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LIBRARY FOCUS

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Interview With Dr. Horace Fleming

Q What is the role of the university library in the academic community?

A The university library is at the center of the university, physically and programmatically. Libraries reflect much of what a university is. It is more than a repository of knowledge, however. It is the linkage among us all to a larger world of information. I consider libraries to be on a par with academic programs in all other respects. We need to keep our library resources current substantively and with respect to technology.



Q How can USM deal with the rising costs of journal subscriptions and the increasing need to expand access to electronic resources?

A We must do more to acquire online services, to reduce costs, and to share with other repositories in this fashion. The Galileo system in Georgia is a prime example of how the rising costs of library and information services can be controlled by pooling resources.

Q Can you tell us about a personal experience you have had in using a library?

A All of my experiences in using libraries have been very good. I am a frequent user of OSCAR and have experience with previous systems (like LOUIS) and have used LEXIS and other such systems.

Q Do you have a favorite book you would like to recommend, and why would you recommend it?

A I especially enjoy biographies and am currently reading the new book by Peter Bourne on Jimmy Carter. I just finished the new biography of Pope John Paul and look forward to starting the biography of Jimmy Stewart, a terrific actor. One of the most interesting books I have read is Tad Szulc's book on Castro, and I especially enjoy William Manchester's works. I read fairly widely, however, and include Shakespeare and classics among the fare I enjoy.

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The Reading Room

If you want to see a copy of the local newspaper or the latest issue of your favorite magazine, the Reading Room, located on the second floor of Cook Library, is the place to go. Find a comfortable chair and enjoy. The Reading Room was created to make the library more convenient for patrons by combining all current periodicals, both paper and microform, in one location.



The Reading Room contains current and bound periodicals from the most recent four years. For easy browsing by subject, these journals are arranged in Library of Congress call number order on display shelving. Current unbound periodicals occupy the top shelves and are held in place with clear plastic holders that list the call number, the journal title, and information such as "Back issues are on microfiche." Bound periodicals from the past three years can be found below each current title on the lower shelves in the Reading Room, while periodicals more than four years old are located in the stack areas of floors two through five. Six public OSCAR terminals are available for call number and holdings information, and the staff is in the process of preparing LC browsing guides for the various subject areas. A separate security system at the Reading Room entrance controls the exit of materials from the area. Four copy machines, one that is coin operated and another that accepts departmental codes for faculty and staff use, are in the area. Copy cards can be purchased at the Circulation Desk on the first floor, but money can be added to copy cards in the Reading Room.

Newspapers are located in the front right corner of the Reading Room. There are 26 active subscriptions, including the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, the Atlanta Constitution, the Memphis Commercial Appeal, and the New Orleans Times Picayune. Eleven current Mississippi newspapers, formerly located in the Mississippi Room of McCain Library, are now in the Reading Room. These include current subscriptions to the newspapers in Hattiesburg, Jackson, Biloxi, Laurel, Meridian, Natchez, Greenville, Columbus, Starkville, and Oxford. The latest editions of daily newspapers are kept on poles near the desk for the convenience of patrons. Paper copies of current subscriptions are retained until the microfilm editions are received. The University Libraries collect daily and weekly newspapers in the lower third of the state, while newspapers from the remainder of Mississippi are collected by Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi. The Reading Room also has a number of foreign language newspapers and periodicals.

The microform collection consists of periodicals, newspapers, government documents, and a classified Library of Congress section. It is recognized as one of the largest microform collections in a university library in the United States. Some notable sets in this collection include American Statistical Index, Index to International Statistics, Statistical Reference Index, Black Biographical Dictionary, Newsbank and ERIC documents. Phonefiche is a current set of white and yellow pages of telephone directories from many major U.S. cities. College catalogs from all American colleges and universities are on microfiche. The Library of American Civilization, Early American Imprints, and Sabin's Dictionary of Books Relating to America are three historical collections located in the Reading Room.

Original source materials include Presidential Papers from George Washington to Calvin Coolidge, diplomatic records of the U.S. and foreign governments, and many personal memoirs. The U.S. Congressional Serial Set, in both microcard and microfiche format, the Greenwood Congressional Hearings, and Congressional Information Service documents contain the records of Congress from 1789 to 1981. More recent legislation, congressional hearings, and committee reports are on microfiche in the government documents section. The Daily Congressional Record and the Federal Register, as well as the Oral Arguments of the Supreme Court from 1959 to date, are also on microfiche.

Papers of the NAACP contain the records of meetings, annual conferences, major speeches and

correspondence through 1955. This major work includes information on the campaign for educational equality, voting rights, and discrimination in housing, the armed forces, and the criminal justice system. The American Slavery Papers is an extensive microcard collection of nineteenth century documents which includes speeches, sermons, narratives, and statistics relating to slavery. Mississippi materials in the Reading Room include microfilm copies of all USM doctoral dissertations. Genealogy microform materials and Mississippiana microfilm were recently transferred from McCain Library to the Reading Room. The collection includes early census records from Mississippi and other selected states. Service records from the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, as well as Confederate service records from the Civil War, are now located in the Reading Room. WPA Mississippi county histories, compiled during the depression years, provide extensive information for the historian.

The microform collection includes materials in microfilm, microfiche, and microcard formats. All microforms are arranged in LC call number order with the exception of periodicals on microfiche. This collection, located near the service desk, remains in alphabetical order by the title of the periodical. Ten Minolta reader/printers, with universal carriers for both microfilm and microfiche reproduction, are available. These machines have the capability of enlarging microforms from 9x to 80x. Two of the reader/printers are coin operated, and the others use copy cards. Additional microfilm, microfiche, and microcard viewers, along with viewing aids for the visually impaired and a Braille typewriter, are also housed in the Reading Room. Paper copy and microfiche can be viewed in an enlarged format.

Four staff members and 14 student employees are on duty 92 hours per week to assist patrons in locating and copying materials in the Reading Room. Reading Room employees provide individual assistance in the use of OSCAR and will help library users identify and locate periodical issues and microform collections. More extensive reference assistance is available in Information Services on the first floor.

*Eleanor Faulk Robin,
Reading Room Librarian*

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Spotlights: Reading Room

3955 - current periodical titles
2.9+ - million microforms
26 - current newspaper subscriptions
4 - copy machines
10 - microform reader/printers
9 - microfilm viewers
10 - microfiche viewers
2 - opaque viewers for microcards
1 - microcard copier
8 - group study rooms
113 - open carrels
128 - seating capacity at tables
13 - lounge chairs
4 - full time staff
14 - student assistants

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Government Info on the 'Net

One stop shopping has become a way of life in modern society. Super Walmarts and Super K Marts have changed the landscape of the business world and the shopping habits of the American consumer. Now, better late than never, the United States Government has hopped on the superstore bandwagon. *GPO Access*, an Internet site developed by the Government Printing Office, provides the consumer of government information a place to do his or her "one stop shopping."

Like the superstores that dot the landscape of America, *GPO Access* is accessible virtually everywhere, offering not quite everything under the sun. What you can find using *GPO Access* are the meat-and-potatoes products of the U.S. government in an appealing presentation.

Rather than trudging through puddles of water to the library (only to find that what you need will be available on microfiche in a few weeks), a simple search on the Internet will yield the full text of such government products as the *Federal Register*, the *Code of Federal Regulations*, the *Congressional Record*, and recent public laws, all available in your home or office.

The Internet has made it possible for government information to be transmitted to the consumer with little delay. Today's address by President Clinton will be available tomorrow online through the *Federal Register*. Last week's Senate debate is available today online through the *Congressional Record*. Even the 1998 federal budget has been available for weeks.

It's all searchable, too! The ease of access with *GPO Access* is what makes the service such a superstore. Looking for a federal regulation on waste disposal? Search the *Code of Federal Regulations*. Need to know what the law says about murder? Search the *U. S. Code*. Want to know what grants are available for women? Search the *Federal Register*. In the mood for surfing? Browse a subject list of government Internet sites.

Other agency information is increasingly becoming available online through the Government Printing Office Internet site. The popular series of country studies known as *Background Notes* from the State Department is now online. The latest agency to make its debut on the GPO site is the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

A word of caution, however. Historical information is not readily available online. It has just been within the last five years that the government has routinely placed information on the 'net. An electronic transition of all government information would be too costly, too time consuming, and perhaps not even possible. However, from today forward, it is likely that the majority of government information will be available in an electronic format of some kind. What this means for the consumer is easier access than ever before.

In order to view much of the information available through *GPO Access* and other government sites, users must have a program called *Adobe Acrobat*. This allows the computer to translate the information coming on the wire into an image on the computer screen that looks amazingly like the page of a book.

The Government Printing Office web site is not the only place to find government information. Here at USM, the Government Information web page provides links to government publications, cabinet homepages, the Congress, the Supreme Court, and the White House, just to name a few.

Well, are you convinced that one stop shopping is not only a convenience, but a reality? That old saying is true. The world really is at your fingertips. The only thing missing from the Internet superstore is the smiling face that greets you at the front door. For that, you'll have to make a personal trip to the library.

GPO Access

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aaces002.html

Government Printing Office

<http://www.access.gpo.gov>

USM's Government Information Homepage

<http://www.lib.usm.edu/docspg.html>

Download Adobe Acrobat

<http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>

Kim Hill

Government Information Librarian

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Music Resource Center

Located amidst the strains of music floating through the air from practice rooms in the Performing Arts Center is a bustling library known as the Music Resource Center (MRC).

The Music Resource Center provides services and resources to support the instructional programs in the College of The Arts. The College consists of the School of Music, the Department of Art, and the Department of Theatre and Dance. All four accredited areas offer programs leading to undergraduate and graduate degrees. Although the MRC resources primarily support the study and performance of music, the Center serves all areas of the arts as well as the University community.

Of the approximately 650 students enrolled in the College of The Arts, over 300 are music majors. Most faculty and students find that the MRC plays an integral part in the teaching and learning experience. The collection includes sound recordings, study and performance scores, and a small collection of reference books. The sound recording portion of the collection consists of over 1,000 compact disc recordings, 7,000 long playing records, and several hundred audiocassettes. The collection emphasizes European composers, but also includes significant holdings in the areas of jazz and blues music. Musicians interested in studying or performing musical works will find over 8,000 scores written for all instruments, including the human voice.

Faculty and students use the MRC in a variety of ways. During 1996, the MRC Specialist and four student assistants circulated 21,593 items to 12,094 users. Because sound recordings are used extensively in the classroom setting, they are checked out for a limited time to faculty only. However, most sound recordings are usually available for use in the Center by students. Faculty place sound recordings on reserve, and require students to listen to compositions as part of the course requirements. Musicians seeking to improve and enhance their performances often "read" a score while listening to the recording. This method helps them learn about other musicians' interpretations of the composition. Some users simply enjoy listening to music for relaxation on a busy day.

In 1993 the School of Music was selected as one of four Doctoral Centers of Excellence by the Vice President for Academic Affairs. In addition to bestowing recognition and honor, this designation also brought an increase to the library materials allocation. The school now receives a \$35,567.00 allocation, which is used to purchase books, periodicals, scores, librettos, compact disc recordings, and video and audio media. The Music Resource Center, located in Room 109 of the Performing Arts Center, is open 56 1/2 hours every week to serve all USM faculty, staff and students. Check the calendar on OSCAR for the current schedule.

*Pollyanne S. Frantz,
Media Services Librarian*

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Online Reference Service Available

The Information Services Department of Cook Library has launched a new service which allows individuals to submit questions electronically to librarians. This electronic reference service is known as AskUs and is available through the University Libraries' homepage (<http://www.lib.usm.edu/>). The goal of AskUs is to provide an additional access point for library information and to promote communication between patrons and the Information Services Department.

Librarians check for questions daily, and respond within 48 hours, excluding weekends and University holidays. The types of questions appropriate for AskUs are addresses, bibliographic verifications, and other short answer requests. Librarians give direct answers to questions if possible and in some situations may suggest sources for patrons to consult. Librarians cannot answer longer or more detailed research questions electronically. Patrons are encouraged to come to the library for complex information requests.

Other opportunities for electronic communication with the University Libraries are available. Comments can be submitted to the suggestion box on the University Libraries' homepage, and there are links to individual collections and libraries such as the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, the Manuscripts and Archives Collection, and the Teaching Learning Resource Center. E-mail addresses for contact persons are given. The URL for the University Libraries homepage is www.lib.usm.edu.

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Information Services Librarian*

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