

Fall 2007

Library Focus (Fall 2007)

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Recommended Citation

University Libraries, "Library Focus (Fall 2007)" (2007). *Library Focus*. Book 32.
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Library Focus

University Libraries | Fall 2007

THE UNIVERSITY OF
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THE LEARNING CENTER: A Reconfigured Space at the Gulf Park Library

—EDWARD MCCORMACK, INTERIM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

The Southern Miss Gulf Park Campus in Long Beach reopened on Aug. 22, almost two years after Hurricane Katrina. The devastating natural disaster that leveled entire coastal communities caused massive damage to the Gulf Park library, completely washing out its ground floor.

The Gulf Park Campus Library is scheduled for reopening in November 2007. In the interim, the library has been operating out of the Gulf Coast Student Service Center in Gulfport since October 2005.

Lessons learned from Katrina have been incorporated into the building's new design. Prior to the hurricane, the Gulf Park campus library's first floor housed portions of the collection, a service desk and a computer lab. The first floor is being reconfigured as a Learning Commons, a collaborative learning environment connecting students, staff and faculty with research tools and information. It will expand the range of services that the library provides and enhance visibility to the librarians and staff.

The Learning Commons is modeled on an emerging trend in modern libraries. Open, stocked with comfortable seating and wireless technology, the Learning Commons is a new approach to how information seekers interact with the physical space of libraries.

The Southern Miss Gulf Park Learning Commons will provide workstations for both individuals and groups. It will also support access to and the creation of information through a variety of resources including a high-tech presentation room, a computer lab, laptop loans, a proctoring classroom, a writing and speaking center, and a coffee café!



Gulf Coast Student Service Center

Overall, the Learning Commons is designed to be a user-centered facility that operates as a one-stop shopping location for information consumers. No longer will the Gulf Park campus library be merely a repository for books with a few computers. This new approach will transform the building into a vibrant, active cultural hub for the Southern Miss Gulf Park campus.

Katrina Research Center

Beginning in November, a portion of the Gulf Park campus library's third floor will house The Katrina Research Center.

- The Katrina Research Center gathers and archives information concerning the natural, physical, social, political and economic effects of Hurricane Katrina, as well as other natural disasters, and the subsequent rebuilding efforts.
- The Katrina Research Center includes a historical collection of various materials and offers research opportunities to both scholars and the public.

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Library Focus is published during the spring and fall semesters by University Libraries.
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The Learning Center *(continued)*

- The Katrina Research Center also provides education services to promote and support learning about the recovery and enhancement of the Gulf Coast community following Hurricane Katrina and other disasters.

Enhancing other collections and services

Other enhancements to the Gulf Park library include moving The Heritage Room, containing the collections and memorabilia of the Gulf Park

College for Women, to the second floor, reducing its vulnerability to natural disasters.

Books, journals and film titles are also being relocated from the Cook Library in Hattiesburg to the Gulf Park library in support of the film degree program, which moved fall 2007 to the Gulf Coast. This degree is the first step in building a comprehensive new entertainment industry program that will educate students on the Gulf Coast.

Document Delivery: New Look and Services

The fall semester has brought a new look for Document Delivery and the ILLiad software. Document Delivery now provides a more user-friendly visual approach for patrons looking for materials to assist in their research.

- A new format allows for easier tracking of current requests.
- A search feature has been added that allows patrons to locate previous requests by transaction number or by key words.
- RSS feeds for notifications and alerts, as well as an internal history of e-mails, allows patrons to both track their requests and stay connected with the Document Delivery office.

The new look and tools are not the only new features associated with Document Delivery this semester. Off-campus delivery of library materials has been added to the Eagle Express Services.

—BRIDGET REEVES, DOCUMENT DELIVERY BORROWING SPECIALIST

Eagle Express previously provided on-campus delivery of materials for faculty and staff. This new service further assists patrons that live over 30 miles from the university campus by mailing library materials directly to their homes. Additionally, the Eagle Express hold request can be used by graduate students, faculty and staff members to request items to be pulled and held within the library.

Any item from the circulating collection may be requested through these Eagle Express services with the exclusion of selected items such as bound journals, DVD players, headphones and laptops.

For those interested in additional information concerning these new services, policy pages are available through the ILLiad Eagle Express request pages; or contact the Document Delivery department directly at DocDel@lib.usm.edu or by phone at 601.266.4256.

New Depository Access to Reports Technical and Scientific

—TRACY ENGLERT, MEDIA LIBRARIAN



University Libraries now offers the Southern Miss community free access to online technical reports from 1964-2000 published by the National Technical Information Service.

These reports are research produced by laboratories, university departments, consultants and government agencies under contract to the U.S. government.

Due to our status as a depository library, over 240,000 NTIS publications are now available through Document Delivery by choosing the NTIS/GPO Depository Request option. Subject areas covered include physics, environmental pollution and control, nuclear science and technology, medicine and biology, energy, chemistry, materials science, natural resources and earth sciences, computers and information theory, and behavior and society.

New Databases and Expanded Electronic Resources Available

—SHIRLENE STOGNER, INFORMATION SERVICES LIBRARIAN

University Libraries is pleased to announce the addition of two new databases, the Cochrane Library and Facts on File.

The Cochrane Library is a collection of databases in medicine and health care. At its core is a database of systematic reviews and meta-analyses that summarize and interpret the results of high-quality medical research. Cochrane makes the results of well-conducted clinical trials and other studies of intervention readily available. It is a key resource in evidence-based health care.

The Facts on File series of databases include:

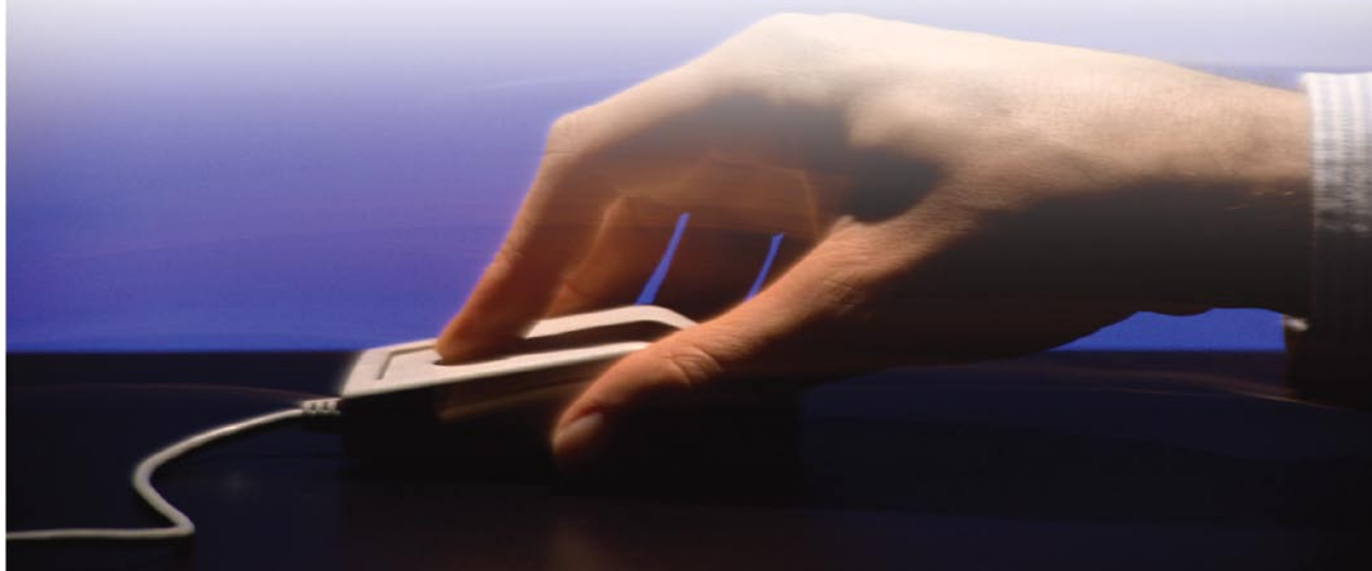
- *Facts on File World News Digest* provides a live Reuters® newsfeed and “Top Stories” timelines linked to original coverage of news stories back to October 1940. Other features include Country Profiles, Key People, Key Events and Key Issues.
- *Facts on File Issues and Controversies* provides full-text access to articles on hundreds of controversial topics. It also features statistical overviews and pros and cons of important topics of debate. Full-text coverage begins in 1995 and is updated biweekly.
- *Facts on File Issues and Controversies in American History* provides full-text articles on controversial topics, covering 1600 to the present. Features such as biographies, timelines, photographs and maps supplement the curriculum-based coverage of historical events. It also gives the points of view on all sides of the debates as they were publicly or officially declared at the time.

- *Facts on File Today's Science* features overview articles linked to detailed news coverage, illustrations, editorial cartoons, an automatic glossary, Hot Topics, scientist biographies and curriculum materials targeting multiple grade levels. Full-text coverage begins in 1992 and is updated weekly.

These Internet-based electronic resources are accessible through the University Libraries' Web page.

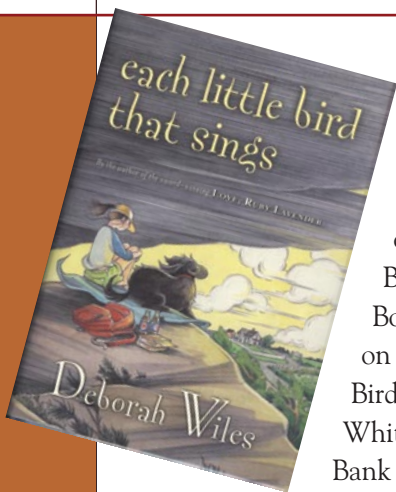
Services for the following databases have also been upgraded:

- *ISI Web of Science (Citation Indexes)* increased to unlimited number of users and added the Journal Citation Reports.
- *JSTOR* added the Arts & Sciences V Collection, including a number of important literary reviews and state historical journals.
- *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center* increased to unlimited the number of users.
- *ProQuest Digital Dissertations* increased to unlimited number of users and added full-text access to non-Southern Miss dissertations when available.
- *SciFinder Scholar* increased number of users from three to six and added the SciFinder Substructure Module.



Mississippian and Noted Children's Author to Speak at Southern Miss Honors Forum

—ELLEN RUFFIN, DE GRUMMOND CURATOR



Deborah Wiles, a native Mississippian and National Book Award Finalist, will be the featured speaker at the Honors Forum on Tuesday, Dec. 4. “Each Little Bird That Sings” was a National Book Award finalist and appears on 22 state book award lists. “Little Bird” is also winner of the E.B. White Read Aloud Award and the Bank Street Fiction Award.

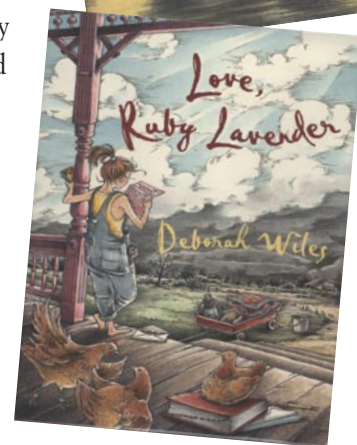
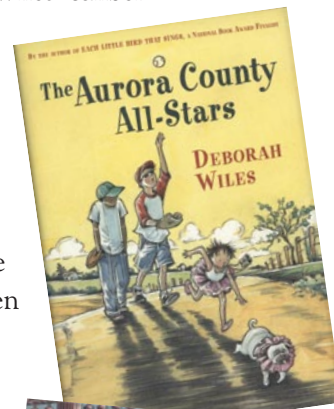
Currently on tour with her latest publication, “The Aurora County All-Stars,” Wiles will be making a stop in Hattiesburg. Along with the Honors Forum, Wiles will meet with three groups of students from Hattiesburg Public School District.

“Hattiesburg students benefit from the presence of The University of Southern Mississippi,” said Dr. Alan Oubre, executive director of Support Services for the Hattiesburg Public School District. “The fact that our students will be involved in reading quality literature and having the opportunity to meet with

and hear an author of Ms. Wiles’ caliber is one more example of that benefit.”

Grades three and four will read “Love, Ruby Lavender,” while grades five and six will read “Each Little Bird That Sings.” The final group from grades seven and eight will read “The Aurora County All-Stars.”

Her book, “Love, Ruby Lavender,” is an ALA and NCTE Notable Book, winner of a Parent’s Guide Children’s Media Award, one of the New York Public Library’s “100 Titles for Reading and Sharing,” and has appeared on 26 state book award lists voted on by children.



University Libraries Begin Search for New Leadership

—TISHA ZELNER, HEAD, INFORMATION SERVICES

During The University of Southern Mississippi’s Fall Convocation on Sept. 13, 2007, President Martha Saunders announced that, upon the recommendation of Interim Provost Middlebrooks, Saunders has approved the change of title of university librarian to that of dean of the University Libraries. Saunders went on to say that doing so will yield the strongest possible pool of candidates for the vacant position.

The dean of University Libraries search committee includes representatives of each of the libraries’ various constituents, including faculty, staff, students and the local community, as well as each department within University Libraries. The search committee is chaired by Jeanne Gillespie, associate dean for Academic Affairs for the College of Arts and Letters. Search committee members include Denise M. Brown, Graduate Council; Mary Lux, Academic

Council; Bill Scarborough, Faculty Senate; Suzy Elkins, Staff Council; Dennis Conklin and Halima Welch, representing the students; Stella Wheat, representing the community; Allisa Beck, Gulf Coast Library; Kaylene Behm, Access Services; Ann Branton, Bibliographic Services; Peggy Price, Special Collections; Joyce Shaw, Gunter Library; Barton Spencer, Electronic Resources; and Tisha Zelner, Information Services. The search committee held its first meeting on Sept. 12, 2007.

The vacancy will be advertised nationally, beginning in early October 2007. On-campus interviews with finalists are likely to occur in February 2008, with the new dean of University Libraries expected to begin no later than July 1, 2008. Edward McCormack, director of The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Library, has been serving as interim university librarian.

Live From the Archive: Connecting Research Collections to Scholars, Students and the Public

—PEGGY M. PRICE, HEAD, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

University Libraries introduced a new lecture series this fall. Speakers represent the creators, contributors, scholars and writers who lend significance and value to a research library by donating their works, composing narratives out of piles of facts and dates, and teaching us about our past through unlikely sources. The talks are designed to be casual affairs, with light refreshments, ample time toward the end for questions, and samples from the archive on display. Librarians and archivists collect and preserve our cultural heritage, but it is folks like editorial cartoonist Ricky Nobile, railroad scholar Gilbert Hoffman and food culture historian Andrew Haley who make the artifacts matter.

Did you know the Library owns thousands of original editorial cartoons? Syndicated editorial cartoonist Ricky Nobile explored the wit and craft behind the hybrid of journalism and art in his talk, “Editorial Cartoons: Methods, Materials, and Ideas,” on Sept. 27. Mr. Nobile drew for the Student Printz when he attended Southern Miss from 1968-1971. His work now appears in 35 Mississippi newspapers, as well as the Mississippi Business Journal. The Harvard Political Review, Best Editorial Cartoons and other books and magazines have published Nobile’s cartoons.

Another major collecting area for the McCain Library and Archives is the railroad and timber industry. Hattiesburg was founded on railroad tracks and was called the “Hub City” because of its central

location on the rail lines. Dr. Gilbert Hoffman spoke on the history of sawmill and logging railroads of Hattiesburg with historic photographs of J.J. Newman and Tatum Lumber Companies. Dr. Hoffman has been researching the sawmill industry for 35 years and has written several books about the topic including “Dummy Lines through the Longleaf: A History of the Sawmills and Logging Railroads of Southwest Mississippi” and “Steam Whistles in the Piney Woods: A History of the Sawmills and Logging Railroads of Forrest and Lamar Counties, Mississippi.” His archives are housed in McCain Library and Archives.

The final installment of the fall series takes place Nov. 8 in room 123 of Cook Library from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Dr. Andrew Haley will present “Dining à la Card Catalog: Researching and Writing Culinary History.” In recent years, librarians and historians have discovered food history. In this talk, Dr. Haley examines three types of resources, all held by the University Libraries, that demonstrate the exciting opportunities available for enthusiasts of culinary history. Drawing on research for a new book on late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century dining in America, the presentation explores evidence of the changing attitude towards ethnic eating found in menus, the evolving nature of childhood revealed by children’s cookbooks and the growing importance of middle-class consumers evidenced by restaurant reviews.

Library Research Forum

—MIAO JIN, CATALOG LIBRARIAN

The Library Research Work Group sponsored the 2nd Annual Library Research Forum on Aug. 31 at Cook Library in conjunction with the University Research Council’s LETTERS Day (Lives Enriched Through Their Endeavors: Research and Scholarship). LETTERS Day is an annual university-wide event held to recognize the outstanding research activities of the Southern Miss faculty.

The Library Research Forum is an opportunity for the library’s faculty to present their research activities to the university. Research projects presented this year included:

- “An Assessment Model to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Services Provided by Units in Technical Service,” Ann Branton, head of Bibliographic Services.
- “Metadata for an Institutional Repository: A Model for Application,” Linda Ginn, catalog librarian.
- “How are Disabled Characters Portrayed in Children’s Books? An Examination of Characters with Disabilities in Picture Books and Picture Story Books housed in the deGrummond Collection Published between 1966-2006,” Susan Sanford, a recent graduate from the School of Library and Information Science.

Curious about the Library at Golden Eagle Welcome Week

—ADRIENNE MCPHAUL, INFORMATION SERVICES LIBRARIAN

Hundreds of new students poured into the library on Aug. 20 and it wasn't just for the coffee! Book discussions were held for Golden Eagle Welcome Week in every available space. GEWW teams crammed into study rooms and Starbucks, draped themselves across soft chairs and even sat on the floor to talk about what they had read.

Students also signed up for door prizes of Starbucks gift certificates, \$25 print cards and de Grummond collection T-shirts, while others relived their favorite childhood book with Curious George. The giant stuffed monkey left his home in the de Grummond Children's literature collection to sit in the lobby and pose for pictures for two days.



University Libraries Administers LibQUAL+ User Survey

—SHERRY LAUGHLIN, ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN



During the fall semester 2007, University Libraries will administer a library assessment survey called LibQUAL+. Grounded in service-quality research in the retail industry, LibQUAL+ is an international

measure of user responses to the services offered by libraries. Over the past eight years, the LibQUAL+ survey has been filled out by over 1 million library users at over 1,000 libraries all over the world.

The survey was developed by Texas A&M University Libraries and the Association of Research Libraries with the support of a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education.

LibQUAL+ measures library users' perceptions of three dimensions of library service quality.

- **Affect of Service**, which includes such service attributes as empathy, responsiveness and reliability of services.
- **Information Control**, which measures the scope of information content provided by the library, convenience and timeliness of services, and user self-reliance as related to library services and resources.

- **Library as Place**, which surveys user responses to the physical environment of the library, as well as perceptions of the library.

For each question on the survey, respondents determine a minimum acceptable service level, a desired service level and a perceived service level. Analysis of responses can reveal specific service areas where the library falls short of or exceeds user expectations. In addition to the survey questions, an opportunity is provided for respondents to make comments. These comments add texture and are very helpful in interpreting the data.

In addition to pinpointing specific areas in a library that need improvement, the data collected from LibQUAL+ surveys can also be analyzed in other ways. Since over 1,000 libraries have participated in the survey, it is possible to benchmark one library's responses against peers or against norms. Successive surveys over a period of years allow a library to chart its performance over time.

University Libraries participated in the LibQUAL+ survey in 2003 and in 2005. We hope that you will fill out a 2007 survey during the month of November. Links to the survey will be sent to faculty, staff and students by e-mail and the survey will also be accessible on the library's Web site at www.lib.usm.edu.

Reading for Fun with the Popular Reading Collection

—JENNIFER BRANNOCK, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARIAN

Looking for something to read in your spare time? Want some ideas to spice up dinner? Need some escapist literature to take you away from those term papers and tests? Check out the Popular Reading Collection on the first floor of Cook Library.

There are approximately 1,000 books in the collection 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 the 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 to see what titles are available. If you are searching for a specific title, go into the library's online catalog, ANNA, and perform a "title begins with" search.

You can always browse the titles from your computer.

- From the ANNA home page (anna.lib.usm.edu), go to Advanced Search.
- Go to "type" and click on "Popular Reading" in the drop-down menu.

- Hit "enter" and you will be provided with a list of every book in the 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 titles for the collection, please contact Peggy Price at Peggy.Price@usm.edu or 601.266.5077.



Library Instruction at a Distance

—ADRIENNE MCPHAUL, INFORMATION SERVICES LIBRARY

Departments on all the Southern Miss campuses can bring their classes to the library for research sessions, but did you know that the University Libraries can help with your online classes as well?

Many instructors take advantage of electronic reserves, full-text databases, online journals, electronic books and online tutorials but only a few have realized they can have their very own librarian in the Blackboard learning system!

By adding a librarian as a teaching assistant to your online class, your students can directly contact the librarian for help. You can even create an "Ask A Librarian" category on your discussion board where librarians can post custom guides and tutorials created

based on your syllabus. This is also a great place to answer questions posted by students.

Librarians can participate in scheduled chat sessions as needed and are trained to conduct WIMBA live classroom sessions to show students how to navigate online library resources.

For more information on the University Libraries distance services, go to www.lib.usm.edu/services/distance_education.html.

To consult with a librarian today about how your students can have access to a librarian in your online class, go to www.lib.usm.edu/services/forms/library_instruction_request.html.



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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 earlier 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!