



# Mannifest

The Albert R. Mann Library Newsletter

## End of an Era

We are both pleased and saddened to announce that Jan Olsen, Director of Mann Library, has accepted the position of Vice President at Wells College effective January 1998. It has been a remarkable era for Mann Library under the leadership of Dr. Olsen. The clear hallmarks of her tenure at Mann have been unwavering commitment to excellence, strong vision about the future form and role of a world-class library in an age of high-technology, compelling eloquence in articulating this vision, and a renowned ability to inspire shared enthusiasm for working towards this future among both university faculty and library staff.

Jan Olsen assumed the directorship of Mann Library in 1982, moving here from Washington D.C. where she held positions as Librarian for Planning and Analysis for the U.S. Department of the Interior and Chief of Public Services at the National Agricultural Library. In the late 1970s, Dr. Olsen also served as the Director of the Steenbock Memorial Library at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Under Dr. Olsen's leadership, Mann Library has continued to build the finest agricultural and life sciences collection in the nation. The library has pioneered the close integration of world-class print collections with cutting-edge technology. Mann now offers an internationally recognized library of electronic databases and full-text resources, and has expanded its reference services to provide strong electronic reference support to faculty and staff working from their home and office computers. During the past ten years Mann has been a leading force in initiating a national effort to preserve the historical literature of the agricultural sciences. In a major breakthrough after years of negotiations and planning, construction began in 1996 on a new library addition that will eventually double Mann's stack space and

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## The Web Gateway Has a New Look!

The Mann Library Gateway has been streamlined to make information easier and quicker to find. These changes are based on interviews with faculty and students, and on comments received at the Mann Reference Desk. Details about the changes are available at <http://www.mannlib.cornell.edu/announce/announcements.html>. There are also more than 30 additional databases available through the Gateway as part of a new contract with OCLC, Inc., one of the world's largest providers of high quality information on the Internet. Among the new databases you'll find in Cornell's networked electronic library are: **Science Citation Index, Social Sciences Citation Index, and Arts & Humanities Citation Index**—the long awaited and much requested citation indexes from the Institute for Scientific Information. We welcome your feedback on any of our changes and additions. Please send comments and questions to [mann\\_ref@cornell.edu](mailto:mann_ref@cornell.edu) or phone us at (607) 255-5406.

The screenshot shows the Mann Library Gateway website. At the top left is the Cornell University logo. The main heading is "Mann Library Gateway" in red. Below it is a search bar with the text "Show me all kinds of resources" and a "Go" button. Underneath the search bar is a smaller search field with the text "Type in subject, keyword or database name." and a "Go" button. Below the search fields is a list of links: "Search Tips - New Resources - Shortcuts". On the left side of the page is a vertical menu with red buttons for "Gateway", "CU Catalog", "Shortcuts", "Services", "Instruction", "Hours/Info", "What's new", and "Help". The main content area contains a grid of links to various subject areas, including Agriculture, Biology, Business and Economics, Communications, Education, Environment and Natural Resources, Food and Nutrition, General Interest, General Reference, Geography, Maps and Spatial Data, Grants and Foundations, Humanities, Art and Architecture, Law and Public Policy, Medicine (Human and Veterinary), Population and Demography, Psychology, Science and Technology, Sociology and Rural Development, and Textiles.



## End of an Era (cont'd)

ensure the finest technological infrastructure available to support the research and learning of generations of scholars to come.

The innovation and excellence that have distinguished Jan Olsen's tenure at Mann Library have received prestigious national acclaim. In 1993, Mann was named the American Library Association/Meckler Library of the Future. This was the first year the award was ever granted. In 1994, *Library Hi Tech*, a leading journal in the information science field, devoted an entire special issue to Mann, under the title, "A Prototype for Today's Electronic Library: Cornell University's Albert R. Mann Library." More recently, at this year's ALA annual convention, the Oberly Award for bibliographic excellence was granted to Mann Library's Core Agricultural Literature series, a seven-volume work which identifies the most essential literature in different disciplines of the agricultural sciences.

The guidance and leadership which have helped steer Mann Library toward realizing these achievements will be sorely missed. Though we are sad to see Jan Olsen leave us, the Mann Library staff offer her our heartiest congratulations on her new appointment.

—*Eveline Ferretti*

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## Mann to Build Cornell University Geospatial Data Clearinghouse

A recent grant from the United States Geological Survey's Competitive Cooperative Agreements Program (USGS CCAP) is enabling Mann Library to establish a World Wide Web-based clearinghouse for geospatial data and metadata. The Cornell University Geospatial Data Clearinghouse Node will provide free, global access to geospatial data and metadata covering New York State. The Clearinghouse will include data from the collections of Mann Library, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Soil Information Systems Laboratory at Cornell as well as other state and local agencies.

Release of the U. S. Census Bureau's TIGER/Line data in 1990 allowed library visitors to create their own detailed electronic maps of everything from streets and streams to census tract and block group boundaries. Since then, library use of desktop geographic information systems (GIS) has gained

widespread popularity. Mann has provided CD-ROM access to these and other data products for several years.

Among the longstanding concerns of GIS users are the difficulties in finding out what data are available from which source, and obtaining complete and accurate metadata—information describing the history and contents of the data. Because of the high cost of producing spatial data, data sharing has been slow to catch on among many state and local agencies that produce it. Likewise, standards for spatial data and metadata have been slow to take hold.

Creation of the Clearinghouse will alleviate many of these concerns. Data will be easier to locate—the system will organize environmental, transportation, political and other boundaries, elevation, soils, orthophotogrammetry, and other types of data into one collection that can be searched or browsed. Thorough information about the datasets will also be available to help people decide what data is most useful to them.

Mann's Clearinghouse is part of a program to establish clearinghouse "nodes" that will gather and document regional datasets for the country. As the plan is realized, users will be able to search for specific spatial datasets for any region of the U.S. from a single web site sponsored by the Federal Geographic Data Committee. This site is being developed as part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure mandated by President Clinton.

The Cornell University Geospatial Data Clearinghouse is scheduled to be fully operational by Fall 1998. It will be a prominent addition to Mann's digital collections available via the Mann Library Gateway.

—*Philip Herold*

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## Planning for Renovation of Mann Building Set to Begin

This September Mann Library received the wonderful news that funds for planning the complete renovation of the existing Mann Library building have been secured from the New York State government. Architects can now be hired to begin designing the renovated building. In the meantime, the ground and first floors of the new library addition started last summer have already emerged from the once-bare construction site at the back of our existing building. Both the new addition and the renovation are scheduled to be complete at the beginning of the 21st century, forming a much expanded, much improved, and seamlessly integrated Mann Library building.



New venue for a coffee break — the Gateway Café

## Mann Library Gets New Perk!

We are delighted to announce a new addition to Albert R. Mann Library. Located at the first floor lobby, the new Gateway Café is named in honor of the Mann Library Gateway. It is operated by Campus Life's Dining and Retail Service and offers a variety of specialty coffees, teas, juices, and pastries. Hours of operation are from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

The idea of the café came from input by faculty and staff in nearby buildings, as well as in Mann Library. They expressed interest in a convenient social area where cappuccino, cafe latte, and espresso are available along with regular coffee and tea. "When the Mann Library administration asked Campus Life if we would be interested in providing beverage service in the lobby, we were delighted and moved quickly to take advantage of the opportunity," said Paul Seeber, Operations Manager. "We are pleased by the response so far."

Mr. Seeber also indicated that the Gateway Café is able to provide beverage and pastry service to meetings hosted at Mann Library or its adjoining buildings. So, if you haven't had a chance already, stop by the Gateway Café soon, say hello to Rebecca Stone, who will be behind the counter, and enjoy a pastry and beverage.

—Jim Spear

## Plant Pathology Exhibit at Mann

During Fall 1997 Mann Library is proudly hosting the exhibit "Plant Pathology: Images from Our Past" in the first floor library lobby. Drawn from the photo collection of the Cornell Plant Pathology Department, the exhibit documents some of the history of plant pathology and its role in New York State agriculture. In addition to photos of ground-breaking plant pathologists, the images feature revealing glimpses into early 20th century plant disease management strategies as well as agricultural extension and field research. Jointly sponsored by Cornell University's Plant Pathology Department, Albert R. Mann Library, and the American Phytopathological Society, "Images from Our Past" was first shown at this year's APS convention in Rochester, N.Y., August 9-13. It will be on display at Mann through December 1997.

## 1997 van Tienhoven Award Winner

Phil Davis, Instructional Technologies Librarian at Mann Library, is this year's winner of the Ans van Tienhoven award. Phil will use the award to tour a prototype teaching facility at Stanford University and to meet with those involved in research and design of flexible and modular computer classrooms. While in California, he will also visit the Teaching Library at the University of California, Berkeley to learn about their information literacy program for undergraduates.

Presentation of the 1997 award took place on August 7th in a ceremony at the A. D. White house attended by Mann Library staff and Dr. and Mrs. Ari and Ans van Tienhoven. Established eleven years ago by Dr. van Tienhoven (Professor Emeritus, Animal Physiology) in honor of Mrs. van Tienhoven, the award helps Mann librarians to deepen their professional expertise in particular areas of information technology and service. Congratulations to Phil Davis for his well-deserved award, and many thanks again to Prof. and Mrs. Ari and Ans van Tienhoven!

*Don't let people drive you crazy when  
you know it's in walking distance.*

-- Unknown

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or send email to [lld2@cornell.edu](mailto:lld2@cornell.edu).

We welcome suggestions for future articles about information access, management, technology, and services in the fields of agriculture, biology, human ecology, and nutrition.

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