

University of Mississippi Libraries
Julia M. Rholes, Dean
2005-2007

Library Mission

Comment [bc1]: Update mission statement?yes

The mission of the University of Mississippi Libraries is to serve the Universities' students and faculty by supporting their curricular and research programs, and secondarily to serve all Mississippians by preserving a current and retrospective record of their heritage. Library faculty and staff acquire, organize, and preserve collections in all viable formats, provide access to information sources, and instruct library users in library research methods. The Library faculty establishes priorities to further the Library mission by engaging in original research and continual assessment activities.

Collections

During this period, we were able to add several significant electronic resources through cooperation with other institutions and with the generous support of the Provost and the Office of University Research. After months of lengthy negotiations, which I coordinated, we signed a statewide contract with Elsevier for a large ScienceDirect electronic journal package in January 2006. This contract included the University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi. The University of Mississippi Medical Center was involved during most of the lengthy negotiations, but withdrew near the end of negotiations due to license concerns. In 2007, they were also able to join this statewide contract. This contract gives all the universities access to the full text of Elsevier journal titles held by any of the participating universities.

This greatly expanded our access to journals published by Elsevier, the largest and one of the most prestigious publishers of science and social science titles. We were also allowed to drop duplicate holdings and add new holdings. In January 2007, I was also able to negotiate another cooperative licensing agreement with the University of Mississippi Medical Center to acquire access to the Web of Science, a premier database with unique citation features. Generous support from the Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Research and Sponsored Programs helped us acquire this critical tool for researchers. The last cooperative acquisition was the full text version of the Congressional Serial Set, one of the largest and most significant series produced by the U.S. government. Here, we partnered with the Law Library at the University. Under my direction, Laura Harper, head of Government Information Services led the negotiations on this important product which will be used by researchers from many disciplines. Working with different partners has allowed us to significantly leverage our collection dollars.

In July 2007, we also concluded the purchase of the final accretion of the Larry Brown papers, which included manuscripts, correspondence, daily journals of the late author, who was one of Mississippi's most important writers.

In 2006-07, we received a permanent increase of \$310,000 in state funds for collections. While serials price inflation will erode some of the benefits of this increase, we were able to direct a significant portion of the funds to monograph acquisitions in the humanities and social sciences. This is critical as we have

seen some decline in the number of monographs that we've been able to purchase due to dramatic increases in serial pricing.

Staffing

We received funds from the Provost which allowed us to add a fulltime development officer in the Libraries and an additional permanent position in Information Technology. Both of these positions are critical for the Libraries. With increasing investments in technology and electronic resources, we must continue add or redirect staffing resources focused on technology. In addition to the new IT position, we used an existing position to create a Web Resources Reference position. The individual in this position spends the majority of her time on the Libraries' web site, which is quite large and the second most heavily used web site on campus. We are in the process of revising our entire web presence and have added many new pages and features. I contributed new content and other input to the pages devoted to Administration and Development.

We also shifted some position responsibilities in order to create a full time Electronic Resources Librarian position. This position is devoted to the maintenance of our growing number of databases and electronic journals. With subscriptions, full text databases and open access titles, we now provide access to over 27,000 electronic journal titles.

Our new development officer position should allow us to identify additional private resources which will be critical for maintaining and adding to our current collections and services. As part of our plans for development, we have

developed a full communications package, including a biennial newsletter Keywords and a strong web presence. A phonathon specifically for the Libraries and numerous focused mailings as well as a number of events in the Library are helping us connect with donors for our different library programs.

Facilities

During this period, we have continued moving collections to our newly renovated Annex facility. Large political collections, including the Jamie Whitten collection, were moved to the Annex facilities from the Law School and Wal-Mart. We also moved lesser used materials, primarily bound periodicals from both the Science Library and main library. While there is still some room for growth in the political archives on the first floor, the second floor, which houses regular collections, is almost completely full. A full scale collection shift is now going on within the two libraries, and we also hope to begin a pilot inventory control project. We are making plans for an information commons on the first floor of the Williams Library. We have shifted some collections around and hope to soon add some new equipment and furniture in this area. Our hope is to eventually offer individual and group workstations and computing for over 100 users in this area. We are also in the process of evaluating service needs for this area. We have already established a printing and copying service area in this area. We also plan to add additional seating in the Baxter Current Periodicals room near the Libraries' popular coffee shop. With the shift to so many online journals and

databases, we have been able to greatly reduce the shelving in this area. While use of the libraries web presence and electronic resources has skyrocketed, we continue to also see increased use of our physical spaces as well.

We expanded the space for our Interlibrary Loan unit in the main library. With the addition of the new document delivery service, this unit really needed more space for staffing and equipment.

Personnel

Barbara Adams, reference librarian and associate professor, retired in June 2007 after over 30 years of service.

Other transitions:

Ryan Johnson, tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in September 2006

Daisy Cheng, tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in July 2007

Buffy Choinski, promoted to Professor in July 2007.

Colin Bowen, Microcomputer Specialist, hired 2/28/2007

Ellie Campbell, Senior Library Assistant, hired 8/20/2007.

Shugana Campbell, Visual Collections Librarian, hired 12/12/2005.

Ray Dees, Library Clerk, hired 11/2/2006.

Chatham Ewing, Digital Initiatives Librarian, hired 9/1/2005.

Judy Greenwood, Interlibrary Loan Librarian, hired 8/1/2007.

Tabatha Hunter, Senior Library Assistant, hired 6/5/2007.

Ryan Johnson, Head, Information and Instruction, hired 9/1/2006.

Kevin Malloy, Senior Library Assistant, hired 12/9/2006.

Leigh McWhite, Political Archivist, hired 10/25/2005.

Jessica Minihan, Electronic Resources Librarian, hired 5/29/2007.

Andrea Odom, Senior Library Assistant, hired 6/9/2006.

Debra Riley-Huff, Web Services/Reference Librarian hired 7/1/2006.

Drew Smith, Network Administrator, hired 6/18/2007.

Michael Upton, Development Officer, hired 11/20/2006.

John Wall, Library Specialist, hired 12/4/2006.