What if? This is the opening thought for most new ideas. The Calvin T. Ryan Library had a “what-if” moment when it realized that the Reference Collection on the main floor was not being used very much. It sat on prime real estate in the library. How could this space be used more effectively? With this thinking, the idea to move the Reference Collection elsewhere in the library was born.

Reference books have become less used by librarians and library users alike, as more questions can be answered using a computer. Many major reference works, such as Encyclopedia Britannica and the Oxford English Dictionary, are now available online through the library’s website and are updated more quickly. As more reference works become available online, the library is seeing less demand for print versions of these standard reference works.

The focus in libraries continues to be assisting the user with his/her information needs. What better way to help the user than to provide them with comfortable seating and group work areas? Many students now own laptop computers, but there weren’t many places to use this personal technology and remain near a librarian for research assistance. Moving the reference books elsewhere allowed this arrangement to be created, enhancing the environment on the main floor, and increasing the availability of the librarians to more students as well.

Over time, the majority of the reference books will be incorporated into the General Collection. A critical few will be maintained near the Reference Desk to provide assistance answering questions. Since these changes were made, the new study area has become a very popular place in the library.
Gifts strengthen library collections

The Library has recently received 199 music scores donated by Francis Wilson, and 292 book donations from: Lisa Aterburn, Brandon Benitz, Susanne Bloomfield, Kurt Borchard, Judy Farber, Brianna Felton, Dee and Jim Goedert, Marilyn Jussel, Bob Lind, Daryl Kelley, Jon Nelson, Jim Payne, James Rohrer, Francisco Silva, Jane Strawhecker, Valerie Vierk, Don Welch, Colen and Janet Stoeger Wilke, and Diane Wysocki.

The Curriculum/Non-Book Department received 115 complimentary review books and textbooks from Houghton Mifflin, 53 textbooks from Holt McDougal, and 28 items from Super Duper.

Learning Commons update
by Janet Stoeger Wilke, Dean of the Library

As mentioned on the first page of In Brief, evolving technology has directly impacted physical spaces in libraries. Space allocated to storage of printed materials may be “re-purposed” to meet the learning styles, learning support, and information-seeking needs of today’s students. The Learning Commons concept – which integrates, and provides seamless access to many different types of learning support services, along with traditional and electronic library information resources, computer technology, powerful software, and expert technical support – is becoming a reality at UNK. Fall 2010 saw Academic Peer Tutoring joining the Writing Center in Calvin T. Ryan Library. Final space renovation is on the horizon, however, even the temporary quarters resulted in increased usage of the service. The future will provide the opportunity for joint activities and programs, to better serve all UNK students.

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:
Kristin Howard
University of Nebraska Foundation, Kearney Office
P.O. Box 2678, 214 West 39th St, Kearney, NE 68848
khoward@nufoundation.org or call (308) 698-5270

The library’s second floor under renovation for the new Learning Commons.
2010 Florence M. Wagner Scholarship awarded

Library student worker, Andrea Collinson of Doniphan-Trumball, was awarded the 2010 Florence M. Wagner Scholarship.

The scholarship has been established by Ms. Wagner’s daughter, Carolyn Ann Wagner Snyder, in honor of her mother. Both were graduates of Kearney State College/University of Nebraska Kearney (KSC/UNK). During her undergraduate years at KSC, Ms. Snyder worked in the library and went on to obtain a graduate degree in Library Science from the University of Denver. She had a long career in academic library administration in Nebraska, Indiana and Illinois. In 2010, Ms. Snyder received a UNK Distinguished Alumni Award.

The Scholarship provides $500 to a Nebraska high school graduate who is a student worker in the Calvin T. Ryan Library. The student must have at least a sophomore class rank and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better.

Personnel Notes:

- Sheryl Heidenreich, Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Coordinator, co-authored an article in October 2009:

- Diana Keith retired as Government Documents Librarian in April.
- Rochelle Krueger completed her Master’s of Library and Information Science from Drexel University in March, and was appointed as Interim Government Documents Librarian/Lecturer in April.
- Glenda Wilson, Library Systems Coordinator, received a Professional Development Grant from the Nebraska Library Association’s (NLA) College and University section to attend the 2010 Innovative Users Group (IUG) meeting in Chicago, IL, where she co-presented at the “Research Pro and Encore Implementation 101” session.
- Susan Mueller attended the IUG meeting in Chicago, IL, in April and the American Library Association’s annual conference, in Washington, D.C., in June.
- Sharon Kofoed was hired as the Curriculum Associate in June.
- Greg Anderson was appointed Archives Librarian in July, following the retirement of John Lillis.
- Joel Hartung resigned as Library Services Assistant in August.
- Michael Sutherland joined the faculty as Web Services Librarian in October.
- Rochelle Krueger presented “Encouraging Prospective Students to Pursue a Degree” at the poster session of the NLA annual conference, in Grand Island, NE, in October.
- Jennifer Harvey presented “ERIC Document Weeding Project at the University of Nebraska Kearney” at the poster session of the NLA annual conference, in Grand Island, NE, in October.
**Museum Of Nebraska Art**

on display at the Calvin T. Ryan Library

**Leonard Theissen:** 1908-1989 (Omaha native)

MONA holds 109 works by Leonard Thiessen in addition to archival material. Please visit the MONA website on Leonard Theissen:

[http://monet.unk.edu/modern/thiessen.shtml](http://monet.unk.edu/modern/thiessen.shtml)

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*Bachelor’s Kitchen, without Sink*
collage, c. 1960s  
Gift of Leonard Thiessen Estate  
Museum of Nebraska Art Collection

*Still Life (with lemons and book)*  
oil on board, 1936  
Gift of James Allison and Elizabeth Flynn  
Museum of Nebraska Art Collection

*St. Paul’s Across Holborn*
oil on board, 1950  
Gift of Leonard Thiessen Estate  
Museum of Nebraska Art Collection

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