Library Annex a Reality

After much anticipation and years of planning, University Libraries announces the completion of its newest facility, the Library Annex. The Library Annex is located near The University of Alabama campus on the corner of 14th Street and 12th Avenue. Modeled on similar facilities at other research libraries in the United States, the Library Annex is equipped with sophisticated environmental climate controls to aid in preservation of the materials housed there. To make efficient use of space, materials are shelved by size, rather than by call number, on compact, movable shelving.

Approximately 220,000 seldom-used books and journal volumes from the stacks areas in the Angelo Bruno Business Library, the Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library, McLure Education Library, and the Eric and Sarah Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering have been moved into the Library Annex. In addition, about 10,000 boxes of records from University offices are being housed in the new facility. The building’s capacity is more than twice the number of volumes located there now, and there is space on the property for an addition to the building in the future as library collections continue to grow.

Moving low-use materials into the Library Annex has relieved overcrowding in the stacks areas in campus libraries. Collections remaining in the libraries will be reorganized for ease of use by students and faculty. In addition, the Libraries will add to and reconfigure study and reader areas to adapt to changing needs of students and researchers. Plans for making changes in the use of space in stacks areas, especially in Gorgas Library, will begin immediately.

The Library Annex is not open to the public. Users may request books, articles, or journal volumes housed there by using a form on University Libraries’ Web site (www.lib.ua.edu). Articles from journals are available in the manner preferred by the requestor—e-mail, Portable Document Format (PDF), fax, or the original in the bound volume. Circulating items may be borrowed from the Annex according to University Libraries’ circulation policies. Non-circulating items that are requested will be retrieved from the Annex and may be used by the requestor in one of the library buildings. In special circumstances, permission to use materials in the Annex workroom may be granted to researchers. The contact for such permission is the head of circulation, Janice Simpson, at 348-8169 or jsimpson@bama.ua.edu.

Delivery of volumes requested from the Annex will be made twice daily Monday through Friday. Delivery will be to the Libraries’ location of the requestor’s choice. Items not picked up within 10 days will be returned to the Annex.

Gorgas Library Circulation Department is responsible for the operation of the Library Annex including the retrieval, delivery, and reshelving of materials. The service policies for the Library Annex are available on
the Libraries’ Web site. Edna Thomas is the contact person for the Library Annex. She may be reached at 348-3910 or emthomas@bama.ua.edu.

Kate Ragsdale, planning officer

Faculty Profile: Lee Pike, Head, Angelo Bruno Business Library

On Lee Pike’s first day in his new position as head of the business library, he arrived to find a library in transition. The facility was old and badly overcrowded; the other librarian position was vacant; the four paraprofessional positions had just gone through a radical change in personnel; and there was a note on his desk asking him to deliver the building plan for the new library as soon as possible. Fifteen years have passed, and under Pike’s guidance and direction the business library has been transformed. The library is now the Angelo Bruno Business Library and occupies a beautiful modern facility; the staff has grown to a total of four librarians and five paraprofessionals. Surveys of the business library’s users have repeatedly proven that the business library is very successful in serving both the students and faculty in the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration (C&BA).

Pike attributes Bruno Library’s success to its careful integration into the daily workings of C&BA. He cites the close ties between the library and the college’s Technology Group, the staff’s use of the college’s e-mail system, and the librarians’ participation in faculty meetings and college outreach activities as examples. He states, “Our partnerships with the college have really paid dividends, particularly in keeping us at the forefront of technology in networking and Web services. This enables us to meet our ultimate goal of tailoring our services and resources to the teaching and research needs of the students and faculty in C&BA.”

Pike’s contributions to University Libraries and the campus extend beyond his role as head of Bruno Library. University Libraries’ faculty have several times elected him to represent them in critical situations. He served on the panel which worked with the provost to establish the library faculty tenure criteria, and he also served on the recent search committee for dean of libraries. Pike has represented the library faculty for several years on the Faculty Senate where he has co-chaired and served on the prestigious Financial Affairs Committee. The former dean of libraries appointed Pike as the first library faculty representative to the Library Leadership Board, where Pike was instrumental in creating and developing the criteria for the annual Library Leadership Board awards.

Pike received his undergraduate degree in history and English and his master’s degree in library services from The University of Alabama. His first professional positions were in Alabama, but he soon moved to Colorado, where he held positions in both public and academic libraries. He remains a fervent fan of the Rocky Mountains; he likes to tell his colleagues how, as head
of the Evergreen Public Library [CO], he sometimes skied to work in the morning in order to get the library open on time after a heavy snow. Pike’s career eventually brought him back to Alabama. His latest position before joining University Libraries was director of the Alabama Library Exchange, a multi-type library cooperative based in Huntsville. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Alabama Library Association in 1990 in recognition for his work on the Alabama Union List of Serials while in that position.

Since joining University Libraries, Pike has continued to distinguish himself, culminating in his promotion to the rank of professor. He represented the Alabama Library Association as a member of the Council of the American Library Association for several years and was an active member of the Council’s Southeastern Caucus. However, Pike remains most proud of his achievements in the business library itself. “I am pleased and proud to be a part of the wonderful team in the business library. I’m also very proud of the way we have partnered with C&BA in technology and other areas. We want the business library to move forward in step with the business college as it expands its national reputation. I look forward to what we can achieve together in the future.”

Karen Chapman, reference librarian, Angelo Bruno Business Library

Bruno Library Supports Entrepreneurship in West Alabama

The Angelo Bruno Business Library is collaborating with several areas of expertise on campus to provide an outreach program called the Alabama Entrepreneurial Research Network (AERN). The purpose of AERN is to promote economic and small business development throughout the underdeveloped counties in West Alabama known as the Black Belt. The Network was launched in 2001 and by the end of 2002 had grown to include eight counties. AERN provides a way for citizens to research and explore ideas about starting or growing a business, from developing a business plan to researching industries, companies, and markets for products and services.

The Network is the product of a state grant awarded to The University of Alabama Center for Business and Economic Research in cooperation with the Small Business Development Center, to encourage and enhance business development in West Alabama. Chambers of commerce and industrial development agencies in each target-ed county were invited to join the AERN. Upon joining, an agency was presented with research materials, computers, software, and reference books. These materials benefit agency staff and are also available to the citizens of member counties.

State Senator Charles Steele was instrumental in securing the grant funds for the University. “This development will provide valuable resources to the people of [these] counties and expand opportunity for business in the area,” Steele said. Barry Mason, dean of the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration, stressed our commitment to ongoing attention to the needs of rural populations. “While we welcome immediate success on any front, our strategic focus is on the long term,” he stated.

AERN members have a new set of tools at their disposal. Bruno Library is providing research support for the Network in a variety of ways. The library created and hosts the official AERN Web site (http://aern.cba.ua.edu) for and about member counties and AERN services and is working in other ways to make business information more accessible to entrepreneurs in rural Alabama.

A goal of the library is to identify and organize business information relevant to these users and make that information easy to find and use. UA librarians are developing online guides to using business resources such as Business Source Elite and other business-related commercial databases available through the Alabama Virtual Library. These guides can be printed and used as a desk reference for rural Alabama entrepre-
neurs as they do computer research. Other guides will help interpret content of selected print resources found at each AERN site.

Lee Pike, head of the Angelo Bruno Business Library, coordinated the Library’s participation in the project. Paul Brothers, Karen Chapman, and Todd Hines, business reference librarians, are actively involved in the project. Chapman is Webmaster for the AERN Web site. Among its functions is an “Ask a Business Librarian” e-mail option, where West Alabama entrepreneurs can ask business reference questions such as “Who are my competitors in this area?” or “How can I find people who are likely to be interested in my product?” Other features of the Web site include links to recommended sites for small business such as the Small Business Advisor and the National Federation of Independent Business. There are also connections to sites on such topics as tax issues, bookkeeping and accounting. Brothers makes visits to AERN sites to train local staff members in the use of the AERN Web site as well as various databases and resources. Hines contributes content for the Web site and participates in training agency personnel.

The goal of the business librarians is to make information readily available to Alabama entrepreneurs wherever they reside. The addition of the Bruno Business Library staff to the AERN University of Alabama team establishes a strong business information connection for Network members and small business people throughout rural Alabama.

Lee Pike, head, Angelo Bruno Business Library

Primary Source Material in Two New Databases

The Libraries are pleased to announce the addition of two databases: Early English Books Online (EEBO) and Evans Digital Edition. Both of these databases expand access to English and American early printed books and other formats through extensive indexing and the reproduction of much full-text information.

With over 125,000 titles, EEBO contains titles listed in Pollard & Redgrave’s A Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland & Ireland and of English Books Printed Abroad, 1475-1640, Wing’s Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and British America, and of English Books Printed in Other Countries, 1641-1700, and The Thomason Tracts, 1640-1661. Topics include philosophy, religion, science, politics, history, poetry, prose, drama, and music. Among the thousands of titles featured in EEBO are works by Malory, Bacon, More, Erasmus, Boyle, Newton, and Galileo; musical exercises by Henry Purcell; novels by Aphra Behn; prayer books, pamphlets, and proclamations; almanacs, calendars, and many other primary sources. For example, the collection contains both the early quarto editions of Shakespeare’s plays along with the 1623 First Folio edition of his work. In addition to the great works included in EEBO, the tracts, pamphlets, and almanacs reveal much about sixteenth and seventeenth century British life.

This vast body of material can be searched quickly and efficiently in fields such as author, title, printer, publication date, type of illustration, and Library of Congress subject heading. In the advanced search, one is able to limit and search for varying types of illustrations including coats of arms, maps, printer’s marks, and music. In many instances, the full-text of the work including any illustrations is available in Portable Document Format (PDF) and can be printed or sent to an e-mail account.
Evans Digital Edition provides expanded access to primary resource documents involving early American history, literature, philosophy, religion, and much more. Evans Digital Edition is based on the microform set, Early American Imprints 1639-1800. Early American Imprints is, in turn, based on Charles Evans' American Bibliography and enhanced by Roger Bristol's Supplement to Charles Evans American Bibliography. The Early American Imprints collection was microfilmed by Readex in cooperation with the American Antiquarian Society (AAS). Evans' work is the definitive resource for information about every aspect of life in seventeenth and eighteenth century America, from agriculture and auctions through diplomacy, foreign affairs, literature, music, religion, the Revolutionary War, temperance, and witchcraft.

With Evans Digital Edition, Readex and the AAS are undertaking a massive project to digitize the entire Evans collection. It will include every item previously produced on microform plus more than 1,200 additional works located, cataloged, and digitized since completion of the earlier effort. Upon completion, Evans Digital Edition will consist of more than 36,000 works and 2,400,000 images. Even now, titles as varied as Anne Bradstreet's Several Poems (2nd edition, 1678), an anonymous work called The Origin of the Whale Bone-Petticoat: A Satyr (1714), and Benjamin Franklin's A Modest Enquiry into the Nature and Necessity of a Paper-Currency (1729) are available in PDF format in this database.

Evans Digital Edition can be searched by title, subject, author, and printer. In addition, the full text of publications that have been digitized is fully searchable providing unparalleled access to this collection. Evans Digital Edition can be explored in other ways as well. One can browse the database by genres such as hymns, poems, women as authors, and satires and also by broad subjects such as economics, government, languages, and politics. There is a browse section called History of Printing that groups publications by individual booksellers, printers, and publishers. Full text of the publications is available in PDF or Tagged Image File Format (TIFF).

Both Early English Books Online and Evans Digital Edition are available through the Databases link on the Libraries' Web page (www.lib.ua.edu).

Janet DeForest, government documents and reference librarian, Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library

Libraries Users Respond to National Survey

During Spring 2002, over 600 students, faculty, and staff participated in the first round of LibQUAL+™, a national survey designed to measure user perceptions of service quality in academic libraries. The purpose of this three-year survey is to provide library managers with score norms by which to assess user satisfaction with library collections and services, to compare these results with those of peer institutions, and to quantify changes in user satisfaction over time.

The survey addresses four broad areas of service. In each area, users are asked to rate on a scale of one to ten their perception of the current level of specific collections and services in the Libraries and to indicate their minimum acceptable level of service as well as their desired level of service. For example, the first area, "Access to Information," includes questions on satisfaction with runs of journal titles, timely document delivery, meeting interdisciplinary library needs, convenient library hours, and comprehensiveness of print collections.

The second area, "Affect of Service," assesses satisfaction with library staff in categories such as willingness to help, courtesy, dependability, individual attention to patrons, knowledge, and the understanding of users' needs. “Library as Place” is the third area surveyed and includes questions about study space, a contemplative environment, and a comfortable and inviting location. The fourth survey area is "Personal Control." The questions in this area cover access to electronic resources, availability of up-to-date equipment, the Libraries' Web site, convenient access to information about collections, and
ease of independent use of information.

From the responses, there were only two categories where the perceived current level of service scored lower than the minimum expected level of service, “Runs of journal titles” and “Comprehensive print collections.” While this is useful information, it is not new, and improving our print collections remains a high ongoing priority. Of particular interest however, are the areas where the level of service was acceptable, but below the desired level. The Libraries have already implemented some changes in response to these assessments, among them additional quiet study areas, additional group study space, more comfortable seating, and late-night study halls.

The study will continue for at least two more years in order to provide comparative data for our own institution as well as for peer libraries. The entire results documents for Spring 2002 can be viewed by clicking on What’s New on the Libraries’ Web page or by going directly to the Web site (www.lib.ua.edu/info/LQresults.pdf).

Mary Alice Fields, head, Gorgas Information Services, Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library

Hammond Donates Folsom Memorabilia

Among the William Stanley Hoole Special Collections Library’s recent donations is an addition to the Ralph Hammond Papers. Ralph Hammond earned a degree in political science from The University of Alabama where he also studied literature and poetry. He later attended Oxford University. Hammond served in the United States Army as a war correspondent in Europe during World War II. After the war, Hammond was Alabama Governor James “Big Jim” Folsom’s press secretary, 1946-1950, and Folsom’s executive secretary, 1955-1959. Continuing his political career, Hammond served as mayor of Arab, Alabama from 1963 to 1969.

His most recent donation to Hoole Library includes materials he created and gathered during his service to Governor Folsom. Folsom’s campaigns were known for their lively, down-home atmosphere complete with country bands, and Hammond’s donation includes sheet music and recordings of the song “Big Jim Folsom.” The collection contains a variety of campaign items such as postcards, pamphlets, and photographs. Along with campaign material, the donation includes correspondence, short story manuscripts, published works, speeches delivered by Folsom, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, photographs, and state memorabilia.

Throughout his adult life Hammond has pursued his interest in writing, producing over 5,000 poems and publishing numerous works, including My GI Aching Back, Antebellum Mansions of Alabama, and Crossing Many Rivers. In 1992 he received double honors when Livingston University, now The University of West Alabama, awarded him an honorary doctor of letters degree and Governor Guy Hunt appointed him poet laureate of the state of Alabama, a position he held until 1995.

Through the years Hammond has donated numerous items to University Libraries. In 1995 he donated to Hoole Library manuscripts of his poems, research materials, and photographs used in his 1951 work Antebellum Mansions of Alabama, working files of a book he edited, Alabama Poets: A Contemporary Anthology,
African-American Heritage Month Observed at Hoole Library

February 2003 marked the celebration of African-American Heritage Month across the United States and at The University of Alabama. The William Stanley Hoole Special Collections Library took part in the celebration of events by creating two exhibitions and offering a lecture and book signing.

For the month of February, an exhibit was on display at Hoole Library entitled “Angela Davis: Portrait of a Revolutionary.” Co-curated by Jessica Lacher-Feldman of the Hoole Library and Dr. Hasan Kwame Jeffries, Bankhead Lecturer in the UA History Department, the exhibit featured ephemera from the Free Angela Davis campaign of the early 1970s as well as published works, all from Hoole Library. Davis, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, was arrested and held in prison for sixteen months for her alleged involvement in kidnapping and murder in a California courtroom.

On February 5, Dr. Patterson Toby Graham gave a lecture and signed copies of his book, A Right to Read: Segregation and Civil Rights in Alabama's Public Libraries, 1900-1965. Graham is head of Special Collections at the University of Southern Mississippi and holds an M.A. in History and an M.L.I.S. and Ph.D. in Information Studies from The University of Alabama. Graham's book, A Right to Read, was published in 2002 by University of Alabama Press and is an extension of his doctoral dissertation. His research on library segregation has won several awards, including the ALISE-Eugene Garfield Dissertation Award and the Phyllis Dain Library History Dissertation Award. His talk centered on incidents and experiences relating to segregation and public libraries in Alabama.

In conjunction with Graham’s lecture and book signing, a small exhibition on Garth Williams’ The Rabbits’ Wedding was also mounted at Hoole Library. This exhibit featured the book that made international headlines in 1959 as a banned book in Alabama. The children’s book is about two rabbits that marry, one rabbit being white and the other black. The exhibit featured news clippings from around the United States as well as the book and images from the book.

The activities at Hoole Library were part of a broad range of University-wide activities and events that celebrated African-American Heritage Month.

Joyce Lamont Honored

Joyce H. Lamont, retired curator of the William Stanley Hoole Special Collections Library, was honored by a surprise reception on February 19. The occasion was the announcement of the creation of the Joyce Haguewood and William E. Lamont Endowment, which will fund preservation and acquisitions for Special Collections. Among those present were family members, University and Libraries officials, and friends.

Lamont was graduated from The University of Alabama.
Alabama in 1954 with a B.S. in education. With majors in library science and history, she began her full-time career with University Libraries in 1955 as acquisitions librarian, taking the position of curator of Special Collections in 1975. In 1984, she was made Assistant Dean of Libraries for Special Collections and Preservation.

Beginning in 1976, she taught a course in archival administration in the School of Library and Information Studies until her retirement in 1994. During her long career, she was responsible for the development of Special Collections into a collection of Alabamiana, rare editions, manuscripts, maps, photographs, and other materials now used by researchers from around the globe.

Professor Lamont received training in archives and manuscript administration at Case Western Reserve University, the Library of Congress, the United States National Archives and Records Administration, Emory University, and the Georgia Department of Archives and History. She is a founding member and former president of the Society of Alabama Archivists, a charter member of the Academy of Certified Archivists, and a past officer of the Southeastern Archives Conference. Lamont also served as historian for the Alabama Library Association for 17 years.

Her husband, William Edward “Ed” Lamont, attended The University of Alabama and, following service in the United States Navy during World War II, worked for the United States Bureau of Mines until he retired in 1980. He then moved to the Minerals Research Institute at UA where he stayed until his retirement in 1994, just prior to his death.

Clark E. Center, Jr., curator of special collections, William Stanley Hoole Special Collections Library