Loving the library

By Lori White, vice president of student affairs

When I was a good little girl, my treat wasn’t candy or another hour of my favorite TV show, but a new book. My mother was a wise woman who instilled in me a love for reading by using books as positive reinforcement for good behavior.

I remember running as fast as my little legs would take me to the book rack at the supermarket to choose which book I wanted for my special treat. I don’t think I was old enough to read then, but I began to associate books with good things – the sound of my mother’s voice when she read to me, the sense of fun and adventure depicted in the stories and the lessons learned from the characters in the book.

My mother nurtured my love for books by signing me up for my first library card when I started elementary school. I read everything from mystery novels to encyclopedias. Reading was a way for me to spend time dreaming about becoming a young woman like Nancy Drew, who could solve complicated problems, or to imagine that I would one day visit a part of the world that I had never seen before.

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When I was an undergraduate and graduate student, my college library was one of my favorite places on campus. I loved looking through the card catalog to identify the books I needed for my research papers and then searching the stacks. Invariably I would find other related books that I would have never found if I had conducted only an online library search.

Today, I do not have the time to visit the library as much as I would like. I frequently use the virtual library available to me on my desktop computer. However, when I visit Fondren Library, I am amazed that our technologically-savvy library manages to keep all of what I have always loved about libraries – the cozy aroma of old books, helpful reference staff, places to browse and study, and volumes filled with stories of discoveries, adventure and imagination.

Without a doubt, this isn’t your grandmother’s library

Dean and Director of Central University Libraries Gillian McCombs keeps a wooden card catalog in her office suite. But it is not a reference tool. She keeps it for history and as a reminder of how much academic libraries have changed in the past 10 years.

McCombs and three other North Texas library leaders discussed library changes at a recent Friends of the SMU Libraries program, “This Isn’t Your Grandmother’s Library.”

Pattie Orr, dean of libraries and vice president of information technology at Baylor University, Gerald Saxon, dean of libraries at University of Texas, Arlington, and Sandy Miller, director of the Business Information Center at SMU, discussed the challenges and rewards of leading changing libraries.

Wooden card catalogs have been replaced by PONI, an online reference tool.

24-hour resource

Panelists agreed that today’s academic libraries never sleep. Students gather there 24 hours a day to study and collaborate on projects. Library electronic resources are always available to scholars around the world.

Gone are wooden card catalogs and long study tables, replaced by online search engines and computer stations.

Students and faculty access academic libraries online hundreds of times every day, but they may rarely enter library buildings, panelists agreed. Professors who once spent part of every week in library periodicals sections, scanning the latest academic journals, now read and search the libraries’ online subscriptions from their office computers. From their laptops in residence halls,
students search databases available only through the libraries’ online resources.

**Changing spaces**

“Our libraries at UTA are no longer book repositories,” Saxon says. UTA stores many of its rarely used books offsite and pulls and delivers books to patrons by request. Increasingly librarians are leaving their desks and roaming the library, taking their skills to patrons, he says. Reference librarians at UTA are available around the clock in person and by instant message.

Library space is prime real estate for study zones, says Pattie Orr. Students choose among areas designated for monastery quiet, hushed voices or collaborative spaces for the group projects that are increasingly assigned by faculty members.

When students look for places to practice group and individual presentations, they turn to libraries, Miller says. The Business Information Center at SMU contains a presentation practice area with the same podium technology as in classrooms in the Cox School of Business. The Center, which also includes a studio for podcast creation, houses few books, Miller says. “Technology brings people to our library.”

**All about access**

Technology may soon create a global library with digital resources from all over the world, Orr says. “Partnerships are critically important in libraries today. It’s all about access, not ownership.” Libraries are increasingly making special collections of rare resources available digitally, such as Baylor’s gospel music collection, she says.

**What lasts**

In the future, computer terminals may be replaced by the next wave of technology. A flat-screen monitor may take its place in history, next to the wooden card catalog in Gillian McCombs’ office. But the things patrons love the most about libraries will not change, she says. “Libraries will always be a place to reflect and open up the landscapes of the mind.”

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**BOOK LOVERS TAKE NEW YORK**

Private tours of New York’s best-loved libraries were highlights of a February New York trip for past and current members of the Central University Libraries Executive Board and the Friends of the SMU Libraries Board. Behind-the-scenes looks at the New York Public Library and the Morgan Library were highlights as well as a tour of the Grolier Club, America’s oldest and largest society for bibliophiles and graphic arts enthusiasts.

**A day in the life of a library**

3:30 a.m., Fondren Library A student yawns, then heads to the student lounge for a coffee break before returning to his reading in the first floor study area.

8 a.m., Dallas From her home office, a chemistry professor scans the latest chemistry journal articles displayed on her computer screen.

1 p.m., London, England A history graduate student studies CUL’s digital collection of WWII government documents.

11 p.m., Fondren Library Five students gather around a conference room table loudly debating the fine points of a group marketing project.

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*In the 1940s, SMU students searched card catalogs and gathered at study tables in Fondren Library.*

*Students these days gather at multimedia centers, computer terminals and group study areas.*
Writer and artist follows an ‘irrepressible stream’

Artwork and books cover the walls and tabletops of Judith Segura’s sunny North Dallas home; they include many of her own creations. One pastel drawing shows a pelican at White Rock Lake soaring on a sky of words: “Everything is the same. Everything is different.”

“Everything is the same, yet different, in that everything constantly changes,” says Segura, explaining a theme that runs through her art, poetry and books.

A member of the SMU Libraries Executive Board since 2004, Segura is putting the finishing touches on her newest book, a history of Dallas media company Belo Corp. before its recent spin-off, when it comprised 20 television stations; four daily newspapers, including The Dallas Morning News; and individual Web sites for all of the media outlets. Segura’s Belo: From Newspapers to New Media tells the story of Texas’ oldest company through biographies of its leaders since 1842, including Col. Alfred H. Belo, and will be published by the University of Texas Press this fall.

“With the incredible transition that today’s media are going through, this story offers the perspective that journalism has been evolving since the introduction of the printing press,” says Segura, who worked for the company from 1981 to 2005, most recently as Belo Foundation president. “Change hasn’t meant the sky is falling. Rather, it’s been an opportunity for ingenuity.”

The book is based on many years of interviews and boxes of corporate documents that Segura collected as Belo’s first archivist. In organizing those archives, she turned to area librarians for advice, including Gillian McCombs, dean and director of SMU’s Central University Libraries. “I learned that there’s no one blueprint for collections, but that they should be logical with a detailed list of contents,” Segura says. “Gillian said we’d done a good job, which was a great relief!”

Segura recalls discovering her love of libraries and language in college – first as an undergraduate at Texas A&M in Kingsville, then as a graduate student at the University of North Texas, where she earned Master’s degrees in English and art history, and painting and photography.

Her works since have included the CD “Ross & Pearl: Poems of Love & Loss,” art installations on the new University of North Texas at Dallas campus and numerous travel articles, drawings and hand-bound books of poetry. “Most of my work stays filed away in folders, but it’s just something I have to do – it’s an irrepressible stream.”

Segura is drawing on her broad experiences and passions for her next big project: organizing the archives of legendary Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens. “The more I learn about the past, the more hopeful I am that the next generation will figure out what needs to be done,” she says. “We always have.”

NEW AT HAMON: TV COMMERCIALS YOU WON’T WANT TO SKIP

A great TV commercial “goes through your skin, rather than through your brain. You feel it,” according to a judge of the 2006 Clio Awards, one of several new advertising “winners reels” available on DVD at the Hamon Arts Library.

Purchased with a grant from the Friends of the SMU Libraries, the reels include the 2007 Cannes Lion International Advertising Festival awards and One Club’s Best of Show 1990-2005. They feature commercials such as Budweiser’s “Whassup,” Nike’s “Bo Knows” and Honda’s “Power of Dreams” campaign.

“These ads are aspirational,” says Glenn Griffin, assistant professor at SMU’s Temerlin Advertising Institute. “They show what advertising can be and do, and which agencies are doing the best creative work.”

Griffin helped select the DVDs with Film, Theatre and Communications librarian Amy Turner, who supports Temerlin students in their research of companies, customers and trends. “With the reels in digital format, students and faculty can search easily for specific products and brands,” Turner says. “This is the start of a collection of highly regarded television advertising.”

Griffin, who teaches courses in creativity and portfolio development, says the reels will be used throughout Temerlin’s curriculum to help students recognize industry leaders, trends and standards of excellence.

“All good advertising, regardless of the medium, is based on a great core idea,” says Griffin, noting that Temerlin students have the rare opportunity to produce TV ads based on their ideas, in cooperation with Division of Cinema-Television students.

Griffin adds that he would argue with the Clio Awards judge that effective commercials make viewers feel and think. “The best creative work shouldn’t bypass the brain. After all, there’s skin covering that skull!”
Archives of Women of the Southwest marks milestones

Lucy Ann Thornton Kidd-Key ran a rigorous campus. As president of North Texas Female College from 1888 until her death in 1916, the Methodist bishop’s wife established strict rules — including mandatory church attendance and a ban on unchaperoned off-campus excursions — for the “genteel young ladies” who came to the Sherman, Texas, school to study fine arts. She enforced those rules with the help of a bell she used to summon students to her office.

Kidd-Key’s bell and her legacy as an educator are preserved as part of SMU’s Archives of Women of the Southwest, located in DeGolyer Library.

The archives include papers of notable women’s organizations and their leaders, as well as those of social and political reform movements and of outstanding women in the professions, the arts and voluntary service. Collections include the papers of real estate legend Ebby Halliday, Dallas journalists Lee Cullum and Julia Scott Reed, theYWCA of Dallas and the Tejas Girl Scout Council.

The size and importance of such collections point to the archives’ most urgent need: a full-time expert to continue cataloging work and to pursue additional acquisitions, says Russell Martin, DeGolyer Library director. The “Remember the Ladies!” campaign will establish a $1 million endowment toward that goal. U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison serves as honorary campaign chair.

In March the campaign celebrated reaching the halfway point of its $1 million goal. (See page 5.)

One collection is of special significance to the University — the records of Kidd-Key College and Conservatory. Renamed for Lucy Kidd-Key in 1919, the school that was chartered in 1876 as North Texas Female College closed in 1935. Its alumnae and history were adopted by SMU in a special ceremony in 1938. The Kidd-Key collection contains everything from official records, letters, transcripts and promotional materials to pennants, class photos, scrapbooks and regalia — right down to the bell that sat on Lucy Kidd-Key’s desk.

“It’s hard to overstate how important it is to have a dedicated archivist,” Martin says. “Cataloging the Kidd-Key College collection was a big milestone, especially with the significance those materials will have as we prepare for SMU’s centennial celebration. Yet we had to accomplish that with the help of a graduate student working under staff supervision. We simply have more collections to catalog than we have staff time to devote to them. A full-time expert on the archives will be crucial to making all of this information accessible.”

For more information on supporting the campaign, contact Anne Brabham at 214-768-7874 or abrabham@smu.edu. Or visit smu.edu/giving/libraries_ladies.asp to contribute to the campaign online.

STUDENTS PLAY KEY Role in Library Planning

Thanks to the suggestions of Central University Libraries’ student advisory council, popular SMU library services such as round-the-clock study hours, gourmet coffee machines and a wireless outdoor courtyard were initiated.

The group was formed in 1999 and meets monthly with library staff to discuss library services. Students volunteer to become members.

“They provide a ready and willing volunteer base to participate in library planning, serve on space planning groups and help with the strategic planning process,” says CUL Dean and Director Gillian M. McCombs. “Students from this group have ended up working here as support staff and librarians.”

The student lounge with vending machines, suggestion boxes, longer borrowing periods for media materials and the relocation of media from the Norwich Center for Digital Services to the Fondren Library Center circulation desk also were inspired by the council’s suggestions.

Council members use the libraries in different ways — history major Shelby Justl recently checked out 30 books as resources for a paper. Business major Jessica Robinson rarely checks out books but relies on electronic resources at the Business Information Center. Anthropology major Ben Wells often studies at Fondren at 3 a.m. But all have ideas for library staff.

At a recent meeting, student council members asked that library staff consider “no cell phone zones” in the library, create nearby nighttime parking places and purchase comfortable furniture conducive to long hours of studying. Others suggested placing recycling bins near every printer and adding stand-up computer terminals in high-traffic areas to free terminals for other users.

Students of the generation known for relying on debit cards instead of cash had one other request: “Could we create an emergency fund for printing?”

Most had been stranded at the library printer short on time and cash. They were glad to hear from Tim Silcox, director of public services, that the reference desk saves leftover printer cards and makes them available for emergencies.
Senior Sara Stringfellow had been using Web sites such as Facebook and MySpace to showcase her acting experience and announce upcoming shows. Creating her own Web page seemed too difficult until she visited the new student multimedia center, part of the Norwick Center for Digital Services at Fondren Library. “I created a Web page for my playwriting class at the center with the help of their staff,” says the senior theatre major from Tampa, Florida. “I never knew how easy it could be. Having this Web page has definitely made it easier to get my name out professionally.”

For Rob Walker, manager of the Norwick Center for Digital Services, Stringfellow’s example is one of many success stories since the center’s opening. Formerly known as the Norwick Center for Media and Instructional Technology (CMIT), the center’s new name corresponds with its new digital services for students. “We realized that students needed variety – a place to work that went beyond having a room filled with computers,” says Bill Dworaczyk, director of the Norwick Center.

The center features 12 creation stations with 24-inch iMacs, two group project rooms with 23-inch MacPro computers for editing and two group practice rooms with 20-inch iMac computers, video projectors and installed cameras so students can practice and record classroom presentations. The computers also include video editing, music, graphic design and Web software.

“The reactions from faculty and students have been positive,” Walker says. “Faculty members are beginning to assign their students 10-minute videos instead of 30-page papers.”

Stringfellow agrees. “There was a time when knowing Microsoft Word and PowerPoint was enough, but not any more.”

For more information, visit smu.edu/cul/ncds/
Librarian Julia Stewart spent spring break in a setting familiar to her as a former high school teacher – a classroom.

Stewart, with a group of students and faculty, worked at the Children’s Outreach Project as part of SMU’s Alternative Spring Break program. Located in Denver, Colorado, the Children’s Outreach Project provides early childhood education to gifted and developmentally delayed children. Stewart assisted with classroom activities, playground maintenance and cataloging the library resources.

“I decided to participate in Alternative Spring Break because I was new to the University and wanted to learn more about SMU culture,” she says. “I wanted to be able to interact with students to find out what the library could do for them. Plus, I love to travel.”

As the new reference librarian for Social Sciences and Government Documents, Stewart collects reference materials related to government, business, economics, and political science, while also serving as the liaison to faculty and students in those departments.

Harold Stanley, the Geurin-Pettus Distinguished Chair in American Politics and Political Economy, has worked extensively with Stewart this spring. They collaborated on locating a directory of Latino elected officials nationwide from 1985 to the present as a resource for political science students. Some pre-1990s documents weren’t available electronically, and Stewart tracked them down.

“It helps to have a faculty liaison for your specific department,” Stanley says. “It helps the library to be aware of faculty interests and teaching specialties.”

Before joining Central University Libraries, Stewart worked at Texas A&M University-Commerce as the business reference librarian. She previously taught English at R.L. Paschal High School in Fort Worth.

Originally from Oklahoma, Stewart graduated from Texas Christian University in 1990 with a B.A. in English and journalism. She received her Master’s in library and information sciences from the University of North Texas in 2001.

Stewart says she knew she wanted to be a librarian at a young age. “My mother was a librarian, so I grew up and always felt comfortable in libraries. You are never done learning when you are in a library.”

In the news

American Art Review

Interest in art in Texas and in Texas art is vibrantly alive today because of the indefatigable efforts of Jerry Bywaters. He was remarkably successful as an artist, an art critic, a university professor and a museum director.


The Dallas Morning News

Who knew that Southern Methodist University has an extensive map collection, let alone that it’s been there for 65 years? Considered one of the pre-eminent map collections in the southwest, the library’s holdings include more than 260,000 individual maps, natural charts and aeronautical charts.

Dallas Morning News, February 2008

Dallas Morning News, Robert Miller column, December 2007
As an 11-year-old boy in Casper, Wyoming, Paul Rogers played shortstop and pitcher for a Little League baseball team and rooted for a faraway professional ball team — the Philadelphia Phillies.

"To me, that team was on another planet," says Rogers, a member of the Dedman School of Law faculty since 1980 and dean from 1989 to 1997.

His distant heroes became real to him one day when a personal letter arrived from Phillies pitcher Robin Roberts encouraging him in his baseball career. Rogers’ Philadelphia grandfather had initiated the letter.

The letter is part of Rogers’ extensive baseball collection, which will be displayed with DeGolyer Library’s upcoming exhibit "The Old Ballgame: Baseball in American Life," April 17 – June 30. The exhibit also will include baseball books and photographs from sportswriter Blackie Sherrod’s collection at DeGolyer.

Rogers gave up his baseball aspirations to pursue a distinguished career as an antitrust lawyer and scholar in Philadelphia and Dallas, but he never lost his love of baseball — becoming a baseball historian, author and collector.

"Baseball is a complex game with many nuances. The geometry of the game is spectacular. I love the sound of the bat hitting the ball and I still get heart palpitations when I step into a ballpark and see the green field."

Rogers met Robin Roberts in 1992 at a baseball old-timers exhibition game. The two became friends and soon agreed to collaborate on The Whiz Kids and the 1950 Pennant (Temple University Press, 1997) about the legendary Phillies team that beat all odds to take on the New York Yankees in the 1950 World Series. Then age 23, Roberts was a Phillies starting pitcher. The two later collaborated on another book, My Life in Baseball (Triumph Books, 2003).

Rogers’ interest in baseball history drives his collection. He collects baseball cards, World Series and All-Star programs, historic photographs, autographed photographs, gloves, press pins, pennants and original baseball art.

His extensive baseball library includes one of his favorite items, The Hungry Hurler (Grosset & Dunlap, 1965), the hard-to-find final volume of the 23-book Chip Hilton sports series.

"I found it at an antique mall in Kalispell, Montana," he says. "I felt a little guilty about buying an $800 book for $4, but not guilty enough to leave it for someone else."

Rogers also is author with Bill Werber of Memories of a Ballplayer: Bill Werber and Baseball in the 1930s (SABR, 2001) and is editor of the SMU Press book series, Sport in American Life. In addition, he has served as president of the Dallas chapter of the American Society for Baseball Research since 2000 and chairs the Larry Ritter Book Award Committee, which selects the best baseball book each year that focuses on the Deadball Era from 1900 to 1920.

"My baseball collaborations have been a labor of love," he says. "The stories are the part of baseball I like best."

Paul Rogers, professor of law, is a baseball historian, author and collector. His baseball memorabilia collection is featured in the DeGolyer Library exhibit "The Old Ballgame: Baseball in American Life."

On the menu: Lively discussion

At Tables of Content, the April 5 fundraiser for the Friends of the SMU Libraries, guests enjoyed dinner and discussions on topics ranging from books, art and music to history, education and community issues.

Guest hosts included David Dike, owner of David Dike Fine Art Gallery; Tom Dunning, civic leader; Victor Marshall, voice of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra; Robert Haley, epidemiologist at UT Southwestern Medical Center; Nicola Longford, executive director of the Sixth Floor Museum, and Jerrie Marcus Smith and Allison Smith, daughter and granddaughter of Stanley Marcus. Also hosting from SMU were Paul Ludden, provost, and Melissa Dowling, associate professor of history. George Tobolowsky, a Libraries Executive Board member, and his wife, Julie, served as honorary chairs.

"The table hosts really make the evening," says Toni Terry, Friends president. "We’re fortunate that these interesting people share their knowledge and help us give back to the libraries."

Tables of Content proceeds support scholarships and grants for SMU libraries.
Exhibits
- Through April 20 Stewart Oost Collection of Classical Literature, Fondren Library
- Through May 3 Christine Sanford: Paintings, Hawn Gallery
- Through May 10 Methodism in the American South, 1739-1939, Bridwell Library
- April 17 – June 30 The Old Ballgame: Baseball in American Life, DeGolyer Library
- April 22 – May 19 Faculty Recognition Exhibit, Fondren Library
- Fall 2008 – From Log Cabin to White House: American Presidential Campaign Biographies, DeGolyer Library

Events
- April 10, 6 p.m. Reception and reading with Thomas DiPiero, How to Do Things With Birds, DeGolyer Library
- April 16, 12 p.m. Hunting Democracy, Daniel Herman, Clements Center for Southwest Studies Brown Bag Lecture, DeGolyer Library
- April 17, 7 p.m. Celebrating Baseball: A Conversation

Not your grandmother’s library
Celebrating the ‘Ladies’
Take us out to the ballgame