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University of Tennessee Libraries

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An uncommon year of extraordinary change & great promise
This year the University of Tennessee began its Ready for the World campaign, designed to help students gain international and intercultural knowledge. But I believe that nothing can better prepare our students for the world than information literacy. The ability to identify, locate, evaluate and effectively use information is a priceless skill, even more so in this era of information overload. At the libraries, we are working hard to educate the faculty and students at UT about the libraries and the world of resources we make available to them.

I can't help but be astounded by the accomplishments of the University of Tennessee Libraries in the last year. Opening the Commons took tremendous effort and support from all of our staff, and it is one of the largest transformations our libraries has encountered in years. The job isn't done yet—there are many more changes to come.

As we embark upon uncharted territory, striving to meet student and faculty needs, we are thrilled to be placed among the top research libraries in North America. We are determined to remain cutting-edge trendsetters on campus and among our peers. We look forward to the many exciting endeavors ahead of us. We cannot accomplish this alone, and we are grateful for the support of the campus and our friends who look forward to our success as much as we do.

Barbara I. Dewey
Dean of Libraries

What began as an idea in February became the busiest place in Hodges Library by September. The libraries partnered with UT's Office of Information Technology (OIT), and together they crafted a plan to create a one-stop-shop for students of many library and technology services.

The libraries reconfigured what had been the Reserve area, and the large room on the second floor of Hodges Library closed at the end of the spring 2005 semester. In August, when students returned to the University of Tennessee campus, the Commons greeted them.

Implementing the Commons required tremendous service transformations for all library personnel. Reference services, circulation support, computer help desk staff, statistical consulting and Stat Lab tutoring services, after-hours drop-off for Digital Media Services, and overnight book retrieval were just a few of the many services the Commons was able to unite in one location, in its first phase.

The room holds a 55-workstation computer lab and provides 40 loaner laptops as well as scanners, headphones, mice, floppy and zip disk drives for checkout.

The loaner laptop service is extremely popular, and circulation has increased 70% since the service was moved to the Commons. Because there is often a wait for the computers, Access and Delivery Services instituted a beeper system so students could be alerted when a laptop is available.

Other changes include reconfiguring a former workroom into a practice presentation room, which is outfitted with a SmartBoard. A corridor connects the Commons to the Studio, which provides a multimedia design lab as well as still and video digital cameras for checkout.

The Commons is more than just a physical space. Planned in a phased approach, the Commons will change and incorporate new services and spaces as student needs grow and technology changes.

As the spring 2006 semester came to a close, the Periodicals area of Hodges Library prepared to close and relocate its services so that the Commons could expand into a second room and offer more services as well as an expanded computer lab.

Selected Commons Stats

Hodges Library Gate Count up 5% over 2004-05

Loaner Laptop
Checkout: 30,670 (70% increase)

Highest circulations:
Month (April): 4,845
Day (November 29): 318
Single laptop: 885 times

946 students trained & supported by START students to use practice presentation room
Thanks to a prestigious grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), UT Libraries will digitize Tennessee's important historical legacy.

UT Libraries were awarded a $928,080 grant from IMLS, which will allow the libraries to begin a $1.8 million project called Volunteer Voices: The Growth of Democracy in Tennessee.

The goal of Volunteer Voices is to digitize and build a free Web site of 10,000 historically significant items gathered from across the state. Materials on the Web site will be integrated into Tennessee's K-12 history curriculum, but are available for anyone—scholars, educators, students, and the general public—to use.

Materials for Volunteer Voices are chosen from repositories across the state. UT Libraries is working with nine partner institutions: Middle Tennessee State University, the Knox County Public Library, the East Tennessee Historical Society, the Tennessee State Library and Archives, the University of Memphis, the Memphis and Shelby County Public Library, Tennessee State University, Vanderbilt University and the Brentwood Public Library. The project will also gather materials for their collection from smaller libraries, archives, and historical societies.

In the process of gathering and scanning historical materials, project leaders will provide participating institutions with training, support and grant resources. The scanned materials will be part of the Volunteer Voices initiative, sponsored by TENN-SHARE, and searchable through its Web site at www.volunteervoices.org.

ScienceLinks: Educating Librarians for the 21st Century

The IMLS awarded UT a $632,249 grant as part of their Librarians for the 21st Century initiative, which was created to help recruit and educate the next generation of librarians. The UT Libraries is partnering with UT's School of Information Sciences (SIS) to carry out the grant project, called Science Links.

Qualified students receive full scholarships to earn a master's degree through SIS. Students will take courses specifically designed to train librarians to assist in scientific and technological research. Students will also gain practical job experience by working at the UT Libraries, as well as area libraries with a science focus, like the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Department of Energy's Office of Scientific and Technical Information, and Information International Associates.

Arrowmont Brings 3-D to Arts and Crafts

Fine art pieces from the Arrowmont School for Arts and Crafts are included in a digital art gallery that provides 360-degree views as part of From Pi Beta Phi to Arrowmont: Bringing Education and Economic Development to the Great Smoky Mountains, 1910-2004. Twenty art pieces, which include sculpture, vases, baskets and teapots, are included in the online exhibit.

From Pi Beta Phi to Arrowmont is supported by a National Leadership Grant for research and demonstration from IMLS.

Digital Library Center joins Special Collections Library

The traditional role of the Special Collections Library has expanded. Special Collections has merged with the Digital Library Center to form a new unit. Together, they will work on expanding the use of the UT Libraries' rare and unique materials through the creation of digital collections.
Empowering Students and Faculty

The Teaching Library @ UT

The Teaching Library is a resource for instructors and librarians who are teaching students about finding and using information. It is designed to provide support for teaching information literacy concepts.

The Teaching Library allows instructors to create customized pages for their classes and offers tips for creating effective library assignments as well as other helpful tools and assistance from library instruction faculty.

Online Instruction from the Studio

Borrowing still digital cameras is a popular service at the Studio, but all users must complete a certification course. In the past, staff managed this by scheduling four weekly instruction sessions. To free up staff time and make the instruction more convenient for users, a team from the Studio created an entertaining and informative flash module that could be completed online, 24/7. This successful transformation in instruction increased the number of certified students checking out cameras while freeing up staff time.

Reaching Out with Research Assist

The Reference department is helping to demystify the research process and familiarize students with services offered by librarians with Research Assist. By branding the traditional research consultation, librarians are better able to communicate the assistance and services available to students.

Getting Students Ready for the World

In April 2006, the University of Tennessee announced its ambitious plan to help students gain the knowledge they need to succeed in today's world. Called "Ready for the World: the International and Intercultural Awareness Initiative," the program is part of a long-range plan to transform the campus to better prepare students to work and compete in the 21st century.

The chancellor's office chose Hodges Library as the place to kick off the effort, as the libraries have long been a leader in diversity efforts and education on campus. At the event, titled "The World is Flat: A Conversation with Chancellor Loren Crabtree," Dr. Crabtree announced the university's goals to internationalize the curriculum, increase global competency and focus on intercultural issues facing the campus. He also engaged in lively discussion with students, faculty and staff about the issues presented by Thomas Friedman's book The World is Flat. The libraries continued the "conversation" by launching a blog to discuss issues in the book.

The libraries continue to work to strengthen its collection in areas of international and intercultural studies, as well as provide programming and other outreach efforts that help make UT students "ready for the world."

Exploring Tennessee’s Topography with the Map Library

Topographic maps of the forests, national and state parks, and natural and wildlife management areas of Tennessee can be accessed from one place using the Map Library’s Tennessee Topographic Map Web guide. This guide provides a central access point for finding topographic maps of these natural and recreational areas from across the state. The Map Library provides inexpensive copies of topographic maps for the entire United States, provides digital mapping software that can be used to create customized topographic maps, and most maps are available for students, faculty and staff to borrow.
Science through Film

Biology Nights @ the Library, a film series that features movies with themes that relate to the life sciences, kicked off in September 2005. Each event included a discussion and question and answer period, hosted by the life sciences librarian. The events were extremely popular, bringing in as many as 150 students to view the films and participate in discussions. Films are listed on a companion Web site, bioLiBlog, which includes further information and a comments forum.

The program created a dialogue with the core biology program and has helped students and instructors of Biology 101 to see the relevance of the library to their work.

Films
Evolution: Great Transformations
The Secret of Photo 51
Playing God
Human Race
The Last Stand
Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring
Natural Connections

Mighty Fine News: Overdue Fines Eliminated

April 1st, 2006, brought a change that was no joke—regular overdue fines were eliminated. The 25¢-a-day fines for overdue monographs, serials, periodicals and some other items kept beyond their due date are no longer a problem for tardy borrowers.

Once materials are 21 days overdue, the libraries declare the materials "lost." This means that the borrower will be billed to replace the item. If the "lost" material is returned, the library automatically cancels the bill.

While not all fines went away, we think this positive move will get more books back to the libraries.

Library Friends Celebrate
A Night at the Libraries


At the event, the libraries announced that the writer-in-residence program would be named in honor of Jack E. Reese, professor of English and longtime Chancellor at UT Knoxville.

The evening’s celebration also included food, music, tours, a book sale, and demonstrations of library resources.

Staff Highlights and Achievements

Minority Librarian Residents

LaVerne Gray, Shantel Agnew, and Mark Puente (pictured, right) joined the faculty at the libraries as the second class of Minority Librarian Residents in September 2005. The residents have acquired a broad range of experiences in their first year, focusing their work on library services, collection development, and access.

Career Employee Program

The libraries’ Career Employee Program (CEP) celebrated its newest graduates in June 2006: Seth Jordan, Linda Flynn, Jayne Rogers and Wanda Rosinski (below). The participants took graduate-level courses in information science, presented at national and regional conferences, and published articles and book reviews. The demanding program requires that all work occur outside the employee’s normal working hours. Despite the challenges, CEP participants enjoyed being "pushed out of their comfort zones," and some are pursuing graduate degrees.
Expanding Collections

Historical Legacy

The libraries received a welcome and unexpected gift this year. Robert Wegener, an Illinois engineer, gave the university a key document in UT’s establishment as a state land grant institution.

The document, dated 1870, is the original bill of sale for land in which proceeds were given to the state of Tennessee to establish Tennessee’s land grant university. The document was the result of the 1862 Morrill Act, legislation signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln that established colleges to teach agricultural and mechanical arts as well as classics, liberal arts and sciences. Tennessee, as a member of the Confederacy during the Civil War, was unable to take advantage of the Morrill Act until 1869. The document is on display in the Special Collections reading room in Hoskins Library.

Audiostreaming Databases Provide 24/7 Access to Music

The Music Library expanded its selection of streaming databases to include Smithsonian Global Sound and African American Song. The library also reinstated its subscription to the Naxos Music Library, and all databases allow unlimited simultaneous users. Now many music works are available at all hours for study and personal enjoyment.

Other Major Acquisitions

Thanks to the Lindsay Young Endowment, which is dedicated to providing special funding opportunities for the libraries’ humanities collections, the libraries were able to make two major purchases. The Morgenthau Diaries, microfilm versions of the meeting transcripts, letters, notes and graphs of Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury during the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration; and the Fürstlich Bibliothek Corvey, a microfiche facsimile edition of 1,084 non-fiction titles from the Princely Library at Corvey.

Libraries Launch a Digital Imprint: Newfound Press

UT Libraries launched its own digital imprint, the Newfound Press, as a way to expand its role in the publications process and make scholarly and specialized works more available online.

The Newfound Press’s first publication is Goodness Gracious, Miss Agnes: Patchwork of Country Living written by Lera Knox, a journalist who wrote columns for the Nashville Banner and Columbia Daily Herald & Democrat from 1933 to 1965. The book collects her columns, which document her childhood in rural, Victorian-era Tennessee, as well as her extensive travel, which included watching Elizabeth II’s coronation and interviewing Eleanor Roosevelt.

Fun Reading Provided by Leisure Reading Collection

Romantic love stories, edge-of-your-seat thrillers, and gripping mysteries are not always the books one thinks of in the collection at an academic library. In response to student requests, librarians implemented a leisure reading collection, housed in a high-traffic area of Hodges Library and surrounded by soft chairs and study tables.

New titles are added monthly as older titles cycle out. Many popular titles, such as literary prizewinners and bestsellers are also included in the libraries’ permanent collections.

Pendergrass Joins Major Library Consortium

The Pendergrass Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Library joined the Agriculture Network Information Center (AgNIC), a partnership of nearly 60 member institutions and organizations working to offer quick and reliable access to quality agriculture information and resources.

Pendergrass Library contributes Pet Health to the AgNIC network; a website that provides access to quality health information about commonly kept pets and companion animals.
The Center for Children’s and Young Adult Literature

The Center for Children’s and Young Adult Literature is a collaborative effort of the UT Libraries, School of Information Sciences and College of Education, Health and Human Sciences. The center works to promote the use of literature in the education and lives of children and young adults. The center maintains an examination collection of the most recently published books in children’s and young adult literature in Hodges Library and provides workshops for teachers and librarians.

The center sponsored four major lecture programs this year featuring award-winning authors Sharon Draper, Mike Thaler, Jack Gantos and Lois Lowry. Lowry, a two-time Newbery Medal winner, was hosted at the newly renovated Tennessee Theatre and attracted an audience of nearly 800. It was the largest UT-related event held at the theater to date.

In June, the center collaborated with the Knox County Public Library to host the Second Annual Children’s Festival of Reading. The free event featured thirteen children’s authors, puppets, magicians, musicians, storytellers and more.

Russian children’s librarians visit the center.

Children’s author Mike Thaler visits a Knoxville classroom.

E-Forum: Electronic Issues for the Academy

- Loretta Parham, Atlanta University Center: A Gift of Difference
- Alice Prochaska, Yale University: Library Special Collections in a Digital World
- Bob Glass, Manchester Metropolitan University (UK): Information Literacy in Great Britain

Film Movement

The libraries launched the Film Movement series in September 2005. These award-winning, first-run independent and international feature films are unlikely to be screened in Knoxville area theaters.

Documentaries in the Library

RESISTANCE Film and Discussion Series
La Cueca Sola & NOW!
Public Enemy
Edward Said: The Last Interview
Thunder in Guyana

Fun Run

The 14th annual Love Your Libraries 5K Run and Fun Walk raised $5,200 for the purchase of library materials. The proceeds were earmarked for materials that support UT’s Ready for the World international/intercultural initiatives.

Tennessee Reads

Sam Venable, Rock Elephant: A Story of Friendship and Fishing
Bruce Wheeler, Knoxville: A Mountain City in the New South

Culture Corner

- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning Culture (Spring 2006)
- The Caribbean (Summer 2006)


Benedetto Beals, Jennifer. "Integrating Information Literacy into the Curriculum: A Four Year Plan for Design Students." *LOEX Quarterly* 33, no. 1/2 (Spring/Summer 2006).


Read, Eleanor J. "Things I Wish I Knew about Documents, and Things I’m Glad I Know: So Much Data, So Much to Know." *DatP: Documents to the People* 34, no. 3 (Fall 2006).