount to the piece, he valued it in the thousands.

Some of the most unique finds this year were two miniature books: a biography of President Calvin Coolidge and President George Washington's farewell address. The books' covers measured less than 1 inch by 1/2 inch. Walsdorf appraised them at several hundred each.

The event, in Libraries Dean Frances O'Brien's book, was a success.

"Again, Jack gave the audience a wonderful Road Show. I'm always amazed at his knowledge of books," O'Brien said. "Of course, we must also

applaud the people who shared all those fascinating books. Morgantown is definitely home to lots of book lovers."



*Jack Walsdorf examines a miniature book about the life of President Calvin Coolidge.*

online sites, Walsdorf recommends people do their research before making a purchase.

The two most important tools are persistence and knowledge about the books an individual is hunting. Both have helped Walsdorf

## Coffee Shop Coming to Downtown Campus Library

Coffee and long study sessions are a regular combination for many students. Starting this spring semester, a steamy caffeinated beverage and freshly baked snack will only be a few steps away for students studying in the Downtown Campus Library.

Doors open in February for Eliza's, a coffee shop to be located on the fourth floor of the DCL. Student Body President D.J. Casto, who was at the front of this student-led initiative, is excited to see the café come to fruition.

"As surveys indicate, the library is one of students' favorite places to study and relax on campus. I think the addition of the coffee shop will further enhance this hot spot," Casto said.

He and other student leaders began working on the project last year with Provost Gerald

Lang, Senior Adviser to the Provost Nancy Lohmann, other University administrators, and library staff.

Lohmann became an early champion of the coffee shop. She expects it will enhance the experience for students doing research and studying at the library.

"I think that Eliza's will provide Library patrons with a place where they can take a break from their studies so they can return to their work refreshed and revived. The heavy utilization of the Library makes clear that this is a place that students want and need to be," Lohmann said.

The coffee shop's name is a tribute to Eliza J. Skinner, the first professionally trained librarian at WVU. She served as library director from 1897

until 1902, when she accepted a position with the Library of Congress. Her portrait and biography will hang in a prominent location in the shop.

Eliza's, large enough to seat 35 people, will feature café-style tables and chairs that blend into the Library's existing decor. Bookshelves will line some of the walls and house the current topics reading collection. A limited number of newspapers may also be available for patron reading.

Based on student requests, tentative hours are Sunday-Wednesday from 3 p.m.-midnight and Thursday from 3-9 p.m. The shop will be closed on Friday and Saturday. The shop will offer hot and cold espresso drinks, freshly brewed gourmet coffee and tea, soft drinks, juice, water, baked



## WVU Librarian Named State Association President

Martha Yancey, Access Services Coordinator for the Evansdale Library, was named president of the West Virginia Library Association during the organization's fall conference in Shepherdstown.

In the post, she will guide the group which represents librarians and staff from public, academic, K-12, and special libraries around the state.

"Martha will be an excellent leader for WVLA," said Penny Pugh, Head of Reference for the Downtown Campus Library and the outgoing WVLA president. "She brings vision and tremendous energy to the position, and I expect the organization to continue to flourish under her guidance."

Yancey heads into the job with optimism. Her main goal is to continue the momentum started by previous association presidents. She applauded efforts by Julie Spiegler, a librarian at Kanawha County Public Library and a former WVLA president, who rallied together support for libraries under the slogan "Many Libraries/One Voice."

"If we can keep that up, regardless of the issue that affects a particular type of library, it will work out in a positive way," Yancey said. "I hope that because of my experience with public libraries and

schools, as well as academic libraries, I will have a fundamental understanding of all the needs of the groups in the organization and be able to represent them all."

Yancey already plays an active role in the lives of future librarians. She is currently participating



WVU Librarian Martha Yancey accepts the President's Gavel from colleague and outgoing West Virginia Library Association President Penny Pugh. Yancey was named president of the organization during its fall conference.

in an Association of Research Libraries mentoring program for library school students.

Another interest is Interlibrary Loan. She previously worked in the Evansdale Library's Interlibrary Loan Department, where she helped WVU students, faculty, and staff to find research materials not available on campus, and she provided access to WVU resources to people around the state, nation, and world. Currently, she serves on STARS (Sharing and Transforming Access to Resources Section), an American Libraries Association committee concentrating on Interlibrary Loan.

"Getting materials to individuals across the state is really an important aspect of library service to me. Whether it's for research purposes or personal purposes, that particular need is vital," Yancey said. "We're very fortunate to have access to a base of knowledge that can be shared and expertise that can be shared with the state as well."

Prior to coming to WVU in 1996, Yancey worked as a public librarian in El Paso, Texas, and then as a media specialist at Socorro High School, also in El Paso. She earned her Bachelor's degree and her Master's in Library Science from the University of Maryland and her teacher's certification from the University of Georgia.

## Indian Professor Studies WVU Work on ETDs

Dr. Sumant Goel, Executive Director of the Digital Dissertation Foundation, wants his home nation of India to begin following WVU's example in the area of electronic theses and dissertations.

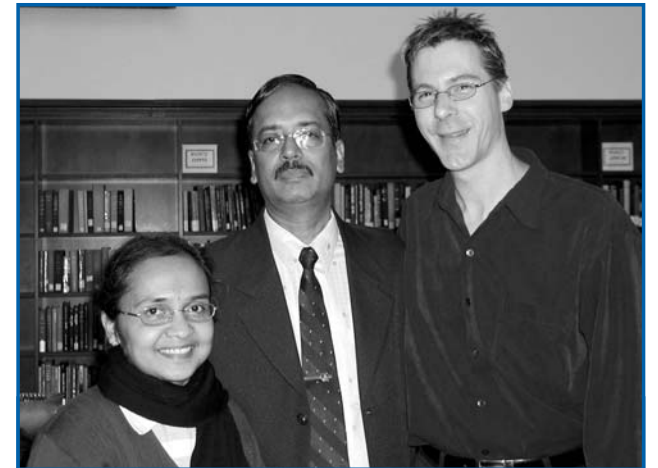
Goel visited WVU in the fall to learn more about its ETD program, which he applauded during a lecture in the Downtown Campus Library. Goel and his wife, Dr. Beena Goel, both dentists, are part of a consortium of university faculty championing the implementation of ETD programs throughout India.

The key benefit that they see in ETDs is enhanced access to the latest research in dental and medical fields. Researchers can find and read online papers written in their area of interest. Goel cited poorly controlled standards in India's

200 dental schools and the lack of scholarly resources available for practicing dentists. He said only a handful of national scholarly dental journals exist to serve the growing population.

WVU began requiring students to submit theses and dissertations electronically in 1998. Since then, WVU's collection of ETDs has grown to more than 2,500 documents.

Greater availability to the research has translated to increased access. John Hagen, manager of Electronic Institutional Document Repository Programs for the Libraries, calculates that people access WVU ETDs about one million times a year. Also, the most popular ETD was accessed more than 15,000 in its first six months online.



Drs. Beena and Sumant Goels and John Hagen

## Downtown Campus Library Upgrades Computers

At the Downtown Campus Library, you can now file computer diskettes with floppy disks and 8-track tapes. The computer upgrade at the Library is turning the data-recording medium extinct.

The WVU Libraries spent the summer upgrading all 180 desktop computers in the Downtown Campus Library with new models boasting faster processors, larger monitors, but no diskette or zip disk drives.

Instead, users will save their work on CDs, DVDs, and thumb drives. A thumb drive, the newest of the technologies, plugs into a USB port and provides 100 times the storage capacity of a diskette. It is also more reliable.

Dennis Newborn, Head of Systems for the Libraries, welcomes the switch. He said the single most reported problem he hears about is associated with diskettes.

"Diskettes are a risk. They're easily damaged," Newborn said. "Diskettes are obsolete."

Newborn expects the upgrade on public terminals to be completed by the end of July. After that, Library employees will assist users who have information stored on diskettes or zip discs to transfer the data to another format.

While the thumb drive is on the frontier of technology, an even safer way to transport data is available and is free. It's called email.

"If you want to be sure you have a copy of

something, email it to yourself," Newborn advises students. "Go to the library and open your MIX account, and it's right there on the machine. Do your editing and email it back to yourself."

And whatever work someone does on the computer should move a little more quickly. The new Dell computers operate with 3.6 gigabit processors; the old processors had 1.2 gigs. USB ports are conveniently located on the sides of the monitors and on the towers.

The WVU Libraries upgrade computers on a three-year cycle. The Downtown Campus Library opened in January 2002 with new computers. Evansdale Library upgraded last year to models with USB ports in their towers.



## Preparing for the Future

Books, books, and more books. That's what libraries used to be all about. Now, that's where they start. At the touch of a button, computers make a worldwide network of varied resources available to supplement the information contained in books.

Considering the changes of recent decades, it's interesting to think about what libraries will be like in another 50 or 100 years. Whatever that will be, they certainly will be different from today's libraries. And as has been true for centuries, change requires funding to bring that about.

Unfortunately, state support for higher education

has decreased in recent years, lessening the ability to implement needed innovations in a timely fashion. Many are unaware that private support is needed to maintain the quality of library services that the University community has come to expect.

As one way to help, many choose to provide their most significant support through their estate plans by including a gift provision in their will or revocable trust "to the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of the WVU Libraries." Doing this assures that additional resources will be available for this vital component of the University.

Such support can be directed to the genealogy

archives, to the West Virginia & Regional History Collection, or to any of the campus libraries for the purchase of academic journals or technological resources, for facility improvements, for preservation services, or for discretionary use.

Providing for future library needs as part of your personal legacy is an impressive way to continue the supply of knowledge resources required for the educational process at WVU. What great results that will yield!

*Deborah Miller, JD is Director of Gift Planning for the WVU Foundation.*

## Alumnae Creates Endowment to Remember Husband

University alumnae Marian Bittle found the perfect way to memorialize her husband for generations to come. She established the Robert D. and Marian T. Bittle Library Endowment for Chemical Engineering.

"I felt it would be a fitting tribute to this exceptional man and my beloved husband," Marian said. "Bob was an avid reader and a scholar in many ways. We both felt that libraries are foundational for learning at all ages, and that's especially true in a university setting."

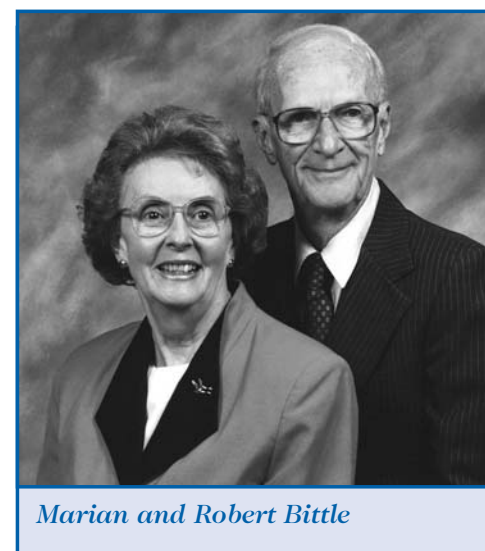
Bob earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from WVU in chemical engineering in 1949 and 1950 and worked for Hercules Inc./Alliance Technology near Cumberland, Md. before retiring. Marian earned a music degree in 1949 and was a music teacher for three years and music director for three churches for a total of 32 years. They had three children and

seven grandchildren.

Before Bob passed away in late 2003, he asked Marian to be sure to provide a gift to benefit their alma mater. Carrying out her promise to him led to the creation of the Bittle Library Endowment.

Library endowments can be set up for any academic discipline or subject area. A written agreement is prepared containing the appropriate terms for purchasing or renewing library resources. The endowment fund will last forever and will provide annual amounts to carry out the purpose specified by the donor in the agreement.

For such a fund, a gift of \$10,000 or more is needed. The full amount can be reached over a five-year period, if appropriate. Cash, stocks, bonds, mutual funds or other property may be donated to the WVU Foundation to establish an endowed fund.



*Marian and Robert Bittle*

## Endowment Honors Noted Harrison County Educator and Historian

Dorothy Davis spent the better part of her ninety years unraveling the mysteries of Harrison County history. In honor of her many achievements in that effort, a WVU Libraries endowment bearing her name will provide funds to support the continuation of her work in perpetuity.

The endowment, which will support the acquisition and preservation of historical materials pertaining to the history of Clarksburg and its environs, was established with a founding gift by David G. Allen of Clarksburg.

Upon graduating from West Virginia University in 1934, Davis returned to her native Clarksburg to teach in the Harrison County public schools. She

continued in that endeavor for the next 37 years. In addition to English, she taught drama and produced more than 50 class plays and pageants during the course of her career.

Another passion was state and local history. Her various interests converged when she was commissioned to write and produce a pageant regarding the early history of Harrison County as part of the West Virginia Centennial celebration in 1963. Titled "Out of the Whirlwind," the pageant ran for seven consecutive nights and was widely acclaimed.

In 1970, Davis published a monumental History of Harrison County, West Virginia consisting of nearly 1,000 pages. Establishing her as the preeminent

authority on the subject, the book continues to serve as the definitive work on this important county. Other local history publications by Davis include a biography of one of Harrison County's most significant pioneers, John George Jackson (1976), as well as more than 50 historical sketches and articles which appeared in the Harrison County Historical Society Newsletter and in Clarksburg newspapers.

An avid supporter of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection at the WVU Libraries, Davis served as a founding member of the Collection's Visiting Committee in 1984. Her association with the organization continued until her death in 2004.

## Alum Remembers WVU Through Gift to Libraries

As a teacher, Richard E. Bendure impacted the lives of thousands of people over nearly four decades. A generous gift to the WVU Libraries will ensure that he will continue to have a positive effect on generations to come.

Bendure, who received his Masters in education from WVU in 1966, set aside \$59,479 for the Libraries in his will. Shortly after retiring from a long career as a fifth grade teacher in

Canton, Ohio, he passed away in March 2004

In Bendure's honor, the Libraries have created a \$50,000 endowment to fund the purchase of library materials for the College of Human Resources and Education. The remaining \$9,479 will be used over the course of the 2005/2006 fiscal year to buy library books.

"I am always touched when someone has such warm feelings about their alma mater that they want to give something back," Libraries Dean

Frances O'Brien said. "And I am especially grateful that Mr. Bendure chose the Libraries as the way to show his appreciation to WVU. Martha Yancey, our education bibliographer, is already working closely with faculty from HR&E to select the best resources for our shelves."



## WVU Libraries Remember Former Health Sciences Library Associate Director

The WVU Libraries suffered a great loss with the death of Marguerite Emerson Abel, former Associate Director of the Health Sciences Library, on October 14.

Colleagues fondly remember Abel as a dedicated and knowledgeable librarian who always strived to place others first and to provide top service to everyone who walked up to her desk. Allyson McKee, Head of Acquisitions for the WVU Libraries, smiled as she recalled the staff teasing Abel about being "service abused."

"Marge was all about service," McKee said. "She felt that if we weren't going to have service, there would be no point of having a library. We were there to help the user, and it didn't matter to her your rank - a new student wandering in from the downtown campus or the head of surgery."

Abel instilled that same belief in Sally Brown, Reference Services Coordinator/ Information Services Librarian for the Health Sciences Library.

Brown praised Abel for doing things many might consider above the call of duty. On one occasion, she recalled, Abel hurriedly searched for a particular journal article and then rushed it to a pediatrician on his way to surgery.

Health Sciences librarians regularly provide information not only to the clinician, but to the patient and his family as well. Brown considered Abel especially gifted in this area.

"I think we all try to make sure that customer service in the library is still alive. It's about the

person who needs the answer, regardless of who he is," Brown said. "We try to keep that ideal alive. It was fostered by Marge."

Abel also set the bar high in finding information. Brown and McKee both esteem Abel's expertise as a searcher.

When the Health Sciences Library acquired the National Library of Medicine's MEDLINE database in 1972, Abel's quick mastery of the database established her reputation as skilled searcher of the biomedical literature.

"We all got to the point that if someone brought you a request and said, 'Mrs. Abel couldn't find it,' we would say that there was no use in looking," McKee said. "If Marge said it was not findable, it was not findable."

But Abel was not one to give up quickly. McKee said it was common for Abel to go back to a doctor or a student if she found new information concerning one of their past searches. Sometimes it could be weeks later, sometimes months later.

"She was to me what I'd personify as a librarian," McKee said. "She not only knew where the RCs were located but which book you needed from the RCs to address your particular disease."

Abel retired from the WVU Libraries in 1993, having served more than three decades as the Associate Director of the Health Sciences Library.

Abel received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Texas and her Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of Illinois. She worked as a high school

teacher and as a librarian before coming to Morgantown in 1958. She accepted the post of Associate Director of the WVU Health Sciences Library in 1960.

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association and the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Medical Library Association recognized Abel's many years of dedicated service to the field of medical library science by establishing a prestigious annual award in her name, the Marguerite Abel Service Award.

Abel remained active after retirement, serving as a commissioner on the Morgantown Fire Civil Service Commission, a member of the Florence Merow Mason Dixon Festival committee, and a volunteer for the Morgantown Public Library. She was also a long-time member of Suncrest Methodist Church.

She was survived by her spouse, William T. Abel; her four children, William F. Abel of Boston, MA, Richard E. Abel of Huntington, WV, Kathleen A. McLaughlin of Chicago, IL, Gary S. Abel of Blacksburg, VA; and by her children's spouses, Debbie Abel, Lee McLaughlin, Elizabeth Abel; by nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild; her sister Evelyn Lentz of Odessa, TX.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: South Norfolk County Association for Retarded Citizens (SNCARC, Inc.), 789 Clapboardtree St., Westwood, MA 02090.

## Friends of Blackwater Honor Cuthbert for His Work

Friends of the Blackwater honored John Cuthbert, Curator of the West Virginia Regional History Collection, for his work over the years to promote the Blackwater.

The Friends presented Cuthbert with its Writer's Award during a ceremony this fall at Timberline Four-Season Resort in Canaan Valley. The award

states that Cuthbert's "writings have spread the word about the fascinating history and the beauty of Blackwater."

Group members applauded Cuthbert's extensive work on David Hunter Strother, a 19th century graphic artist who visited the Blackwater Canyon when the area was still a wilderness. Strother introduced the rest of the nation to the Blackwater region through stories and engravings of the area that

were published in *Harper's Monthly* in the 1870s.



Cuthbert

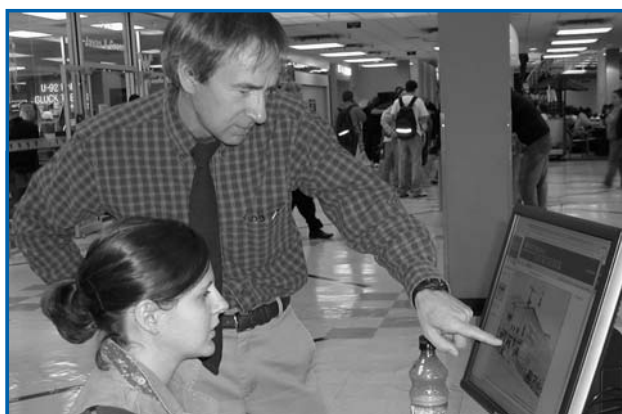
### Photo Database continued from page 1...

He anticipates the enhanced access to greatly improve his and other researchers' work because they will be able to find things they may not know to look for.

"I was aware of the salt industry, but now I can go to images in places that I wasn't aware had been in the center of the salt industry, like Malden," Fones-Wolf said. "It will be a goldmine."

Only partially complete, the project has already required nearly a year's dedication from multiple departments within the WVU Libraries. In building the databases, WVRHC staff members have scanned the photographs, and Gordon Ernst, Libraries Cataloger, has edited the description of each image and created multiple subject headings to ensure accurate and comprehensive searches.

"The Library Systems Department and the



John Cuthbert, WVRHC Curator, guides WVU student Ashley Iliff through the West Virginia History Onview database at a display in the Mountainlair during Mountaineer Week.

Cataloging Department have worked very hard with the West Virginia Collection to bring this project to reality," said Frances O'Brien, Dean of Libraries. "It is an excellent example of how library technology can enhance historical research. We are all very pleased with how this project turned out, and we know people in West Virginia will appreciate this glimpse of past life and culture."

While the WVRHC in Wise Library has traditionally served mostly academics, historians, and writers, Cuthbert anticipates a rush of citizens simply interested in their own heritage taking advantage of the new database. And he expects them to be pleased with what they find.

"It won't matter where you are in West Virginia, there is going to be something on our site that's going to resonate with everybody personally," Cuthbert said.



First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt awards diplomas to members of Arthur Dale High School's 1939 graduating class. Senator Jennings Randolph can be seen sitting in the background. This photograph is one of more than 5,000 historical pictures that can be seen by visiting West Virginia History OnView. Go to the Libraries' website, [www.libraries.wvu.edu](http://www.libraries.wvu.edu), and click on the West Virginia History OnView icon.

*Ex Libris* the Newsletter of the WVU Libraries  
Winter 2005 \* West Virginia University

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*Ex Libris* is published by WVU Libraries

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