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Muntz Library Musings

Robert R. Muntz Library

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Muntz Library Musings

Spring 2006
Volume 1, Issue 2



"Your Doorway to
Scholarly Research"

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From the Director ...

During the Fall 2005 semester, we asked you, our library users, to participate in a library survey, LibQUAL+™. To those of you who took the time to complete the survey, our thanks. LibQUAL+™ is a rigorously tested tool developed by the Association of Research Libraries that measures perceptions of total quality service. As of Spring 2005, more than 600 libraries of all types, nationally and internationally, had participated in this survey.

This survey was an opportunity for you to tell us where our services need improvement. It also told us where we're getting it right. With the information we gathered, we are able to compare our results with those of peer institutions and examine the practices of those libraries that are evaluated highly by their users.

What We Learned

In the area of service—our people's "helpfulness"—the Muntz Library staff exceeded the norm of other participating libraries. Your comments were gratifying to see and in the instances where we failed to meet your expectations, we will do better. The overall message we received was that you want MORE! More computers! More (longer) hours! More books! More (and easier) access to electronic resources! More Group study areas! Quieter study areas! And you want all this in a more attractive environment!

What We're Doing

More Computers - Our wireless network is now part of the Campus Wireless Network. With this change, students are now able to use their own laptops to access the many online resources available. We've added 4 additional computers to the

Jeanne R. Pyle, Library Director
Joanne Buendtner, Editor
Vandy Dubre, Assistant Editor

Reference area of the Library.

Longer Hours - The Library stayed open until Midnight the week of finals in December and will do so again for the Spring. A plan has been developed to extend the Library hours until midnight on a regular basis and only awaits additional funding to do so.

More Books - With funding from academic departments and special funding from the UT System, we will be making purchases this year for areas in the Health Sciences and Sciences.

Easier Access to Electronic Resources - Plans are in place to acquire a single search interface to work with the multitude of our many digital resources.

More Group Study Areas - More group space will be available in the Periodicals Department by the end of the semester. The Periodicals staff has worked tirelessly on a project of consolidating the microfilm collection to eliminate cabinets and provide an area for group studying.

Quieter Study Areas - In an attempt to make the group study rooms more sound proof, we added insulation. However, the group and individual study rooms need more soundproofing and we are seeking the funds to do so.

Please visit the Library and the Library website often to see how we are progressing on making changes for the better...

Jeanne R. Pyle, M.S., M.A.

Referring to Reference by Vandy Dubre

“Better informed students save time and produce better research papers.”

- **Did you know** *the U. T. Tyler student e-mail address is the **only** e-mail used by the Circulation and Interlibrary Services department to contact students?*
- Your **Domain\user name:** is your email address, which is your first name, middle initial, and last name (without any spaces separating the characters) followed by **@stemail.uttyler.edu**
- **Example:** johnadoe@stemail.uttyler.edu
- *Your password is the last 4-digits of your social security number*



*“Floyd’s Flamingo Fitness”
Is our team’s name in the
Texas Fitness Round-up*

Library Instruction on the Rise

Maybe you have either scheduled an instruction session with us or participated in one, but whether you’re a student or a faculty member, you can benefit from refreshing your knowledge of library tools. We have noticed a steady increase in the number of instruction sessions being scheduled. In past years these sessions were more dependent on the semester, with the Fall semester being the most heavily booked. Now, however, the steady incline is without regard to time or semester.

What does this increase mean?

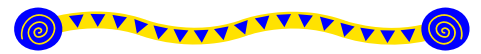
To the librarian it means the opportunity to instruct many students at once, students with better skills for research, and the chance to get to know the instructors and the assignments in depth.

Getting to know the instructor and the assignment, helps the librarian when the tougher questions come after the instruction session is over. If we have a better understanding of what the professor wants we can help the student understand the assignments and *find* answers without accidentally *giving* them the answers.

To the instructor it means receiving better papers. With the fast-paced, ever-changing technologies now used by libraries, even librarians must strive to keep up. That is why we understand the need for library instruction. Each session is tailored to the professor’s particular class and assignments. These sessions can be given in the library, the class room, or in the computer lab. Or they can be given in any combination of the three. They can be completed in a single session or in multiple sessions.

To schedule a session for a class, instructors may contact their library liaison or call the reference desk at 7343.

To the student it means not having to wait in line at the reference desk for answers to basic questions. It means an increased confidence, better time management and a happier **total** library experience.



Printer Software

If you’ve come to the Reference section lately you might have noticed a few changes, namely the absence of the student printers. That’s because the campus is converting to print management software called Pharos. The Library & the ACC lab are using this system to reduce the large amount of paper waste created by patrons who print heedlessly. With Pharos, students must have their P2 card (student id) to print.



Seeing Pink Flamingos

The Flamingos are back and we’re getting ready for swimsuit season. We need it after eating at the chili cook-off last October. Answering the President’s challenge to join the **Texas Fitness Round-up**, cleverly named groups of staff and faculty are shaping up all over campus. The library is no exception. We’ve taken the challenge to its’ fullest with our own Flamingo style and moxie. This is in order to make the campus a more lively and healthy place to be. With the droves of students who travel in and out of the Library doors, we know we need to be at our fittest to keep up. So when you see **flamingos** around campus---
Think Library!!!

Librarians are Prepared...



With coffee and books in hand Librarians prepare for the library's new finals week extended hours. To facilitate the students need for quiet study space during finals, the library opened its doors from 7:30 am till Midnight. The entire building was designated as a

"Quiet Zone" and free coffee was provided, though the students partook more of the free sugar than the coffee. The extended hours were a hit, with head counts each night in the hundreds. After seeing the results, the library staff feels confident about extended finals hours for future semesters including this spring. So come join us for quiet study and a cup of coffee after 10 pm.

Great Gourds! Women's History Presentation

On Wednesday, March 22 the Library was host to an informative and enjoyable presentation in celebration of Women's History Month. Presenter, Judith Lee Taylor, is a graduate of Radcliffe College where she majored in Visual, Environmental, and African Studies. She recently relocated to East Texas from the Chicago area.

"Gourds are a worldwide phenomenon, employed by numerous cultures as containers, food, musical instruments, decorations, and sacred objects. Their shape and structure naturally bring women to mind, an association that can be traced back at least 3,000 years," Judith explained.

Participants were treated to free cookies and soft drinks, as well packets of seeds and growing instructions.



Judith Taylor (right) gives attendees hands-on experience with a variety of gourds & gourd-based objects.

April is National Poetry Month It's Time for our Annual "Read-Out"

“
Poetry is a response
to the daily necessity of
getting the world right.”
”

—Wallace Stevens

The Muntz Library sets aside a day in April each year to give students, faculty and staff an opportunity to share poetry the way it was meant to be shared --- orally. This year that day is Wednesday, April 19th.

Our tribute to National Poetry Month will begin at 10:00 am in the 2nd floor lounge area. Readers will be scheduled every 15 minutes to share whatever poetry they wish to share.

If you've joined us in the past, you know you don't want to miss it. If you've never participated, make this the year that you do!

Contact Joanne Buendtner (903 566-7174) to get on the schedule, or just come by and listen any time between 10:00 and 3:30 on April 19!



Meet Our Newest Librarian...



Michael Porter
Distance Ed Librarian

On December 1, 2005, Michael L. Porter was hired as the University's Distance Education Librarian. Mr. Porter comes to us from Birmingham, Alabama where he worked with public libraries.

Mr. Porter received his Distance Education degree from the University of Maryland-University College and his Masters in Library Science degree from the University of North Texas.

Mr. Porter will be responsible for providing Library services and instruction to distance learners. He

will serve as the University of Texas at Tyler TeleCampus liaison, as well as participating with the UT Task Force on Distance Learning Library Services. This task force works on enhancing existing services and establishing new initiatives.

Mr. Porter serves on the University's Distance Learning Committee.

We invite you to stop by the Library and introduce yourself to Michael, or contact him at 903 566-7165.

Circulation & Interlibrary Services ...by Penny Reynolds

Did you know that by accessing the library's home page <http://library.uttyler.edu> you can click on "My Account" and view the items that you have checked out, renew items not overdue (excluding Interlibrary Loans), and change your library PIN? All you need to know is your student/user I.D. number and your current library pin number. For more details -

<http://library.uttyler.edu/MyAccountFAQ.htm>

By now, most of you probably know about and possess a **P2 card**, also referred to as your student I.D. card or your Patriot Power card. Remember the slogan "**don't leave home without it**"? Well, this is one of those special cards! Did you know that your P2 card provides you with a 9-digit student/user I.D. number that is unique to you as long as you are a student/faculty member with the university? Your P2 card provides you entry into campus events and gives you access to many services on campus. You need your P2 card to gain access into the Herrington Patriot Center and the Academic Computing Lab in the Business building, to name just a few! And yes, you need your P2 card for access to library services. If you want to register with the library and receive the password to our student computers, checkout materials and laptops and receive free printing, you must present your **P2 card**! You can even pay for outstanding library fines with your p2 card. Patriot Bucks can be deposited on

to the P2 Card and spent on and off campus. Deposits can be made through the Cashiers' Office or through the Cash Management Centers located in the UC and the Business Building. For those who somehow missed getting a P2 card, please stop by the Cashier's office, and then please, "**don't leave home without it**"!



What's New in Circulation?

To help our patrons make better use of their Library time, the Circulation staff has begun providing two advanced closing announcements.

The first is made 30 minutes prior to closing. It alerts patrons that all laptops checked out are due back, and advises all patrons that the circulation desk will close in 15 minutes.

The second announcement is a statement that the Circulation Desk has closed and warns of the Library's closure in 15 minutes.