

Fall 2003

## Library Focus (Fall 2004)

University Libraries

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# LIBRARY FOCUS

University Libraries

The University of Southern Mississippi

Fall 2004

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## The State of the Library Materials Budget

--Sherry Laughlin, Head, Information Services

Annual cost increases for journal titles, including some 50% increases during the last year, have seriously eroded the purchasing power of the library's budget for books, journals, and media. Kay Wall, University Librarian, made a presentation to the President's Cabinet in September and again to the Faculty Senate in November, where she laid out the problem in detail.

In past years, library materials funds, including costs for specific journal titles, were allocated to colleges. The colleges were responsible for managing their journal purchases in order to stay within their allocations. Typically, scholars in the sciences rely more heavily on journal literature than do scholars in the humanities and the social sciences, who tend to rely more on books for their research. Some departments in the sciences have cut journal titles in each of the past 14 years or have transferred departmental funds to the library in order to avoid additional journal cuts. At the same time, researchers in the humanities and social sciences have seen their allocations for books dwindle each year.

**How did this happen?** The library's budget for materials has remained essentially flat for many years, while annual inflation rates on journals have averaged 10 to 12%, escalating recently in some instances into the 50% range.

Additionally, new academic programs initiated over the years without additional funds for new library resources means the static budget pie has to be cut in yet more pieces. And, just as important, since the late 1980s, we've seen an explosion of information in many new and wonderful formats: cd-rom databases, online full text databases, electronic journals and books, and media formats such as DVD. Sometimes these new formats replace the old ones. Sometimes they must co-exist with the older formats, at least for a while. And, always, the new formats are more expensive.

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**What are we doing about it?** The library has initiated several efforts aimed at making the most of our materials budget.

- We participate in MAGNOLIA, a multi-type library cooperative, funded directly by the Mississippi legislature at about \$1 million. MAGNOLIA provides a core collection of online databases for all Mississippi citizens, kindergarten through graduate school. Our library contributes to MAGNOLIA by appointing librarians to committees that select the databases, by providing technical support and web site design and maintenance, and by teaching training sessions around the state.
- We participate in a purchasing consortium of Mississippi academic libraries that negotiates bulk pricing on common databases for all state-supported university libraries in Mississippi.
- In 2001 we contracted with a document delivery vendor that provides single articles to us for a per article fee which includes copyright payments. This gives us speedy access to articles from many more journals than we own, and in some cases, has enabled us to save money by canceling very expensive titles. This is the rent instead of own philosophy of library collection building.
- We have an active interlibrary loan/document delivery service which works with a network of libraries around the world to provide faculty and graduate students with free journal articles. Libraries enter into agreements whereby they supply free articles to each other.
- Advances in technology have provided opportunities for increased efficiency of operations. For example, ordering and processing of materials for all campuses is done in Hattiesburg. And many of our resources and services are provided to all Southern Miss faculty, staff and students regardless of location through a single web site, which has become the “front door” of our library for many.
- We are exploring alternate sources of funds for library materials, including vendor partnerships and a request that financial support for library materials be written into university grants where appropriate.

**Where do we stand now?** In order to get the best discounts on journals and databases, libraries often have to pay estimated prices in advance. This means that we usually don't know exactly what we are obligated to pay for our materials on subscription or standing order until late in the fiscal year. We have just received our largest journals invoice and we are working through it right now. When that work is done, around the end of the fall semester, we will have a better idea if there is any money for additional purchases.

Balancing the disparate needs of our scholars, faculty and students in all disciplines, has always been our most difficult and our best challenge, but it has never been more challenging than it is today. With the help of our departmental faculty liaisons we have identified \$60,000 in journal cuts that have been made this fiscal year. As part of the process of identifying titles that could be cut, a small number of new journal titles were also identified as essential to our academic programs. However, at this point, our highest priority has to be to find funds for the purchase of books for those disciplines that rely most heavily on books for research and teaching and who have been able to purchase nothing this year.

## *Want a Book With That Latte?*

--Sherry Laughlin, Head, Information Services

Cook Library has been a busy place during the 2004 Fall semester, but librarians and staff expect business to pick up considerably once the new Starbucks opens early in the spring semester 2005. Faculty, staff, and students looking for an early morning cup of joe before class, an afternoon pick-me-up latte or an after-night-class espresso will find what they are looking for just off the Cook Library lobby in the former study room space. The Cook Library Starbucks, the largest in Mississippi, will seat approximately 50 in a relaxing setting, featuring reading



tables, sofas and comfortable chairs. An assortment of pastries and your favorite Starbucks beverages will be available for sale during all hours the library is open.

Wireless Internet access in the building and Cook's book computers, available for check out from the Circulation desk, make checking email, surfing the Internet, and finishing that paper easy to do while you get your caffeine fix. Or meet your friends for a little socializing or an impromptu study session. The Cook Library Starbucks will be the place to be!

## **Genealogy Moves to Cook Library**

--Peggy Price, Head, Special Collections

**Patrons** delving into their family histories at University Libraries will find their resources have a new home. University Libraries has integrated the bulk of its Genealogy materials into the general collections within Cook Library. This move will enable the collection's users to access these materials during the more expansive hours of Cook Library. While genealogy books directly related to Mississippi remain in McCain's Mississippiana Collection, all other books and periodicals are now located in Cook Library. Book and periodical titles are listed and searchable via the online catalog [<http://anna.lib.usm.edu>] from within the library or through any Internet-accessible computer. Patrons may limit searches to Genealogy by selecting the "Advanced Search" option and the "Item Category 1" menu, which includes "Genealogy materials." For more detailed information regarding Genealogy research and Cook Library, please see our Quickguide or the more extensive Genealogy Q&A at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~spcol/genealogy.php>.

## ***Journal Use Study***

--Tracy Englert, Media Librarian



**Early** in the fall 2004 semester, the University of Southern Mississippi Libraries began an extensive study on the use of current journals by faculty, staff and students. Each day journals that are used in the Cook Library Reading Room are collected and reshelved. During the reshelving process, a barcode assigned to each journal title is scanned using a pocket pc with a scanner. The scanned barcode files are then uploaded daily into a journal use database that will facilitate efficient data management. All of the journals in the reading room are being studied, a total of 3807 journals. To allow for a comprehensive assessment of journal usage, electronic journal use and database usage will also be evaluated and studied to determine how those resources are being used in comparison to the print usage. As the budget for materials become tighter during this time of escalating journal prices, it is critical to measure the use of resources such as journals. The journal use data can be used to determine per use costs and assess the cost effectiveness of current journal subscriptions.

# Plagiarism Detection Software Available for Faculty



--Sherry Laughlin, Head, Information Services

**A popular plagiarism** detection software, Turnitin, is being made available for faculty through the University Libraries' Web site. The software, which compares student papers to a database of other students' writing, the Internet, and many common full text journals that are available in the University Libraries' collections, will be available for use late in the fall semester.

An originality report is generated by Turnitin for each student paper submitted. This report shows the percentage of text within that paper that closely resembles text from other sources. Using these reports, the faculty member can compare the text of the student's paper side by side with the original source to determine whether plagiarism has occurred.

The Turnitin software can also be used as a teaching tool by identifying cases of unintentional plagiarism. Information that instructors receive about student papers from Turnitin may indicate a need for class discussions about the proper use of source materials and about the necessity for citing and documenting sources.

University Libraries has developed a plagiarism tutorial which can also be used as a teaching tool. Available on the University Libraries' Web site at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/research/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php#tis> the tutorial measures a student's knowledge of plagiarism, provides information, and then tests what the student has learned. If a faculty member requires a class to take the plagiarism tutorial, results of the post test can be emailed to the faculty member.

Academic department accounts will be set up in Turnitin and logins and passwords will be made available to department chairs. Detailed instructions on using the software are available at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/research/plag/turnitin/index.htm>, and training sessions will be offered for faculty and teaching assistants. For more information, contact Mary Beth Applin [mary.applin@usm.edu](mailto:mary.applin@usm.edu) or Laura Simpson [laura.simpson@usm.edu](mailto:laura.simpson@usm.edu).

# Hidden Treasures

--Carol Green, Serials Librarian

Many library users are familiar with the more mundane microform sources such as newspapers or periodicals. They may not realize the range of interesting and unusual resources to be found in the microform cabinets of Cook Library.

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Interested in political history? Take a look at these.

- *Appointment Book of President Kennedy (1961-1963)*
  - *Manhattan Project, Official History and Documents*
  - *The MAGIC Documents: Summaries and Transcripts of the Top-Secret Diplomatic Communications of Japan, 1938-1945*
- 

Many resources are cross-disciplinary. For example, these titles provide information not only on women's history but also gender studies, suffrage, social reform, politics, British history, Southern history, Early American history, and African American history.

- *American Women's Diaries, Southern Women*
  - *Women and Victorian Values, 1938-1910: Advice Books, Manuals, and Journals for Women*
  - *Women, Suffrage and Politics: the Papers of Sylvia Pankhurst, 1882-1960*
  - *Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War, Series A-D*
  - *Plantation Records*
  - *Black Biographical Dictionaries, 1790-1950*
- 

If the arts are more to your liking, the collection contains musical scores by composers such as Berlioz, Chopin, Liszt, and Mendelssohn. Theatre majors might be interested in *Three Centuries of English and American Plays, 1500-1830* and *The Index of American Design* contains approximately 18,000 renderings of American decorative arts objects from the colonial period through the nineteenth century.

These and countless other resources are available in the microform collection located in the Reading Room of Cook Library. Search Anna to find materials in a particular subject area or browse through the cabinets to see what hidden treasures you can find.



## Is Google's New Search Right For You?

--Laura Simpson, Information Services Librarian

Chances are that sometime in the past few weeks, you've heard about Google Scholar. Google Scholar (available at <http://scholar.google.com>) is a new service which is intended



to make scholarly and scientific material available to everyone via the open Web. Most librarians agree that Google Scholar shows potential as a research tool. However, there is simply not much free, full-text scholarly content on the web. The lack of available material on the open Web is primarily why academic libraries spend hundreds of thousands of dollars per year on subscriptions to online databases.

Google Scholar is essentially a more focused way to search Google. Its search engine can lead you to whatever open-access scholarly material is already available on the Web. In this, Google Scholar is similar to other academic search engines such as Infomine. The novelty of Google Scholar lies in the fact that Google has contracted with some publishers of electronic journals to make article abstracts available on those publishers' sites, for free. This type of material would normally be invisible to a regular Internet search engine.

When you search for a topic on Google Scholar, you might end up on a publisher's Web site where you can view free citation information about the article, as well as an abstract. However, access to the full text of the article is limited to journal subscribers. Those who want the article right away will be asked to pay the publishers for access (it is not unusual for articles to cost up to \$40). In a nutshell, the main problem with relying on Google Scholar is that your library may already have a subscription to the journal in question. Google Scholar also does not offer all the advanced searching capability of the library subscription databases. Without a way to focus or narrow your search, you may pull up more search results on Google Scholar than you can possibly wade through.

Beginning researchers should be wary. Before you pull out your credit card, remember that you should never pay for anything before checking with the Southern Miss Libraries. Even if we don't own the journal, we can get the article for you at little or no cost through our document-delivery services.

Google Scholar, however, may be a useful tool if you are looking for technical reports and preprints of certain papers which may be available for free on the web. Google Scholar also has the ability to pull records from the WorldCat database. Google's citation analyzer can scan the full text of articles on the Web (even articles which are "hidden" within a publisher's site). If an article references a particular book, Google will include the WorldCat record for that book among the search results. Clicking on "Library Search" next to the WorldCat record yields a list of libraries which own that book.



Google Scholar may develop considerably in the future, but it is currently in its nascent stages. At some point down the road, we may be able to click on a search result in Google Scholar which would take us directly to the full-text version owned by the Southern Miss Libraries. But for now, that isn't possible. Have fun exploring Google Scholar if you like, but remember that free material on the Web can't really substitute for the resources of a university library.

## The de Grummond 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Book Fair

--Ginamarie Pugliese, Curator, de Grummond Collection

Open your child's imagination and inspire their creativity by giving them the gift of reading this holiday season. The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection is sponsoring the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Book Fair in the exhibition room on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of McCain Library and Archives on Sunday, December 5, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. and Monday, December 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The book fair will have numerous works on display for you to peruse and consider—books for any age or interest—by many of your children's best-loved authors and illustrators. Ordering is simple and easy with the computers provided in the gallery, or you can take one of our book lists home to order at your leisure either online or through your local bookstore.

Please join us at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Book Fair and encourage the children in your life to travel into outer space, solve a cotton candy crisis, learn about Irish legends, or run away with the circus—come, join us in encouraging children to appreciate the adventure of reading.



Cover Art from a design by Maud and Miska Petersham in the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection