The library – a vital part of higher education

By U. Narayan Bhat, Dean, Research and Graduate Studies

Since the earliest recorded history, libraries have occupied a prominent place in civilization. Whether they contained material written on papyrus or parchment in the classical period or on printed books in later eras, libraries have provided future generations with a repository for archival information.

Institutions of higher learning have always recognized the centrality of libraries in supporting the educational process. Initial gifts to the first American universities included collections of books. The books in these early academic libraries, as well as the vast resources available in today’s university libraries, provide the foundation for higher education. A college education is not simply the accumulation of information but also the process of developing knowledge through analysis and synthesis. An undergraduate or graduate curriculum that does not require a library’s support is a deficient one indeed.

The intensity and extent of library research increases from the undergraduate to the doctoral level. Undergraduate students have the opportunity to analyze primary information sources in the library, often for the first time in their academic careers. Master’s and doctoral students, with thesis and dissertation requirements, cannot complete their programs without help from libraries because they are required to add to the knowledge base in their fields.

In addition to providing students with a vital aspect of their university education, the SMU libraries play an important role in helping the University meet the broader goals described in its mission – to expand knowledge through research and disseminate knowledge through teaching. For the 519 SMU faculty members and thousands of other researchers, the SMU libraries are indispensable.

With more than three million items on their shelves and a plethora of electronic resources at patrons’ fingertips, the libraries at SMU are, together, the largest and the finest in this region. DeGolyer Library, holding rare and scholarly works on Western Americana, and Bridwell Library at Perkins School of Theology, with printed books dating from the 15th to the 20th centuries, are researchers’ dreams. These and other special collections make SMU Libraries truly outstanding and a source of pride for this community.

New partnership preserves women’s history

DeGolyer Library and The Women’s Museum: An Institute for the Future have formed a new partnership to strengthen their mutual goals of collecting, understanding, and preserving women’s history. Archives, papers, and manuscripts relating to women’s history that are donated to the Women’s Museum will be housed in the Archives of Women of the Southwest in DeGolyer Library.

“We just hate to turn down collections; however, the Women’s Museum is designed for public education — it is not a research institution,” says Candace O’Keefe, executive director of the museum. “To reclaim and discover the history of women, we must have places like SMU and DeGolyer Library to hold these archival collections. Researchers who go through this material begin to understand and articulate women’s contributions to our society.”

Located in Fair Park in Dallas and associated with the Smithsonian Museum, the Women’s Museum is the first national museum devoted to a comprehensive look at women’s contributions to society. Only a year old, the museum combines collections of artifacts such as Eleanor Roosevelt’s Red Cross uniform with video and interactive displays.
Hilltop history: Students use archives to conduct research on University

As part of a unique history class, first-year student Sarah Hughes is studying SMU campus life in the 1960s and ’70s. “I’ve always been interested in that time because that is when my parents were in college,” she says.

A film major from Lake Charles, Louisiana, Hughes is among 13 students researching the University Archives for the “History of SMU” class, using such resources as the September 12, 1962, issue of The Daily Campus, records of student organizations, and the correspondence and diaries of SMU’s first librarian.

The purpose of the course is to give students writing experience, says Jim Breeden, professor of history in Dedman College. “The students study the history of SMU because the University Archives in DeGolyer Library is rich in resources they can use to produce a 20-page paper.” Topics include “SMU in the ’90s,” “Robert Dedman at SMU,” and “Bob Hope at SMU.”

The early years of SMU athletics are being researched by Madeleine Asplundh, a first-year broadcast journalism major from Philadelphia, who says she was expecting a traditional history course with a textbook and vocabulary words. Instead the class is studying the history of higher education and using as text From High on the Hilltop, A Brief History of SMU by English Professor Marshall Terry.

On the first day of class students visited DeGolyer Library and met with archivist Kay Bost to learn about the archives’ resources. Much of the collection is described on library databases, but Bost showed students a sampling of resources they could use, including student scrapbooks.

For most students this is the first time they have prepared a paper using primary sources, Breeden says. “I expect them to improve their powers of analysis and to use creativity to put information together from different types of sources.”

For students just beginning their college careers, however, there is another advantage. “If they understand the history of where they are, they will be better equipped to deal with it,” Breeden says.

In addition, students have an immediate opportunity to leave their mark on SMU — their completed papers will be stored in the University Archives to be used by future researchers.

Changes to PONI make system more user-friendly

Last summer SMU upgraded PONI, the online library catalog, to make searching easier and more efficient for users. The initial screen now enables users to search by title, author, subject, journal title, call number, and keyword. Users also may limit the initial search to parameters such as “published in the last 10 years” or “video recording.”

The changes to PONI make it more user-friendly, says Rebecca Bergstresser, director of the Office of Community Involvement and the Women’s Center. “It’s much more direct. Now you go straight to ‘search’ and are then only one frame away from finding the book you want.”

Other improvements include the ability to edit and sort results after the search is complete, a “jump bar” for quick navigation through sets of results, and the option of marking records for printing, saving, or e-mailing.

“We have received very positive feedback on the new system,” says Central University Librarian Gillian M. McCombs. “People like the new look and the new services offered.”

PONI may be accessed at http://poni.smu.edu. For more information about the changes or workshops on how to use PONI most efficiently, check the library’s Web site http://www.smu.edu/cul/ue/workshops.html or call the reference desk at 214-768-2326.

New Partnership continued from page 1

In July the Archives of Women of the Southwest received the first set of documents that represents the partnership between the two institutions — the Juanita Kreps Spirit of the American Woman Award archives from the JC Penney Corporation. Kreps was the first woman U.S. Secretary of Commerce and JC Penney’s first woman board member. Recipients of the Kreps award include the late Rep. Barbara Jordan, astronaut Sally Ride, and the late newspaper publisher Katharine Graham.

The archives include award nominations, videos, and pages of documents collected by JC Penney researchers to select the Kreps award recipients.

“The beauty of the partnership between the Women’s Museum and the Archives of Women of the Southwest is that we’re both allowed to play to our strengths,” says Russell Martin, director of DeGolyer Library. “The Women’s Museum can focus its attention on public programs while we can preserve the archival materials that might come its way in the Archives of Women of the Southwest. There are rich stories behind these materials waiting for students or scholars to study them.”
Russell Martin: New DeGolyer director a collector at heart

On a warm fall afternoon, Russell Martin ('78, '86) is settling in to his newly painted office in DeGolyer Library where artwork is propped against the walls. The library's new director, however, is closely monitoring several Internet auctions in hopes of acquiring new materials for the rare book library known for its collection of Western Americana.

"To me, collecting is sheer fun," Martin says. "Building a collection invigorates me."

Martin made his first acquisition for the library before he even arrived in July – a 1910 autobiography of J. Vance Lewis, Out of the Ditch, about an ex-slave who became Houston's first African-American lawyer. DeGolyer Library has one of the five or six best collections of Western Americana in the country, he says. Martin plans to continue to build upon the library's collection of materials about the Trans-Mississippi West and to expand in new directions whenever feasible. "As rich and strong as the collection is, it's only going to get better," he says.

Finding space for new materials and funds to catalog them are among the challenges Martin faces. But he was attracted to SMU, he says, because of the opportunity to have an aggressive building program. "The DeGolyer, like SMU, is relatively young when compared to other institutions across the country. We're building for the future, and I think the prospects for SMU are directly linked to the quality of its libraries."

In addition to collecting, Martin will teach an undergraduate class on the history of the book and printing. "This would be a lab course, only instead of a science lab, the lab would be the DeGolyer Library," he says.

Martin credits a reading recommendation from his SMU English professor, Marshall Terry, with igniting a passion for books. Terry suggested House of Breath by William Goyen. After reading the poetic coming-of-age novel, Martin says he realized "books have a magical way of giving you perspective and enlarging your experience. Like most undergraduates, I had no clear idea what I wanted to do when I grew up, but Goyen deeply impressed me. He wrote about the part of the world I was most familiar with, deep East Texas, and he did so with great passion and clarity. I still didn't know what I was going to do with my life, but I knew that books had to be involved in some way."

Before joining SMU, Martin was curator of newspapers and periodicals at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts. He began his library career as an SMU undergraduate shelving books in Fondren Library. Martin earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English from SMU and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Virginia. He also earned a Master's of Library Science from the University of Illinois. He taught English at the Episcopal School of Dallas and was an English instructor at SMU before joining the faculty at the University of Virginia where he was a du Pont Fellow. In 1988 he became a research assistant at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, responsible for purchasing and cataloging books and journals for the library. Martin joined the Antiquarian Society in 1995.

"I guess I've come full circle," Martin says. "I owe a lot to SMU. Classes here opened my eyes to the world of ideas and the life of the mind."

Students rate SMU libraries among best nationwide

In the 2001 edition of The Princeton Review's Best 331 Colleges, SMU ranked 14th of 331 colleges and universities in the "Great Libraries" category. The University of Virginia took the top ranking; however, SMU was one of only two universities in the Southwest to be included in the top 20 libraries. Baylor University was No. 16.

The Princeton Review surveys current students to produce its yearly college guide. In addition to libraries, students give their opinions on a variety of topics, including professors, campus food, residence halls, and social life.

"Prospective students and their parents will be interested in this outstanding ranking of SMU's libraries," says Ron Moss, executive director of enrollment services and undergraduate admission. "We emphasize the strength of our libraries in our admissions materials because they are an important University asset."
“Pray, cry, remember”

At twilight on September 11, SMU students gathered in front of Dallas Hall for a candlelight vigil in memory of the victims of the New York and Washington, D.C., terrorist attacks. Placed near the candles were seven thick journals where students lingered to record their thoughts.

“There are few occasions in life when a person knows that what they are experiencing will change their lives forever,” wrote one student. “This has been one such event I dare say for all humanity... However, we will endure.”

“Pray, cry, remember,” says another entry. “But never hate.”

The suggestion for the journals came from an SMU Chaplain’s Office staff meeting on the afternoon of the attack when staff members and students gathered to plan the vigil and coordinate efforts to support the community during the crisis.

“We felt students needed an opportunity and an outlet to gather their thoughts,” says senior Michael Waters.

The SMU Bookstore donated the journals, which were available at several campus gatherings in remembrance of the victims. In addition, the journals were made available for students, faculty, and staff in Hughes-Trigg Student Center. The University Archives in DeGolyer Library will be their permanent home.

“The journals have provided a meaningful way for individuals to process the attacks,” says Chaplain Will Finnin.

Waters says the prayers, remembrances, and expressions of patriotism in the journals will serve another purpose. “The greatest importance of these journals has yet to occur. We will have a record of our thoughts that will extend beyond this generation.”

Award winners provide service with a smile

The Council of Library Directors honored four library staff members at a reception May 11 in the Texana Room at DeGolyer Library. James Horne, distribution services manager, Norwick Center for Media and Instructional Technology, received the Continuing Excellence Award. The Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Melanie Golder, Interlibrary Loan librarian. Kenneth Gutierrez, computer consultant, Underwood Law Library, was named Employee-of-the-Year, and Myka Kennedy, student assistant in Bridwell Library, was named Outstanding Student Assistant.

The awards recognize outstanding contributions to the libraries and service to patrons and the profession. Winners, recommended by members of the SMU community, received $500 each. Following are excerpts from their nominations:

James Horne: “Over the eight years I have been a faculty member at SMU, I have depended on James Horne countless times for setting up audiovisual and computer equipment in my classes. He is a person who seems genuinely devoted to the University.”

Melanie Golder: “Melanie is a knowledgeable, service-oriented librarian. When she takes her turn at the reference desk, her smile and helpfulness turns fearful undergraduates into confident library users... In every way she is an asset to the SMU community.”

Kenneth Gutierrez: “Kenny’s excellent attitude toward helping law students with technical problems is often observed by others. Law students consistently mention the good job Kenny is doing for them and how satisfied they are with him.”

Myka Kennedy: “Myka offers excellent service to all our library patrons, whether they are faculty, staff, students, visitors, or guests. She does not just help patrons find library materials; she works with them to help them become more effective library users.”

To recognize the victims and heroes of the September 11 tragedy, Central University Libraries has developed a bookplate to enable those touched by the tragedy to dedicate a library book to an individual or group of individuals.

A donation is not required. For more information, call CUL Development Officer Amy Carver at 214-768-1939.

The new SMU bookstore includes a photo mural comprised of historic images from University Archives. Attending the bookstore’s September opening were Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk, bookstore manager Marilyn Hartman, and SMU fire safety director Floyd Phelps.
Failure analysis expert uses Science and Engineering Library to search for answers

Small cracks in the transmission gears grounded the U.S. Army’s fleet of Chinook helicopters in 1999 after they were linked to several crashes of the helicopter dating to the late 1980s. The gears were replaced and 466 twin-rotor helicopters soon returned to service, but for SMU Mechanical Engineering Professor Paul Packman, the investigation was only beginning.

Armed with 8,000 pages of documents from the SMU Science and Engineering Library, Packman later testified for the Department of Justice during its investigation into the cause of the crashes, which resulted in a $54 million settlement with Boeing Co., the maker of the Chinook.

In the Chinook helicopter case, Packman used the Science and Engineering Library’s Industrial Information Service to review research on hydrogen embrittlement, a grain boundary that caused the transmission gears in the helicopter’s rotor system to fail in service.

For the past 35 years Packman has served as an expert witness in failure analysis and accident reconstruction on hundreds of cases, including the Kansas City Hyatt Hotel walkway collapse, the Delta Flight 191 crash in Dallas, and the space shuttle Challenger disaster. More recently he has been investigating the crash of the charter plane carrying members of the Oklahoma State University basketball team.

“I started my career in mechanical engineering as a designer,” Packman says. “But I was always interested in what happened if something didn’t work. For me, each failure investigation case is a technical and intellectual puzzle.”

Packman, who teaches a course on metal fatigue, is on sabbatical this year to work on a book about failure analysis and accident reconstruction. For Packman, each failure investigation case is a technical and intellectual puzzle.

For materials not found in SMU libraries, Packman relies on Interlibrary Loan to track numerous resources. Use of the Internet and electronic databases in particular has increased interlibrary loan requests, says Melanie Golder, Interlibrary Loan librarian. "Researchers request full-text versions of journal articles cited in obscure materials they learn about on the Internet.”

Packman says his library research directly benefits his students.

"These cases make my engineering courses very real. When we talk about failure analysis and accident reconstruction, we’re not talking about the Titanic, we’re talking about an airplane crash that happened two months ago.”

In turn, he makes class assignments that send students to the library. Senior design students must produce a 10-page paper and a design project. They use patent records, electronic databases, and academic and industrial journals to study risk analysis and comparative designs and produce a working product.

"Students need to understand the world wasn’t invented yesterday,” Packman says. “The library’s resources can help students understand their place in the evolution of technology and in technological failures.”

Grant enhances electronic research capabilities

The SMU Libraries received a $226,250 grant in August from the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board. By assessing a small fee on each telephone bill paid by Texas residents, the Board obtains the funding to award grants to public schools, libraries, higher education, and nonprofit health care.

SMU will use the grant to enhance electronic research capabilities within the libraries, says Mary Queyrouze, director for library systems and CUL information support services. Library network equipment will be upgraded to increase access speed to campus and Internet resources from PCs within Bridwell Library, the Central University Libraries, and the Underwood Law Library.

Within the SMU libraries patrons can access the Internet and electronic library resources from public PCs. Funds from the grant will provide wireless library accessibility for researchers during the spring term.

"Researchers won’t have to physically plug their laptop computers into the network,” Queyrouze says. "They can use a wireless card to access the campus network, electronic library resources, and the Internet from their laptops in reference and study areas, in the library stacks, and from group study rooms.”

Wireless accessibility will be available at the Fondren Library Center complex, the Institute for Study of Earth and Man Library, and Hamon Arts Library. Wireless network capability will be available from PCs in the stack area of Bridwell Library.

Computers in CUL user education training classrooms also will be upgraded to better support student needs for computer research training.

In addition, the grant will purchase a digital video camera to record SMU events in a format that can be posted on the Web and equipment and software to transfer archival video to DVD and Web-capable formats.
Friends programs offer variety to book lovers

The 2001-02 Friends of the SMU Libraries programs include past favorites, such as the annual Leaves and Literature fall tour, and new locations and times for other programs. The changes reflect suggestions made by members during a review of the organization’s effectiveness last fall. In response to member feedback, some programs will be offered off campus and at new times, such as a Sunday afternoon program and tea.

The Friends programs began the season with an October reception at the home of Charlotte and Gould Whaley, where members viewed their collection of fine press books and prints. The Friends programs began the season with an October reception at the home of Charlotte and Gould Whaley, where members viewed their collection of fine press books and prints.

Next was Leaves and Literature: Chapter Four, a literary and scenic tour of the South from the Delta to the bayous.

Vicki Tongate (’00), a graduate student in English, presented “The Lucy Pier Stevens Diary: A Texas Treasure” at the November meeting. Tongate is editing and annotating the diary for publication.

Upcoming events include the holiday luncheon December 4 at Royal Oaks Country Club, featuring author and playwright Neila Petrick, who will bring the story of a pioneer woman to life in her talk “Jane Long’s Christmases Past: An Early Texan’s Story of Survival and Triumph.” Longtime Friends member Frances Golden Ware will present “An Afternoon Tea with the Hay Family” January 27, retelling the story of her family from letters and other materials now in DeGolyer Library.

A panel of television producers and scholars will discuss “Entertaining History: TV Producers and Scholars on the Making of Historical Documentaries” February 21 at the Hughes-Trigg Student Center. Professor of History Hal Williams will moderate the panel.

For the third year, the Friends will present its fund-raiser “Tables of Content,” an evening featuring dinner and conversation with celebrity hosts, April 20 at the Meadows Museum. The Friends will conclude the year with its dinner meeting and elections on May 13 at S & S Restaurant. David Dillon, architecture critic for The Dallas Morning News, is the speaker.

For more information about Friends of the SMU Libraries, call Judy Searles at 214-768-3225 or e-mail jsearles@mail.smu.edu. Visit the revised Friends Web site at www.smu.edu/libraries/friends.

Friends grants fund projects from the rare to the high-tech

The Friends of the SMU Libraries presented $19,913 in grants in May to the Central University Libraries. Following are the 2001 grants:

- $3,258 to the Jerry Bywaters Special Collections Wing of the Hamon Arts Library for preservation of photographs by Southwestern sculptor Octavio Medellin.
- $3,000 to Central University Libraries to help finance production of its annual report.
- $2,915 to purchase materials for DeGolyer Library to honor David Farmer, including pamphlets describing a cowboy’s life in the 1800s and a Bronco John Wild West Show poster.
- $2,000 to CUL Collection Development to help with fees for the Early English Books Online.
- $1,500 to the Norwich Center for Media and Instructional Technology to purchase videotapes and to support printing, design, and production costs for the SMU Video Archives Series on the University’s history.
- $1,500 to Hamon Arts Library to help purchase the DVD set of the BBC Shakespeare Plays.
- $1,295 to CUL User Education program to fund a Macromedia Authorware workshop for the user education librarian.
- $1,000 to the Institute for the Study of Earth and Man Library to purchase the nine-volume set The Encyclopedia of Prehistory.
- $1,000 to the Fondren Library Center Exhibits Committee to purchase butterfly bookmounts to improve the visibility and conservation of materials exhibited in library display cases.
- $850 to Hamon Arts Library to purchase a rare book by Guillaume de Jerphanion, Les Miniatures du Manuscrit Syriaque No. 559 de la Bibliothèque Vaticane.
- $587 to the Science and Engineering Library for herbal medicine materials to support the anthropology and biology programs.
- $500 to fund the Continuation Excellence Library Staff Recognition Award.
- $500 for the Library School Scholarship Award.

In response to member feedback, some programs will be offered off campus and at new times, such as a Sunday afternoon program and tea.

A collection of photographs documenting sculptor Octavio Medellin’s study of Mayan ruins was preserved with funds from a Friends grant. The artistic impact of the trip was reflected in the sculptor’s work for the rest of his life.
Electronic databases added to online resources

SMU libraries increased online resources in August with the addition of more than two dozen EBSCO databases, including "Academic Search Premier" and "Business Source Premier."

"These two databases in particular are extremely useful humanities, social science, science, and business databases that provide more full-text articles than any other product of their kind," says Toni Nolen, CUL electronic resources librarian. "Business Source Premier has exclusive rights to eight of the top 10 business journals."

Because the databases were obtained through the TexShare network, they were added to CUL’s resources at no cost, Nolen says. TexShare is a statewide consortium of academic and public libraries led by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Funded by the State of Texas, TexShare enables libraries to share electronic and print resources.

Other new databases offered at SMU include 20th-century English poetry, 20th-century American poetry, the Literature Resource Center, and Books-in-Print.

TexShare also gives SMU students, faculty, and staff borrowing privileges at most academic libraries and many public libraries in the state.

Scholarship opens new chapter for Hamon employee

The challenges of leaving one career and starting another have been made easier for Clayton Crenshaw with the library school scholarship he received from the Friends of the SMU Libraries. For the past two years the head of circulation services at Hamon Arts Library has worked full time while earning his Master’s in Library Science at University of North Texas on evenings and weekends.

The scholarship, awarded in May, helped Crenshaw complete the degree last August. Crenshaw says he is relieved to finish his degree and reach a long-term career goal. "I have always loved the academic environment and research," he says. "I enjoy teaching and helping people."

Crenshaw previously has served as a band director, private clarinet teacher, and arts administrator.

Student filmmaker polishes skills as library assistant

Quaniqua "Q" Ragsdale hopes her experience as a library student assistant will take her one step closer to her goal of becoming a cinematographer. A senior film major in Meadows School of the Arts, Ragsdale works 10 hours a week for the Norwick Center for Media and Instructional Technology where she assists with audio and video production of campus lectures, conferences, and special events. In addition, she has produced several videos, including an introduction to the Hughes-Trigg Student Center and a video about campus life for the Office of New Student Programs.

"Q is learning real-world skills that she’ll be able to take out the door with her when she graduates," says Rob Walker, multimedia production manager and Ragsdale’s NCMIT supervisor. "She already is quite a capable editor and has a wonderful sense of style."

The Central University Libraries does its best to match its 150 student workers with their interests, says Central University Librarian Gillian M. McCombs. Students work in library offices, circulation, and reference areas. "Without our student workers, we would not be able to keep the hours we do or provide the range of services our users have come to expect," she says.

Ragsdale says the technical knowledge she has gained in editing, lighting, and cinematography has helped her with class projects, including a feature-length film. In addition, working with campus clients has given her insight to the commercial world of film. "As film majors, we’re artists," she says. "We have total creative control of the film. But in the corporate world you have to work with clients and adhere to their needs and wants."

In turn, as a film major, Ragsdale brings a unique attitude to the job. "I am passionate about my job," she says. "This is what I really want to do."
Library Exhibits

SMU Biology, Yesterday and Today
November through January, Fondren Library Center

Fred Wendorf: First SMU Professor Elected to National Academy of Sciences
January through March, Fondren Library Center

Andirons to Weathervanes: Drawings from the Potter Art Metal Studio Collection
January 22 through April 30, Hawn Gallery, Hamon Arts Library

Minding the Papers: the Stanley Marcus Collection
April 18 through May 31, DeGolyer Library

Faculty Works Published in 2001
April through May, Fondren Library Center

Library Phone Numbers
DeGolyer Library/Special Collections 214-768-2253
Friends of SMU Libraries 214-768-3225
Fondren Library – recording 214-768-7378
Fondren Library – Information Desk 214-768-2326
Fondren Library Circulation/Reserve 214-768-2329
Government Information Resources 214-768-2331
Hamon Arts Library 214-768-2894
Norwick Center for Media and Instructional Technology 214-768-3199
Science and Engineering Library – general 214-768-2444
Science and Engineering Library – reference 214-768-2282
Systems Office 214-768-3229

Web Sites
All SMU Libraries www.smu.edu/libraries/
Ask-a-Librarian www.smu.edu/cul/refquestion.html
Government Document Collection www.smu.edu/cul/gir
Online Resources www.smu.edu/cul/or/
World War II Materials www.smu.edu/cul/memorial/memhome.htm
Edwin J. Foscue Map Library www.smu.edu/cul/maps

Solve a mystery

An inscription on this photo of a student field trip to the Edwin J. Foscue Map Library in the Fondren Library says, "The Hay School, 1954." However, the students and teachers are unidentified and the Hay School no longer appears on any area school lists. Please contact Dawn Youngblood, library specialist in the map library, at 214-768-2285 with further information about the photograph.