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Sacred Heart University library garners U.S. patent and trademark status

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librarians and patent attorneys. Many of them attended a seminar on using the technology.

"The PTDL will be of great value to the large business community in Connecticut and, especially, Fairfield County," said Dr. Gavin Ferriby, the library's interim director. "The PTDL program will allow the Ryan-Matura Library to provide inventors and entrepreneurs with access to a wealth of information found only in patent and trademark documents and provide expert staff assistance in its usage."

The patent and trademark depository library program is a nationwide network of public, state and academic libraries authorized to disseminate patent and trademark information and to support inventors, intellectual property attorneys and agents, business people, researchers, entrepreneurs, students, historians and the public who are not able to come to the department's main offices in Arlington, Va.

The library will assist those businesses, innovators and inventors who are trying to get the patents and trademarks they need to bring new products to the marketplace and create American jobs, said David Kappos, undersecretary of commerce for intellectual property and director of the Patent and Trademark Office.

"Even though the great majority of patent and trademark information is available electronically, the PTDL at Sacred Heart University will be of great value to its patrons in helping them know what to look for and how to use it," he said.

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libraries are free and include assistance in accessing and using patent and trademark documents, training on Patent and Trademark Office databases, obtaining access to the department's Web site and hosting public seminars on intellectual property topics for novice and experienced innovators.

Because the library is the only one in the state to offer the service, its staff can expect to be busy assisting visitors in research efforts.

"It's a way we can reach out to our local businesses," said business librarian Rachel Gaither, who visited a patent library while pursuing her library degree while in college. "It always stuck with me, and I thought it was something I should pursue. I used to be a business librarian working for American Express, and I had to often go to the Chicago Public Library."

Gaither, who arrived at SHU in November 2007, didn't wait long to suggest that the university consider seeking the designation. The process was started in January, and SHU received the designation in June.

The library will be an ideal resource for people doing early research and those unfamiliar with the patent and trademark procedures, said Mark Nowotarski, president of Markets, Patents & Alliances LLC in Stamford and a registered patents agent.

"I think the most valuable aspect is the access to the professional staff supported by the library who can help where to find what they are looking for," he said.

"Many people are pursuing new ideas and innovations in these challenging times," Nowotarski said. "The

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resources at Sacred Heart will help them quickly and efficiently determine to what extent their ideas are new and how other inventors have approached similar problems in the past. That way they can make more informed decisions on whether or not to go ahead with their own patent applications."

The library offers in-depth, on-line services that go beyond what can be found on the department Web site, www.uspto.gov, according to Gaither. Among them is pubWEST, a server-based application tool developed for the Patent and Trademark Office for searching patent full-text and abstract databases.

Debra Kaufman, librarian at Perkin Elmer in Shelton, attended the seminar, eager to learn about the new library offering and how she can use it to benefit company researchers who come to her for patent information.

"I think it's absolutely fantastic. It's an excellent resource for inventors and the public," said Kaufman, who has been a corporate librarian for more than 30 years.

The patent and trademark depository library program began in 1871, when federal law first provided for the distribution of printed patents to libraries for use by the public.

A list of all the current libraries can be found on USPTO's Web site at www.uspto.gov.
<<http://www.uspto.gov>> .

University library offers patent, trademark services

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