Building Bridges to Student Success
By Janet Stoeger Wilke, Dean of the Library

The “place” of the Library in the university community has been a recurrent theme in past In Brief issues, especially the Library as “third place” as defined by Ray Oldenburg in his book The Great, Good Place\(^1\) – public, informal, and neutral areas where people gather to interact, discuss and enjoy company.

As the nature of collections change in response to new technologies, library spaces are being reinvented. At the same time the links between research, evaluating information, writing, learning skills and technology are being explored to address the diverse learning styles of the 21st century student. These academic skills are understood to be intertwined, not separate domains. Such an understanding recognizes that partnerships across the full spectrum of student service functions can better support the myriad needs of all students.

A variety of models have been used to describe the kinds of dynamic new spaces, and services, being developed in libraries. Each of the models has a different focus, but also significant overlap. In the 1990’s, the emphasis was on the role of information technology in the process of research and knowledge production. Libraries integrated technology and technical support into a commons area which usually included the traditional reference functions of the library.

As the first decade of the new century comes to an end, the focus is on layering services on this foundation via the integration of academic and student life programs. The core services, mentioned above, may be expanded to include peer tutoring, disability services, career services, academic advising, and so on. These services can be offered in a variety of environments and degrees of collaborations between the different supports.

In such a “Learning Commons” the overall milieu of the library, and the service provided, can be characterized as a bridge on which communities of learners join with communities of academic support services to foster interaction, engagement, critical thinking and the assimilation of knowledge and ideas. The result is a unique “third place,” an integrated service hub, with campus partners working together to foster student success.

\(^1\) Oldenburg, Ray. 1999. The great good place: cafés, coffee shops, bookstores, bars, hair salons, and other hangouts at the heart of a community. New York: Marlowe.
Library Facility Updates
By Diana Keith,
Government Documents Librarian

Several changes have been made to the library’s physical facility since last spring. A major project was installation of a fire sprinkler system and upgrade to the fire alarm system. This project resulted from the University of Nebraska Board of Regents’ goal that all university buildings be in compliance with current safety requirements. Special state funds pay for health, safety, and accessibility upgrades. The library project, started in May and concluded in mid-September, cost approximately $300,000.

The library is also trying to better address student needs by adding additional study rooms and rearranging furniture into more comfortable study areas. With the relocation of the Writing Center to the east side of the library’s second floor, the former office area will be converted to additional study rooms. The curriculum area classroom on the lower level was improved with a larger window, allowing the room to be open for student use any time.

The library was built over forty years ago and added onto over twenty-five years ago. The addition was completed just prior to the major implementation of technology in libraries which is now vitally important. Continuing upgrades will be essential to address the technological access needs of today’s students and faculty.

To Support Calvin T. Ryan Library

Financial
Private financial support is vital to creating a margin of excellence at the Calvin T. Ryan Library. Your gifts can assist in bringing valuable collections of information to the library on paper and electronically, as well as creating a physical environment which complements learning by UNK students and other library users. Gifts supporting the library are tax deductible and are handled by the University of Nebraska Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation. Thank you for your support.

Collections
Books and other resources that are no longer needed may be just what we can use to enhance a library collection. We are especially interested in items with a UNK, Nebraska, or Great Plains connection. See this site for details: http://tinyurl.com/librarydonations.

For more information please contact:
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library.unk.edu
Personnel Notes

Anthanett (Toné) Mendoza joined the library faculty on September 25, 2008 as a reference librarian. “I was attracted by an opportunity to get back to academe and work with college students,” she said of her transition to UNK. Prior to joining UNK, Toné served as the Program Manager for the Nebraska Office of Minority Health & Health Equity. She holds a master’s in library science from Emporia State University and has served as a medical librarian at university health facilities in Wyoming and Kansas and at St. Vincent Hospital in Billings, Montana. In her free time, Toné enjoys pencil sketching, listening to classical music, and driving in the countryside with her dogs, Shadow and Miko.

Susan Mueller joined the library faculty on July 1, 2009 as Collection Services Librarian, having previously served as Head of Technical Services at the University of Idaho. “I wanted to come to UNK because it offered an opportunity to be more involved with the students. I have always seen this involvement as a key component of what it means to be a librarian,” she said.

Susan holds a master’s in library science from Emporia State University and a master’s in organizational leadership from Gonzaga University. She has worked in a wide variety of library types, including a medical library, a law library, several public libraries, and public and private academic libraries including the University of Montana, Central Methodist College, and University of Missouri-Columbia. Her hobbies include needlecraft, genealogy, and gardening.

Library Gifts

The Library has recently received 419 book donations from several faculty including: Deborah Murray, Jim Rohrer, Robert Murphy, J. David Aiken, Judy Driskell, Valerie Vierk, Keith Terry, Jane Ziebarth-Bovill, and Bob & Carolyn Lind.

The Curriculum/Non-Book Department received 75 complimentary juvenile literature books from Houghton Mifflin and 10 items from Super Duper Publications.

Antelope Anecdote

Written by Jon Ritterbush, Electronic Resources Librarian
Anecdote contributed by John Lillis, UNK Archivist

Over the years, many letters to the editor have been published in the Antelope. One letter in the October 19, 1972 issue came from a then-obscure author, unaffiliated with Kearney State College, who later rose to notoriety on the national political landscape.

That author was Karl C. Rove who in 1972 served as the Executive Director of the College Republican National Committee. Rove’s letter rebuts a column appearing in the September 28, 1972 Antelope and defends the Nixon administration’s record on crime, unemployment and taxes. Rove would later rise to prominence as a campaign strategist and Deputy Chief of Staff to President George W. Bush.

While rapid responses to unfavorable media coverage now seem commonplace in an age of 24-hour news cycles and the Internet, the fact that an Antelope column drew the attention of Karl Rove in 1972 is remarkable! To view an image of Rove’s letter, go to http://tinyurl.com/Roveletter.
Faculty Research on Display

Research by UNK chemistry faculty is on exhibit in the library. The display is comprised of nine posters, representing the myriad of novel research conducted in the Chemistry Department. This is the first exhibit in the library focused on the faculty research work for a department. A follow-up exhibit is planned for November and will showcase Psychology Department research. It is hoped these will be the inaugural exhibits in what will be a regular feature in the library.