Library concentrates on user survey as initial part of SACS preparation

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACSCASI) is beginning the accreditation process for The University of Texas at Dallas.

Guidelines for the library's preparation for the Institutional Effectiveness and Budgeting assessment were established during the summer of 2005 in a Strategic Plan.

Dr. Ellen Safley, McDermott Library Senior Associate Director for Public Services and Strategy, has already begun an active part of the assessment by conducting a service quality survey through the LibQUAL+™ project.

The project attempts to investigate what connotes service quality in the minds of users and measure the gaps between expected service and perceived service.

Dr. Safley has also prepared other reports using information from the Strategic Plan that was developed by almost all of the library staff.

Library staff will continue to work toward achieving goals set in the Strategic Plan and continue to assess the library's impact upon faculty and students.

Appropriate changes and upgrades will be made defined by an analysis of the LibQUAL+™ statistics and other staff research.

The library is a small part of the SACSCASI assessment. The overall assessment of The UTD is scheduled to conclude in the spring of 2008.

New UTD-ID to alter library's system

The library has been diligent in preparing for the new UTD-ID program. On the weekend of July 4th, each active employee and student will be issued a unique UTD-ID number to be used as a form of identification in place of a Social Security number.

The change will affect operations throughout the campus and will increase security. The library is adjusting its system to allow for as smooth a transition as possible during the switch from SS numbers to the personal ID numbers.

Jean Vik, Associate Director for Library Systems, said, “Once the UTD-ID is in place, library staff will no longer be able to ask for the Social Security number or even part of it to identify a patron in the Library’s Circulation database.”

After Oct. 1 employees may turn in their Comet Cards for new ones with the UTD-ID number. If the old Comet Card is turned in there will be no charge for the new card. A request for a new card without turning in the old one will be treated as a lost card and the $25 replacement fee will be charged. More information about the UTD-ID is available at http://www.utdallas.edu/utd-id/.

McLemore winners - The 2006 recipients of the Ethel-Ward McLemore Award for Library Excellence are Mary Ann Harrison and Serenity Rose King shown with Dean of Libraries Larry D. Sall. More photos on page 2. - McDermott Library photo
The 2006 Ethel Ward-McLemore Awards for Library Excellence were presented during the annual banquet held at Canyon Creek Country Club, Richardson, Texas, Monday, May 8.

1. 2005 McLemore winners Tahmoures Elyasi and Mircea Grancea present Mary Ann Harrison with her award and certificate. 2. Robert Nelesen, Associate Provost congratulates Serenity Rose King on her award. 3. Merry Trujillo, Sue Mchnis and Loreen Phillips share the moment with a smiling Mary Ann Harrison. 4. Dean Larry Sail and Grancea present Serenity King with her award and certificate.
Special Presentations in Spring 2006

The Race for Timbuktu

Frank T. Kryza of Dallas appeared in the library’s Writers Series of Lectures on Feb. 28 in the McDermott Suite on the 4th floor of the library. He spent 11 years in Africa and traveled much of the territory described in his new book The Race for Timbuktu. Using papers of British officer Alexander Gordon Laing, Kryza wrote about the first phase of the colonization of Africa, which would see nearly the entire continent occupied by European nations in less than 100 years. Using a rare map of Africa (shown at left), he discussed the extraordinary people and pivotal events of 19th Century African exploration that changed the course of history and the shape of today’s world.

Identity Theft and Cyber Crime

Dr. E. Douglas Harris, executive director of the CyberSecurity and Emergency Preparedness Institute in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science at UTD presented “Identity Theft and Other Personal Cyber Crimes” as a part of the Library Lecture Series on March 22. He was supported in the well-attended event by Millie DeAnda (shown at right with Dr. Harris), president of the North Texas Crime Commission. Harris is also an associate dean for student services at UTD. His institute was created to deal with rapidly growing Homeland Security problems, such as cyber crime, information assurance and emergency preparedness. It is one of only a handful of entities of its kind in the United States. UTD offers courses in related topics through its Jonsson School.

Experimental Test Pilot

On Feb. 3, Special Collections played host to guest speaker Dennis Tuck who talked about his experiences testing aircraft such as the Concorde before a near capacity audience in McDermott Library Auditorium. The Concorde supersonic airliner, built jointly by France and Great Britain, earned a prominent place in aviation history. The airliner flew higher and faster than conventional jets but many factors put it in disfavor. It proved to be costly to operate and when gasoline reached $1 a gallon in 1980, the 747 proved just as efficient and could carry many more passengers. The round trip ticket from Paris to New York was $3,900 in 1983 and reached $8,148 in 2005. In 2005 there were no SST’s active in commercial service. Tuck’s presentation was titled, “My Career as an Experimental Test Pilot.” He also described the rigors of landing and taking off from aircraft carriers shortly after World War II. At left, Tuck receives a certificate from Special Collections co-ordinator Dr. Erik D. Carlson.

Library staff photos
Former Braniff employees visit HAC lecture

In late March former Braniff Airways employees came to McDermott Library to hear Dr. Erik Carlson’s special presentation titled “World War II, Love Field and Braniff Airways.” Carlson discussed the impact World War II had on Braniff operations at Love Field and the carrier’s domestic service and overseas routes during that period.

Braniff’s public relations archives are located in the History of Aviation Collection at UTD.

Enjoying a reception after the Braniff lecture are former Braniff employees Charles Rosendahl, Mickey Conn, Jack Murdoch, Mary Mark Welch, Sally Roberts, Betty Dollins, Barney Moffatt, Norwood Band, Austin Mackey and Mary Pearson Crawford. - McDermott Library photo

Members of McDermott Library’s Special Collections Department attended the annual Frontiers of Flight Fund Raising Dinner and Gala at the museum during May that honored Senator and pioneer Astronaut John Glenn. He received the George Haddaway Medal for Achievement in Aviation. The modern museum, located at Dallas’ Love Field, is dedicated to preserving and expanding McDermott Library’s History of Aviation Collection as well as its own collection. Dean of Libraries Larry D. Sall, Ph.D., serves on the museum’s board of directors. Chairman of the board is U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Distinguished aviation historian Bill Leary dies during spring

William M. Leary, Ph.D., 71, who came to McDermott Library last August to present the 2005 Jalonick Memorial Lecture on his specialty, Air America, died on Feb. 24 in Georgia.

Dr. Leary had profound influence on UTD’s Special Collections Dept. that became the official archive of Civil Air Transport and Air America. The department is also the site of the only memorial dedicated to the fallen employees of the clandestine CIA venture in Southeast Asia.

His presentation, “Last Flights: Air America and the Collapse of South Vietnam,” drew a capacity audience.

A distinguished history professor, emeritus, at the University of Georgia, Dr. Leary was stricken with cancer shortly after his Jalonick presentation. He served as the Charles A. Lindbergh Professor of Aerospace History at the National Air and Space Museum, Washington D.C. in 1996-97.
Docutek helps follow copyright laws

For the current school year, McDermott Library purchased a new Electronic Reserve software program called Docutek E-Res. The new system allows for better copyright compliance management by requiring passwords for all copyrighted materials.

Other benefits of the system include a link to the professor’s homepage and E-mail alerts that automatically notify students when new Electronic Reserve material has been posted for their courses.

The library began a partial migration to the new system in the fall semester with the implementation of course passwords. Additional changes are being made for subsequent semesters.

Beginning in the Spring 2006 semester, only one record for all Electronic Reserve materials per course appears in the library catalog. The full list of Electronic Reserve items are on the Docutek website only.

The library’s Reserves Coordinator is Serenity Rose King, available at 972-883-2587 or libresv@utdallas.edu.

Catalog receiving Voyager upgrade

During the summer intersession (Aug. 2-16) the library will upgrade its Endeavor program with a new ISBN index that includes the 13-digit ISBN in MARC records.


New Galaxy intranet to affect log-on

In August the university will launch a new intranet named Galaxy which will provide single sign-on for applications now requiring a separate login, such as Web for Employees. The library will be included in Phase II of the project so it will still be necessary to enter a second user ID and password to gain remote access to the library’s electronic resources.

Library launches ‘The Orbit’ blog

One hot day in July of 2005, five library employees gathered around a small table to discuss a method of communication McDermott Library had yet to offer. Those five people left the table with a mission: go forth and blog.

The weblog, or “blog” is easily updated regularly without the hassle of HTML editing or uploading. All entries are arranged in reverse chronological order to ensure newer information at the top. The committee, consisting of Teresa Deloach, Matt Makowka, Faizur Rahman, Tom Allen, and Kim O’Brien discovered more than 100 academic libraries were already blogging. Most of these blogs addressed patron concerns daily.

The site was named The Orbit in theme with UTD’s space sciences reputation and university mascot - The Comets.

Check out The Orbit at http://mcdermottlibrary.blogspot.com and find out what is going on around McDermott Library.

UPDATED MISSION STATEMENT

In the Spring of 2006, McDermott Library updated its Mission Statement to the following:

We embrace the mission of the University of Texas at Dallas by providing maximum access to relevant, authoritative, and scholarly resources.

We are dedicated to maintaining a congenial atmosphere for the library community and will endeavor to advance the lifelong educational needs of our diverse clientele.

Amelia Earhart


by Paul A. Oelkrug, C.A.
Senior Curator, Special Collections

Where in the world is Amelia Earhart? Or, I guess, the correct question should be, “What in the world happened to Amelia Earhart?” Ever since she and her navigator, Fred Noonan, mysteriously disappeared during an attempted around-the-world flight in 1937, many have pondered this question.

The official story is that Earhart and Noonan were off course, missed their intended refueling stop at Howland Island, ran out of fuel, and perished in the Pacific Ocean. However, there are those that claim that they were actually on a secret mission for the United States government to gather information on the Japanese military buildup in the Pacific as a prelude to war. From this point many theories emerge; some credible while others border on the absurd, such as one claiming that she was actually Tokyo Rose.

The Joseph Gervais Papers in Special Collections reflect a nearly lifelong quest by Mr. Gervais to answer to the Earhart question. He contends that she was shot down by the Japanese and taken prisoner, spending the war in Japan as a "guest" of the Japanese Government. After the war she returned to the United States under an assumed name, remarried, and lived out the rest of her life as Irene Bolam.

The documents and photographs in this collection are the result of the years of research he spent looking for the answer to the Earhart question. Included as well are theories by others, one stating that she and Noonan were executed by the Japanese on the island of Saipan. What do you think?

Maybe the first question, “Where in the world is Amelia Earhart?,” is the correct question after all.
Kason Escobedo, who has served as a student worker in Cataloging for two years, was elected the junior class senator representing the School of Engineering & Computer Sciences in the university’s student government. Also Vikram Ramakrishnan, who worked in Library Information Technology Services (LITS) for a year and a half, graduated in the spring... Kirk Chambers, Computer Equipment Maintenance Technician in LITS, welcomed a new son on March 6, 2006. His wife, Kristin, gave birth to Avery Mead Chambers at Richardson (Texas) Medical Center eight weeks early. He weighed 3 lbs. 4 oz and was 16 ¼" long and is doing fine. His sister is 6-year-old Harmony... Computer Programmer Abdullah Daud and wife Mehnaz were feted with a shower by the staff during May. Also, Hillary Campbell, Head of Collection Development & Liaison Services, and her husband Stewart were given a special baby shower in anticipation of their expected twin girls. Erica Stone of Cataloging, likewise, was given a special baby shower in the staff lounge... Whew!

Nahid Karimi joined Cataloging on June 1... Congratulations to Brenda Mahar of Cataloging and Paul Oelkrug of Special Collections upon their election to the UTD Staff Council for 2006-2008. All operations in the McDermott Library building represent District 3 of the Staff Council. The Staff Council is an advisory body that gathers information, interests and concerns of university staff and makes recommendations to the university president. Other library staff on the Council are Sue McInis of Cataloging (2006-2007), Jack Ross, Financial Officer (2005-2007), and Nadira Zakhidova of LITS (2004-2006).

Paul Oelkrug, Senior Curator of Special Collections, will be attending two conferences this year, the Society of Southwest Archivists in El Paso at the end of May and the Society of American Archivists taking place in Washington, D.C. the first week in August. Paul will be serving on panels in each of the conferences this year. At the SSA conference in El Paso, he will be serving as moderator for a breakout session titled “When to Say Whoa! - Developing Collections and Collections Policy: Maintaining Focus and Staying on Track.” This session deals with how collecting policies help archives maintain focus and adhere to their collection topic. At the SAA conference in D.C., Paul will serve as one of six discussion panelists in a program organized by the Metadata and Digital Objects Roundtable, a roundtable Paul helped to establish two years ago at the SAA conference in Boston. The topic will be digitization projects and the problems each panelist encountered as well as their successes... Dr. Erik Carlson, coordinator of Special Collections, will lead a discussion titled “Remembering World War II” Sunday, June 11, 2006 at the Haggard Library in Plano Texas. Veterans will share stories about serving in Europe and in the Pacific. The free event starts at 2 p.m.

... Dr. Joe F. Leeker of Germany and his wife, Dr. Betty Leeker, visited Special Collections during May in order to update “The Aircraft of Air America” research he donated to the Civil Air Transport / Air America Archive in the History of Aviation Collection. The database is the result of more than 13 years of research by Joe Leeker...

Texas Legislature confirms that death releases one’s obligation to register

Thanks to Paul Oelkrug, curator in Special Collections, for pointing out this gem. By official act, the Texas State Legislature confirmed that dead people will no longer be held responsible to register. This was something many citizens already suspected.

Following is an actual entry from HB 867 (relating to the registration and supervision of sex offenders and to state assistance provided to sex offenders; providing penalties) passed by the legislature:

“Art. 62.101. EXPIRATION OF DUTY TO REGISTER. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) and Subchapter I, the duty to register for a person ends when the person dies...”
Mary Jo Venetis joins McDermott Library

McDermott Library at the University of Texas at Dallas has appointed Mary Jo Venetis to the key position of Associate Director for Technical Services. She is responsible for all of the library’s cataloging and acquisitions functions.

Ms. Venetis has been serving as manager of acquisitions and interlibrary loan at the main branch of the Dallas Public Library. During her 11-year career at the downtown Dallas library, she was also assistant manager for acquisitions and technical services.

“We are fortunate to find a professional librarian in the immediate area who possesses the exact professional skills that we desired,” said Larry D. Sall, Ph.D., Dean of Libraries. “Ms. Venetis is a serious student of library science who keeps well versed in the latest technologies and procedures that affect how libraries do business.”

Having been awarded a doctoral fellowship, she is working on a Ph.D. in Information Science at the University of North Texas, emphasizing interdisciplinary studies in library and information science and management. Her dissertation is titled, “E-Leadership in Library and Information Science.” She received a master of library science degree from Texas Woman’s University of Library and Information Science in 1991.

She has served on several committees for the American Library Association, including the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services Advisory Committee. Her activities in the Texas Library Association include the Task Force on Professionalism in Library and Information Science Education, and the Leadership Development Committee.

Ms. Venetis is a member of Phi Kappa Phi Society Honor Society and resides in Rockwall, Texas.

New Interlibrary Loan system operational

A new and improved Interlibrary Loan system was implemented on January 3, 2006 just in time for the new semester. Users can now submit and track requests, get requested articles, and request renewals of interlibrary loan materials from one screen.

The system requires registration, a password and university Comet Card number for access. To register and submit requests go to: www.utdallas.edu/library/ and choose Interlibrary Loan under the Services menu.

Any questions or comments about the new system should be directed to the ILL Department at 972-883-2900 or ill@utdallas.edu.

The new system enables users to submit requests, check on the status of the requests, access electronic articles, and ask for renewals of interlibrary loan materials from one screen. There is also a Request History feature to view personal past requests.

In March ILL Supervisor Vickie Bullock attended the OCLC ILLiad International Conference in Dublin, Ohio. ILLiad is the ILL management software McDermott Library implemented in the fall with lending services. This spring users could borrow by using ILLiad.

“The hands-on workshop gave a good overview of the structure of the ILLiad database and taught me about the tools and techniques needed to find and extract data from ILLiad using Microsoft Access queries and reports,” Bullock said. “ILLiad captures all the information about the items we borrow and loan and we should be able to use this information to create a concise report for collection development purposes.”

Bullock pointed out that the library’s previous system did not include a copyright component. Staff had to manually handle copyright issues. ILLiad records all copyright data and has a mechanism for reporting to the Copyright Clearance Center.

The conference also provided Bullock with ideas from Princeton University and North Carolina State University on how to customize the program to work with different libraries. This, she said, will be valuable in linking McDermott Library to Callier Library located in Dallas.

“That session gave me a number of ideas on ways we can streamline workflow including implementing Direct Request which would allow for unmediated borrowing and possible ways to make the link between McDermott and Callier less cumbersome.”

Bullock said she was impressed with Indiana State University’s customization of ILLiad to incorporate the Books on Demand program. “Since we do Books on Demand here at UTD I was anxious to see how they set up routing rules, etc., to streamline the process not only for Interlibrary Loan staff, but the Acquisitions Department and the patron,” she said.
Pentagon air expert to present Jalnick Lecture July 8

Dr. Richard P. Hallion will present the 2006 Jalnick III and Dorothy Cockrell Jalnick Memorial Distinguished Lecture at McDermott Library at 4 p.m. on July 8, 2006. His topic will be “Herald of Victory: Battlefield Air Attack in The Second World War.”

He is Senior Adviser for Air and Space Issues, Directorate for Security, Counterintelligence, and Special Programs Oversight, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. He is responsible for analysis and insight regarding the conceptualization, evolution, and utilization of sensitive national technological programs and related subject areas.

He graduated from the University of Maryland, and subsequently from the Federal Executive Institute, and the National Security Studies Program for Senior Executives at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He has worked for a number of governmental and private organizations, and has been a visiting professor at the U.S. Army War College and the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

Dr. Hallion is the author and editor of numerous books, articles, and essays relating to aerospace technology and military operations, and he teaches and lectures widely.

The Jalnick Lecture Series was established to inform and enlighten the public about the history of flight by bringing aviation notables to Dallas. The series was endowed in memory of the Jalnicks by the late George Jalnick IV and friends of the Jalnick family.