IMCM offers invaluable aid to students

By Carol Woods

"We've got an awful lot of stuff in here in a lot of categories... we are dealing in a lot of segments... no one is interested in everything, but if they come in for one thing they may find something else they need," said instructional media and reference librarian Anne Amiot, in explaining the Instructional Media and Curriculum Materials center of McDermott Library.

The Teacher Education Association requires that any university which certifies teachers must maintain a copy of all state-approved textbooks currently in use in the public school system. This is IMCM's reason for being. IMCM has not only the current texts, but also those that have been used in the past. Amiot says that the older texts are used almost as much as the current ones. Curriculum and instruction classes and student teachers are the heaviest users of this section.

Largest, in numbers, is the collection of children's literature. Special education classes use these books in reading programs and reading clinics held on campus during the summer.

Books in the Research Collection on Autism, a gift of the NFL (that's right, NFL as in National Football League) Charities, are among the most used items in IMCM. These, as well as anything else on the open shelves, can be checked out through the circulation desk.

A- V kits here, too. The American Enterprise Institute Collection on public interest issues, such as political science, is in this section, as well as a wide selection of supplementary curriculum materials.

An Apple and two Control Data computers make their home here. The Apple software is for classroom education. The Control Data software includes tutorials on chemistry, physics and Fortran and is good for a review for upper level study, as it is not upper level itself. The Control Data Computers were the result of a grant. Software for these computers don't circulate; they must be used in IMCM.

IMCM has sets of foreign language tapes—Arabic, Japanese, French (four sets), Persian (Farsi), Spanish, Latin and German.

Records, mostly classical but including some jazz, are divided into musicology, ethnomusicology and spoken arts. The ethnomusicology collection is divided geographically and includes music of the American Indian. The spoken arts are subdivided into drama and literature. Poetry, stories and history (Watergate, Churchill, old radio sound tracks, inaugural addresses, Edison's first recorded sounds, dramatizations of Lincoln's speeches and letters) make up a large part of this collection.

The IMCM collection of slides is geared mainly to the arts and humanities classes, with an emphasis on art history and architecture, but this is another good spot for browsing. The photography slides are worth looking through. Due to the fragility of slides, students may check them out for one class period only, with permission of the instructor.

"The things in here are selected by the UTD faculty and are ordered as needed. They are out of the regular book budget... most are used in this room because we also have the equipment—the record and tape players, filmstrip and film loop viewers, the two kinds of computers. We are a part of reference," Amiot stated.

With travel posters covering most of its glass wall, IMCM is along the east side of the main floor of McDermott, a little out of the way, but well worth the exploratory trip. Remember, browsers are welcome.