

Library Newsletter

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Library News!

From the Director 1

Mexico Book Fair Big
Hit with Librarians 2

New Full-Text Electronic
Journals List Available 3

RGV Folklore Archive
Relocates 4

How do Library Fines
Work? 5

Did You Lose
Something? 6

New Employee
Spotlights 7

Behind the Scenes
at the Library 8

UTPA Library Lights
the Way 9

From the Director

Neighbor and neighborliness seem to go hand-in-hand. It is only natural to extend friendship to persons who live in nearby houses, within a neighborhood. Last November, however, I found that neighborhoods extend farther, much farther, than to the next block or even the next city. President Cardenas invited me to join a delegation from UTPA to the Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas in Ciudad Victoria. UTPA and UAT have developed programs to make it easier for students from each campus to take classes or even whole programs on the other's. So it was that twenty-five of us from UTPA gathered for the trip. I had never taken a land trip into Mexico, so every sight, from the expanses of brush land to the stunning mountains, was remarkable. Most memorable, though, was the reception the rector gave us. The greeting, "Bienvenidos," was warm and genuine. That evening and the next day each of us found how eager UAT was to cooperate with UTPA and to develop programs comparable in depth and quality with UTPA's. As the day ended, it was obvious that 200 miles away were colleagues and friends. We share the same aspirations, goals, and ideals. UAT may be in another country, hundreds of miles away; yet similarities bring us together. We are truly neighbors.



Mexico Book Fair Big Hit With Librarians



Several Librarians from the University Library spent their Thanksgiving holiday purchasing books for the Library at the Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara, also known as the Guadalajara International Book Fair. The book fair, the largest one of its kind in Latin America, brings together publishers, librarians, scholars, and others interested in obtaining Spanish language materials from all over Central and South America.

Representing UTPA at the 18th annual book fair were Special Collections Librarian George Gause, Systems Librarian Virginia Haynie Gause, Associate Director for Research Services Dr. Farzaneh Razzaghi, and Head of Cataloging Juan De Dios Ramirez.

The book fair opened at 9:00 am on Saturday, November 27th and lasted through Sunday, December 5th. The fair drew crowds of 457,767 general public visitors, as well as 14,488 "book professionals". It was held at the Expo Guadalajara Exhibition Center in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

Mr. Gause says that it is imperative to get to the fair early for the best selection of materials. In addition to browsing for appropriate titles, Librarians make lists throughout the year as to what materials they would like to purchase.

As time nears for the book fair to start, the Librarians arrange these lists into groups according to publisher. Then, they code the sheets with the publishers' exhibit stand number. This way, they can then cover the vast exhibit hall space more efficiently. As books are purchased, they are placed in a box on a luggage cart that the Librarians lug around the hall with them until full.

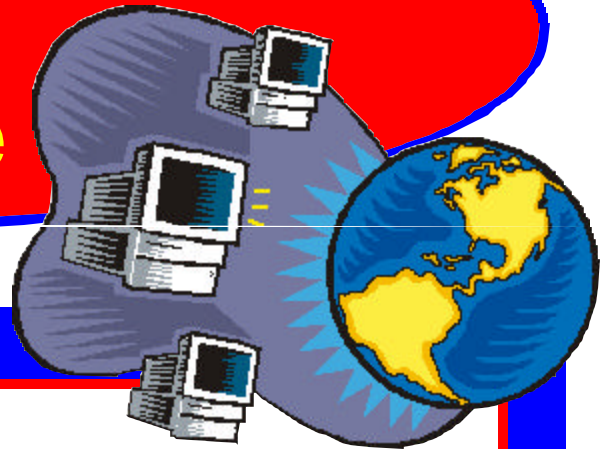
All told, the Librarians purchased 11 boxes of books, totaling 299 titles, and spending \$5,122.19. Once the books are purchased, they are entered into a spreadsheet with title, ISBN, and other information in order to make sure that duplication of titles does not occur. At the end of the book fair, the boxes of books are shipped by bus to Reynosa, where the Gause's then go and retrieve them.

One notable title purchased this year is the 14 volume, 2003 edition of the Enciclopedia de Mexico (with accompanying CD). This is the first new edition of this encyclopedia published since 1998. Located in the Reference Department with call number REF F1204 .E46, this Spanish Language encyclopedia is among the most comprehensive sources on Mexico - its history, art, literature, politics, and culture, and is regarded as a "must have" for any serious collection covering Mexico.

According to Mr. Gause, "This is an excellent opportunity for the University Library as a whole to expand the perspective of their collection...The opportunity to interact with vendors from various backgrounds from Latin America as well as other librarians interested in acquiring Spanish language materials helps expand our professional perspective."

Participation at the book fair by Librarians from the United States is sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA). This year ALA sponsored 150 Librarians, and each of those Librarians sponsored received \$100 toward their airfare. Librarians from UTPA Library also attend the book fair in Monterrey each October.

New Full-Text Electronic Journals List Available

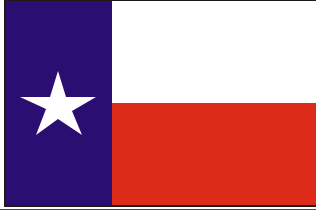


Would you like to know which newspapers, magazines, and journals are available to you over the Internet? The Library has a new web service for faculty, staff, and students who use full text online journals. It's our Full Text Electronic Journals List, available at <http://fx7aq9lm5s.search.serialssolutions.com/>. We've worked with a company called SerialsSolutions to make this page that allows you to find any of the thousands of full text journals, reports, newspapers, and other sources provided by our databases.

The Full Text Electronic Journals List has a search box where you can search for a specific publication by title or ISSN, along with an alphabetical list of titles. You can also check to see if we have journals available on the subject of your choice. In addition, the list links to the dozens of databases (Lexis-Nexis, JSTOR, etc.) that provide full text content. (Each database works differently; some will take you to the online journal and allow you to scroll through individual issues, while others take you to a search screen where you can re-enter the journal name and search for articles.)

The Full Text Electronic Journals List does not include the periodicals the Library subscribes to in print, but we hope to add those publications to the list this semester. We're also looking into products that will allow library users to link from databases that contain article citations without full text, to the databases that have the complete articles.

The Full Text Electronic Journal List is also available from our library catalogs page (<http://www.lib.panam.edu/research/catalogs.asp>) and our Research Services page (<http://www.lib.panam.edu/research/index.asp>). Go ahead and give this resource a try!!



RGV Folklore Archive Relocates



For many years the Rio Grande Valley Folklore Archive has been located on the first floor of the Library within Special Collections. In January 2005 the Archive moved to the Social and Behavioral Sciences Building, room 317. This move provides both the Library and the Folklore Archives with additional space. Dr. Mark Glazer, Anthropologist specializing in Folklore, founded this collection and continues its supervision.

Former Library Director, Mr. Leslie Gower, originally provided Dr. Glazer office space within the library for the folklore archive. Mark Glazer, as part of his folklore classes, assigns students to collect Valley folklore and, over the years, the collection grew rapidly. The Library provided Dr. Glazer and the folklore archive with student help, office furniture and supplies. Glazer, in turn, obtained several grants to procure computer equipment (PCs, printers and scanners). With time, the holdings of the collection were automated and grew into the world's largest computerized Mexican-American folklore archive.

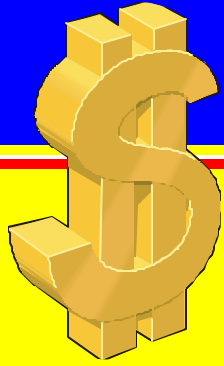
Appointments to use the archive may be made by calling Dr. Glazer at (956) 381-2806.

The Library wishes the Rio Grande Valley Folklore Archives good luck!

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How Do Library Fines Work?

Most library patrons who borrow materials from the University Library make sure they return the items they checked out on or before they are due back. However, a large number of patrons can't or don't return their materials before the due date. This results in their being assessed a fine at the library. Patrons are given a five day grace period during which they can return their books and not be assessed a fine. However, after the grace period extended to borrowers expires, library fines begin to accrue at the rate of ten cents per day (including the five days they were given to return them without a fine) per book resulting in a minimum fine of fifty cents. As a courtesy, patrons are sent an email notice once items are overdue.

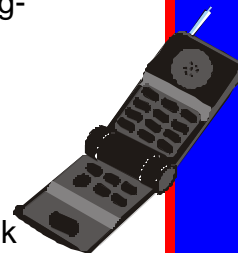
Furthermore, any overdue materials result in an automatic hold being placed on the borrower's record. Along with their being prohibited from borrowing additional materials until the books in question are returned, students will also have holds placed on their school records. Consequently, their financial aid can be held, and they will be unable to obtain copies of their transcripts or register for classes, regardless of the size of the fine. Balances owed to the library can only be provided once the material has been returned. Once a borrower pays their fine at the first floor Circulation Desk, the hold is automatically removed. Fines can be paid in person at the Circulation Desk in the form of cash, personal checks or money orders. All money collected from the payment of library fines is used to purchase additional materials for the University Library.



Did You Lose Something?



Every day, scores of patrons walk in and out of the library with their books, bags and personal belongings in tow. However, all too often, many library users will leave the library with less than they had when they came in. Whether at a computer, in the restroom, in a study carrel or simply sitting at a table, library patrons all too often will unintentionally leave behind their school supplies, personal belongings or other materials they brought with them to the library. When found (either by staff or by other patrons), these items will usually get turned in to one or more service desks found on either the first, second or third floors of the library before getting turned in to the Circulation Desk which serves as the location for the primary Lost and Found Desk here at the UTPA Library.



According to Edna Luna, Head of Circulation, the single most commonly found item in the library's Lost and Found are diskettes of all shapes, sizes and colors. These are usually left behind by users when working from their diskettes at one of the library's numerous computers. Among other popular items turned in are cell phones, purses, wallets, keys, calculators, text books and umbrellas. Unique or unusual items include food, shoes, tax forms, birth certificates and a skateboard. The items are picked up by the UTPA Police Department when either the lost and found box is full or when the semester has come to an end.



New Employee Spotlights

Oswaldo Valdez is a new full-time Library employee. He works half time in Interlibrary Loan and half time in Special Collections. He used to work part time in Academic Services, and has worked for the University for two years. He used to work in Special Collections, as a student employee. He likes the library because he says that the library is a great place to find things and for services to students.

Oswaldo is from Tamaulipas Mexico, but he was raised in Donna. He went to Donna High School. He is currently enrolled here at the University and is majoring in Computer Information Systems.

He loves listening to Tejano music. He is a fan of soccer, and his favorite team is Crul Azul (they are from Mexico). In his free time, Oswaldo plays on a soccer team here in McAllen.

He is currently being introduced to other full time staff members, so go down to ILL in the mornings or Special Collections in the afternoons, and introduce yourself to Oswaldo. He will be happy to meet you.



Alisha Puentes originally hails from Tennessee, and is new to the Valley. Before working here, she was employed at Target. She wanted to work in the library because she loves books in general, and she likes to read. She was attracted to the library because it has a good work atmosphere and she likes the people here.

Before coming to the Valley, Alisha attended college in Tennessee, working toward a degree in Elementary Education. She loves the University environment and wants to return to school to complete her

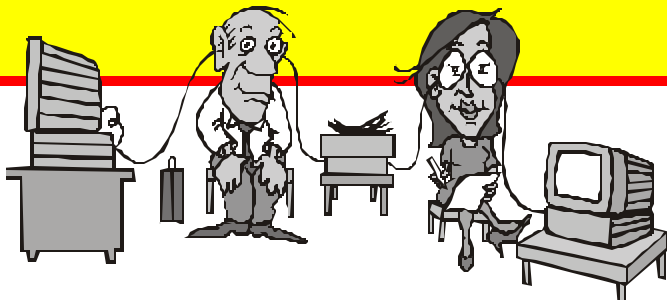


degree. In the future, she hopes to teach the second or the third grade.

Alisha likes to listen to Country music. She also loves to watch movies. She likes to go to the movie theater, and she also rents movies, and likes to watch them on TV. She loves baseball and football. Her favorite baseball team is the Atlanta Braves. Tennessee is her favorite college football team, and her favorite pro team is the Indianapolis Colts.

Please come down to Collection Development and introduce yourself to Alisha if you haven't already done so, and make her feel at home.

Behind the Scenes at the Library



The Systems Department of the University Library, commonly referred to as "Systems", supports and maintains all of the computers and software that students, faculty, and staff use in the Library. The Library actively runs about 400 computers, including the ones in the classrooms on the first floor and the staff computers. Systems staff members also teach Library employees how to use new computer software applications that they install for their work-related tasks.

Systems has a public services face, too. This Department manages the Library's GIS/Media Lab on the fourth floor. The GIS/Media Lab is supervised by Joe Reyna. Hugo Huerta, Senior LAN Administrator, also does some work with the public, as he grants IP addresses to personal laptop users. Ward Price, the Library's Webmaster, maintains the Library's website. There are 7 people in the Systems Department, which is overseen by Greg Mitchell, who is the Assistant Director for Resource Services.

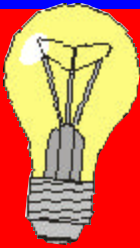
Two of the Systems staff were interviewed for this article: Joe Reyna, who works in the GIS/Media Lab, and Rick Peralez, Computer User Specialist. Here are some of their reflections on the work they do and the services they provide.



Joe Reyna assists patrons in the GIS/Media Lab as they work on photos, photo editing, handouts, pamphlets, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and video editing among other tasks. According to Mr. Reyna, the GIS/Media Lab is something new to the library which stimulates more students to become involved in the library. In addition to the media workstations that are available, soon 10 GIS stations will be housed in the Media Lab. Mr. Reyna also updates the firewall and software for the computers on the 2nd floor, and assists the Web Librarian with the library's web pages.

Rick Peralez maintains and supports all library staff and public computers. He will soon be installing about 13 more word processing stations on the 3rd floor. This means that 73 more total computers will be added for public use. Mr. Peralez will be training some of the 3rd floor personnel to help maintain the laptops. Mr. Peralez also maintains the printers, the printer paper supply, and the toner for the printers. Additionally, he is also involved in planning as a member of the Systems group. Mr. Peralez is also involved in special projects like the migration of Circulation and Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and Reserves to the new Library automation system. According to Mr. Peralez, "Everything today is technology-based and we use technology to keep functioning, and we need someone to keep technology functioning and running, so we can keep up on the services we offer."

The Systems Department is vital to the Library to maintain and improve our services. They are behind the scenes at the Library, but they are at the forefront of the services we offer and the work we all do.



UTPA Library Lights the Way...



The Library, in conjunction with Project Coordinator Larry Thompson of the Physical Plant, is working on an ambitious project to improve the lighting both inside and outside of the Library. The lighting project was approved in January of 2004 by then President Miguel Nevarez, Provost Rodolfo Arevalo, and the University Planning Committee.

Library Director Lawrence Caylor felt that the lighting outside of the Library on both the South and North sides, as well as the lighting inside the Library lobby, was deficient. Specifically, the outside lighting did not focus on the doors of the Library building. Additionally, the lobby lighting was dim and was not conducive to studying. Therefore, he took these findings to Dr. Arevalo, who agreed with his assessment.

At the present time, the North side outside lighting has been completed, with the installation of 8 ground-mounted bollards (4 on each side of the walkway), and 2 wall-mounted fixtures on the pillars outside the Library building doors. The South side outside lighting is still in the construction stage, but Mr. Caylor says that he envisions similar bollards on the walkway leading up to the doors. He would also like to see wall-mounted fixtures installed, with 2 placed on the Media Theatre wall just outside the Library doors, as well as one on the rounded wall across the walkway, and one each on the two pillars just outside the Library doors.

The final stage of the lighting project, which has not yet started, will involve the installation of all new, high-intensity suspended lighting in the Library lobby area. This type of lighting will ensure a soft, yet brilliant light, which will provide for a more pleasant area conducive to studying and meeting, according to Mr. Caylor. Once finished, the lighting project will provide more safety and comfort to patrons, as well as direct the patrons' eyes towards the doors of the Library building. According to Caylor, "The lighting, when completed, will enhance the comfort level of the building, and provide patrons with a bright and cheery feeling."