

Dulaney-Browne Library

Quarterly Report

October - December 2008

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Director

Dedication

Major work on the renovation was completed in October and the formal dedication of the space was held on November 6, 2008. The dedication ceremony included James Edwin Alexander, for whom the second floor is named, and representatives from major donors for the renovation: Dulaney Brothers Investments, the Samuel Roberts Nobel Foundation, and the Glenn T. Rapp Foundation. Jeanne Hoffman Smith and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning were recognized for their substantial donation toward the renovation of the second floor.



Listening Library

The new music librarian, Abigail McBirnie

is making a positive difference in the Listening Library. Attendance in the current quarter is up 231% compared to the same time last year. Some of this difference may be the result of better counting, but the use of the listening library materials is also up by 19%.

Banned Books Week

Robert Dorman created a display of challenged or banned books to include on the recently installed new book shelf during the first week of October.

Library Statistics

One of the most important measures of library use is the circulation count. This measures the number of items that students, faculty, and staff borrow from the library. Each of these numbers is tracked individually and all are up by a substantial percentage for the quarter and for the last six months of 2008. Circulation to students is up by more than 50% for each period. Circulation to faculty doubled for each period. Circulation to staff tripled for the second quarter of the fiscal year and was up 68% for the period of July to December 2008.

Another important measure of library use is the number of library instruction sessions offered. This number is up by 20% in the just completed six months.

Other numbers to celebrate include statistics of in house use of circulating materials (up 15%), searches of the online catalog (up 18%) and online government documents added (up 110%) and used (up 5%).

One area of concern pointed out by the statistics is a decrease in the use of online databases. This is an almost entirely new phenomenon since the introduction of online databases, and is worthy of more attention. After considerable review of the data, the most likely explanation for this drop is an anomaly in data collection in fiscal year 2008. The current year's numbers are well in line with expectations when compared to the numbers for fiscal years 2006 and 2007.

Library Research Workshops

Librarians experimented with offering open "term paper" workshops in November and a few students participated. This was a new concept on campus and will need more marketing to both students and faculty if it is to be an ongoing success.

Staff Changes

The quarter saw significant changes in library staffing. Robin Sain, evening circulation supervisor left in early October in order to take a permanent part time position. At the end of the month Clint Barker, the circulation and acquisitions technician, left to pursue a career teaching English in Taiwan. Both staff members provided sufficient notice so that we were able to hire two new technicians before they left. The new evening circulation supervisor is Lindsay Hall. She started on October 1, 2008. The second position was replaced with a different focus. Kaitlyn Palone started work on October 16, 2008 as interlibrary loan and circulation technician. This change makes it possible to provide interlibrary loan services 7 days per week.

Also at the end of October long time library technician Leslie Savage fell ill. After a long hospitalization she moved home to recover by the end of the quarter. Mid-November found another long time library technician unexpectedly in the hospital. Parker Atkins is recovering and returned to work in mid-January. These changes created a crisis in the Monographs Department. Clint Barker's departure and the reorganization that followed had already been reduced by one half a position. Leslie Savage and Parker Atkins made up the remainder of the technical staff in the department. Monographs Librarian Robert Dorman managed to keep things moving with help from Jeremiah Goodman, Lindsay Hall and Kaitlyn Palone.

Continued Library Training open to faculty

The library offered three training sessions to the campus community during the quarter. By combining these training opportunities with regular library training, we can reach more people without any additional staff time. A few faculty members join the group each month. The October 8 session focused on using Online government documents and StatUSA. The November 12 session cover the new "EBSCOhost 2.0" interface. The December 10 session focused on library reserves, copying & copyright law.

Professional Publications

The quarter was productive for librarian scholarship. Two librarians had peer reviewed journal articles published. Monographs Librarian Robert Dorman saw the publication of his article "The Creation and Destruction of the 1890 Federal Census" in the Fall-Winter 2008 issue of the *American Archivist*. Music Librarian Abigail McBirnie saw the publication of her article "Seeking Serendipity: The Paradox of Control" in *Aslib Proceedings: New Information Perspectives* in December 2008. Both publications were based on research begun during their master's degree work.

Professional Presentation

Access Services Librarian Beth Jones participated in the Ex Libris South Central Users Group again this year with a presentation on "Shifting: Making Room for Growth" in October. This group includes libraries from Oklahoma and surrounding states that use the same integrated library system and Beth's presentation shared a process she worked out for using information from that system to improve decision making related to shifting books.

Chocolate Express

The Chocolate Express returned for finals week and was a great success. All 439 items that were purchased were distributed, with the final 95 items distributed on the last evening. Word of the event had spread so far that the Communications and Marketing Department included a short story on the Chocolate Express in their campus wide update.

Foundation Center Workshop

The library hosted a workshop on October 25, 2008 sponsored by the National Foundation Center entitled "Foundation Fundraising: An Introductory Course." The workshop was combined with a site visit by the national center inspecting our cooperative collection. The site visit review was uniformly positive.