



Library Focus

University Libraries | Spring 2008

THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN
MISSISSIPPI

UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES

GULF COAST LIBRARY REOPENS

—ELIZABETH DOOLITTLE, PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN

EDITORIAL STAFF

Co-Editors

Jennifer Brannock

Miao Jin

Library Focus is published during
the spring and fall semesters by

University Libraries.

www.lib.usm.edu

CONTACT

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Cook Library

601.266.4249

McCain Library

601.266.4345

Gulf Coast Library

228.865.4510

Gunter Library

228.872.4264

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

REGULAR HOURS

[www.lib.usm.edu/about_us/
library_hours.html](http://www.lib.usm.edu/about_us/library_hours.html)

We left the Gulf Coast Library (GCL) on August 27, 2005, for what turned out to be an extended time period. So much has happened since that time but finally we have come home to a refurbished, redesigned and exciting GCL. The devastation to the GCL witnessed by returning faculty and staff in September 2005 was shocking. The planning and renovation that followed in the past two years since has proven worthwhile. From mud-dried carpets to moldy walls to water-damaged furniture, the library was gutted. Steel girders, ceiling frames and bare cement floors greeted visitors to the library for most of the past two years. The rebuilding and renovating was hard to see because so much was just clearing and cleaning. Most of the early work was infrastructure repairs and replacements.

Library services were still needed by students taking classes, doing assignments, writing reports and research papers. Library faculty and staff put forth exceptional efforts to provide full services in what they believed would be a temporary facility. This temporary facility eventually came to be called the Gulf Coast Student Service Center. The library collections housed on the second and third floors of the Gulf Coast Library were made available through a courier service. An online request form through Document Delivery made the process seamless for the students.

Progress slowly became apparent at the GCL. On the walls appeared new plugs and data ports; walls and trim showed fresh paint; and carpet covered the cement floors. Once things began to look like the inside of a fresh building again, we were ready to move

back into it. The building, of course, wasn't really ready, though. There was still much work to be done, such as detailing, finishing touches and cleaning, which all takes time.

Plans for updating and improving library services were taking place. A new Learning

Commons was planned, calling for combined service areas and expanded learning environments. The first floor of the library was redesigned and reconfigured to provide an enhanced learning environment. From one service area on the first floor, students are provided research assistance, database search instruction, a place for circulation of library materials, presentation practice areas, study tables, and access to the Writing Center and the Speaking Center. The first floor of the "new" library has an active, vibrant atmosphere with increased opportunities for learning.

The GCL second floor houses the new video/DVD viewer carrels, a wide selection of educational and leisure DVDs, and the serial collection. Quiet study space is located on the third floor for students looking for that type of environment. The Katrina Research Center shares in this quiet space. It offers students, faculty, community members and visiting scholars resources



Gulf Coast Library materials following Hurricane Katrina

GULF COAST LIBRARY REOPENS *(continued)*

to study the event that led to the new, enhanced learning environment provided by the GCL.

While staff is excited and pleased to have returned to the GCL, there have been stressful moments. One such moment occurred when it was my turn to close and I could not remember where the main light switch was located. One staff member is still very uncomfortable having a weather

radio in the building because it reminds her of the last time she was here and the radio went off. Staff has commented on the desolation around us. When you leave the library itself, there are few trees between us and the water, the houses to the east of the campus and the Catholic school that were to our west are not there. Yet, overall, we do feel welcomed. We are home!

LibQUAL+ SURVEY RESULTS

—SHERRY LAUGHLIN, ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

University Libraries received 242 responses from students, faculty and staff to the LibQUAL+ survey that was conducted late in the fall semester. LibQUAL+ is an international survey of library service quality that is administered by the Association of Research Libraries. The Web-based survey measures library users' opinions and expectations about service, library collections and

facilities. The library administered the survey in 2003 and 2005, respectively, before this survey conducted in fall 2007.

The survey data, along with comments, are being evaluated and a complete report will be made available on the library's Web site later in the spring semester. Thank you for your participation!

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS IN COOK LIBRARY

—JENNIFER BRANNOCK, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARIAN

The Joseph Anderson Cook Library has a collection of Southern Miss faculty publications located on the first floor near the Popular Reading Collection. These include books written or edited by Southern Miss faculty. We are

actively collecting these publications. If you would like to donate a book or request that we purchase a faculty member's book, please contact Nancy Kaul at Nancy.Kaul@usm.edu or 601.266.5078.

PICK UP YOUR SUMMER READS AT COOK LIBRARY

—JENNIFER BRANNOCK, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARIAN

This summer when you are hitting the beach or heading off to your favorite vacation spot, don't forget to swing by the Popular Reading Collection on the first floor of Cook Library to grab a book or two for your trip. Getting your books from Cook Library can save you a trip to the public library and the money you would have spent purchasing them at a bookstore.

The Popular Reading Collection contains approximately 1,000 books that include *New York Times* best-sellers and independent best-sellers. Fiction genres include romance, mystery,



horror, science fiction and many more. If nonfiction is more your taste, check out the latest self-help sensations, biographies, cookbooks and political commentaries.

The next time you are in Cook Library grabbing a cup of coffee or picking up a book for class, head over to the Information Services area outside of Starbucks and browse the Popular Reading Collection.

Since titles in the collection rotate every few months, there is always something new to read! Books from the Popular Reading Collection are checked out for 30 days and can be renewed.

If you have any suggestions about possible additions to the collection, please contact Peggy Price at Peggy.Price@usm.edu or 601.266.5077.

NEW LIBRARY HOME PAGE ADDRESSES TRENDS, PATRON CONCERNS

—STEVEN TURNER, LIBRARY WEB SERVICES MANAGER

Out with the old, and in with the semi-new! The library front page has been redesigned, and we are very excited about this current iteration of the library's virtual front door. The new design offers a number of exciting features that will allow users more convenient access to our electronic resources, a redesigned and more logical layout and eye-catching additions for alerting patrons to current events, activities and important resources and topics. Essentially, the new site offers three major changes – the search widget, the new layout and our new advertising banner.

The Search Widget

The new home page offers a multi-tabbed search widget that allows immediate front-page searches into our most popular resources.

The search widget offers the following searches:

- Articles – full-text searching into the library's multi-database search tool (MetaSearch), allowing the user to search for full-text articles using one of many sets of full-text databases.
- Direct searches into the library catalog, ANNA.
- An E-journals search, offering the complete functionality previously found only on our SFX E-journals page.
- Reference Search - a full-text search into our new CREDO online reference database, which contains over 300 full-text reference sources.
- Web Site Search – a full-text search of our Web site, which contains over 3,000 pages of special collections items, including the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, manuscript finding aids, select oral histories and other Special Collections guides. The new search also offers the ability to search the entire content of the library Web site, including our extensive library research assistance documentation.

New Layout and Design

The University Libraries always attempts to offer services and features based on user needs and empirical data, and the Web site is no exception. Our internal research indicated a number of changes were needed in several important areas. Consequently, the library Web committee identified the top needs, activities and resources accessed, and reflected these indicators in our new design.

The research indicated that the typical user prefers quick searches over browsing or direct access via bookmarks, and that preference has been featured prominently in our new design.

In response, we emphasized access to these identified essential resources and featured areas, while still providing users the ability to browse the library Web site using the same logical section headers as before. The search widget and the quick find menu occupy the most visible section of the Web site, while all news items have been streamlined by combining them and placing them in a single, identifiable area.

Our internal deliberations indicated that we needed a better method to emphasize specific 'special' information or programs. This was addressed by creating a colorful rotating banner that provides sufficient space for copy and images -- essentially an electronic billboard for the library.

User surveys also indicated that many patrons wanted the library Web site to offer more color and imagery. Additionally, the library needed a location on the home page that focused on specific library features, classes and resources. A logical way to combine the two was to create the advertising banner that fulfilled all of these needs. Important items are placed prominently on the Web site while the eye of the user is drawn to the color, size and location of the banner.

Additionally, we understood that the Web site still needed to provide users with the ability to browse our site sections in a functional manner. This was solved by moving our section headers, which are less used than our searching functions, to the bottom half of the page while slightly modifying elements located under these headers.

Ultimately, we feel our changes will accurately reflect our data and the results of various surveys conducted over the past two semesters. We will continue to evaluate and modify our Web site to accommodate current best practices as well as the changing needs of our student, faculty and staff constituency.

EXTREME MAKEOVER: LIBRARY EDITION

—SHERRY LAUGHLIN, ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

The Joseph Anderson Cook Library and the interior design senior capstone class (ID 490) have embarked on their version of an extreme makeover. The class of 16 students, along with library employees, will be working on a plan to redesign the Information Services space on the first floor of Cook Library. The plan, expected to be completed by the end of spring semester 2008, will include additional student access to computers, comfortable seating, flooring replacement and an updated look and feel for the space that is in keeping with Starbucks and the recently opened Writing Center.

During the course of the spring semester, the class will interview librarians and library staff. They will conduct a literature review in order to gather information about current space utilization in Cook Library and trends in academic library space planning. Surveys of library users, focus groups and assessment data collected by the library will be used by the class to determine library users' preferences, wants and needs. Although no funds have been allocated to the project at this point, the design documents, budget plans and visuals that are expected at the end of the semester can be used to support a request for funding, for presentations to potential donors or for a phasing-in of the project as funds become available.



Joseph Anderson Cook Library on the Hattiesburg Campus

The original Cook Library building was constructed in 1960. A 1966 addition doubled the size of the structure, and a five-story addition and renovation project was completed 30 years later. Rapid changes in technology, changes in the way students use technology and libraries, along with changing student expectations and general wear and tear on this heavily used facility make this a good time for an extreme makeover. We are excited about working with this group of talented young designers, who will soon be graduating from Southern Miss.

A PLACE BY THE SEA: TOURISM ON THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST

—DIANE ROSS, CURATOR OF MANUSCRIPTS, ARCHIVES AND DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

The Reading Room on the third floor of McCain Library and Archives is now featuring an exhibit focusing on early 20th century tourism on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Almost from the time Mississippi gained statehood in 1817, its Gulf Coast settlements have been seen as areas for recreation and relaxation. Many southerners visited to escape the higher heat and humidity of the inland areas. New Orleanians, in particular, came to the area in summer to retreat from yellow fever epidemics.

It's no surprise that the Mississippi Gulf Coast has long had a thriving tourist industry. Heavily advertised by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad as "America's Riviera," the Mississippi coast offered sailing, swimming, tennis, riding, bicycling, fishing, hunting, sunbathing and golf as well as much to draw

those interested in architecture, history, gardens and romance. It is convenient to travel to by plane, train and automobile, and close to the attractions of both Mobile and New Orleans.

Tourists are drawn to an area by word of mouth, but also by deliberate advertisement. In turn, these advertisements help to define the character of a place and shape how it is thought of by both visitors and year-round residents. The brochures, postcards and other materials in this exhibit illustrate how the image of the Mississippi Gulf Coast was being formed in the first half of the 20th century.

The exhibit will run through May 31, 2008. For more information about the exhibit, contact Diane Ross at Diane.Ross@usm.edu or 601.266.5592.

THE DIGITAL LAB IN MCCAIN LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

—LAURA CAPELL, DIGITIZATION LIBRARIAN

The Digital Lab helps connect patrons with rare and unique materials in McCain Library and Archives. The lab provides digital copies of items for patrons upon request, and it makes items available online through the library's Digital Archive.

Services offered by the Digital Lab include digital and photographic reproductions of materials from the collections in McCain Library and Archives. Researchers in McCain Library and Archives can still request photocopies, but they also have the option of obtaining digital copies or photographic prints. This can be especially useful for publications and presentations, but it can also be for research and personal use. For example, users sometimes find photographs of relatives and want copies to display at home. The Digital Lab provides services for a wide range of users on and off campus, including students, faculty and staff, as well as authors, publishers and the general public.

The Digital Lab also maintains the Library's Digital Archive, which allows users to see exciting items in McCain Library and Archives from the comfort of home. The Digital Archive currently contains a selection of photographs, documents, illustrations and other materials from the University Archives, the Historical Manuscript Collections, the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC) Editorial Cartoon Collection and the Center for Oral History.

New materials are added to the Digital Archive regularly, and items from the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, as well as additional university photographs, will soon be available.

Through the Digital Archive, users can also access the Mississippi Digital Library, a statewide collaborative effort to provide access to Mississippi's unique cultural heritage materials. Currently, the Mississippi Digital Library contains a wealth of documents and photographs relating to Civil Rights in Mississippi. These items are from Delta State University, Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, the University of Mississippi and The University of Southern Mississippi.

To access the Digital Archive and the Mississippi Digital Library, visit cdm.lib.usm.edu/index.php.

To learn more about the services offered by the Digital Lab, please contact Laura Capell at laura.capell@usm.edu or 601.266.6493.



William David McCain Library and Archives

LIBRARY DATABASE UPDATE

—PAUL MCCARVER, INFORMATION SERVICES LIBRARIAN

An important step forward has been made for our patrons needing to use reference books from their computers inside or outside our libraries. As a member of MAGNOLIA, Mississippi's statewide library consortium, University Libraries has gained access to Credo Reference. This online service makes available the information found in over 250 reference books produced by more than 50 publishers. Both simple and complex searches may be performed in over twenty subject areas or in any specific book within those subject areas. The full-text entries retrieved may be brief or lengthy. Results may be printed or e-mailed, and examples of how to cite entries in APA, MLA and Chicago style are provided. Over time, this service will

add to the number of reference titles included, and newer editions of books will replace older ones as they become available.

Services for the following databases have also been upgraded:

- *Music Index*, *RILM* and *RIPM* moved to the *EBSCOhost* collection of databases and may be searched separately or simultaneously as a group.
- *Value Line Research Center* added the *Investment Survey Historical Reports*.
- *Wilson Biographies* expanded to the "plus" edition, which includes illustrations with many of the biographical entries.

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER SPEAKS AT HONORS FORUM

—ELLEN RUFFIN, CURATOR OF THE DE GRUMMOND CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COLLECTION

Richard Peck said that Kimberly Willis Holt's books seem to point to someone looking for home.

While that thread does seem to appear in many of her books, one thing is certain — she has stories to tell, stories that are worth hearing. The Honors Forum lecture, given by Holt on April 1, allowed students and community members to learn how a successful author uses personal experience in her writing.

Holt grew up as the daughter of a Navy chief. After having lived in Guam and Paris, France, and moving to various parts of the United States as a Navy brat, she remembers Forest Hill, La., as her “emotional home.” After all, it was there that Holt learned to love chicken and dumplings - her grandmother's recipe, of course. It was in Forest Hill, too, where she placed the setting (and her grandmother's recipe) for her book, *My Louisiana Sky*.

Holt's early observations as well as an authenticity of place are present in her work. Her National Book Award-winning *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* is set in a small town in Texas. Holt recalls visiting her aunt in Texas and seeing a “freak show” trailer parked in a parking lot, the “show” being the “fattest boy in

the world.” She remembers riding on country Louisiana roads with her mother and coming upon a married couple, whom her mother cited as “slow.” That couple appears as Tiger's parents in *My Louisiana Sky*. Her first-hand knowledge of Guam, where she went to elementary school, is evident in her novel *Keeper of the Night*. Her book, *Mister and Me*, developed as a result of stories her grandfather told her.

Holt told of her desire, stretching back to her school days, to be a writer. She related her decision to scrap her plan of starting a business in order to become a writer. This came at the insistence of her husband who said that she needed to get started if she was going to follow her dream. Success in her writing has led Holt to another success as she shares her experiences in forums and classrooms, encouraging new writers to follow in her footsteps. Many of her listeners left inspired to go write their own stories worth telling.



Kimberly Willis Holt

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES SPEAKER SERIES SPRING 2008

—PEGGY M. PRICE, HEAD OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Anthropologist and Southern Miss professor Dr. Ed Jackson presented the first installment of the Libraries' Speaker Series on February 27 with “The Archaeology of the Winterville Mounds Chiefdom: 2005-2007.” The Winterville Mounds is the site of an ancient Native American chiefdom near Greenville, Miss. Dr. Jackson, who directs digs at the Mounds, described his field work methods and discussed what artifacts suggest about this prehistoric culture. Ancient cultures constructed the flat-top hills for ceremonies and homes for the upper-crust of their communities. Jackson and his students unearthed the material remains of the ancient civilization called Mississippian. Mississippians created activity centers near the mounds and left evidence of their lifestyle buried deep in the ground. Jackson stated, “Winterville is one of the largest late prehistoric mound groups in the southeastern U.S. The ongoing

archaeological investigations have documented the residential community that was associated with the mounds as well as activities that took place atop the mound summits.”

Move forward in time a few thousand years and a couple hundred miles south of Greenville and we arrive at the birth of The University of Southern Mississippi. In celebration of Founder's Day on March 31, University Archives specialist Yvonne Arnold presented the March talk, “Golden Memories: The Early History of Southern Miss.” A Southern Miss institution herself, Ms. Arnold offered vivid tales of intrigue (who would have thought?) and profiled the personalities responsible for our existence on the academic landscape. Historic Southern Miss photographs and memorabilia were on display for attendants to view.

Kid-tested, not exactly mother-approved. Dr. Eric

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES SPEAKER SERIES SPRING 2008 (continued)

Tribunella studies children's literature, which sounds sweet and sort of, easy. But if college has taught us anything, it has taught us that literature rarely means what you thought it meant at first. Especially literature designed to appeal to the us of the future – children. What happens when the meanings and content are distorted through reinvention? Stories meant for children reinterpreted for adults? In “A Is for Adults: The Sexualization of Children's Literature and the Subversion of Innocence,” Dr. Tribunella “considers the motives and effects of sexualized retellings of children's literature and how they work to subvert notions of childhood innocence in favor of childhood agency.” One saucy retelling takes the form of a graphic novel and has

Wendy (Peter Pan), Dorothy (Wizard of Oz) and Alice (as in Wonderland) meet up and discuss their “adventures.” Dr. Tribunella's talk concludes the Speaker Series on April 16 in Cook Library 123 at 3 p.m.

Programs in the series represent unusual angles, creative connections and lively interpretations produced from research in materials available through academic libraries, especially archives and special collections. Resources related to the three spring talks may be found in the Libraries' Mississippiana Collection, the University Archives and the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection. For more information on the Libraries' Special Collections, visit the Web site at www.lib.usm.edu/~spcol.

41st ANNUAL CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

— KAREN ROWELL, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

The Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science hosted the 41st Annual Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book festival April 2-4, 2008. The festival was held at the Southern Miss Thad Cochran Center with book signings at the adjacent Barnes and Noble bookstore.

Pat Mora, an award-winning author of over thirty children's books, was honored as the 40th Southern Miss Medallion recipient. Among her recent books is *Doña Flor: A Tall Tale about a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart*, which won the Golden Kite Award from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and received a Pura Belpré Author honor from the American Library Association. Pat Mora was the first Mexican-American author to receive the Southern Miss Medallion for outstanding contributions to children's literature. An advocate for literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds, Mora is founder of El día de los niños/El día de los libros. Now simply called Día, the annual celebration is currently hosted by ALA's Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC).

This year's festival also marked the first de Grummond Lecture, sponsored by University Libraries' de Grummond Children's Literature Collection. The

inaugural de Grummond Lecturer, Kimberly Willis Holt, was introduced by University President Dr. Martha Saunders. Dr. Saunders also formally opened the festival with a greeting on April 2.

Other speakers included James Ransome, Vicki Cobb, Will Weaver, Loris Lesynski and storyteller Gerald Hausman. The Ezra Jack Keats lecture was given by Dr. Barbara Immroth of the University of Texas at Austin.

For more information on the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival, visit www.childrensbookfestival.org or contact the festival director, Dr. Catharine Bomhold, at Catherine.Bomhold@usm.edu or 601.266.4228.

For information on the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, contact curator Ellen Ruffin at Ellen.Ruffin@usm.edu or 601.266.4349 or visit www.lib.usm.edu/~degrum/. For more information on Día, visit www.ala.org/dia.



Pat Mora



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
118 College Drive #5053
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Freeing the POWER of the INDIVIDUAL

Cook Library Extends Weekend Hours

You asked for it and we heard you! Many library patrons have requested additional library hours on the weekend. Beginning fall 2007, Cook Library opens three hours later on Saturday and two hours earlier on Sunday. The new Cook Library weekend hours are Saturdays, 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. and Sundays, 10 a.m. until midnight.

Read All About It!

Don't miss the new University Libraries blog! Stay updated on the latest news, get tips about using library resources and find out about new services. Just click on the "Library Blog" link under the "About" column on the University Libraries homepage!