

Dulaney-Browne Library

Quarterly Report

July-September 2007

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Back to School Week Activities

The library staff welcomed students back to campus for the fall semester with free snow cones (served on the new patio), a big book sale, treats at the check-out counter, and a “bright idea” hunt with treats hidden throughout the library with notes about library services attached.

Now that Microsoft software is distributed via the web, the library expected a sharp decline in library use during the first week of the semester. Without the additional six classes meeting on the library’s fifth floor, the library’s attendance count for the week would have declined.

This year’s book sale was also much smaller, since the library had received fewer excess and unneeded gift books over the summer. However, even with the smaller number of items available for sale, the library earned \$283.35 from the book sale between the start of classes and the end of the month of August.

New Layout for 1st floor

Library staff members moved reference and periodicals to the back of the 1st floor, providing a more prominent position for computers and people near the entrance. The most recent 10 years of periodicals are now on 1st floor with older issues in the basement. The new arrangement created a large open area in the front of the first floor that has been popular with study groups and students using laptop computers. The area is especially helpful for students using laptops and the library’s wireless internet capabilities since tables were moved to provide easy access to electrical power for laptop users.



New Web Design

Over the summer, the library staff worked with university web content coordinator Julie Thompson to develop a new design for the library’s web page. The new page features search boxes for books and articles and a photograph of students studying in the library in addition to links to online library resources and information about library services. A special thanks is due to the library web page committee members Beth Jones, Chariyar Nillpraphan and Victoria Swinney, who spent many hours creating the new content.

Staff Retreat

The library closed on the afternoon of August 8th for the library’s annual staff retreat. This year’s retreat focused on computer training. Library staff members learned how to help students with the new computer downloads of software, how to help students use Microsoft Outlook, how to work with computers with virus problems, and how to help students print in the library. After the training session, led by Gerry Hunt and Robert Kennington from Campus Technology, the library staff went out to dinner at the Cheesecake Factory. Both the training session and the dinner were effective in developing a team atmosphere for new and seasoned library employees.



New Staff Member

The library welcomed one new library staff member during the quarter. Jeremiah Goodman joined the library as Circulation and Archives Technician. He recently received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Southeastern Oklahoma State University and has previous library experience in the Chickasaw Regional Library System.

New Online Resources Added

The library added two new indexes with limited users this quarter. A single user license for RILM will provide indexing of research articles in music and a similar license for EconLit + full text will provide both indexing and relevant articles for in depth research in economics. In addition, the library switched its Music Index subscription to EBSCOhost, which should make searches easier to conduct.

Completed Cataloging of OCU Film Institute Collection

Monographs staff members Robert Dorman, Parker Atkins, and Clint Barker completed the monumental task of cataloging the OCU Film institute collection over the summer. They had completed the DVD collection of 1724 before classes began in August and completed the VHS collection of 1251 titles by mid-September. These materials are now much more visibly available through the library's online catalog and will be moving to the library with the completion of the renovation of the 2nd floor.

Library Camp

The library received an unusual group of visitors on July 17th. As part of an Oklahoma Library Association project to develop future librarians, 16 middle school students (11 to 14 years old) came to the library with their adult sponsors and participated in a tour of both the public and the behind the scenes library activities.

Promotion & Tenure "Appendix" Document

Librarians spent much of the quarter working on a draft document which will guide the promotion and tenure process for librarians. The new document provides detailed guidance for new library faculty members as they prepare for tenure and also for long term employees developing annual reviews of their work and applying for promotion. The current draft (completed in August) will be used in the coming academic year and then receive final revision before being submitted to the Board of Trustees next fall.

Positive Library Usage Statistics

Several important measures of quality library use continued to increase. These areas with significant increases included retrievals from periodical article databases (up 34.5%), requests for assistance at the library reference desk (up 8.3%), interlibrary loan borrowing (up 10.75%), and delivery of books to faculty offices (up 150%). Librarians also conducted 50% more instruction sessions for classes in July-September than were conducted in the same period in the previous year.

Reference and Instruction

Reference and instruction services are among the most important services that the library provides. Reference and instruction provide the human link between the information the library acquires, describes, and makes available and the students who need the information. It is therefore exciting to see continued growth in these services. Students and others asked 8.29% more questions at the main reference desk in the first three months of fiscal 2008 than in the same period last year. In addition, librarians provided group instruction to 50% more students during the same comparison periods.

New Patio

Construction on the new patio created some challenges for the library over the summer, but work was completed in time for first day of orientation on August 13th. All library visitors were required to use the back door from late June until early August. Since the library's attendance counter is attached to the front entrance and the back entrance was through the internal connection of staff areas in the library, no attendance numbers were obtainable during the construction. In addition, lower student circulation numbers over the summer indicate that the construction fence that blocked the front of the library may have discouraged students from using the library even though the back door was open. By the opening day of the semester the new patio made an excellent location for the back to school snow cone service.