Years of planning and months of implementation will come to fruition on **January 9, 2017** when the Library switches to a new platform for delivering Library resources. The Library has shared the existing CONSULS system (Millennium software from Innovative Interfaces, Inc.) with the other three Connecticut State University libraries and the Connecticut State Library since 1993. That system has served us well and is comfortable and familiar. However, the nature of library collections and the sophistication of Library systems to manage those collections has changed dramatically in the past 20 plus years. Library “catalogs” used to be in big card files (some of you remember those!) and then those files were automated for electronic searching and became “OPACs” (online public access catalogs), but inherently the systems were still managing book collections.

Now, however, the library’s collection is predominantly in electronic format and includes not only books but hundreds of thousands, in some cases millions, of records for journal articles, ebooks, streaming videos, public domain digital collections, etc. A search of the Library’s new system on a very broad topic like “history” retrieved 4,962,129 results in about 2 seconds. This is the good news and the bad news. This Google-like search feature in Eastern Quick Search retrieves so much information that students may be overwhelmed or just pick the hits on the first page. In order to make this all more manageable, the library system has “facets” on the left margin that quickly and easily enable students and faculty to narrow the search to a more refined result set. By combining the journal articles and the books in one searchable data file, we believe students will more easily navigate the resources the Library has to offer instead of the multiple siloed sites they had to navigate in the past. For faculty, staff, and students who know in advance that they are looking for a physical book, there is a drop down option to search the Eastern catalog, minus the journal articles.

Another aspect of the new library system is that we are now sharing the system with the Community Colleges of the Board of Regents system so that all 17 libraries can be searched simultaneously. This increases the access that all BOR students have to the combined physical resources of the libraries. A simple request feature allows a student at any of the libraries to request a book from any of the other BOR libraries and have it delivered to the home library of that student. While one copy of a popular or curriculum critical book will not suffice for the system as a whole, it is expected that a greater diversity of materials can be provided knowing that several copies of a given title are available and not every library needs to buy that particular book.

One issue that the new combined library system will not immediately solve is the discrepancy in access to electronic databases. Although many of the libraries have access to the same databases, this access is governed by individual licenses which limit access to the specific campus community. Most of these licenses are priced based on the campus full time equivalent (fte) enrollment figures.
As many of you reading this Newsletter already know, I am retiring effective February 1, 2017. I am not one of those people who crosses off the days until retirement and can’t wait for the last one. Some days I get so immersed in what I am doing that I forget that I won’t be doing it that much longer. But time marches on and eventually it is time to turn over the reins to someone else. In my case I will be turning the reins over to Janice Wilson on January 1, 2017 to provide time for a smooth transition (see related article).

Reflections on My 13 years at Eastern

by Patricia S. Banach

As many of you reading this Newsletter already know, I am retiring effective February 1, 2017. I am not one of those people who crosses off the days until retirement and can’t wait for the last one. Some days I get so immersed in what I am doing that I forget that I won’t be doing it that much longer. But time marches on and eventually it is time to turn over the reins to someone else. In my case I will be turning the reins over to Janice Wilson on January 1, 2017 to provide time for a smooth transition (see related article).

One of the reasons it is so hard to retire is that I have very much enjoyed my time at Eastern. When I decided to take this position after 31 years at the UMass Amherst Libraries, it was really a leap of faith. I think there were some who couldn’t understand why I would leave a great job to take one that was new and unfamiliar. But that was the point. I really wanted an opportunity to use all that I had learned in my 31 years there and continue to grow. Eastern was everything I hoped it would be and more. I find the mission of the University meaningful, and trying to provide the best Library service possible for our students and faculty makes each day worthwhile. I have been given many opportunities to participate in University committees, initiatives, and strategic planning. I was even asked to lead the Academic Services Center for several years, which was a real stretch from my prior experience.

What made it all fulfilling was the great people I met and worked with. Eastern really has a culture where people know and respect each other from the highest levels in the hierarchy to the lowest. It is not about where you are on the organization chart, but how you can contribute in your own way to making Eastern a welcoming and nurturing educational environment for our students.

As my days here are now drawing to a close, I would like to thank all those who helped me along the way. They were many, from my supportive supervisors to my cooperative staff. I am very happy I made the decision to come here in 2003 and I stayed a lot longer than I thought I would. I hope I have left the Library better than I found it, not in the sense that it was in need of improvement, but in the sense that each Director needs to move the organization forward during the time they have that responsibility. And so I wish the next Director all the best in keeping the momentum going and continuing to make the Library a better service for all of our campus community.

New Library System, continued from front page

Hence, there is no economy of scale to expanding the access to all campuses; the price goes up. That being said, some electronic resource providers are amenable to group discounts and once we have the new system up and running smoothly, we will move on to our next goal of sharing electronic resources more broadly. While not every campus needs every database (i.e. an engineering database is not needed by every campus), there is some core of databases that would benefit all.

Finally, we hope that having a single shared Library system for all BOR libraries will make it easier for our students to adapt if they transfer from a community college to a university or vice versa. This should be one less hurdle for them in accessing the collective resources available to them and enable librarians to focus more time and attention on providing information literacy instruction geared toward specific disciplines, and less on training students to use the library system.
New Interim Library Director Appointed
by Patricia S. Banach

JANICE WILSON, currently Head of Public Services in the Library, will assume the position of Interim Library Director on January 1, 2017. As Head of Public Services, Janice has been responsible for all aspects of providing those services that most directly impact library users, such as Reference and Instruction, Access Services (circulation, reserves, interlibrary loan) and coordinating other service points in the library (Government Documents, Archives and Special Collections, and the Curriculum Center.) Janice was hired in 2004 and has an MLIS from the University of Rhode Island, and an MA in Graphic Communications Management & Technology from NYU. She has served on numerous University Committees including Academic Affairs, Faculty Development, First-Year Program Committee, Liberal Arts Program Committee, Organization, Strategic Planning, Minority Recruitment & Retention, and Global Citizenship Advisory Council. She is also a former senator representing the Librarians in the University Senate, and has been active on various national, regional, and state-wide Library committees.

When Janice Wilson takes over the position of Interim Director of Library Services on January 1, 2017, the library will be in very capable hands.

3-D PRINTING IN THE LIBRARY
by Patricia S. Banach

This past fall, through a collaboration between the Library and the Center for Instructional Technology, a new 3-D printing lab was created in room 235 on the second floor (i.e. Main Floor) of the Library. The Library made the space available and CIT staff are providing the service and the staffing. The lab is open by appointment and anyone interested should contact CIT at cit@easternct.edu or calling x.1248.
PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY

By designating your tax deductible contribution in one of the categories below, you will be supporting the collections and services of the J. Eugene Smith Library at Eastern Connecticut State University.

_____ Friends of Eastern $50-99  _____ F. R. Nobel Associates $1,000-4,999
_____ The Century Club $100-299  _____ Tower Society $5,000 and above
_____ The President’s Circle $300-499  _____ Other contribution amount
_____ The 1889 Society $500-999

Total amount enclosed: ____________________________  Today's date: _______________________

I would like to make this donation in honor of: ____________________________________________

I would like to make this donation in memory of: __________________________________________

The library will gift plate a book in your name, or in honor or memory of someone you designate, for a donation of $50 or more.

Name: ______________________________________________________________________________

Phone: (optional): ______________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________________

E-mail (optional): ______________________________________________________________________

City: ____________________________________________  State: __________  Zip: _________________

Please make checks payable to the: ECSU Foundation, Inc., and send your donation with this form to the:
ECSU Foundation, Inc., Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St., Willimantic, CT 06226.