

# CURRICULUM CENTER NOTES

## News From The CSU Curriculum Centers

May 2004

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The Curriculum Center Notes is published once a year

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### EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Becomes a *Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS) Site*

Eastern Connecticut State University/J. Eugene Smith Library/Curriculum Center has become a Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS) Site. "Lauded by the Department of Education's Expert Panel on Mathematics and Science Education, GEMS is a growing resource for the advancement of inquiry-based science and mathematics education. GEMS has published over 80 teacher's guides and handbooks, offers specialized workshops, and maintains a national network of teacher-training sites and centers." In late October GEMS Trainers traveled from the University of California Berkeley and launch a GEMS site at ECSU. The two day workshop was conducted in the J. Eugene Smith Library. The workshop was geared toward educators interested in using GEMS materials.

Last summer Dr. Jeanelle Bland, Science Educator, and Hope Cook, Curriculum Center Librarian, traveled to the University of California Berkeley, Lawrence Hall of Sciences to attend a GEMS Associate's Workshop. The workshop certified both as GEMS Associates and gave each the opportunity to get in-depth knowledge of the GEMS philosophy and approach. The workshop included information on how the materials address national, state, and local frameworks, benchmarks and standards, knowledge of how GEMS can be used to construct a larger curriculum, effective strategies to introduce teachers to GEMS and support their use of GEMS materials, and firsthand experience with many GEMS units.

For more information about upcoming GEMS Workshops offered at Eastern, or to find out how to Interlibrary Loan Guides, please contact Hope Cook, Co-director of E.C.S.U. GEMS Site at (860) 465-4456 or e-mail [Cookh@easternct.edu](mailto:Cookh@easternct.edu).



## The History of Central Connecticut's Curriculum Lab

# Central Connecticut State University

*Start with a Dream. Finish with a Future*

The CCSU Curriculum Lab began in 1965 when Library Director Robert Massmann hired Barbara Gibson (who now directs the Farmington Public Library) to organize the collection of children's materials housed in a small classroom in Willard Hall. Barbara created at Curriculum Lab from the children's books, teaching materials, and textbooks, most of which had been donated by the faculty. Burritt Library opened in 1970, and the Curriculum Lab moved to a third floor facility with workroom, classroom, offices and a large area for books and tables. Dona Ostrander became the Curriculum Lab Librarian in 1971. Under Dona's efforts, the collection of materials multiplied many times and included media of many types.

Today, the Curriculum Lab has over 35,000 items in both book and media format. The collection provides curriculum resources for teachers in grades K-12, and the collection includes books and media found in a school library media center. We encourage student teachers to utilize the Curriculum Lab resources to plan curriculum.

The materials in the Curriculum Lab are cataloged using the Dewey Decimal System and are circulated through the main circulation desk. Each type of material is housed in a separate section rather than inter-shelved. Print materials include juvenile picture books, fiction and non-fiction for grades K-12, professional reading for teachers, educational tests, and textbooks. Non-print materials include aids & games, art file, pamphlet file, picture file, cd-roms, slides, tapes, and videocassettes. We provide equipment so that students may preview non-print materials.

In addition to obtaining and organizing the most useful print and non-print resources for students, we suggest ways to use our resources in the classroom. We develop subject bibliographies and create displays to showcase curriculum lab materials and to serve as an example for student teachers. Each month two to three new subjects are featured. Many of the subject bibliographies are listed on the Curriculum Lab web page (<http://library.ccsu.edu/lib/>) under Library Departments.

A large array of databases supplement the resources found in the Curriculum Lab. Kraus Curriculum Development Library (KCDL) provides an online index to curriculum guides throughout the United States. In addition to the online version that connects directly to online guides, we have the microfiche collection dating back to 1976. AV Online supplies 350,000 descriptions and distribution resources for all types of media from the National Information Center for Educational Media (NICEM.) Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) can be accessed through ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS) and through EbscoHost which provides full-text for many of the documents and journal articles. The most comprehensive collection of full-text education journals is the Professional Development Collection which contains over 500 full-text journals and citations to more than 800 journals. Titles include *Educational Leadership*, *Journal of Education*, *Journal of Educational Research*, *Phi Delta Kappan*, etc. The newest addition to the collection of online databases is Education Full Text from Wilson Web that offers indexing back to 1983 and full-text of many journals back to 1996.

The Curriculum Lab is located on the third floor of Burritt Library, behind the reference department. Materials are available all hours that the library is open. Staffing is provided Monday – Thursday 8:00 am to 8:00 pm; Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; and Sunday 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

#### Curriculum Lab Staff:

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# Western Connecticut State University

## The Times they are A-Changing: ERIC Restructuring and Curriculum Resources

### Summary of the Changes

The ERIC system is currently in a period of transition. This process began in 2002 when ERIC was scheduled to be reauthorized. As described on the ERIC website, the ERIC mission will continue its core function of providing a centralized bibliographic database of journal articles and other published and unpublished education materials. The ERIC database, however, will no longer be maintained by the sixteen ERIC Clearinghouses, which closed in December 2003. In a March 18 press release, the U.S. Department of Education announced that it has awarded a five-year, \$34.6 million contract to Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) of Rockville, Md. This company, along with its subcontractors, will develop and operate the new database.

### What does this mean for Curriculum Materials Centers and Curriculum Specialists?

#### Accessing ERIC Journal Articles and ERIC Documents

From January 2004 through September 2004, no new materials will be received and accepted for the database. When the new model for acquiring education literature is ready later in 2004, the Education Department will communicate with publishers, education organizations, and other database contributors to add publications and materials released from January 2004 onward. While there is no requirement that the database be updated between January 1, 2004 and September 30, 2004, after September 30, 2004 the new contractor will make all updates available. After this date, the updates will be ongoing.

Since the ERIC database will fall behind in currency for several months, databases such as Academic Search Premier, Professional Collection, and Kraus Curriculum Development Library Online, as well as authoritative websites in the field, can be used to obtain current literature, including both ERIC documents (ED's) and ERIC journal articles (EJ's) during this period.

EDRS (ERIC Document Reproduction Services) is currently scheduled to close on September 30, 2003, and along with it access to ERIC documents through the E\*Subscribe database. ERIC microfiche collections at the four CSU's will continue to be available. While Level 1 ERIC documents will be disseminated through ERIC online at no charge, Level 2 documents will only be accessible through the CSU Libraries' fiche collections. The CONSULS online catalog for the CSU system can be used to find information on each campus' microfiche collection. For more detailed information on ERIC document access, check the EDRS website: <http://www.edrs.com>

#### Tracking Future Developments

For current information on the ERIC system and Department of Education policies, access these websites:

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/>      New ERIC website address: <http://www.eric.ed.gov/>

Timeline for ERIC reauthorization: <http://www.lib.msu.edu/corby/education/eric/timeline.htm>

ERIC Clearinghouse future plans: <http://www.lib.msu.edu/corby/education/eric/clearinghouseplans.htm>

Please remember to contact any of the CSU Education or Curriculum Librarians for further information. We are happy to answer any questions or clarify any issues regarding ERIC.



**CURRICULUM CENTERS  
IN THE CSU SYSTEM**

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
<http://www.ccsu.edu/>

EASTERN CONNECTICUT  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
<http://www.easternct.edu>

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
<http://www.southernct.edu/>

WESTERN CONNECTICUT  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
<http://www.wcsu.edu/>

Shared Web Page  
[http://www.southernct.edu/  
departments/lrc/home.htm](http://www.southernct.edu/departments/lrc/home.htm)

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**



**PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF A  
CURRICULUM COLLECTION**



- To provide pre-K-12 materials that meets the needs of the students and faculty in the Department of Education by securing the latest collection and development techniques.
- To work towards providing a balanced collection in all subjects while looking at the usage patterns to determine which areas need more concentration and development.
- To be aware of the resources available at other CSU's thus maximizing the CC's collection and to avoid duplication of resources.
- To practice ongoing collection management strategies by weeding the collection yearly to determine which titles need to be replaced and which titles should be updated with a newer version
- To carefully examine gifts to the Curriculum Center before accepting them to see if they have a valid place and purpose
- To work closely with the Education Faculty to determine purchasing needs



Eastern Connecticut State University