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Fall 2009

Robert R. Muntz Library

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Muntz Library Musings



The Robert R. Muntz Library

From the Library Director

—Jeanne Pyle, Director of the Library

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You can't go anywhere these days without being asked for your opinion on a service or product. Everyone has probably seen the surveys on the bottom of a restaurant receipt or had a usage survey pop up on a screen while browsing a website. The more cynical of us chalk this up to companies trying to get information about us so that they can figure out additional ways to sell us something... a marketing ploy rather than an effort to improve services.

Within the confines of higher education, and the library specifically, I'd like to request that we try to set aside our cynicism and think of this process, otherwise known as assessment, in a more positive light. According to Richard Frye of Western Washington University, "Assessment instruments are designed to answer a wide range of self-evaluative questions related to one larger question: how well are we accomplishing our

mission?"

In the library world, we've traditionally measured our success by statistics or "outputs". These statistics included such things as the number of books purchased and circulated, the number of "hits" to our web pages, the number of people walking through the front door or even the number of hours we are open as compared to other libraries. While these are good things to know, they are still very much a "quantitative" measurement and don't necessarily tell us a lot about the "quality" of our services.

Throughout the year, we'll be trying different ways to discover how well we are meeting your service and learning needs. We are dependent upon feedback from you, our users, to determine if the decisions we make and the services we provide are helping

YOU with your goals and by default us, succeed in our mission.

So if you see a survey or have an opportunity to give us feedback, I hope you'll take a few minutes from your busy schedule to help us help you. The information you provide to us is central to the decisions we make regarding services, budget, and planning.

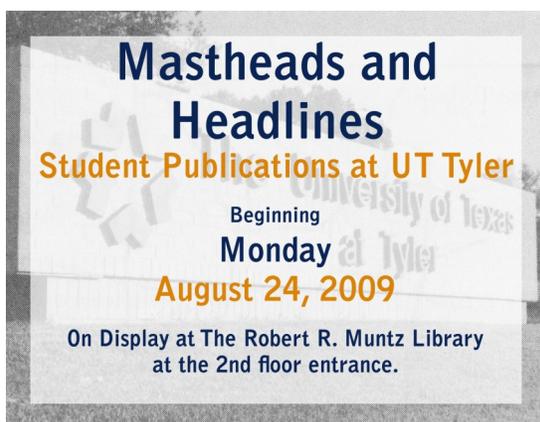
Reference:

Richard Frye, *Assessment, Accountability, and Student Learning Outcomes* (Bellingham, Wash.: Western Washington University, n.d.), 1. Available: <http://pandora.cii.wvu.edu/dialogue/issue2.html>. Accessed 9 November 2009.

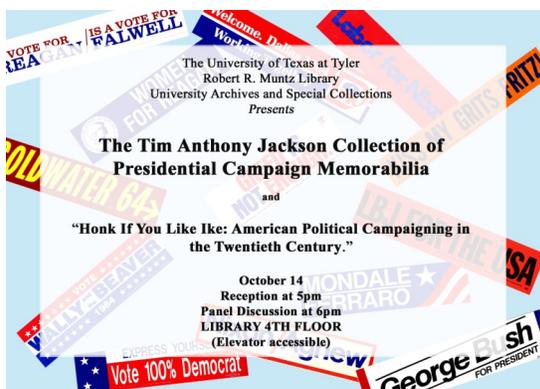
Notes from the University Archives

-Deirdre Joyce, University Archivist

The University Archives and Department of Special Collections (UASC) has had a very busy fall.



As students returned to school, we mounted the newspaper exhibit “Mastheads and Headlines” which uses duplicate issues of student newspapers dating back to 1973 and tells the story of an evolving campus. This display traces both the history of the student newspaper and the history of The University of Texas at Tyler. These materials can be viewed on the glass wall near the library’s main entrance and will remain on display indefinitely.



In October, we participated in American Archives Month with an exhibit and panel discussion, “Honk If You Like Ike,” that showcased one of our most recent acquisitions, *The Tim Anthony Jackson Collection of Presidential Campaign Memorabilia*. American Archives Month is a collaborative effort by professional organizations and repositories around the nation to highlight the importance of records of enduring value. Archivists assess, collect, organize, preserve, maintain control of, and provide access to information that has lasting value, and they help people find and understand the information they need in those records. “Honk if You Like Ike”

featured materials from presidential campaigns dating back to 1896. In addition, UT Tyler professors Dr. Courtney Cullison (Political Science), Dr. Marsha Matthews (Communication), and Dr. James Newsom (History) were invited to participate in an interdisciplinary panel discussion that looked both at the materials from the collection as well as the nature of political campaigns in general. We are happy to report that both the exhibit and the panel were well-attended, bringing in students, members of the Friends of the Arts, and various other people from the Tyler community. Our next exhibit will feature materials from the Sarah McClendon papers and will go on display in March, in conjunction with Women’s History Month.

In the meantime, the UASC plans to undertake a significant internal project, building a moveable shelving unit in our storage space. This installation will nearly double our current storage capacity and perhaps even give us a little room to grow. We are currently in the planning stages of this project, which will involve the temporary shifting of over 1000 linear feet of archival materials to other spaces throughout the library. Work should be complete near the end of January 2010. This project was made possible through the receipt of LERR (Library, Equipment, Repair, Rehabilitation) funds that were appropriated as a capital request through the U.T. System Board of Regents.

The UASC is located on the ground floor of the Robert R. Muntz Library. It handles materials of historical and/or archival interest to The University of Texas at Tyler and the surrounding community.

KNOW YOUR ZONE: Library to implement group and silent study zones

—Vandy Dubre, Instruction and Distance Education Librarian

Have you ever studied in the library and wondered why the librarian never says anything when a group gets noisy? Or wondered why there are so many large tables promoting group study in a place that is supposed to be silent? Well, there are two sides to every coin. Libraries, especially on college campuses, are undergoing a shift between students wanting quiet study and students needing space for group work. The librarian is caught in the middle between these two groups. Do they both not have equal rights to study? Adding to this difficulty is the design of our library building with the brick center stairwell which carries sound throughout the building. For the past six years we have studied this situation and tried everything we could think of to make separate spaces for both group study and silent study. So last year, we teamed up with the SGA and gave you, the students, the right to label your noise level areas. With the guidelines of red (silent study), yellow (quiet study), and green (social study), you could use the ballot boxes or color-in your choice on large library floor plans. Well, the results are in. The second (main floor) and fourth floor are green zones which mean moderate conversation, considerate cell phone usage, and group study allowed. The third floor is a red zone which means silent study, no conversation, no cell phones, and only considerate headphone use. You voted and now we start the process of labeling and making these spaces known with our new campaign, “Know Your Zone”. We have moved all the single study carrels to the third floor and are making plans to add more group tables available in the green zones. Now there is a space for both types of study needs. We will have signs, and other markers so you know what zone you are in but please make sure you respect the zone and stay in the one designed for your needs.

Know Your Zone



- Silent Study
- No Conversation
- No Cell Phones
- Headphone Use Allowed
- No Food



- Group Study
- Moderate Conversation
- Cell Phone Use Allowed
- Headphone Use Allowed
- No Food

Library Hires New Librarians

The Robert R. Muntz Library is pleased to announce it has hired two new librarians.

Ms. Caitlyn Lam joined the University of Texas at Tyler in September 2009 as the Acquisitions/Collection Development Librarian. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Design from The University of California at Davis, and a Masters in Information Studies from The University of Texas at Austin. Before coming to Tyler, she worked for the Walter Geology Library at UT Austin and for the Non-

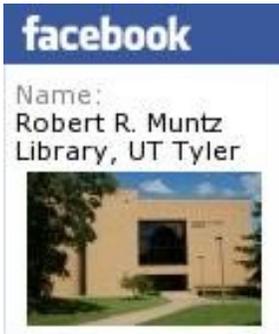
vertebrate Paleontology Lab of the Texas Natural Science Center in Austin.

Mr. Anthony Micchelli was appointed at UT Tyler on October 19th, 2009. He is the library's liaison to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Mr. Micchelli has a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh, and holds a Master's degree in the Art of Teaching and a Bachelor's degree majoring in Eng-

lish and Philosophy -- both from Frostburg State University, Frostburg, Maryland.

When not helping students and faculty find the information and resources they need, Anthony enjoys wandering about and writing and recording music and playing his guitar.



You can now find us on Facebook. The Robert R. Muntz Library now has a page on the popular online social network. You can write on our wall, make comments on photos, and get help from the library via our Facebook page. You can even access our Research Guides via Facebook. Look us up and become a fan. When you become a fan you can keep up with all the events and news @ your library.

Library Reminder: The Food Policy Explained

—Vandy Dubre, Instruction and Distance Education Librarian



In the library we have a policy that **no food is allowed except in the first floor break room.**

We have this policy for very good reasons.

First, damage to the beautiful new furniture and the computers is costly. There have been many occasions where a computer keyboard has gone haywire (typing in all caps or funny symbols) and will not

correct. This happens because someone has eaten over the keyboard which shorts the circuits, usually when all the computers are full and so late at night the computer lab is closed as is our computer department. The poor student is stuck. Second, trash and crumbs attract bugs and rodents. Once inside the library they eat books and spread disease. It is very costly to fumigate a four floor building.

Third, spilled drinks can possibly short the electric tables: not to mention ruining the nice new furniture. No one wants to sit at tables covered in someone else's trash or in chairs stained by possibly a coke (or could that be something else?). In the past, before we bought new

chairs, some students fell asleep in the lounging chairs and were horribly bitten by ants which inhabited the chairs due to the food crumbs.

These are all very real and costly reasons why we have a no food policy in place. While we want you to feel comfortable, please remember that this is not just your library. It belongs to every one on campus. Please respect the furniture, your fellow students, and this space as we try to make your study time safe and clean.

Please note that we do allow covered (non-alcoholic) drinks. **You can have a drink as long as the container has a lid.** Open containers are only allowed in the library first floor break room.

LIBRARY HOURS: SPECIAL HOURS FOR UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Library Special Hours for Thanksgiving



Wednesday November 25, 2009: 7:30am-5:00pm

Thursday November 26, 2009: CLOSED

Friday November 27, 2009: CLOSED

Library will re-open for regular hours on Saturday November 28, 2008.

The library continues the popular **extended hours for finals week** program.

This fall, the extended hours will be:

Sunday December 13, 2009: 1:00pm-2:00am

Monday December 14, 2009: 7:30am-2:00am

Tuesday December 15, 2009: 7:30am-2:00am

Wednesday December 16, 2009: 7:30am-2:00am

Thursday December 17, 2009: 7:30am-2:00am

For details on other special and holiday hours, please make sure to visit the library website (<http://library.uttyler.edu/>) or the library blog, *The Patriot Spot* (<http://uttylerlibrary.wordpress.com>).



The Patriot Spot (<http://uttylerlibrary.wordpress.com>) is the official blog of the UT Tyler Robert R. Muntz Library. It is one of the tools we use to stay in touch with our campus community and friends. Find news, announcements, and items of interest in our blog. Readers are welcome to post comments on the blog. We hope you will stop by *The Patriot Spot* and join us in creating new conversations.

The Robert R. Muntz Library

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**"Your Doorway to Scholarly
Research"**

The University of Texas at Tyler Libraries supports the University's goals of excellence in teaching, research, and public service. As an essential academic unit, the Libraries will serve as a center of discovery, exchange, and advancement of ideas.

Robert R. Muntz Library Hours

Our regular hours are:

M-Th: 7:30am-Midnight

F: 7:30am-5:00pm

S: 9:00am-6:00pm

Su: 1:00pm-Midnight

Please visit the library website (<http://library.uttyler.edu/>) or the library blog, *The Patriot Spot* (<http://uttylerlibrary.wordpress.com>), for information on holiday and special hours.
