The Open Book
The Library Newsletter from UW-Platteville

A short history

By Kay Young, Editor

The Open Book newsletter from the Elton S. Karrmann Library to the UW-Platteville community began in October 1985 with an idea from then Library Director Jerry Daniels. Daniels hired me that autumn with the express purpose of writing a newsletter that would highlight and promote library resources and services to instructors—that, and helping library users find and utilize those resources and services at the busy Reference Desk.

The Reference Coordinator at the time was Gretchen Pearson, and she and I wrote the first article and titled it:

Oh, no! Not another newsletter!

Acutely aware of how busy faculty, academic, and classified staff are, we made the articles brief, and each issue covered only two sides of one piece of paper.

The newsletter began its journey with the title of “Faculty Footnotes” but was soon changed by me to The Open Book because word processors and publishers were phasing out those difficult notes typed at the bottom of pages. By then Pearson had moved on to work at the University of Illinois Chicago Circle Campus.

Librarian Madelaine Schmitt Weigel often drew wonderful illustrations for articles—which I literally “cut and pasted” with a wooden t-square to an original which I hand-carried to the Duplicating Center.

My palms are sweaty even today, as I remember those treks to the Duplicating Center, hoping for no rain and minimal wind, carrying that vulnerable and valuable piece of paper four times a year.

Those were the days before having a computer mouse and of having a paper template on the keyboard to help us remember F7 to exit, and the like. Thankfully Joanne Temby was a faithful library assistant throughout many of those tedious processes.

Before the library had a good printer, I would take a large floppy diskette to another building over my lunch hour and hope to secure a crisp clear “original”. It felt like I was sneaking around doing that, and my palms are sweaty again, remembering.

With the introduction of the World Wide Web in the mid-1990s, I designed online versions of The Open Book, and it is fair to say that being able to “link” readers to services and resources mentioned in the articles is still today amazing and remarkable to me!

So, with this 111th issue, I am signing off as editor of The Open Book, as I retire in May. My mother used to say my face was an open book, too, so it has been a good match. I am a self-taught desktop publisher, and choosing fonts and drawing text boxes is second nature to me. Honestly, the writing and designing has all been a challenge and an honor, all 111 editions.
Please visit the library’s “Quick Links” pages

Examples of Quick Links

- lists of new books
- help for off-campus users
- info for DE students
- interlibrary loan request forms
- link to the SW Wisconsin Room
- and of course much more!

Tax Information

For up-to-date links to:

- IRS Federal Tax Forms and Publications
- Wisconsin Department of Revenue
- Tax Sites, comprehensive index of tax and accounting resources
- Essential Links to Taxes

Visit your library's helpful tax web page!

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Elton S. Karrmann Library
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
608-342-1668

Kay Young, editor, for the last time
608-342-1134
young@uwplatt.edu

Elton S. Karrmann Library
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
One University Plaza
Platteville, WI 53818

Phone 608-342-1668
E-mail or Chat: http://www.uwplatt.edu/library