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OBSERVATIONS ON THE NEW JOINT-USE LIBRARY

Notwithstanding planning and anticipation, new buildings normally bring some surprises and unexpectations. In this brief message, I want to share some of my observations on the new joint-use library.

The external appearance of the new structure is far more striking than expected. It is, in my opinion, the signature building on campus. Along with its central location, it is a building blessed with attractiveness from all directions. Someone remarked that the new library is designed to appear to have four entrances (i.e., from the east, west, south, and north sides).

Despite having occupied the facility for only a few months, the usage by both the university and community is far greater than I expected at this time. The circulation figures for the last fiscal year in the Einstein Library were about 35,000 transactions (i.e., items checked out). During the months of January, February, and March (2002) we checked out more items than for a full year in the Einstein Library. Also, during the same three months, the public checked out about 53 percent of the total items circulated.

Owing to the building's attractiveness and functionality, the number of meetings scheduled in it and the number of tours requested are much higher than I anticipated. In my many years in librarianship and experience with several new libraries, I have never witnessed the large number of meetings/tours we are experiencing. People from throughout the world are visiting our fine facility; for example, on April 26 I gave a tour to the Trade Commissioner of Canada. Later this month, Her Majesty's Consul of Great Britain will be visiting us.

I am very pleased that our users and visitors find the building far exceeding their expectations. The staff brings life and articulation of services to a library. Our staff is to be commended for making the services functional, efficient, and effective.

Don Riggs
Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian

Author Stephen King: "Books have weight and texture: they make a pleasant presence in the hand. Nothing smells as good as a new book, especially if you get your nose right down in the binding, where you can still catch an acrid tang of the glue. The only thing close is the peppery smell of an old one. The odor of an old book is the odor of history, and for me, the look of a new one is still the look of the future.

— TIME
I quickly graduated from UNC-CH with a B. A. in Spanish, and landed my first job working as a Taxpayer Service Representative for the IRS. There I learned that I did not wish to pursue a career in that particular branch of government. After a few months in the "real world," the scholarly life of an academic appealed to me. I applied to graduate school, and was soon back at UNC-CH, teaching beginning Spanish to undergraduates. There, for reasons I'll never fully understand, I was overcome by the noble urge to help humanity by becoming an attorney. After a year in law school, also at UNC, it was clear to me that the adversary system did not suit my personality. I resumed my graduate studies, but with the teaching assistant-ship. I needed a job.

North Carolina's Research Triangle area is home to many universities, and I applied for jobs at all of them. I received a call from an employment specialist at Duke, asking me to come for an interview. I’ve forgotten her name now, but I’ll never forget the way she looked. She was blond, with blue eyes, and wore her hair in braids wrapped snugly around her head. I expected her to speak with a German accent! She took a look at my resume, and the results of my typing test (accurate but slow). Then she said, “With your language background, you should work in the Library.” There was a vacancy for a clerk/typist in the Cataloging Department of the Perkins Library. I interviewed for the position, and soon I was typing and filing cards for that venerable library's catalog.

Aside from a nightmare during my first week of work, in which I dropped a drawer full of catalog cards face-down on the floor, I was immediately comfortable in my new surroundings. I had done a lot of research in libraries as a student, but I had never worked "behind the scenes." When a copy cataloging position became available a few months later, I applied for it. I liked this job much better. I got to spend all day handling the many interesting books that had been ordered for the library's collection. I enjoyed learning about and applying cataloging rules to the description of these books. My teacher, the Assistant Head of the Copy Cataloging section, was an Austrian-American with a charming accent and thick glasses. He knew cataloging inside out, and more importantly, he knew how to teach beginners. He and I still correspond.
On May 2 and 3, Don Riggs and Harriet MacDougall attended the Solinet Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. They were joined by colleagues, Jim Hutchens, Nora Quinlan, and Johanna Tunon who addressed the conference attendees on May 2. The topic was “Getting the Story Straight: Publicizing Services to Remote Users.” Nora opened the session with an overview of the new library. Johanna followed with a discussion of the challenge of getting the message to NSU’s distance students and online users. Jim discussed document delivery in the joint-use library. He also led a round table discussion on electronic journal management.

Johanna Tunon and former library employee, Paul Pival will be co-presenting at the North American Regional ICDE (International Council for Open and Distance Education) in Calgary, Canada from May 26-29. The topic they will be presenting is “How Do You Spell Support? Multiple Methods of Library Support to Distributed Education Programs.”

Carey Hunt and Johanna Tunon coauthored an article for Public Libraries, entitled “Partnerships: The Wave of Today.” The essay was on the topic of collaboration between public and school libraries, especially the challenges in combining public and academic library services.

Jeff Matlak, LRTIC, is teaching a Master’s level course in The University if South Florida library science program this term.


“If information is the currency of democracy, then libraries are the banks.”

—Senator Wendell Ford

Congratulations to our recent graduates!

Cheryl Bond, BS
Marcia Durity, BS
Nadine Gooden, BS
Beth Harman, MBA
Praveen Mootiram, BS
Sandra Ramdial, Ph.D.

SEAALL CONFERENCE REVIEW

SEAALL, the Southeastern American Association of Law Librarians, held its 2002 annual meeting at the DoubleTree Hotel in Fort Lauderdale from April 11-13th. The conference theme was Where the Law Librarians Are. Conference attendees included librarians from 12 neighboring states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Billie Jo Kaufman, Law Library, was the Local Arrangements Chair. The following NSU Law Library staff either served on the Local Arrangements Committee or assisted with the conference: Diane Altimari, Ray Andrade, Rosanne Auchstetter, Roy Balleste, Wally DiCola, Rhonda Gold, Betty Maxwell, Gail O’Brien, Maxine Scheffler, Lisa Smith-Butler, Jaimi Stout, Donna Struthers, Sarah Tabor, and Carol Yecies.

Programs were held on a variety of topics, including the Everglades, Immigration Law, Training Student Employees, OPAC Migration Issues, Technical Services Workflow, Copyright, and Foreign and International Legal Research. Billie Jo Kaufman moderated the Hot Issues in Immigration Law/Teaching Techniques for Immigration Research program while Ronda Gold was the speaker at the Foreign and International Law on the Internet program.

At the conference, Billie Jo Kaufman was awarded the Spirit of SEAALL. Next year, the SEAALL conference will be held in Lexington, Kentucky.

Lisa Smith-Butler, Law Library
CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

HPD LIBRARY
Kaye Robertson and Mary Lawrence attended the FHSLA (Florida Health Sciences Library Association) on April 10-12, 2002 in St Augustine, Florida. The theme of the conference was "Medical Information: Putting the Pieces Together." The conference afforded the opportunity to meet with a variety of health sciences librarians from hospital, corporate, governmental agencies and academic library settings.

LAW LIBRARY
Roy Balleste submitted a CALI topic for presentation titled, "Virtual Technology and Artificial Intelligence: The Next Step for Law Libraries." He was also appointed to the University's Staff Development Committee.

Rhonda Gold was named Chair of the Ellen Schaffer Foreign Law Librarian's Grant Committee. She also attended the IFLA/SEFLIN International Summit.

Billie Jo Kaufman was nominated as one of NSU's Administrators of the Year.

LRITC
Mimi Hershenson and Nora Quinlan were participants on a panel discussion for the April 25th meeting of the Broward County Library Association. The topic was "How to Build a Library and Survive". Each panelist spoke about projects we have been involved with and then answered questions from the audience. In attendance were the following library staff members: Amy Krug, Amy Stultz, Michael Shires, Carey Hunt, Amanda Roberts, and Harriett MacDougall. Mimi also attended the Public Library Association Ninth National Conference in Phoenix from March 13-16. Approximately 8500 public librarians from around the country attended. One guest speaker was Benjamin Zander, conductor of the Boston Philharmonic for the past 29 years and co-author with his wife of the book the Art of Possibility. He shared his insights on leadership, change and transformation. The closing session featured Helen Thomas, Dean of the Washington Press Corps, who spent 37 years covering every President from JFK to Clinton. She was the first female President of the White House Correspondent's Association and the first female member (and later President) of the Gridiron Club. She offered her views on American politics and discussed her new book, Front Row at the White House.

Michael Shires led a one-hour roundtable discussion on April 9 at the 2002 Florida Library Association (FLA) Annual Conference in Daytona Beach. The title of the discussion was joint-use facilities.

Laura Ramirez, North Miami Beach Librarian, was a speaker at the IFLA/SEFLIN Summit in Miami, April 18-19. Laura's presentation was on providing distance library services to students in the Caribbean and Latin America. LRITC staff members in attendance were Wendy Zaman, Jim Hutchens, and Harriett MacDougall.

Johanna Tunon and Mou Chakraborty were speakers at the 10th Off Campus Libraries Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio from April 18-19. The presentation was entitled, "Taking the Distance Out of library Services Offered for International Graduate Students." Johanna also spoke to the conference attendees on the topic of "Creating a Research Literacy Course for Educational Doctoral Students."

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Check out the wonderful antique car show held every Friday night at the Towers Shopping Plaza on University Drive just south of 595. Hundreds of cars of different makes and models line up in the parking lot. Come take a peak at yesteryear!

Last month, my son, Kaleb, and I finally made the trek to Coral Castle located at 28655 West Dixie Highway in Homestead. This castle was created by a 100 lb man who quarried over 1,000 tons of coral (which weighs 125 lbs./cu. ft.) — all for the sake of his love, Sweet Sixteen. No one knows how he achieved this amazing feat. Check out the website at http://www.coralcastle.com/biography.asp. There is a small admission fee, but it is definitely worth the visit! — Beth Harman, LRITC

Do you have a favorite restaurant or local place of interest that you would like to share? Please contact the editors. There is a lot of fun in the sun in South Florida!
The year was 1980. Catalogers throughout the English-speaking world were buzzing about the new code of rules, AACR2, soon to be adopted by British and American libraries. Our Cataloging Department conducted extensive training sessions for original and copy catalogers. "This is great," I thought. "It's like being in school, but the school's paying me!" I was hooked. I decided that I wanted to get my MLS, in order to learn more about the profession, and to qualify for more interesting responsibilities. I also wanted to expand my horizons beyond North Carolina, where I was born and raised. Arnold Hirshon, who was then Assistant Head of the Cataloging Department, told me about some para-professional cataloging positions that were open at the Eisenhower Library of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Library Director Sue Martin had a policy of providing release time and partially reimbursing tuition to library staff who were pursuing the MLS degree.

I applied for one of those cataloging positions, moved to Baltimore, and soon enrolled in the University of Maryland's MLS program. The sometimes boring, sometimes frustrating rush-hour drives to College Park became more tolerable when I began carpooling with two workmates from the Eisenhower Library. We shared many assignments, many stories and many meals during those two years. There were dozens of students in our program, but we were a class of three. We all stayed at Hopkins for a while after graduation, and then went on to other libraries, but we still keep in touch.

In 1985, I received my MLS degree, six years after I discovered library work. Without those first words of guidance from an employment counselor at Duke, I wonder what I would be doing today?

—Mary Paige Smith, Law Library/ LRITC

In 1990, the State University of New York (SUNY) retrenched (fancy way of saying "eliminated") my position as Associate Professor and former Chairman of the Modern Language Department. At the time I was already in my middle fifties, and my chances of moving into a completely different profession were practically nil. In consequence, I decided to remain in academe. Jobs in my field (Professor of Medieval German Literature), however, were as scarce as feathered lizards, especially since I had not produced the necessary half-shelf of publications. Thus, I was left with very few choices. The best of these was to move into librarianship which, to my delight, has turned out to be quite interesting, and with its own set of challenges. I have put both my previous scholarship in literature and folklore together with my newly acquired skills in bibliography to reconcile and to fill in the gaps in two major works in the field of folk narrative. Since undertaking this vast task, I have completed about twenty percent of the work. I hope to live long enough to finish.

—Dr. A. Alex Wachsler, HPD Library

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"The libraries of America are and must ever remain the home of free, inquiring minds. To them, our citizens — of all ages and races, of all creed and persuasions — must be able to turn with clear confidence that there they can freely seek the whole truth, unvarnished by fashion, and uncompromised by expediency.

—President Dwight Eisenhower
WHAT'S NEW AT....... 

HPD LIBRARY
A hearty welcome to Sabrina Cohen who joined the Interlibrary Loan Department on May 6.

LIBRARY, RESEARCH, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER
Congratulations to Michelle Cho who has been promoted to the position of Collection Maintenance Coordinator. Congratulations to Piya Chayanuwat who accepted the position of Library Network Specialist II. Angela Cromwell has also been promoted to the position of Acquisitions Manager. Anne Fisher accepted the position of Reference/Subject Specialist for Social Sciences. Congratulations to Rebekah Benison who is now the Administrative Assistant for Public Library Services. Leonard Onyeonoro is now the Library Assistant III at the East Campus Branch Library. Praveen Mootiram has accepted the position of Library Assistant II/Acquisitions. Chassidy Williams, Ann Zomerfeld, Vanessa Merine, and Marcia Durity began working as Library Assistant II/Circulation February 25, March 18, May 6, and May 20 respectively. Esther Villalobos has also joined the Circulation crew as Circulation Desk Coordinator. Paula Adams, Arlene Batson-George, Sharon Nahra, and Amy Rolland will start in the position of General Reference Librarian on May 28. Ana Berger and Teshana Lee-Yong will also join our team on May 28 as the Library Assistant II for Reference and Serials, respectively. LeThesha Harris accepted the position of Audiovisual/Adult Services Librarian. Welcome back to Dinos Andreou who accepted the position of Circulation Manager! Be sure to say, "Hello!" to Douglas Gordon when he delivers mail to your departments! On March 4, Cheryl Bond began working as Administrative Assistant/Facilities. Congratulations to Vanita Chauhan who will officially start in the position of Assistant to the Director of Library Development on June 1.

Congratulations are extended to Mimi Hershenson's son, Trent, on his recent marriage to Karen Mengden. They were wed on the beautiful coast of California on April 21, 2002 and honeymooned in Hawaii.

Be sure to pick up the latest edition of Fibre Focus, The Magazine of the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners, Spring 2002, v.45, #1. The magazine contains an article that Kathleen Dunleavy wrote called, "Sample Cards of Stored Yarn." Also, join Kathleen during the weekly get together of The Needlework Club on Tuesdays from 12:30-1:30 in the staff lounge.

Children's Comments from Take Your Children To Work Day—April 26, 2002
"We had a tour first. Then we had to look around. Then we had to go to lunch. After lunch we went to the library and we went to do art and crafts and then we went back to the office." —Olivia DiCola (daughter of Wally DiCola, Law Library)
"Today was one of my most favorite days. Not only just because I was at Nova, but because we had fun. First we spent a little while in my dad's office. After that we went over to the new library, where we were given a tour. I sat down and read a little of a magazine, put it back on the shelf then left for a presentation hosted by the Mayor of Cooper City. From there we ate a delicious meal in the cafeteria for lunch. After this we were allowed to go back to the library and we did some arts and crafts. The day was filled with plenty of delight. And I cannot wait to come for some summer activities." —Dorothy Torrs (daughter of Wally DiCola, Law Library)

The Editors of CONNECTIONS welcome any and all suggestions. Please e-mail us!
Beth Harman harman@nova.edu; Betty Maxwell maxwellb@nsu.law.nova.edu; Vicky Zaetler vzaetler@nova.edu