Curriculum Library to be relocated

In the near future, the Curriculum Library, now located on the ground floor of the former Todd Library building, will be moved into the new University Library, as originally planned. After space in the new library was reduced due to budget concerns, other collections and services moved to the new University Library in January 1999. The curriculum collections and services remained in Todd because they – of all library functions – could most easily function in a separate location.

President Smith has approved Provost Haskew's recommendation that the collections, staff, and services of the Curriculum Library be moved to the University Library before renovation of the Todd Building begins. This renovation project will accommodate the needs of the Art Department for classrooms, faculty offices, and the like.

The new location for the curriculum collections will be on the third floor in a large reading/study area. (Fourteen group study rooms will be relocated to other areas of the building, primarily the fourth floor.) The new curriculum location will also include a classroom that will be used by faculty teaching courses requiring intensive use of the collections.

The planning of the relocation has begun, including work with the architect who will design the changes in the University Library to accommodate the new function on the third floor. The renovation work is expected to begin this summer and be completed sometime this fall. The date of the Curriculum Library move will not be known until firm dates for the completion of the work are developed.

This change in University Library space has both advantages and disadvantages. While it will be more convenient for students to access all library materials in one facility, the reduction in total available space for library functions will hasten the time when additional space will be needed to house collections, readers, and services. The new library building was designed in accordance with a THEC space formula to meet the needs of 15,000 FTE students, a number that has already been exceeded.

Library to celebrate National Library Week

Every year, libraries throughout the country set aside a week in April to celebrate the contributions of libraries and librarians. The American Library Association (ALA) sponsors National Library Week; first observed in 1958. The concept of National Library Week derived from a need, in the 1950s, to promote reading and encourage library support and usage by the public. Each observance has a theme. The 1958 theme was “Wake Up and Read!” The theme for this year's celebration, April 1-7, is: “@ your library.”

This year's celebration also has been designated “The Campaign for America's Libraries.” Because of the many challenges today's libraries face, ALA has made a five-year commitment to an aggressive public education campaign. The goal is to focus public awareness on the importance of libraries and librarians in communities, schools, academic institutions, and businesses in the new digital age. During National Library Week, many libraries sponsor local community programs. At MTSU, we will celebrate the event by honoring our staff and student workers who have been a part of our library family for five and three years, respectively. In addition, we will sponsor a trivia contest and display library posters and other promotional materials throughout the building.

@ your library – April 1-7, 2001
Donor-named offices

Frances Hunter, reference and interlibrary loan librarian in Todd Library for twenty years (1965-1985), understood the need for a new facility and equipment with technological advantages. Since retirement, she has enjoyed using the new library and the many advantages it offers librarians as well as students and faculty. As a result, she and her husband, Bill, have made a contribution in appreciation of the many years of opportunities and privileges they enjoyed at MTSU. An elegant plaque honoring Mrs. Hunter has been attached to a Library Faculty Office, Room 148C.

John David Marshall, professor emeritus, who was a member of the MTSU library faculty for 26 years (1967-1994) and served as university librarian from 1967 to 1976, recently made a gift to the Library Named Giving Opportunities program in honor of the first four chief librarians here.

Mr. Marshall indicated that when the new University Library opened in January 1999, he decided it would be highly appropriate if the names of the first four chief librarians could be inscribed somewhere in the new building. Bettie A. Murfree (1911-1935), Isa Lee Freeman (1935-1940), W. Knox McCharen (1940-1946), and Catherine Clark (1946-1967) served the normal school/college/university for more than half-a-century. Mrs. Freeman makes her home in Murfreesboro.

When Library Named Giving Opportunities were announced, Mr. Marshall funded a Library Faculty Office to honor his four predecessors and also provide a gift that would go directly to the development of library resources. He says, “I am very much pleased to make this contribution to the University Library, and I hope that others will join me in support of the library. Its resources and services I continue to enjoy using in my retirement.” A plaque bearing the names of the honorees is attached to the door frame of the Library Faculty Office, Room 144A.

The Library Named Giving Opportunities campaign offers many naming opportunities. For more information, see Library Update, Number 21, Fall 2000, view the library’s development web page at http://www.mtsu.edu/~wblack/devhome.html or contact the library at (615) 898-2772.

Declaring independence

The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) and the Triangle Research Libraries Network (TRLN) has launched Declaring Independence: A Guide to Creating Community-Controlled Science Journals. Declaring Independence is a web site (http://www.arl.org/sparc/DI) and a print handbook to help editors and editorial boards of high-priced journals evaluate their service to the community. It also offers editors a framework for considering their publishing objectives and options. Declaring Independence provides a checklist for evaluating editors’ current journal and potential journal alternatives, with advice on key contract provisions, marketing and sales, production and distribution, and innovative business models.

SPARC members have been asking for a resource like Declaring Independence, which also answers a tremendous need for the research community. MTSU is a supporting member of SPARC, a worldwide alliance of research institutions, libraries, and organizations that encourages competition in the scholarly communications market. SPARC introduces new solutions to scientific journal publishing, facilitates the use of technology to expand access, and partners with publishers that bring top-quality, low-cost research to a greater audience.
New Exhibit: Special Collections

During the spring semester, the Special Collections area is hosting "Artists' Books from Arizona State University," an exhibit of finely printed books as well as several daring or otherwise unusual examples of the book arts, from the Book Arts Program at ASU's Department of Art. The works in the exhibition are on loan to Special Collections.

The exhibition represents a collaborative effort involving Janet Higgins in MTSU's Art department and John Risseuw, professor of art at ASU. Risseuw teaches letterpress printing and other book crafts in ASU's Book Arts program. He is also director of the Pyracantha Press, the ASU Art department's professional fine arts press.

The ASU Art department is recognized as one of the truly innovative academic centers. Their Book Arts and the Books on Loan programs well represent that reputation. The books on display, which include works by Risseuw and his students, range from elegant and daring to just plain off the wall.

Visitors to the ASU display can enjoy another exhibition running concurrently in Special Collections, which showcases historical miniature books and contemporary miniature artists' books held by Special Collections. It was put together to complement the ASU material and expand the viewers sense of the artists' books.

Both exhibitions are open for public view from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays, in Special Collections on the fourth floor of University Library.

Service Awards

University Library

Improved access for Project Muse and Jstor periodicals

Direct access to the electronic journals in the Project Muse and Jstor databases is now available from the journal title records in the library's online catalog. HOT LINKS in the "Location"(s) area below the title information connect directly to the journal web page (Project MUSE) or to the journal listing (JSTOR). As part of ongoing database maintenance, the electronic "holdings" are now included for periodicals also received in print and/or microform and for those journals received only as part of the database subscription. The Project MUSE journal records have been completed. JSTOR journal records are in process. The print periodicals that are also available in JSTOR will be moved from the Periodicals stacks into the Dewey classified stacks.

Project MUSE and JSTOR are collections of full text journal articles from specific journal titles rather than books. Project MUSE covers the fields of literature and criticism, history, the visual and performing arts, cultural studies, education, political science, gender studies, and more. JSTOR provides access to back issues of scholarly journals in the humanities, social sciences, mathematics, and more.

Seven of the nine staff members from the Library who were recognized for their years of service to the University on November 28, 2000, are pictured above. L to R: Lisa Wales (10 years), In-Cheung MacBeth (25 years), Molly Holland (15 years), Ginny Vesper (10 years), Peggy Coffles (10 years), Lynn Flanagan (10 years), and Sherry Norris (10 years). Not pictured are Jo Anne Kelton (30 years, retired) and Carolyn Bishop (20 years, retired).
Library brick program

What can you build with one brick? Stronger library resources. For a contribution of $200, many friends of the library have purchased bricks to be installed by the front doors of the library, recognizing their support of the library in its campaign to strengthen collections. Now that plans for the quadrangle in front of the library have been determined, brick installation is moving forward. Bricks with names of donors are being placed in the area beneath the overhang by the front doors of the library.

An excavator loads dirt on a dump truck in front of the new library as construction begins on a quadrangle. The landscaping project, which should be completed in about a year, will feature shrubs, benches, and various species of trees, as well as a large concrete area in the center engraved with quotations and the university seal embedded in it.

Research grant awarded

The MTSU Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee has awarded a substantial research grant to two librarians to facilitate their efforts to reconstruct the life and accomplishments of a forgotten master of American book artistry and animation. Roy Ziegler, librarian for acquisitions, and Dr. Alan Boehm, librarian for special collections, will receive $4,000 from the committee to cover travel and other expenses associated with what they describe as "The Julian Wehr Research Project."

In the 1940s and 1950s, Julian Wehr created and published some 40 illustrated children's books that are remarkable for their simple but clever pull-tab mechanisms that make parts of the illustrations move back and forth and up and down, often in multiple directions. Around 9,000,000 copies of Wehr's books were sold in the United States and Great Britain, and several titles were translated and sold in France, Germany, and Spain.

Although Wehr's "animated books" are now prized by rare book collectors and are attracting the attention of children's literature specialists, Wehr himself remains an obscure figure. "Very little is publicly known about Julian Wehr. He died in 1970 and his wife, Juliette, died in 1993," says Ziegler. "It took Alan and me four or five months before we finally put our hands on biographical information that led us to their three children, who've been incredibly gracious and willing to help us tell the family story."

Special Collections currently holds 23 Wehr titles and editions. "At this time," says Boehm, "I think we have more Wehr books than any other academic or research library. We're constantly looking for more and we'd like to have a comprehensive collection, including the British and foreign language titles."

The Wehr books are part of the Dimensional and Artists' Books collection, which includes historical and contemporary pop-up books, movable books, tunnel books, and other books that play with the form and conventions of book production.

Dr. Alan Boehm, left, and Roy Ziegler, right, received a $4,000 grant to research the American author Julian Wehr.