



Adapting Library Spaces for Today's Needs

Once upon a time, virtually all students came to the university library to use its books and journals and to study. Faculty members came to browse journals in their field or conduct their research. As databases replaced printed indexes, the nature of library use changed, and as the libraries' resources began to be delivered over the Internet, some of that use could be done remotely at home or in the dorm or office. Many libraries saw the number of physical visitors drop as the number of online or virtual visitors skyrocketed. Some observers gazed into their crystal balls and foresaw a future that would be almost entirely virtual, and a few libraries became almost paperless.

Nevertheless, at UNCG and some other university libraries, the number of physical visitors to the libraries grew, surpassing one million each of the last two years. Why did that happen? What still causes people to visit libraries in person in the Internet age? Has the way patrons use libraries changed? Is there a growing desire to be present in a physical space redesigned to support teaching, learning, and research in the 21st century?

At UNCG, we pose these questions and offer some observations below:

- 1) Upon her arrival in 2004, with the support of the Provost, Dean Rosann Bazirjian made it a priority to upgrade the comfort, convenience and attractiveness of the physical space, investing in carpeting, paint, new furnishings, new and more technology, and other amenities as were indicated in assessments of library space.
- 2) A variety of assessments, including surveys, observational studies and focus groups have guided us in making a number of changes in the libraries, including new furniture purchases, designating floors of the library as either quiet floors or group study floors, adding vending, and increasing the number of computers in the libraries.
- 3) The number of persons actually coming into the University Libraries (Jackson and the Harold Schiffman Music Library) has grown, topping 1 million for the first time in 2010-2011, and rising to almost 1.25 million in 2011-2012. Virtual or online visits have also grown, with web page views rising from 5.25 million in 2010-2011 to 14.4 million in 2011-2012.
- 4) The nature of student assignments is changing, and spurs demand for new kinds of library space that fosters the collaborative work that is now part of many courses. Collaboratories and learning commons space, built only a few years ago to facilitate group study, have now been supplemented by the newly opened Digital Media Commons (DMC), which addresses the needs of today's learners with a unique collaboration between the libraries and other campus units to help patrons develop various types of technological literacies. Student feedback is very positive as students use the DMC to advance their learning through the technology and staff/faculty expertise there. The DMC just opened in August, but use is already steadily climbing. The space remains full all day, and often supports 100 students or more working on projects late into the evening.
- 5) Study space on campus continues to be at a premium. UNC system standards recommend library seating for 20% of the student enrollment. Jackson Library's 1000 seats, while an increase of 10-15% in the last three years, still falls short of that recommendation.

6) The pairing of the Elliott University Center and Jackson Library, joined by the connector in 2005, has made for easy access to the Library by students coming to the EUC for other purposes. The convenience of this access is believed to drive much of the increased use as two of the centers of student life on campus were joined in proximity.

7) Users visit the libraries for different reasons. Some seek quiet study space, and certain floors of Jackson Library are so designated, while other floors are designed for group study.

8) Not only has use of Jackson Library increased, it has been extended to 24 hours a day, 5 days a week, and serving between 350-500 students between midnight and 7 am, 600 or more prior to exams.

9) The Libraries have pursued other avenues to enhance library space, including working with an interior architecture class to renovate the Harold Schiffman Music Library with better design principles, comfortable space, and the use of color.

University Libraries Marks 150th Anniversary of Emancipation Proclamation with Release of Database on Runaway Slave Ads in North Carolina

The *North Carolina Runaway Slave Advertisements* project provides online access to all known runaway slave advertisements (more than 2300 items) published in North Carolina newspapers from 1751 to 1840. These brief ads provide a glimpse into the social, economic, and cultural world of the American slave system and the specific experience within North Carolina. Working from microfilmed copies of these rare publications, the project team scanned the ads to provide digital images, create full-text transcripts and descriptive metadata, and develop a searchable database. The NCRSA website includes digital scans of the ads, contextual essays to address their historical research value, full text transcripts,

an annotated bibliography to aid researchers, and a searchable database.

Browse the collection at <http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/RAS>

Jackson Library Portico Entrance Beautified



Photo by Carolyn Shankle

The Portico Entrance to Jackson Library grew brighter and more beautiful in December, when a local garden company donated violas to create two large beds on either side of the stairs leading into the building from College Avenue.

The flowers are the gift of High Performance Flowers, which operates at the Colfax Farmer's Market off Sandy Ridge Road during the growing season. After a conversation with a customer who also works in the University Libraries, Michael Turner, UNCG class of 2005, and the company owner, Branson Davis, class of 2000, decided to donate some their flowers for us to enjoy. Michael, in particular, says he used to spend a lot of time in our library when he was in school, and was happy to work with Branson to arrange this gift to us. Thanks for giving back, gentlemen.



Thanks also to Kevin Siler, Jeff Hawkins, Chris Fay and our other groundspeople for preparing and planting the beds for us.

UNC Greensboro Joins Community-driven Project to Found Library Publishing Coalition

UNC Greensboro, in collaboration with more than 50 other academic libraries and the Educopia Institute, has joined a two-year project (2013-2014) to create the Library Publishing Coalition (LPC). The project emerged from conversations between Purdue University, the University of North Texas, and Vir-



Joe Williams

ginia Tech regarding the need for a community dedicated to advancing the field of library publishing. UNC Greensboro will play an integral role in the design and implementation of the LPC as a Founding institution. Joe Williams, Head of Access Services and the Digital Media Commons, is the representative of the UNCG

University Libraries to the coalition.

Academic libraries and the researchers and organizations they support are facing a new paradigm in scholarly publishing. The web, information and social media technologies, and the Open Source and Open Access movements are changing the framework in which scholarship is created, collected, organized, and disseminated. Yet, as shown by the highly regarded, IMLS-funded Strategies for Success project (<http://wp.sparc.arl.org/lps/>), library-based publishing groups lack a central space where they can meet, work together, share information, and confront common issues.

Through seed support from Educopia and participating institutions, the LPC project will engage practitioners to design a collaborative network that in-

tentionally addresses and supports an evolving, distributed, and diverse range of library production and publishing practices.

During the first stage of the project, the LPC's project team will document and evaluate how best to structure this initiative in order to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing for this field. The project team will produce several concrete deliverables, including:

- Targeted research, building on existing broader surveys, that will focus on topics of particular interest to the community, including costs, staffing, and how libraries are financing these ventures.
- Compilation of a directory of existing library publishing services, providing details including staff contacts, types of products produced, and software platforms utilized.
- A forum for networking and sharing communications about library publishing services, including an annual event and ongoing virtual training and community-building activities.
- The design and implementation of the Library Publishing Coalition as an ongoing, institutionally owned organization that serves the needs of this community.

Tyler Walters, Dean of University Libraries at Virginia Tech and one of the project's initiators, called the formation of the LPC "a significant occasion in the development of library services and community building in our profession." He added, "One day, through the community that is the LPC, new business and service models for library-based publishing will be formed, shared technologies brought about, and best practices documented, communicated, and learned. The LPC promises to advance new forms of information services in the Digital Age and I'm looking forward to realizing the promise of what can be... together."

More information and a full list of participating institutions are available on the project website, <http://www.educopia.org/programs/lpc>.

About Educopia

The Educopia Institute serves and advances the well-being of libraries, information/research centers, and their parent institutions by fostering the advancement of shared information systems and infrastructures. Educopia acts as a catalyst to assist and advise libraries and other closely affiliated cultural memory institutions in the creation of new digital means of preserving and providing access to scholarly communication and the cultural record in socially responsible ways.

Carolyn Weill LeBauer Fund Is Established

In this season of Thanksgiving, we take a moment to appreciate one of the many special donors to our University Libraries and say thank you to all.

Carolyn Weill LeBauer, a 1936 graduate of Woman's College, cherished her alma mater. She was a Greensboro native who contributed greatly to the community through her association with civic, cultural and medical auxiliary activities over many



years. She died in March 2012, and we are pleased to announce that her estate has now established the Carolyn Weill LeBauer Fund to support the book arts collection housed in the Special Collections of Jackson Library at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro..

"This is an appropriate way to honor Carolyn's memory and interests," says Dean Rosann Bazirjian of the University Libraries. "She was a member the Friends of the UNCG Libraries for many years, and she and her husband Maurice gave a special volume to the book arts collection back in 1975, one which remains one of the jewels of our collection. We were and are grateful for her support and interest in the University Libraries at UNCG." publication of this book and the important history of writing at Woman's College.

2013: A Preview of Coming Programs

Monday, January 28 — Book Discussion of *When God Talks Back: Understanding the American Evangelical Relationship with God* by T. M. Luhrmann, led by Dr. Ben Ramsey, Religious Studies. Hodges Reading Room, Jackson Library, 4 p.m. FREE

Wednesday, February 13 — UNCG alum Wiley Cash, author of *A Land More Kind Than Home*. Hodges Reading Room, Jackson Library, 7 p.m. FREE

Monday, February 25 — Book Discussion of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* by D. H. Lawrence., led by Dr. Keith Cushman, English. Hodges Reading Room, Jackson Library, 7 p.m. FREE

Wednesday, March 6 — Christopher Hodgkins and Robert Whalen Present "The Digital Temple of George Herbert." Hodges Reading Room, Jackson Library, 4 p.m. FREE.

Monday, March 18 — Book Discussion of *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror & an American Family in Hitler's Berlin* by Erik Larson, led Dr. Karl Schleunes, History. Hodges Reading Room, Jackson Library, 7 p.m. FREE

Wednesday, March 20 — Joseph Bathanti, current North Carolina Poet Laureate, Hodges Reading Room, Jackson Library 4 p.m. FREE

Wednesday, April 10 — Kathryn Stripling Byer, UNCG alumna and former North Carolina Poet Laureate, Hodges Reading Room, Jackson Library, 4 p.m. FREE

Monday, April 29 — The Friends of the UNCG Libraries Dinner will feature John Shelton Reed, whose latest book is *Dixie Bohemia: A French Quarter Circle in the 1920s*. Tickets will go on sale in January. Fee charged.