Media Center Tapped for Membership in National Consortium

The Instructional Media Center (IMC) at Mississippi State University (MSU) has been recognized as a world leader in its innovative approaches to the use of technology by the New Media Consortium (NMC). A part of MSU Libraries since 1998, the IMC has been invited to become a member of the NMC as part of an unprecedented search for proven leaders among higher education institutions in the application of technology to teaching, learning, research, and creative expression.

The IMC continues to expand and to provide services that meet the needs of the students, faculty, and staff. Being a part of this consortium will assist the IMC in bringing new ideas, methodologies, and further recognition to the Libraries and to the University.

For more information on the Instructional Media Center, please visit http://library.msstate.edu/imc/.

The redesigned website is an excellent foundation, but there is still much work to be done in order to assure that the library maintains a great web presence.

~ Clay Hill

Library Offers Information in Wake of Katrina

Students and faculty are in for a pleasant surprise when they visit the Mississippi State University Libraries’ website this fall. Over the summer, a committee of faculty and staff from MSU Libraries teamed together to completely redesign their website.

Officially unveiled on August 17, the new website represents a dramatic enhancement both in terms of its organization and its appearance.

After studying the websites of leading academic libraries across the country, the committee decided to organize the website into sections devoted to three core functions: supporting research, facilitating services, and providing general information about MSU Libraries.

In addition, the website’s new homepage contains a “Search” box for exploring the Libraries’ various collections, a “Spotlight” section for showcasing some of the Libraries’ unique assets, and sections entitled “News” and “Workshops” to keep visitors informed about what is happening at MSU Libraries.

According to Stephen Cunetto, Administrator of Systems for MSU Libraries, "The selection process was very competitive, but to be recognized for our efforts by such a prestigious organization as the NMC is humbling. We look forward to collaborating with the NMC and its member institutions as we work to improve the quality and reach of our services."

“Ask Here First!" is a gateway for acquiring helpful information concerning the hurricane and its aftermath. Categories of web links include resources for finding missing persons, disaster relief and recovery agencies, health and safety information, statistics, and resources for persons with disabilities.

Also included are links to websites that assist with finding housing, charities, and organizations—updated as needed.

Library Offers Information in Wake of Katrina

In response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, MSU Libraries has strived to provide information and services that will meet the pressing needs of evacuees and their families.

The need for a strong, pro- action and the library continues to be a major focus of the administration, faculty and staff of the MSU Libraries.

Networking with campus organizations, MSU Libraries have been able to promote resources and services.

MSU Libraries have planned several outreach/publications events. In June 2005 Mitchell Memorial Library participated in the MSU Campus Orientation for freshmen and transfer students, sponsored by the Office of Research & Graduate Studies, and the Department of Agricultural Economics.

SocINDEX Full Text, an EBSCO product, features over 3,000,000 records from all sub-disciplines of sociology, including anthropology, criminal justice, demography, economic development, ethnic & racial studies, gender studies, politics, social psychology, social work, urban studies, and many others.

The index contains informative abstracts for more than 620 "core" journals dating back to 1985, as well as full text for over 500 books and monographs, and full text for over 6,700 conference papers. Extensive indexing of these sources is also included. For a complete title list see http://www.epnet.com/titlelists/html/si_h1.htm. Because of its extensive coverage, SocINDEX is mandatory for freshmen and transfer students. Every year, thousands of students and parents visit the MSU campus for Orientation, and the Library is represented at this event with a table display coupled with a computer terminal. In addition to other valuable information about its services and resources, parents and students have the opportunity to talk with a librarian about academic resources. On Saturday, August 6, Ms. Peyton worked the table and discussed the new features of the MSU Libraries website.

Schmidt's tenure will continue until the end of the 2006-2007 academic year. Schmidt will continue to pursue research interests in the development of library services and the impact of information technology on the library environment. Schmidt has recently been appointed as the lead project manager for the development of the new library website. This project is expected to be completed by the end of the academic year.

Schmidt's research interests include the use of information technology in libraries, the role of libraries in the 21st century, and the impact of the Internet on library services. Schmidt has presented numerous papers on these topics at conferences and workshops, and has published articles in a variety of professional journals.

Schmidt's work has been recognized by the Mississippi Library Association, the American Library Association, and the Library of Congress, among other organizations. Schmidt has received numerous awards for his contributions to the field of library science, including the Mississippi Library Association's Distinguished Service Award and the American Library Association's Outstanding Librarian Award.

Schmidt's dedication to excellence in library services and his commitment to the development of innovative and effective library services have made him a highly respected figure in the library profession. His leadership and vision for the future of libraries will continue to guide the work of the MSU Libraries.

MSU Librarian Named Chair of Nationaly Recognized Discussion Group

Mississippi State University Libraries is proud to report that June Schmidt, Associate Dean for Technical Services, was recently named chair of the Collection Development Librarians of Academic Libraries Discussion Group.

This group was formed by the American Library Association (ALA) with the goal of providing opportunities for networking and information sharing among collection development librarians from across the country. Schmidt became chair of the group at the conclusion of the 2005 ALA Annual Conference in July, and her tenure will continue until the summer of 2006.

During this period, Schmidt will lead a steering committee of eight information professionals as they work to identify collection development topics that are shaping the future of collection development activities in libraries. These topics can be addressed by the group during the ALA Midwinter Meeting and the 2006 Annual Conference.

Library in search of information. The Library responded by providing services such as computer access in its Reference Department and Computer Commons. Additionally, the Library faculty and staff collected packages of toiletries, medicine and other necessary items to send to hurricane victims on the Gulf Coast. Jim McKell, Stack Maintenance Supervisor, chaired this project.

The Library was able to continue to offer assistance to evacuees from the areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina as they began the process of recovery and rebuilding.

Outreach Activities Allow Librarians to Tout Services

With the motto "Users come first," the MSU Libraries continue to offer access to other databases, including the D & B Million Dollar Database and SocINDEX Full Text.

The D & B North American Million Dollar Database contains information on about 1,600,000 American and Canadian public and private companies. Each record in the database includes the company's number of employees, its annual sales, its type of ownership, its principal executives, and information about the company's industry. Access to this database is being provided thanks to a cooperative agreement between MSU Libraries, the Southern Rural Development Center, the Social Science Research Center, the State Program Leader for Enterprise and Community Resource Development, the Department of Finance and Economics, the Office of Research & Graduate Studies, and the Department of Agricultural Economics.

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Workshop presents David Lindahl, Director of Digital Library Initiatives at the University of Rochester; Oliver Pesch, Chief Strategist of E-Resources at EBSCO; Jill Emery, Director of the Electronic Resources Program at the University of Houston; and Rick Anderson, Director of Resource Acquisition at the University of Nevada.

Annual Workshop Investigates New E-Journal Trends

For a fifth year, the Mississippi State University Libraries hosted continuing education workshop designed to explore the role and management of electronic journals in libraries.

"The E-Files: Investigating E-Journal Tools and Trends," was held at Mitchell Memorial Library on July 8. The event was co-sponsored by the MSU Libraries, the North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG), and EBSCO Subscription Services. In attendance were total of ninety-one information professionals from six states in the Southeast.

Keynote speaker Rick Anderson, Director of Resource Acquisition at the University of Nevada, presented a workshop that took off to a lively start with a presentation addressing the larger, theoretical questions related to the management of e-journals. Subsequent presenters, Jill Emery, Director of the Electronic Resources Program at the University of Houston; Oliver Pesch, Chief Strategist of E-Resources at EBSCO Information Services; and David Lindahl, Director of Digital Library Initiatives at the University of Rochester, all brought to light specific topics that promise to shape the future of e-journals.

Based on the positive evaluations submitted by the attendees, this year's workshop was deemed a success. All of the attendees left the workshop with an enhanced understanding of how to solve the mysteries that continue to surround the role and management of e-journals in libraries.

"Website" continued from page 1

Libraries, "the website was redesigned with the needs of the end-user in mind; therefore, the website now provides several channels for retrieving information. In addition to the sections "About Us," "Research," and "Services," users will find at the top of each page a box for searching the entire website, and a quick navigation drop-down menu that allows for instant access to frequently used pages.

"Information" continued from page 1

The website remained essentially unchanged except for the "Information" tab, which was reserved for libraries to use with information related to specific topics affected by the hurricane, websites with satellite images and aerial photos, and websites that provide information on disaster recovery for libraries.

Website usage data indicates that this regularly updated guide is one of the most heavily used pages on the Libraries' website. According to Fletcher, "We see this website as part of the University's efforts to assist evacuees and the general public in the aftermath of the storm. The Library has also worked to meet the needs of hurricane evacuees in the Starkvegas area. In the days following Hurricane Katrina, numerous evacuees came to Mitchell Memorial Library for assistance. "The redesigned website is an excellent foundation to build upon, but there is still much work to be done in order to assure that the library maintains a great web presence," said President. Material of "Information" by the readers, please visit http://library.msstate.edu/
MetaLib Enhances Patrons’ Access to Electronic Resources

MetaLib is pleased to announce the addition of several search and delivery services that will help patrons access more library resources.

MetaLib, an innovative online searching tool developed by Ex Libris, promises to revolutionize how MSU students and faculty search the Library’s wide array of electronic resources.

To access these resources, simply log in to the MySpace page for the Atrium Service Desk via the MetaLib search tool. The resulting MetaLib interface provides a wide range of searching options.

For example, the QuickSearch screen enables novice users to search resources predefined by librarians and produces a merged list of results presented in order of relevancy.

The MetaSearch screen allows more experienced searchers to take full use of MetaLib’s powerful functionalities.

MetaLib's Getting Started Guide (http://library.msstate.edu) provides detailed information on how to use MetaLib.

Got Questions? New Information Desk Has Answers

Library patrons have been flocking to the new Information Desk, located on the top floor of Mitchell Memorial Library. The desk is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The desk is equipped with a wireless laptop, which provides patrons with instant access to the libraries' full array of databases and e-journals, as well as the MSU website and the Internet.

The Public Services staff is available to answer questions from the public, students, and faculty. The staff is also available to help students and faculty find the information they need. Library users can also use the Library's electronic resources using MetaLib, please visit http://library.msstate.edu.

According to Zhang, "Now it's time for us to further evaluate the impact of MetaLib. Comments from the faculty and students are particularly helpful."

To search the Libraries' electronic resources using MetaLib, please visit http://library.msstate.edu.
Genealogy Fair Connects Past and Present for Many

Mitchell Memorial Library hosted the 2005 Regional Genealogy Fair on Saturday, June 11. The event was sponsored by the Clay County Genealogical Society, the Oktibbeha County Historical and Genealogical Society, the Choctaw County Historical and Genealogical Society, and MSU Libraries. Presenters included E.O. and Betty Templeton, who discussed publishing family histories; Dorothy Teninnson, who examined using church records as resources; and Mary Helen Waggoner, who discussed using commercial databases such as Ancestry.com to perform genealogy research.

Additionally, there were sessions on genealogical society fundraising and solving brick wall problems, as well as a tour of the Libraries’ Special Collections Department, which houses genealogical resources. After the Fair, researchers visited the Special Collections Department to apply what they had learned from the various presentations.

One of the Special Collections Department’s major features is its Mississippiana and Rare Books collection, which encompasses genealogy. This collection includes various family histories, local records, manuscripts, and other useful volumes for conducting genealogical research.

It primarily contains Mississippi materials, but it also includes materials from other Southeastern states, as well as a few items from other regions of the U.S., and from foreign countries. The section even contains a growing genealogy index of books, microforms and periodical articles listed by surname or locality for easy access.

Researchers can also use the Department’s online Genealogy and Local History Index, which they can search by keyword, or browse by surname or geographical location.

More information about genealogy resources at MSU Libraries, contact the Special Collections Department at sp_coll@library.msstate.edu.

Ceremony Honors, Draws Awareness to Constitution

Mitchell Memorial Library hosted a celebration to observe the country’s ninth annual Constitution Day on September 16 in the John Grisham Room. The event, part of a nationwide effort to increase awareness about the U.S. Constitution, commemorated the passage of this historic document on September 17, 1787.

The ceremony opened with a welcome from Frances Coleman, Dean of MSU Libraries. This was followed by a presentation of the American flag by the Air Force ROTC Color Guard and a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Judge Lenore Prather, Chief Justice Emeritus of the Mississippi Supreme Court, was among the presenters at the event. Prather reflected on the Constitution’s significance in the nation’s political and social history, as well as its continuing importance in daily American life.

Other speakers included Dr. Charles Lee, MSU President; Dr. Marty Wiseman, executive director of the John C. Stennis Institute for Government; Rex Burgess, executive director of the John C. Stennis Institute for Public Service; and Ruth Prescott, Associate Director of the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, before the program begins in the John Grisham Room.

Program sponsors included the MSU Libraries, the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service, the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, the Stennis/ Montgomery Association, and the MSU Pre-Law Society.

Templeton Music Museum to Open Soon on Library’s Fourth Floor

Oktibbeha County businessman Charles H. Templeton Sr. is being memorialized with a permanent music museum at Mitchell Memorial Library. Renovation for the Charles Templeton Music Museum, to be located on the fourth floor of the Library, is currently underway.

The Museum will contain the Templeton Ragtime Collection, a compilation of 22,000 pieces of sheet music dating from the 1890s through the 1940s, as well as some 200 musical instruments and memorabilia.

Templeton, an avid music lover, was a 1949 MSU accounting graduate who played both oboe and piccolo in the Famous Maroon Band. Before his death in 2000, Templeton bequeathed his collections of sheet music and musical instruments to MSU.

Since 2001, the Library has been digitizing Templeton’s sheet music in order to make it accessible to online researchers around the world. The various pieces include ragtime, blues, show-tune, and war song folios from the first half of the twentieth century.

The renovation, which is being funded by the Templeton family, is expected to be completed by November.

For more information about the Templeton Ragtime Collection and Templeton Museum, contact Stephen Cunetto, Administrator of Systems at MSU Libraries, at (662) 325-8542.

Roses Are Red and Orange...

Most people know that a red rose symbolizes love and respect. How many, though, know that an orange rose denotes desire, that a bouquet of deep pink roses expresses gratitude, or that a white rose shows reverence?

June was National Rose Month, and MSU Libraries joined in the celebration by featuring an afternoon of arrangement demonstrations and question and answer sessions with MSU Florist manager Lynette McDougal and a Lee County couple, themselves rose growers, who came to town to attend the event.

The event was sponsored by the MSU Libraries, the Oktibbeha County Rose Society, and the MSU Florist. National Rose Month exhibits-including various arrangements, rose pruning implements, literature on care and handling of roses, and even cooking with roses-appeared throughout the Library during the month of June.

MSU Florist Manager Lynette McDougal and student Marybeth McDavid show off one of their floral designs.

Libraries Participate in Learning Communities Program

MSU Libraries is very excited to be participating in the recently initiated Learning Communities program for the Fall 2005 semester. Professor Richard Raymond, chair of the MSU English Department, is Interim Director of this new program. According to Raymond, Learning Communities may be “a cluster of two or three thematically linked courses taken by a cohort of MSU students—a group of faculty and students focused on a single research project, meeting regularly to share their research…the group is assigned a common academic or cultural interest, meeting regularly to explore that interest.”

Several faculty members at MSU Libraries have been assigned as outreach liaisons to the various Learning Communities.

The primary role of the librarian assigned to each Learning Community is to facilitate the use of the Libraries’ various services for the instructors and students involved in the linked courses. These include Library instruction sessions, access to databases and electronic journals, Reference Desk services, research consultations, and the Instructional Media Center.

The liaisons, and MSU Libraries as a whole, are available to the members of the Learning Communities throughout the Fall 2005 semester. MSU Libraries will also be participating in the Learning Communities.
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New Faculty Get Acquainted with Libraries

MSU Libraries hosted New Faculty Orientation sessions on September 28 and 29 at Mitchell Memorial Library. The sessions provided new MSU faculty with an overview of the Libraries' extensive resources. Frances Coleman, Dean of MSU Libraries, started the event by welcoming the attendees. Following the Dean's welcome, June Schmidt, Associate Dean for Technical Services, introduced new faculty to the Library Liaisons and Library Representatives for their respective departments.

Each academic department has a Representative who communicates all library-related issues and requests to the appropriate Liaison within the Library. The Liaison serves as the point of contact for the faculty in that department and also keeps them informed of new Library programs and services. Next, presentations were provided by a young faculty member's faculty and staff. Each of these presentations highlighted library resources and services that the new faculty can utilize in order to support their research and teaching.

Stephen Cunetto, Administrator of Systems, demonstrated several features of the Libraries' new website, including links to the online catalog, and the Interlibrary Loan and Informative document delivery services. Deborah Lee, Coordinator of Instructional Services, presented various workshops, seminars and tutorials that teach MSU students, faculty and staff how to efficiently utilize the Libraries' print and electronic resources. Gail Peyton, Coordinator of Reference and Outreach, spoke on the Reference Department's numerous research tools, which include the Ready Reference Desk, and e-mail and chat services.

A popular presentation was the workshop, presented by Carrie Archer at 325-0810 or dlee@library.msstate.edu. In order to prepare a recommended research strategy, the research consultation service is available to all MSU users. Undergraduates make use of the research consultation service to gather materials for a class assignment or term paper. New faculty members find the research consultation a useful orientation to the resources and services at MSU Libraries. Graduate students often turn to the Libraries for specific information on a subject or service, especially as they develop literature reviews for their theses or dissertations. Research consultations are also available to support research and faculty.

To schedule a Research Consultation with a Reference Librarian, one of the most popular research services of the Mississippi State University Libraries' Reference Department is the research consultation. The consultation is a private session with one of the librarians in the Reference Department. The purpose of a research consultation session is to assist clients in the identification and retrieval of appropriate research materials.

Pattie Archer, Coordinator of the Instructional Media Center, discussed the Center's many features, including its multimedia lab, music composition stations, audiovisual collections, digital equipment, and workshops on the latest web authoring and publishing software. Harry Llull, Associate Dean for Public Services, concluded the sessions with a presentation on MetaLib, the Libraries' new federated searching service.

According to Frances Coleman, "The feedback from the new faculty, department heads and library representatives involved with these programs was great."

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Researchers generally request a consultation at least 24 hours in advance, during the reference days, in order to prepare a recommended research strategy.

Library users are welcome to schedule a consultation at the Reference Desk, located near the Drill Field entrance on the second floor of Mitchell Memorial Library, the new Atrium Service Desk is open 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Mondays through Fridays, throughout the Fall 2005 semester.

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Cancellations include Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts (LLBA), and three databases previously provided through the Digi/Top/Digital Desktop Project: DigiWeb, TreeCD, and Wildlife and Ecology Studies Worldwide.

Digital top, a collaboration between MSU Libraries and the National Agricultural Library (NAL), will allow MSU faculty, staff, students and researchers convenient access to the latest science-based agricultural information.

Due to a lack of funding for the DigiTop project, MSU is unable to provide access to these titles at this time. However, MSU Libraries will continue to offer access to other databases previously provided through DigiTop, including Agriculture (Silver Platter), Aquatic Sciences & Fisheries Abstracts, and CAB Abstracts.

Because users possess a diversity of learning styles and web searching strategies, the library provides several channels for retrieving information. In addition to the search page, the "Ask Us," "Research," and "Services," users will find at the top of each page a box for searching the entire website, and a Quick Navigation drop down menu that allows for instantaneous frequently used pages.

The enhancement of the Libraries’ website, however, is far from being complete. According to Clay Hill, Webmaster of MSU Libraries, "the redesigned website is an excellent foundation to build upon, but there is still much work to be done in order to assure that the library maintains a great web presence."

Additionally, the Library faculty and staff collected packages of toiletries, medicine and other necessary items to send to hurricane victims on the Gulf Coast. Jim McKell, Stack Maintenance Supervisor, chaired this project.

The Graduate Student Orientation was co-sponsored by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research, and the Office of Graduate Libraries, and featured a 70-minute presentation on behalf of MSU Libraries at this event. The Next Generation Orientation, sponsored by the Office of Human Resources and the Office of the Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, took place at the Hunter Henry Center. Organizations from around the campus and Starkville area set up displays to advertise their services for new faculty members. Reference Librarian Marybeth Grimes represented the Library at this event. The Graduate Student Information Fair, sponsored by MSU Libraries, was held on the second floor of Mitchell Memorial Library. The Fair hosted over 200 student representatives, several Library departments, as well as organizations outside the Library. The Libraries’ Office of Outreach Activities has sponsored the Graduate Student Information Fair since 1996.

As a follow-up to the session for Residence Life staff held on August 8, the Libraries received requests from Resident Assistants in Rice Hall and Suttle Hall for覆 supplement presentations to their students. The Suttle Hall presentation took place on August 25. Newkirk Barnes, Reference Librarian, and Gail Peyton visited this dormitory for aperulession to introduce its residents to some of the Libraries’ resources and services for undergraduates. Barnes and Peyton each demonstrated various databases on the Libraries’ new web page, including the "Research Services," "Workshops," "Instructional Media Center," and "Just for Undergraduates" sections. They also entertained questions from the students regarding the various forms of research assistance available from MSU Libraries.
Students and faculty are in for a pleasant surprise when they visit the Mississippi State University Libraries’ website this fall.

Over the summer, a committee of faculty and staff from MSU Libraries teamed together to completely redesign their website.

Officially unveiled on August 17, the new website represents a dramatic enhancement both in terms of its organization and its appearance.

After studying the websites of leading universities across the country, the committee decided to organize the website into sections devoted to three core functions: supporting research, facilitating services, and providing general information about MSU Libraries.

In addition, the website’s new homepage contains a “Search” box for exploring the Libraries’ various collections, a “Spotlight” section for showcasing some of the Libraries’ unique assets, and sections entitled “News” and “Workshops” to keep visitors informed about what is happening at MSU Libraries.

According to Stephen Cunetto, Administrator of Systems for MSU Libraries, “The redesigned website is an excellent foundation, but there is still much work to be done in order to assure that the library maintains a great web presence.”

~ Clay Hill.

Library Offers Information in Wake of Katrina

In response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, MSU Libraries has strived to provide information and services that will meet the pressing needs of evacuees and their families.

A key element in the Libraries’ response has been the webpage “Hurricane Katrina: Picking Up the Pieces-A Guide to Resources,” located at http://library.msstate.edu/katrina.

Christine Fletcher, Government Documents and Microforms Reference Librarian, and Clay Hill, Library Webmaster, began compiling information for this guide a few days after Katrina made landfall.

The Internet resource guide provides a gateway for acquiring helpful information concerning the hurricane and its aftermath. Categories of web links include resources for finding missing persons, disaster relief and recovery agencies, health and safety information, statistics, and resources for persons with disabilities.

Also included are links to websites that assist with finding housing, charity organizations, and updates on university news.