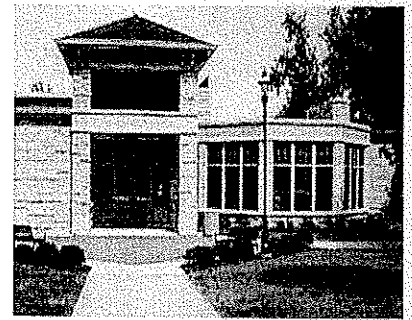


Library Currents

From the Reference Desk

Does Anyone Use Reference Books Anymore?



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*Todd Wehr
Memorial
Library*

As you know, we librarian types are always trying to promote Information Literacy. As you also probably know, there exists a list of Information Literacy Standards, the first one of which is to identify your need for information. In other words, what is it you need to find?

If you ask students where they go first to find information, at least half of them will tell you "the Internet." The other half will say "the Library." So you come to the Library.

Then what? Where do you begin looking for information? On a computer ... or in books? What about **Reference Books?!**

Though not always the appropriate place to begin, more frequently than not, an encyclopedia or dictionary article will provide much needed background information and perhaps also some key words that might help with later searches for books and/or articles in professional journals. Spending five or ten

minutes with an appropriate Reference book might save an hour of online searching.

The Reference Collection exists to provide this background information, and whereas many years ago you would go to "The Encyclopedia," these days you can also go to "The Encyclopedia of

(you fill in the blank)." Subject-specific encyclopedias and encyclopedic dictionaries usually provide greater detail than can be found in a general encyclopedia.

...continued on pg. 2

From Special Collections

They Call Me Mr. Tibbs



A few days ago, while "playing" in the library's Special Collections, I came across a small, sub-collection: the John Ball Collection. "John Ball," I said aloud, nodding my head as if, "Yes! Of course! John Ball!" But wait, "Who's he?" I had no idea who this guy was. From a quick glance at the collection, it appeared he was a fairly prolific writer. Obviously there was some

sort of Carroll connection, but what was it?

As I squatted down to take a better look at the collection, I saw that John Ball was the author of *In the Heat of the Night*. I (regrettably) admit that I've not read the book, but I have seen the television series of the same name plenty of times, and I remembered there was a film as well. Perhaps

you do to?

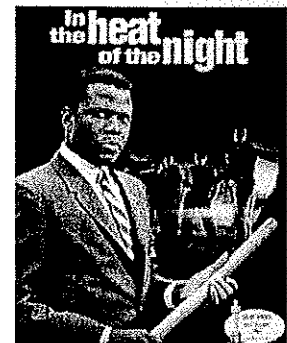
"You're pretty sure of yourself, aren't you, Virgil," Gillespie retorted.

"Incidentally, Virgil is a pretty fancy name for a black boy like you. What do they call you where you come from?"

"They call me Mr. Tibbs," Virgil answered. (1)

...continued on pg. 3

On the Inside:	
Database Updates	2
From the Reference Desk	2
From the Civil War Institute	3
From Special Collections	3
From the CMC	4
Library Q & A Session	4



Sidney Poitier starred as Mr. Tibbs in the original movie adaptation of John Ball's *In the Heat of the Night*. More on pg. 3...

Database Updates



JSTOR and Project Muse Join Forces

JSTOR has added a new 'links to recent content' feature. This represents an initial step to link the older issues of titles archived by JSTOR with the recent issues published online by Project Muse.

JSTOR does not offer access to the most recent issues of journals to insure that publisher interests are not undermined as their older issues are made more accessible through JSTOR. That said, the digital environment offers opportunities to link together disparate and related resources, and JSTOR has been working hard to develop a program that joins the back issues and more recent issues in a way that will make the experience for users as seamless as possible.

For 13 titles (see below) common to JSTOR and Project Muse, we are now able to search and browse the title, author, and abstract information for articles in the recent issues in addition to searching the full-text for the past articles in JSTOR. In addition, you can link directly to the full text articles available at Project Muse via the Carroll College Library's subscription.

The following titles in JSTOR now include citations and direct links to the full text articles available on Project Muse.

- ▶ American Journal of Mathematics (1996-2001)
- ▶ American Literature (2000- 2001)
- ▶ American Quarterly (1996-2001)
- ▶ Eighteenth-Century Studies (1995-2001)
- ▶ ELH (1995-2001)
- ▶ Hispanic American Historical Review (2000-2001)
- ▶ Journal of the History of Ideas (1996-2001)
- ▶ MLN (1995-2001)
- ▶ Reviews in American History (1995-2001)
- ▶ Shakespeare Quarterly (2001)
- ▶ Social Forces (2001)
- ▶ Transition (2000-2001)
- ▶ World Politics (1995-2001)

—by Felicia Vastalo
Electronic Serials Librarian

From the Reference Desk



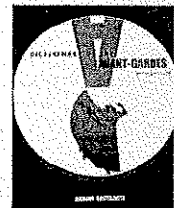
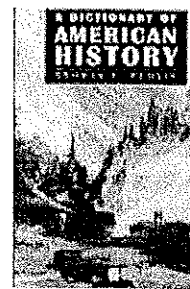
Does Anyone Use Reference Books Anymore?

continued from front page...

Here is just a *small* sampling of subject-specific encyclopedias and dictionaries added to the Reference Collection in the last five years:

- *Encyclopedia of Asian Philosophy*
- *Dictionary of Accounting*
- *Encyclopedia of Biodiversity*
- *Merriam Webster's Dictionary of Allusions*
- *Encyclopedia of Business and Finance*
- *Dictionary of American History*
- *Encyclopedia of Communication and Information*
- *Dictionary of the Avant-gardes*
- *Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice*
- *Facts on File Dictionary of Chemistry*
- *Encyclopedia of Eastern Europe*
- *Dictionary of Geography*
- *Encyclopedia of Energy*
- *Dictionary of Imaginary Places*
- *Encyclopedia of Ethics*
- *Dictionary of Languages*
- *Encyclopedia of the European Union*
- *Dictionary of Midwestern Literature*
- *Encyclopedia of Gun Control and Human Rights*
- *Cassell's Dictionary of Classical Mythology*
- *Encyclopedia of Historical Treaties and Alliances*
- *Dictionary of the 1950s*
- *Encyclopedia of Human Rights Issues Since 1945*
- *Routledge Critical Dictionary of Postmodern Thought*
- *Gale Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes*
- *Biographical Dictionary of Scientists*
- *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture*
- *Historical Dictionary of United States Political Parties*

—by Linda Hartig
Reference Librarian



Subject specific encyclopedias can be very beneficial to students as they begin the research process.



From the Civil War Institute

With a Little Help From Our Friends

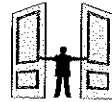
From the day that the first bookcase was installed here at MacAllister Hall, two Carroll alums offered their services to the Civil War Institute as "friends." Since then, they have worked together at organizing and improving the Civil War Institute. Every Friday at 9:00 a.m. one is sure to find two "friends of the Civil War" toiling in our Fitzgerald collection. Bob Malm and Dorothy Eisenberg have taken on tasks as

disparate as hanging pictures, helping with open houses and special events, and the more mundane task of rearranging books. Bob was a business major who graduated in the class of 1940; he received a baseball scholarship of \$50 per year to help with his expenses. Dorothy, who returned to school in later years, majored in elementary education and received her degree in 1968 after

spending three years as what would now be called a non-traditional student. "They didn't know what to do with me," Dorothy says, "so they called me a 'special student.'" Both volunteer as they do because they continue to feel an affinity to Carroll College. We at the Institute truly appreciate their dedication to their alma mater.

—by Becky Steffes
Civil War Librarian

Civil War Open House on November 16th



The Institute for Civil War Studies will officially open a new exhibit on Abolitionist John Brown with an open house from 3-5pm on Saturday, November 16th. The exhibit features the door from a home used by Brown and his men at Springdale, Iowa, where they stayed the winter of 1857-

1858 training and planning for their unsuccessful attack in 1859 on the Federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia.

Brown's men were quartered in the house of William Maxson three miles northeast of the village. The two-story

house, built in 1839, has since been demolished.

The door is on loan to the Institute from the family of C. Willis Guthrie, Carroll professor emeritus of art. Guthrie lived near the house as a young man. The Carroll College community and the public is invited.

From Special Collections



They Call Me Mr. Tibbs

continued from front page...

As I later found out, the film "In The Heat of the Night", starring Sidney Poitier and Rod Steiger, won five Academy Awards in 1967. Five. Impressive. Huge. So who was John Ball and why hadn't I heard of him before? After all, it was his story that brought about the award-winning film, his Virgil Tibbs, the hero-detective-African-American man, that Sidney Poitier portrayed. I looked up in thought. Still, nothing was there.

Through some searching, I found that Ball was a Carroll graduate (class of '34). Cool, I thought. A Carroll grad wrote a fairly famous novel. It appears, however, that *In the Heat of the Night*, Ball's first novel, was by far in a way his most significant work. For one thing, his skillful language and style in mystery writing won him an Edgar Award (mystery award) for Best First Novel by an American Author. (2) For another, his characterization of the book's hero, Virgil Tibbs, the young African-American detective from Pasadena, California, who was visiting family in the Carolinas, is superb,

especially considering the era in which the book was written.

In the Heat of the Night was published in 1965, a year after the Civil Rights Act passed – and naturally it was still a tumultuous time in the South. The reader's first introduction to Tibbs was simply as "the Negro", a murder suspect picked up at a train station in the early morning. (3) By the end of the novel, Tibbs' assistance to the police force in arresting the true murderer, earned him the respect and thanks of the police and a handshake from the chief (the first time the chief had shaken a "Negro hand"). (4) It seems small, maybe even trite, today. But Ball did something unique at the time and it is said that "[d]espite considerable pressure from his publisher, Ball insisted upon making his lead character a black man." (5)

And so naturally, I thought his novel would be viewed as more progressive. I've found nothing to support my hypothesis. *The New York Times* briefly reviewed his novel and stated that Ball "handles the racial

situation with detailed perception", but nothing beyond that. (6) It appears that even scholars have not taken interest in the book. It may not be a piece of writing excellence, but surely his foreword thinking would have garnered a bigger response.

So, check out the book. See for yourself if it's merit worthy. Maybe, collectively, we can get the ball rolling for our old alumnus.

1. John Ball, *In the Heat of the Night* (New York: Harper & Row, 1965), 36.
2. Anthony Boucher, "Criminals At Large," *New York Times*, 1 May 1966, 335.
3. Ball, 15.
4. Ball, 171-172.
5. RosettaBooks, LLC, "John Dudley Ball", 2002 <http://www.rosettabooks.com/pages/author_65.html>(8 October 2002).
6. Anthony Boucher, "Criminals At Large," *New York Times*, 2 May 1966, BR32.

—by Laura Grace Bruss
Business Manager &
Acquisitions Assistant

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Reference Desk: (262) 650 - 4892
Coffee Shop: (262) 951 - 3006
Library Fax: (262) 524 - 7377

Check out our Library homepage at:
<http://marian.cc.edu/Library/>

The mission of the Library is to satisfy the informational needs of students by providing access to materials, by providing an environment that fosters academic excellence, and by providing services that help students develop the sophisticated informational skills required for lifelong learning.

Todd Wehr
Memorial
Library

From the CMC

Award Winners Now Visible



In an effort to make the award winning children's books in the Curriculum Materials Center collection more visible, the CMC staff recently completed an extensive book labeling project.

A list was generated of all of the Newberry and Caldecott award winners in the collection. Then, all of the identified award winners were

removed from the shelves and put on carts for processing. Over Fall break weekend, the books were labeled (at the top of each spine) with stickers indicating the specific award received. All books were then interfiled on the shelves.

Now as you browse through the CMC collection, you will note the large number of award winners we

own. The orange label with a large "N" stands for Newberry while the red label with a large "C" stands for Caldecott.

Come browse the shelves and check out these wonderful books. It's just as we suspected; Carroll College has a lot of winners!

— by Krisy Edenharter
Student Services Coordinator

Library Q & A Session

Are Books Going the Way of the Dinosaur? Tell us what you think!

As more and more resources become available electronically, libraries face the question: are books going the way of the dinosaur? Is there ever going to be a point in time where printed books will become extinct? Or will people always want to be able to lick their finger and turn a page?

What do you think? Do you enjoy accessing materials electronically? Is it easier to read a book or a computer screen?

Tell us your thoughts and we will publish them in the next

edition of *Library Currents*. You may choose to remain anonymous in your reply or can ask us to include your name for a direct quote.

Send responses via e-mail to Krisy Edenharter at kedenhar@cc.edu by the end of the month. These are interesting questions and we appreciate your feedback!

Cartoon taken from:
<http://www.ebrpss.k12.la.us/research/humor.htm>

