

DIRECTOR'S REPORT, JULY 2001

IMPACT OF PATRON PLACED HOLDS:

Software functionality allowing for the placing of holds and reserves by patrons at their home PC's or on library terminals was turned on July 1st. The library's "pick-list", from which staff retrieve and send tagged items to other locations, remained fairly constant, between 11 and 25 titles per day until yesterday. Two boxes, instead of the usual one, were delivered via van service on July 9th. There is considerably more work for the upstairs circulation staff, but patrons are getting their books faster. Here's how it works: after the bigger libraries (some of whom buy forty copies of bestsellers) have satisfied all of their local requests, these 40 items become available for everyone. Libraries can make items "non-holdable"¹ but that prevents even *their own patrons* from placing requests for them.

STATISTICS: A number of statistical reports are attached to this report for review. Winthrop's total circulation is down a bit, but not much if one considers that the computer use numbers are no longer allowable as circulation but considered "in-house use" for reporting purposes. So add another 2,000 or so for a fair comparison.

PERSONNEL:

- Neil Santos was hired as Library Page to replace Julianne Petersen.
- Peter Solomon was appointed General Assistant Librarian effective July 1, 2001, replacing Janet Finley. Only three applications were received in response to the job advertisement for this position.
- Marie Simione was selected from a pool of about seven applicants for the part-time Computer Operator position (P. Solomon's former job).

RELEASE 2001: NOBLE PC Support Specialist George Lally spent the better part of a day here working on compliance issues for the forthcoming Innovative Interfaces, Inc.(III) system upgrade. He saved us \$1,000.00 right away by salvaging a floppy disk drive from one computer and installing it into one we thought needed (total) replacement. Ann Gutting and Rich Allen worked diligently with George and are to be commended. Orders for new PC's, Windows 2000 licenses, additional RAM, etc. are ongoing. We are pressed for time and staff on this project but will rise to the challenge as usual.

TRUSTEE ORIENTATION: There will be a "Welcome to **NOBLE**" meeting on September 12 in **NOBLE**'s large meeting room from 10 am to noon, with refreshments available at 9:30 AM. The session is designed for new staff members, particularly department heads and management, though anyone seeking a better understanding of **NOBLE** is welcome.

¹ Our brand new videos and DVD's are so marked following the theory that Winthrop residents deserve a first shot at them.