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Fall 2007

Robert R. Muntz Library

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In this edition of our newsletter, you’ll learn about other efforts we’re making to improve our services. We’ll be seeking your feedback in a variety of ways in the future. Next fall we plan to administer the LibQual+ survey and hope that you’ll take the time to participate. We’ll also be utilizing focus groups to get feedback on existing and future services. All of these things will assist us in making changes to better serve you, because after all, the UT Tyler Robert R. Muntz Library is YOUR library.

As you may know, the University is preparing for the reaffirmation of its accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities (SACS). This process has an impact on all aspects of the University, and the Library is no exception. A key focus for SACS is continuous assessment, especially based on feedback from our key constituents. While the Library has always evaluated its services, we have traditionally utilized more passive indicators—how many books have been checked out, how many people have visited the library, and a variety of other statistical measures. In 2005, we asked our users to participate in LibQual+, a service quality survey. This allowed us to collect feedback straight from you, our users. With this feedback, we were able to get the resources we needed to extend our library hours and to add additional computers.

Interestingly, at the same time that SACS began to shift its focus to continuous assessment and the University’s impact on learning, libraries began to discuss something called “Library 2.0”. The phrase is an extension of “Web 2.0”, the phenomena reflected by the growth of social networking on the web. Chat, IM, blogs, and wikis are all parts of the new Web2.0. With this explosion libraries began looking at ways to interact with our users in new and creative ways using some of these new technologies. You can see one of the UT Tyler Library’s efforts to create a Library 2.0 in the establishment of our new blog, The Patriot Spot (http://uttylerlibrary.wordpress.com). If you have a question or comment about something in our blog, please don’t hesitate to post a comment to the blog.

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Some of the lingo, or, what’s that?

- **LibQual+**: “LibQUAL+(TM) is a suite of services that libraries use to solicit, track, understand, and act upon users’ opinions of service quality. These services are offered to the library community by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL).” (see www.libqual.org).

- **Library 2.0**: There are various definitions to this term. Sarah Houghton-Jan presents a useful definition in her blog Librarian in Black (http://librarianinblack.typepad.com): “Library 2.0 simply means making your library's space (virtual and physical) more interactive, collaborative, and driven by community needs. Examples of where to start include blogs, gaming nights for teens, and collaborative photo sites. The basic drive is to get people back into the library by making the library relevant to what they want and need in their daily lives...to make the library a destination and not an afterthought.” (posted on December 19, 2005).
Library Working on Website Redesign

We are currently working on a new library website. The goal of the redesign is to make the website more accessible, user-friendly, and interactive. One of the new features is a news feed. If you would like to see how it works, we are actually running a prototype of the news feed window on our current website. Basically, the news feed will pull in content from selected sources via RSS feeds. Another feature we are considering for the new website is chat reference. We want to be more accessible for our students, faculty, and staff to ask questions.

The chat feature will use Meebo’s widget (www.meebo.com), which allows users to use instant messaging from any location via a chat box that is embedded in the library’s website. Meebo is a free service that is also known for providing access to various instant messaging services in one location. Using the Meebo widget, known as MeeboMe, will give us another tool to stay in touch with our campus community in addition to phone (Reference: 903- 566-7343) and e-mail (library@mail.uttyl.edu). The online reference chat will be monitored by reference staff at certain hours to be determined.

As part of the redesign process, the library has established a Library Web Committee to complete the work. The committee will be hosting various events to allow the community to have some input and provide feedback during the redesign process. We have already hosted one student focus group on November 15th at the library. During the meeting, students had the opportunity to complete a short survey about the current website and the prototype design.

We will be hosting a second student focus group on November 29th at 5:00pm in Ornellas Hall. In addition, the Library Web Committee will be looking for volunteers in the spring semester to conduct usability testing on the new design. We hope to roll out the new website by the summer of 2008.

Librarian’s Website Featured in History Book

Vicki Bett’s professional website (http://www.uttyler.edu/vbets/) has been mentioned in Joan Brodsky Schur’s book Eyewitness to the Past: Strategies for Teaching American History in Grades 5-12 (Stenhouse Publishers, 2007). Vicki’s website is an excellent resource for scholars and researchers interested in U.S. history, with particular attention to Southern women during the Civil War, and the history of Smith County, Texas, with emphasis on the Civil War and the Camp Ford POW facility near Tyler. In addition to being the Cataloguing Librarian, Vicki also serves as the library’s liaison for History and Social Sciences.

Library Implements New Blog

The UT Tyler Robert R. Muntz Library now has a blog. The Patriot Spot (http://uttylerlibrary.wordpress.com) is our new way of staying in touch with our campus community and friends. We will use the blog to post news, announcements, and items of interest. We hope that readers will stop by and join us in creating new conversations. Readers can post comments on the blog and provide feedback and suggestions.
Library Recycles Unused Knowledge

- Vandy Dubre
  Instruction Librarian

Many of you are wondering why the university would suddenly give you a “free” printing limit. It is precisely due to the cost of wasteful misuse. This pile of paper is the result of free printing gone awry. Prior to the limit when we had actual free printing in the library, we saw an upsurge in the complete waste of this service. So what have we done with it? We tried to make notepads from it, as many of you remember those handy notepads in the scratch paper boxes. But, that would result in hundreds of notepads so we have decided to recycle the lot once and for all. The whole bundle of paper, which completely filled the bed of the library director’s truck, has gone on to become something more useful than landfill. Just imagine what this world would look like if more departments and businesses took the same initiative.
University Archives and Department of Special Collections Celebrates Archives Week

The University Archives and Department of Special Collections (UASC) celebrated Archives Week during the week of October 22-26.

Archives Week is part of the nationally observed Archives Month, which aims to celebrate and promote the documentary richness of our nation. Archives nationwide provide exhibits, lectures, and other events that give the public a look at history via their historical holdings. The UT Tyler UASC featured an exhibit of the Sarah McClendon Papers during Archives Week. Ms. McClendon, a native of Tyler, was a Washington journalist who covered the White House during 50 years for East Texas. Ms. McClendon donated her papers to the University in 1992. The exhibit focused primarily on materials drawing from her relationships with Presidents Johnson, Bush, and Clinton.

The UASC is located on the ground floor of the library (L107). It handles materials of historical and/or archival interest to UT Tyler and the surrounding community. At this time, it is only open by appointment. Though we have a flexible schedule for researchers, we do advise to those who may be traveling great distances to contact the Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, Deirdre Joyce, in advance. She may be contacted by calling 903.565.5748 or 903.565.7343 or via email at djoyce@uttyler.edu.

Learn More:

Students and visitors wishing to know more about Sarah McClendon and/or the presidents in this exhibit may visit or contact the following for more information. None are more than a day’s drive from Tyler:

The McClendon House
806 W. Houston
Tyler, TX 75702
www.mcclendonhouse.net

The George H.W. Bush Presidential Library
1000 George Bush Dr. West
College Station, TX 77845
www.bushlibrary.tamu.edu

The William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum
1200 President Clinton Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72201
www.clintonlibrary.gov

The Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum
2313 Red River Street
Austin, TX 78705
www.lbjlib.utexas.edu

Notes from Circulation and Interlibrary Services

-Penny Reynolds
Circulation and ILL Librarian

- We would like to remind patrons with fines or bills owed to the library greater than $10.00 that they need to pay at Circulation before the end of the school year. Students with fines of $10.00 or more will not be able to register for the spring semester or receive transcripts until the account is settled.

- The library will be featuring its Food for Fines program once more during the fall semester. The program runs from December 2 to December 8, 2007. You can take care of your library fines by donating canned goods. The library will then donate the canned foodstuffs to the East Texas Food Bank. Please refer to the flyer at the end of this newsletter for details. Do note that fines for overdue reserves, interlibrary loans, or lost books are not part of the Food for Fines program.

- Faculty, staff, and students needing assistance with ERES (electronic reserves) may contact Tamara Brown at extension 7342.
Visitors to the library’s third floor will see that the display cases there feature exhibits about our librarians. This semester we are featuring displays by our Library Director, Jeanne Pyle, and our Instruction Librarian, Vandy Dubre. The fourth floor displays featuring our librarians are an opportunity for the librarians to highlight some of their accomplishments and interests. The displays are a way for our community to get to know them better. As part of the displays, Jeanne and Vandy have provided small narratives about the displays and themselves. So sit back and read about these two librarians, in their own words.

Jeanne Pyle: In Her Own Words

I consider myself a Texan. Most of my family is from Texas. I was born in Wichita Falls Texas, but since Dad was in the Air Force my early years were spent moving around, mostly in the southern portion of the United States. As a child I suffered from a chronic illness. Since I could not be as physically active as most, I read a lot. When I started college at Midwestern State University, I decided to major in English with no clear plans of exactly what I wanted to do. While at MSU, I got the opportunity to work in the Moffett Library with a wonderful group of librarians. I was a student worker in the Reference Department, where I got to assist other students with their research. The opportunity to help people and at the same time learn about a variety of areas really appealed to me. With the help and encouragement of those same librarians, I was accepted into library school at North Texas State University, now known as the University at North Texas. I’ve never regretted my choice and have had the opportunity to work with some excellent people throughout the years. Librarians and those who work in libraries tend to do so because of the opportunity to be of service.

The display on the third floor reflects some of my areas of involvement. I’m very active in my state professional organization, the Texas Library Association. I’ve also been blessed with excellent health for the last twenty five years. I now enjoy an active life style and exercise regularly. I’ve had several opportunities to travel and have hopes and plans to travel even more. I’ve been married for twenty years and while I don’t have children, I do have three cats…the pet of choice for many librarians.

Vandy Dubre: In Her Own Words

In an ordinary life, what is there to talk about anyway? -Vandy Dubre

As many have asked, Vandy is my full name and it is actually taken from a short, sesquicentennial ghost story. And no, I am not the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleader so stop asking. Secret number one: I did tryout for the cheerleading squad in high school but didn’t even get the gimme point for wearing school colors. That’s when I knew theatre was for me!

I am an East Texas native, graduating from Sabine HS. I started my collegiate journey at Kilgore College where I majored in theatre and worked with the Texas Shakespeare Festival. Then I arrived at UT Tyler and received a BA in Literature with a theatre minor. As a student I started working at the library on campus and discovered, finally, people (other than the British) who share my twisted sense of humor. So it was off to Texas Woman’s University where I received a Master’s in Library Science. Yes, you have to have an advanced degree to do this… actually you need more than one, to tell the truth.

Outside of causing mayhem in the library, I enjoy writing, dancing, acting (though not much as schedule does not permit), historical preservation, singing show tunes in my car, and traveling. Actually, I prefer to think of my travels as mini adventures as I always find some sort of trouble along the way; I try to laugh about it later (I think the theatre department is still not laughing about our last fated trip together, though). My favorite type of music is traditional Irish and Scottish ballads but I also love ABBA, AC/DC and any other band who pays homage to the 45 minute bagpipe solo, and Sweet Marie by Raymon Moore, 1893. Secret number two: I love disco music and dancing. Oh yes, that one’s going back in the vault.

I have been happily married for 8 years with one son age five and one on the way. I try to view my life like a dark comedy sitcom with any excuse to laugh freely taken. I have only one cat and two dogs which is far below librarian cat owning average. And as a stand against the librarian stereotype, I refuse to do any sort of needle point but secretly long to learn lace tatting (English degree paid off in alliteration). Secret number three: I dream of dyeing my hair all sorts of funky bright colors but am afraid of rocking the establishment and getting fired. I enjoy being around nice people, having fun, and hope to one day be like Paula Dean but with hot pink hair.
Photos From Recent Events

These are some of the events that our staff have been involved in this semester.

The library celebrated Banned Books Week with a Banned Books Readout. The event was held out in the deck. Our director reads from one of her favorite books, *The Dirty Cowboy* by Amy Timberlake and Adam Rex.

Members of the campus community joined the library during Banned Books Read Out. Among them are (top to bottom): Mr. Joe Vorsas, Director of Human Resources, reading from *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier; Ms. Terri Deike, Women’s Basketball Coach, reading from *The Bible*; and Mr. Ray Sikes, Visual Aid Technician, reading from Joseph Heller’s *Catch-22*. We would like to thank our readers and look forward to doing it again next year.

Eric Hartnett, Acquisitions and Collection Development Librarian, shows his skills at cooking chili during UT Tyler’s Homecoming Chili Cook Off. Following the theme of Banned Books Week, our team, the Tome Raiders, dubbed our recipe The Chili of the Banned.

Jan Harp, Library Assistant II, gives The Chili of the Banned the seal of approval.
Meet Our Newest Librarians...

- Eric Hartnett joined The University of Texas at Tyler in August 2007 as the Acquisitions/Collection Development Librarian. Among his duties, Eric is the liaison to the College of Business and Technology and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, as well as the new library webmaster. Prior to his arrival at UT Tyler, Eric was a Librarian at Northeast Texas Community College. Eric’s education includes a dual BBA from Texas Tech University in Management Information Science and General Business, and a Masters in Library and Information Studies from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Before going to library school, Eric was a Web Developer, working on projects for companies such as AOL and Citibank.

- Angel R. Rivera joined The University of Texas at Tyler in September 2007. He is the Outreach and Reference Librarian. His duties include: outreach initiatives, heading the reference department, and liaison for Communication, Education, and Psychology. He comes from Houston, where he worked as Instruction Librarian for the W.I. Dykes Library at the University of Houston-Downtown. He completed his M.L.S. at Indiana University in Bloomington. He has an M.A. in English from Ball State University. After completing his B.A. in English Secondary Education from Purdue University, he worked as a high school teacher. He has also taught as a college adjunct instructor. Angel is an active blogger, and he is the author of *The Gypsy Librarian* (http://gypsylibrarian.blogspot.com), where he writes about librarianship, instruction, and education.
FOOD FOR FINES!

December 2, 2007 thru December 8, 2007

<<Can size: 12 oz. or greater>>
(no dented, rusted, outdated, or missing label cans)

5 cans for $0.25 - $10 in fines
10 cans for $10 - $20 in fines
15 cans for $20 - $30 in fines
20 cans for $30 - $40 in fines
25 cans for $40 - $50 in fines

Join the Robert R. Muntz Library this Holiday Season in helping to provide canned foodstuffs to The East Texas Food Bank. Take care of your book fines by bringing in canned goods. See the chart to the right for payout. All accounts are settled with the Circulation Department. If you have questions, call us at 903-566-7342.

***Not for Lost Books, ILL fines or Reserves***

MAXIMUM “forgive” amount is $50

Happy Holidays!

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presents

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