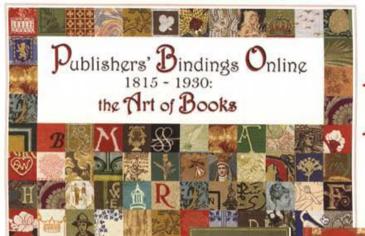


LIBRARY HORIZONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA LIBRARIES

SPRING 2005 • VOL. 18, NO. 2 The Art of Books:



The graphic featured here is from the http://bindings.lib.ua.edu bome page, The design for the bindings website features details from books used in the project. These individual squares form a patchwork that brings to mind a quilt motif. The books used in the project represent countless different designs and styles, colors, themes, and patterns,

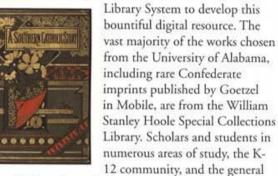
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Left to Right: Truth Dexter (Little, Brown and Company, 1901). This simple design is stamped in gold, yellow, and green and bears the designer's signature, A Warickshire Lad: The Story of the Boyhood of William Shakespeare (D. Appleton and Co., 1916). This binding, designed by the Decorative Designers, a prolific firm of this era, is typical of the bindings from the early 20th century, known as the era of the designer binding, sometimes known as the Glasgow Rose. Hubert's Wife: A Story For You [A Southern Catholic Story] (Kenedy and Sons, ca. 1880)-This intricate binding features geometric, floral, and what is often called diagonal or zone designs. It is representative of the elaborate Victorian style.

University Libraries Leads the Way in New DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP ON NINETEENTH-CENTURY DECORATIVE BOOK BINDINGS

ublishers' Bindings Online, 1815-1930: the Art of Books (PBO) is a three-year digital project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This national leadership grantfunded project allows for the development of a cutting-edge resource relating to the study of nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century American book covers and related materials. The lead institution for this project, University Libraries at the University of Alabama, is partnering with the University of Wisconsin-Madison General



public have found this project to be both beautiful and informative.

Funded in September 2003, this project has brought together via the World Wide Web a collection of book bindings in a searchable database with several value-added components to facilitate the study of these works. Upon completion in September 2006, the database will contain up to 5000 titles and at least twice as many images. Rich information about the books as physical objects, along with teaching tools, research tools, and information about the place of nineteenth- and twentieth-century books in American history and culture will be included.

The project looks at books that were published in the United States from 1815 to 1930, the era of the "publishers' binding." During this period, binding, which had once been provided by bookbinders only on an individual basis, became a standard part of the initial publishing process. The result is a body of materials that represents many things to many people. Scholars and students in a broad range of academic pursuits relating to American history and culture can use these works to gain an understanding of aspects of nineteenth-century American life. The comprehensive controlled vocabulary created for this project has provided a pathway to understanding the visual iconography of American history and life. Elements represented include Westward expansion and the Civil War, the development of leisure time and activities, the Victorian era, and some of the earliest examples of American influence on European design.

The bindings provide countless examples of decorative motifs, reflecting the evolution of graphic and commercial design in America. During this period, sometimes called "America's first

HARPER LEE VISITS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

ery few authors have had as great an impact on the literary world or on humankind as a whole as has Harper Lee. With one novel she caused a ripple that has been felt around the world for the past forty-five years.

To Kill a Mockingbird brought Harper Lee a Pulitzer Prize and an Oscar. Mockingbird has been translated into more than forty languages, and Lee's book was deemed by an American Library Association poll to be the greatest novel of the twentieth century.

On January 28, 2005, Ms. Lee, a Monroeville, Alabama, native and University of Alabama graduate, visited the William Stanley Hoole Special Collections Library in conjunction with the To Kill a Mockingbird state-wide essay contest. The con-

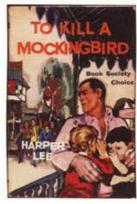
test is sponsored by the University of Alabama Honors College and several other units of the University, including University Libraries. High school juniors were invited to contribute essays relating to the message of To Kill a Mockingbird and what it means to them. Ms.

> Lee joined the winners for lunch and a ceremony at the President's Mansion, followed by a reception and book signing at the Hoole Library. Ms. Lee graciously met the students, signed copies of her book for them, and offered words of encouragement to budding authors. This was Harper Lee's third visit to Hoole Library for this event.

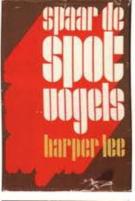
The Hoole Library's Alabama Collection houses several editions of To Kill a Mockingbird, including several foreign translations and first editions. A small display, exhibited as part of this event, featured rare editions of To Kill a Mockingbird along with materials from Harper Lee's years as a student at the University of Alabama. Included among the University of Alabama memorabilia on display were writings and images from publications

> such as Rammer Jammer, the Corolla, and The Crimson White.

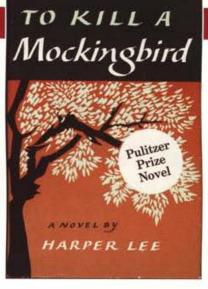
public and outreach services W. S. Hoole Special Collections











Four editions of Harper Lee's internationally beloved novel, To Kill a Mockingbird from the W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library's Alabama Collection: A Danish-language edition, Draeb ikke en sangfugl (Jespersen og Pios Forlag, 1963), a Dutch-language edition, Spaar de Spotvogels, (Amsterdam Boek, 196?), the Lippincott first edition (1960), and the Book Society edition.

Bindings, continued from page 1

century," Europe began to look to the United States for inspiration, rather than the reverse. The website features numerous detailed images from bindings in the project, which are presented in a patchwork quilt motif. Information about the design movements and many other aspects of the project will be highlighted in additional teaching and research tools, as well as through comprehensive tutorials and image galleries that serve not only to entertain, but also to educate readers. These mediumrare books are those that will seem familiar and are found in many homes. Few, however, have been considered for their important historical and cultural value.

The project is being publicized in many ways. It has been highlighted in presentations at national conferences, such as the American Historical Association and the American Association for History and Computing. It was featured on the University of Alabama home page. An image from the project was also used as University Libraries' 2004 holiday card.

On March 1, 2005, the first version of the database was made available to the public. With 377 records available so far, the site has much to offer. Updates to the site will be made continuously, including additional records and valueadded materials. For further information about the project, contact Jessica Lacher-Feldman, PBO project manager, at bindings@ua.edu. Please be sure to visit http://bindings.lib. ua.edu and take advantage of this exciting and innovative new resource.

Jessica Lacher-Feldman public and outreach services coordinator, W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library



Above: Ms. Lee and Dean Louis Pitschmann sharing a laugh.

Below: A picture from the Corolla featuring Lee and members of the Rammer Jammer staff. As a student at the University of Alabama, Lee wrote for The Crimson White and was editor of Rammer Jammer, the University's humor magazine.





LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

from Tevye the Dairyman to American Pastoral, Jewish literature has given us a lot to talk about. Members of the community gathered at Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library this spring to participate in a five-part reading and discussion series on Jewish literature.

Let's Talk About It! is a reading and book discussion program model developed by the American Library Association (ALA) in 1984. The program focuses on reading a common series of books, chosen by a nationally known scholar, and discussing them in the context of a larger theme. Recently, the ALA Public Programs Office and Nextbook, a nonprofit organization that promotes books illuminating 3000 years of Jewish civilization throughout the United States, launched a new Let's Talk About It! theme - "Jewish Literature: Identity and Imagination."

University Libraries is one of 200 libraries nationwide that received a grant from ALA and Nextbook to host the series. Dr. Steven Jacobs, Aaron Aronov Professor of Judaic Studies in the Department of Religious Studies, stepped into the role of local scholar and led the group in lively discussions centered around the theme "A Mind of Her Own: Fathers and Daughters in a Changing World." In addition to an accompanying essay written by project scholar Jeremy Dauber of Columbia University, participants had the opportunity to read and talk about Tevye the Dairyman by Sholem Aleichem, Bread Givers by Anzia Yezierska, 1185 Park Avenue by Anne Roiphe, American Pastoral by Philip Roth, and Bee Season by Myla Goldberg. Although these books explore the conflict between fathers and daughters from a Jewish perspective, the themes within this body of literature are universal, as was evidenced by the engaging discussion among program participants.

The Let's Talk About It! discussions served to introduce a rich literature and a culture that had been unfamiliar to many program participants. Another goal of the program series was community outreach, and University Libraries successfully partnered with the Brooks-Cork Library at Shelton State Community College, the William H. Sheppard Library at Stillman College, Tuscaloosa Public Library, and the Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa to promote the program. With discussion participants from each partner, a broad spectrum of the local community was represented.

Marcia Barrett catalog librarian

BRUNO LIBRARY SERVES BLACK BELT COUNTIES

The Alabama Entrepreneurial Research Network (AERN) is a project designed to encourage economic development in the Black Belt counties of Alabama. The project equips local chambers of commerce with resources and training that allow them



to offer support to area residents in forming and developing small businesses. Initially funded by a grant from the Alabama Legislature, the project was launched by the Center for Business and Economic Research and the Small Business Development Center, both units of the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration at the University of Alabama. The Angelo Bruno Business Library quickly became the third partner in the project and now plays a

major role in the project's ongoing

activities.



The seven current members of AERN are chambers of commerce serving counties from Greene to Wilcox. Each member chamber receives a computer with basic office productivity software and the hardware and software needed for Internet connectivity. The chambers

also receive collections of reference materials containing information that is useful in starting or growing a small business. AERN then provides training for chamber employees and members of the public in

using both the information resources provided by AERN and the business databases included in the Alabama Virtual Library.

Librarians from the Bruno Library participate in several aspects of the project, from consultations about which reference books to provide to conducting training sessions at the



individual chambers. The business librarians conducted an in-depth workshop at the Bruno Library that was open to all employees of AERN member chambers; a second workshop of this type is scheduled for later this spring. In addition to training activities, the Bruno Library sponsors the AERN website, located on the Web at http:// aern.cba.ua.edu. The librarians created and maintain the website and provide the bulk of the content. One of the website's features is an "Ask a Business Librarian" Web form that can be used by chamber employees or their clientele to refer questions to the librarians at the Bruno Library.

Economic development is a slow process, and each small success is valued. Aspiring businesspeople in these counties now have access to tools that offer them a greater opportunity to succeed. Among the success stories are two Demopolis restaurants, Smokin' Jack's Bar-B-Que and Cora's Restaurant, whose owners used AERN resources; each has received national exposure through being featured in a program on the Food Network. The Bruno Library is committed to continuing its role as a partner in the Alabama Entrepreneurial Research Network and playing a part in improving the quality of life in the Black Belt counties of Alabama.

Lee Pike head, Angelo Bruno Business Library



HOW ABOUT THAT! A NEW BOOK ON ALABAMA NATIVE AND LEGENDARY VOICE MEL ALLEN

orn Melvin Israel in Birmingham, Alabama, of Russian Jewish immigrant parents, Mel Allen, as he is broadly known, overcame Depression-era hardships and Klan persecution to become one of the most recognized voices in sports. Allen got his start in broadcasting as an undergraduate at the University of Alabama. He came to campus at the very young age of fifteen in 1928 with hopes of becoming a big-league ball player. His love for sports brought him instead to the worlds of sports writing and broadcasting. He made a name for himself at the Capstone while an undergraduate and a law student.

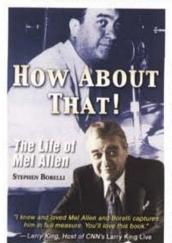
Allen joined CBS and the New York Yankees broadcasting team and was the "voice of the Yankees" from 1939 to 1964. He gained national acclaim as a broadcaster of numerous World Series and was the voice of baseball's weekly

highlight show, "This Week in Baseball." His unmistakable voice and his famous phrases, such as "How about that!" after a great play and "It's going ... going...it's gone!" to mark a home run, are touchstones of American culture that have reached far beyond the world of baseball. Red Barber and Allen were the first recipients of the Ford C. Frick award, which is presented by the National Baseball Hall of Fame to a broadcaster for "major contributions to baseball."

Stephen Borelli, a well-known author and journalist, grew up listening to Mel Allen's show, "This Week in Baseball." His new book, How About That!: The Life of Mel Allen (Sports Publishing LLC, 2005) captures brilliantly the life and career of this local hero turned national treasure. Research for the book was done at the University of Alabama's W. S. Hoole Library, which houses the Mel Allen Papers. Mel's brother, Larry Allen of Montgomery, often visited Tuscaloosa to meet with Borelli to share in the reviewing of these materials. Borelli talked about Mel Allen and his career, along with his own research, and signed copies of his book on April 27 at the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library on the University of Alabama campus.

further developments in online instruction. If you think of some kind of demonstration or instruction you would like to have available online, contact Mary Alice Fields (mafields@ua.edu) or click on the webmaster link at the bottom of any Libraries' Web page.

Mary Alice Fields head, Gorgas Information Services Department



Top: A photograph of Mel Allen and baseball levend Mickey Mantle from the Mel Allen Papers boused at the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library. Above: The cover of the forthcoming book, How About Thatl: The Life of Mel Allen, by Stephen Borelli (Sports Publishing, L.L.C. 2005).

Jessica Lacher-Feldman public and outreach services coordinator, W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library

USING TECHNOLOGY TO HELP USERS

he University Libraries' Web pages are becoming livelier as more and more instruction materials are being converted to electronic formats. The librarians' aim is to provide assistance to users in any medium they choose, whether face-to-face, by phone or e-mail, or

One popular and growing resource is the Course-Related Pages (http://www.lib.ua.edu/ coursepages.htm). Librarians can post handouts created for a specific class on these Web pages. Students can access these handouts at any time for review and assistance with an assignment. Faculty can refer to their own class pages or to those of their colleagues. It is also extremely helpful to other library staff attempting to assist students with their research.

New tutorials are also being developed to assist students. The Bama Undergraduate Information Literacy Tutorial for Sciences (http://www.lib.ua.edu/libraries/sel/built/) was developed by librarians at the Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering and is described elsewhere in this issue. In the Bruno Business Library, Karen Chapman has developed tutorials for two heavily used databases, Business Source Premier and Web of Science. Look for them at http://brunolib.cba.ua.edu/search/databases/index.html.

Another initiative in the works is the creation of short tutorials that explain specific searching techniques. These short tutorials, mostly created in Macromedia Flash, can be re-used in many contexts on the Libraries' Web pages or can be integrated into course pages created by teaching faculty. Thus far, three such skill-set tutorials have been created: how to use Boolean operators, how to use truncation, and how to take a citation from an electronic database and search the Libraries' catalog. To view these short tutorials, go to the entry on the Libraries' databases Web page (http://www.lib.ua.edu/databases) for Academic Search Premier. Click on the Search Tips Link to the right of the database title. Once on the Search Tips Web page, scroll down and click on the red links to Boolean Operators, Truncation, or the UA Libraries' catalog. Keep checking the Libraries' Web pages for

University Libraries Provides Resource FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

In February 2004, Dean of Libraries Louis A. Pitschmann charged the librarians of McLure Education Library with the task of creating an electronic resource for high school students. Working from that premise, Head Librarian Helga Visscher, Information Resources Librarians Jim Blansett and Nancy DuPree, Curriculum Materials Librarian Benita Strnad, and Gorgas Library Reference Librarian



Barbara Dahlbach began the arduous process of developing this resource. The URL for this Web page is http://highschool. lib.ua.edu. The website is designed to help high school students access web resources and research materials that will help them produce quality assignments. These sites have been evaluated by UA librarians for

content, relevance, and age-appropriateness.

Believing that the quickest way to attract the attention of young students is with motion and sound, librarians designed the opening sequence to provide plenty of both. Hoping to "brand" the website with heavy institution identification, the librarians employed "Big Al," the University mascot, to stampede across the screen, growing ever larger, all to the fanfare from "Yea, Alabama." Once a visitor has seen this feature, he or she can opt to by-pass it upon the next visit. This page has proved to be the most popular feature of the entire website.

Much thought went into selecting the subjects. The librarian group began with the subject list from the Alabama State Course of Study. Certain subjects lent themselves to further revision. Social studies was subdivided into American history, world history, and government. General science was broken down into its curricular parts: biology, chemistry, and physics. Each committee member was assigned subject areas. Every site was evaluated for currency, accuracy, relevance, and point of origin. Each member was responsible for both the original selection and the ongoing selection of new sites. Sites will be "cycled" from time to time, to keep the Web resources fresh.

The new website for high school students has elicited comments from administrators, teaching faculty, and other librarians, who have suggested more subjects and websites. The Web page was an immediate hit with University administrators. The dean of the College of Engineering liked it so much that he requested the addition of a section for engineering. Although the subject is not taught in high schools in Alabama, many at the University regard the website as a recruiting tool for students. The links to University departments, test preparation sites, and college application information encourage students to think about college, especially the University of Alabama. Users are encouraged to provide feedback by contacting the webmaster via a link on each page. All linked information is free. One of the purposes of this website is to promote the University of Alabama, but the site provides useful resources to students everywhere as they prepare for college and university study.

Helga Visscher head, McLure Education Library Jim Blansett reference librarian. McLure Education Library

DINAH!

WI hat a Diff rence a Day Makes! That day was March 2, 2005, when more than 100 people came together in Gorgas Library to celebrate the life and music of Tuscaloosa native Dinah Washington. Several cousins still call the Tuscaloosa area home, and some of them joined in the festivities in Gorgas.

Born Ruth Jones, Dinah left Tuscaloosa in 1928 at the age of four to make a new home with her family

Flier from the Dinah Washington event held in Gorgas Library, March 2, 2005, bigblighting the lecture, concert, and exhibits.

in Chicago. By the time she reached her mid-teens, she was already an accomplished gospel singer, following in the footsteps of her mother who also had made a name for herself in Chicago church circles.

Though Dinah passed away in 1963 at the very young age of 39, she left behind an enormous legacy - numerous recordings that capture her unmistakable style and talent. She received a Grammy award for What a Diffrence a Day Makes in 1959 and had a host of other hits. Her voice and arrangements straddled the worlds of blues, jazz, pop, and gospel, and earned her the monikers "Queen of Blues" and "Queen of the Juke Box."

The Dinah celebration included a slideshow and a spirited lecture and book signing by Nadine Cohodas, author of Queen: The Life and Music of Dinah Washington (Pantheon, 2004). Following Ms. Cohodas's lecture, a musical performance was given by renowned blues singer and Alabama native Elnora Spencer, who was accompanied by Tuscaloosa native Tommy

Stewart. Stewart had played keyboard with Washington at the Apollo Theatre in 1962. The blues set was a perfect way to end the evening. The event brought together music enthusiasts from all over the community to celebrate Dinah's life and music. Following the event, Nadine Cohodas joined Alisa Beckwith for an hour of Dinah Washington's music on APR's Evening Jazz.

An exhibit featuring photographs and sound recordings of Dinah Washington was on display in the Hoole Library through March 18. Included was a blow-up of the Dinah Washington postage stamp, on loan from the U.S. Postal Service. The stamp with Dinah's image was dedicated in 1993 in her hometown of Tuscaloosa.

Jessica Lacher-Feldman public and outreach services coordinator, W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library



This expressive candid shot shows Dinah Washington singing in her apartment. Dinah was known for loving an informal jam session, where some of the greatest jazz and blues musicians came together after hours to play and sing together.

SCIENCE LIBRARIANS DEVELOP INFORMATION TUTORIAL

Teaching students to use and evaluate information effectively is a key goal for the Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering. With the development and implementation of a Web-based information literacy tutorial, this goal is easily attainable, according to Mangala Krishnamurthy and Barbara Hedges, two librarians who worked on this project.

BUILT for Sciences (Bama Undergraduate Information Literacy Tutorial) teaches undergraduates to select sources of information, search for information, and evaluate information. The tutorial includes a section on misconceptions about the Internet. It also includes sample searches developed for chemistry and biology. Chemistry and biology were chosen because reference librarians are already providing research skills orientations to undergraduate students in these disciplines, and faculty in these departments responded positively to the idea. Later, the sample searches will be extended to other sciences. The tutorial is currently available on the Rodgers Library's website at http://www.lib. ua.edu/libraries/sel/built/.

BUILT was created with the assistance of a University Libraries Innovation Grant. The purpose of these grants is to challenge library faculty and staff to develop new approaches to library services and operations. Funds from the grant paid the salary of the Web designer for the project, Shashi Gireddy. The tutorial is based upon TILT, the Texas Information Literacy Tutorial, http://tilt.lib.utsystem.edu.

Mangala Kristnamurthy, reference librarian, Eric and Sarah Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering

McLure Receives Gift of Math Textbooks

In December 2004 the McLure Education Library's Curriculum ■ Materials Center received an unexpected gift just in time for Christmas. Mr. Chan Mullinex, a teacher at Aliceville High School, gave McLure Library a very substantial donation of mathematics textbook sets.

Mr. Mullinex recently served on the state of Alabama textbook adoption committee. In this capacity he received complete sets of the textbooks submitted by the publishers for consideration for state-wide textbook adoption. The committee on which he served finished its work in the fall, and Mr. Mullinex decided to donate the books to the Curriculum Materials Center.

The mathematics textbook sets donated by Mr. Mullinex consist of student editions, teacher editions, and support materials such as teachers' resource books, workbooks, and supplemental resource materials. The collection of textbook sets is extraordinary in both quantity and depth. Many of the sets are complete and include all supplemental resource materials.

McLure Library's Curriculum Materials Collection is primarily used by undergraduate students enrolled in the teacher education programs of the College of Education. These students need access to a wide variety of textbooks to support their studies as well as the various curricula they will use later as teachers. Although McLure purchases students' and teachers' editions of textbook sets, the library rarely purchases the resource materials. This gift to McLure Library will be of substantial benefit to undergraduate students in the teacher education program. Mr. Mullinex's gift was indeed an unexpected windfall for McLure Library.

Benita Strnad, librarian, Curriculum Materials Center McLure Education Library

t this time University Libraries wishes to recognize the following AUA alumni and friends for their support. The list includes Rotunda Library Society members, participants in our new Honor with Books bookplate program and many others who have made special gifts to the Libraries. We extend our deepest appreciation to all. If your name should appear on this list but does not, please contact Cheryl Altemara at 205-348-1416 or caltemar@bama.ua.edu.

University Libraries Donors January 2004 - March 2005

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DEVELOPMENT NEWS

LIBRARY LEADERSHIP BOARD

the Library Leadership Board is an advisory board that exists to support University Libraries in its mission to provide quality library and information services to the students and faculty of the University and to the state-wide community. The board meets twice each year and is actively involved with Libraries development activities.

Since holding its first meeting in May 1999, the Library Leadership Board has undertaken several projects beyond its advisory role. These projects, for which no other funds were available, include providing the funds to catalog a critical portion of University Libraries' government documents holdings and contributing more than half of the funds for the endowment supporting the *Donna I. Sorensen Collection: The Contributions of Southern Women*. Both projects have enhanced the resources provided by University Libraries.

The board has created two annual awards to recognize excellence among the Libraries' faculty and staff. In gratitude for his many years of leadership, the board commissioned a portrait of former Dean of Libraries Charles B. Osburn. The portrait now hangs on the second floor of Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library. Most recently, the board agreed to sponsor a student essay contest in conjunction with the University's Honors Week and in celebration of National Library Week. The essay topic is "The role the libraries play in my University of Alabama experience."

The 2005 Library Leadership Board Members

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LIBRARIES RECEIVES GIFTS TO FUND DIGITIZATION

In December the Libraries received two major gifts, one from an individual and one from an Alabama foundation, to support digitization of unique archival materials held in the William Stanley Hoole Special Collections Library. J. Wray and Joan B. Pearce gave more than \$18,000 to support this effort, and the Raymon J. Baker Foundation has pledged \$100,000 over five years towards the project.

The materials to be digitized pertain to the political, social, and economic history of the state of Alabama. These materials, which are part of the Alabama Collection, include commercial records that describe industry and agriculture around the state in the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century, as well as political records, plantation papers, correspondence, diaries, letters, early photographs, and maps.

While also contributing to a larger national effort currently underway to digitize unique collections, the digitization of these materials will make them accessible via the World Wide Web. Rather than handling fragile maps, letters, and photos in Hoole Library's collections, patrons will gain improved access and search capabilities as well as enhanced reproduction options once these items have been digitized.

Cheryl Altemara development officer

ROTUNDA LIBRARY SOCIETY

The Rotunda Library Society kicked off its annual fund-raising campaign in November. Membership gifts made to the Society are used to promote awareness and interest in University Libraries. Since its founding in 1998, the Society has enjoyed strong support from many alumni and friends around the state, as well as from the faculty and staff of the University.

Rotunda Library Society members receive all issues of *Library Horizons* and are recognized in one issue each year. Other benefits include special invitations to Libraries events, including the Libraries' benefactors' luncheon, which is scheduled this year for May 20. To most members, however, the real benefit is knowing that they are supporting the very heart of the University.

If you would like to renew your membership or become a member of the Rotunda Library Society, please call Cheryl Altemara at 205-348-1416 or e-mail her at caltemar@bama.ua.edu.



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Editor Betty Bryce

Editorial Board

Jessica Lacher-Feldman, Kate Ragsdale, Helga Visscher, and Cheryl Altemara, ex officio Special thanks to Jill Grogg and Jennifer McClure

STUDENTS DISCOVER NEW STUDY SPACE IN GORGAS LIBRARY

Recent refurbishing of floor 4M in Gorgas Library has resulted in an attractive and comfortable new study space with a variety of seating options for UA students and faculty. This new study area was made possible through the generous gift of Benjamin and Luanne Russell of Alexander City, Alabama.

Results from recent user surveys indicate that UA students need a variety of study spaces in the Libraries. In response to student feedback, additional group study rooms were built in Gorgas Library several years ago. Students participating in organized study hall groups are using the large study areas on two floors in the library. The coffee shop on the first floor in Gorgas Library attracts students who want coffee or a snack as fuel for studying, and some students even study there. Now on floor 4M the library has created yet a different type of study space

Seating in the new 4M study area includes comfortable club chairs in groupings with tables and lamps, tables for four people, and a long study table with task lighting that will seat 10-12 people. Designed especially to fill a need voiced by graduate students and faculty are 18 individual study desks equipped with task lighting and positioned by windows that provide a view of three of the most architecturally stunning buildings on the campus. The new study area supports wireless connectivity to the Internet.

Word has spread, and many students are choosing Gorgas 4M as their study area of choice. Thank you, Benjamin and Luanne Russell!

Kate Ragsdale, planning officer



NEW FACULTY WELCOMED

Jonathan Darby was appointed in January 2005 as the Government Documents librarian in the Information Services Department of Gorgas Library. Mr. Darby holds a B.A. in history from Auburn University and an M.L.I.S. from the University of Alabama. Before coming to the University of Alabama, he was the coordinator of reference and, subsequently, coordinator of reference and bibliographic instruction in the Ina Dillard Russell Library at Georgia College and State Uni-

versity. Prior to working at the Russell Library, Mr. Darby was a reference librarian and bibliographic instruction coordinator in the James Earl Carter Library at Georgia Southwestern State University.

Mr. Darby brings four years of experience in bibliographic instruction and library outreach activities that will enhance the Information Services Department in its effort to meet the research needs of faculty and students.

Angela Wright, human resources officer

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES * FISCAL YEAR COMPARISONS Category 2003-04 % change over 2002-03 Visitors to Libraries 1,038,332 +13.94% Library Instruction 437 +30.84% Classes Library Instruction 7,773 +29.55% Participants Circulation 205,410 +23.28% FALL SEMESTER ON-SITE VISITORS

Year	On-site visits	% increase over previous year
2004	477,977	+10.72%
2003	431,679	+15.62%
2002	373,356	+ 6.89%
2001	349,258	-12.99%
2000	401,441	+ 2.84%
1999	390,328	+26.81%

Increase in Fall 2004 over Fall 1999 +22.45%
*University Libraries: Bruno, Gorgas, Hoole, McLure, and Rodgers libraries.