



UTA Libraries

Inside this issue	
LSA FUND-d Raiser...	2
SEL Future Exhibits	2
Spatial Reserves: GIS...	3
Contest	4
Dragons at the AFA	5
Suggestion Box	6
ILLiad Makes Borrowing...	7
New Faces	8
SEL: Is Cloning Baaaaa-d?	9
Library Larry	10

Welcome!

...to the first issue of *Connections: Library News for Library Staff* for 2004. Our mission is to build community within UTA Library staff by reminding people of upcoming events and dates, introducing new staff members, celebrating a department’s achievements, and writing about other items of interest. We are reviving *Connections* in response to the UTA Libraries Organizational Excellence Committee’s suggestion that a library-wide newsletter would increase internal communications between departments.

Connections hopes to continue the rich legacy of *Shelf Life*, a prior UTA staff newsletter, that for several years reported staff meetings, awards, and monthly happenings. To do so, your contributions of articles, news, and reports are welcome. We need volunteers to write short items for sections such as:

- ◆ On Display - information about new library exhibits
- ◆ Spotlight – feature story about a department or service
- ◆ Conference Report – highlights of a recent conference
- ◆ Committee Reports
- ◆ Kudos – recognition for contributions and services by fellow staff members and departments
- ◆ On the Calendar - general information about upcoming events
- ◆ New Faces – brief bio. and photograph of new staff members
- ◆ Milestones – recognition of staff members who have completed milestones of service
- ◆ Check This – reviews of books, journals, electronic resources, and other items of interest

Also, we need to know what you would like in the newsletter. For instance: What type of articles or monthly columns would interest you? What are your department’s recent achievements and projects? If you would like to write an article or have an idea for one, please contact me (phone - X5747 or e-mail - lworcester@uta.edu).

I am looking forward to working with all of you!

Lea Worcester, Editor

FUN-d Raiser a Blooming Success

During the month of February, the Library Staff Association Board (LSA) repeated last year's successful Co-Worker Appreciation Day flower sale with proceeds exceeding \$300.00. Reports are that library staff members really enjoy this particular method of raising funds for staff activities and the flower fund.

As a reminder, LSA fundraisers go to subsidize such benefits as the monthly birthday cakes, social entertainment, lounge supplies, future staff scholarships, and cards or flowers for get well, congratulations, or condolences.

A call for volunteers to serve on the Staff Scholarship Committee has gone out, and our next exciting fundraiser will be a raffle to raise money for those future staff scholarships. A Polaroid progressive Scan DVD player is the subject of this year's drawing, to be held concurrent with the next birthday celebration and a Staff Lounge "Shower" March 24. Watch your



Jean Sherwin, President of the Library Staff Association, delivers flowers to Cathy Spitzenberger.

email for more details of these and other upcoming events. Meanwhile, a large THANK YOU from your LSA Board members to all who participated in the flower sale!

—Library Staff Association, Jean Sherwin & Ginny Pinkerton

SEL Future Exhibits

In January, President George W. Bush announced a new vision for NASA. Short-term goals include completion of the International Space Station, retirement of the space shuttle program, and sending humans back to the Moon. A long-term goal is to establish a permanent base on the lunar surface, which could be used as a starting point for human expeditions to other planets.

In recognition of this announcement, the Science and Engineering Library will hold an

exhibit entitled "To Go Boldly: The Possible Futures of Space Exploration." With an emphasis on human missions to other worlds, this exhibit will showcase a variety of books on the topic. Some books discuss relatively modest proposals for space exploration, such as inhabited missions to Mars, while others speculate on the more ambitious possibilities of expeditions beyond the Solar System. The exhibit will also include visual representations of vehicles and equipment that would make feasible the human exploration of distant worlds.

The exhibit will remain in the Science and Engineering Library through the end of March.

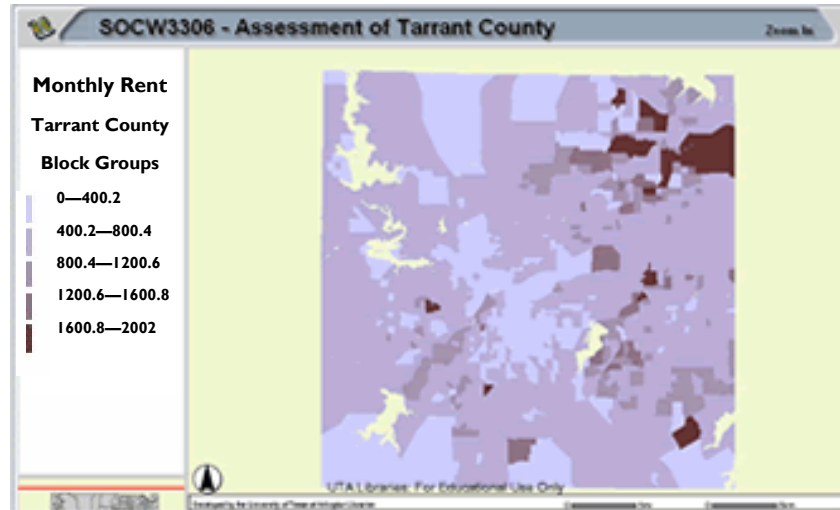
—Jason Neal

"A long term goal is to establish a permanent base on the lunar surface..."

Spatial Reserves Leveling the Playing Field: GIS for Everyone!

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) should not be a resource only for the most technologically sophisticated here at UTA. Professors and students should have access to spatial data and electronic maps regardless of whether they have the time or the technical sophistication necessary to effectively learn and use GIS. Sure there are disciplines such as geology, architecture, and urban planning that offer complete courses in GIS, but what about everyone else? What about history, social work, real estate, marketing, criminology, sociology, political science, anthropology and all of the other various colleges and departments on campus?

To meet this need, the 'UTA Libraries: GIS Program', as part of the Information Literacy Program Area, has started a new service this semester entitled 'Spatial Reserves.' Like standard electronic reserves, faculty request information to be placed on-line where their students can access it, but



An Example of a User Viewing the Distribution of Monthly Rent Paid in Tarrant County. Notice the high rents in Northeast Tarrant County. (This is a snapshot from a Spatial Reserves project on the web.)

Spatial Reserves takes this one step further. We not only host and provide access to the spatial data and electronic maps, but enable students and professors to view, query, sort, print, extract, and a wide variety of other functions from within a web browser, and with no special GIS software or knowledge necessary.

As you can imagine, this service is becoming very popular with academic programs here at UTA. During this first semester of offering Spatial Reserves as a service to the academic community, we are providing spatial data and electronic maps, via a web browser, for

history, real estate, marketing, social work, architecture, and geology.

If you would like to view these web mapping projects for yourself, just go to <http://libraries.uta.edu/gis> and click the link for 'Spatial Reserves & Special Web Projects.'

The UTA Libraries: GIS Program is developed by Joshua Been (been@uta.edu), GIS Librarian and Girish Gangadharan (girish@uta.edu), Graduate Research Assistant.

—Joshua Been

What is Geographic Information Systems (GIS)?

Geographic Information Systems is a tool used to explore and analyze spatial data and electronic maps. GIS can be used to assist with the following real-life decisions:

- What areas are best suited to raise your family in the DFW area, given salary and budget restrictions?
- Where would be the best location to open a new franchise of your favorite pizza chain?
- How do I compare to the norm (median) within my neighborhood, in terms of education, income, property value, and monthly rent or mortgage payments?
- Is there a relationship between particular types of crime and household income in Arlington? Also, how many arrests take place in my neighborhood?

Who am I?



?

Using the clues below and tips from the picture above, can you guess who this mystery staff member is?

Place of birth: East Coast

Percentage of my children born in Texas: 50%

Professional positions I have held in Texas: 3

Countries I have traveled:

U.S., Canada, Mexico, Russia

Sports played in high school:

Ice Hockey

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite pizzeria in Arlington:

Nizza Pizza

Favorite beverage: Guinness

Stout

Favorite author: Gene Wolfe

Favorite footwear: Converse All-Stars

Favorite TV show: Star Trek The Next Generation

Favorite board game: Chess

Ultimate ambition: Complete writing of a sci-fi novel

Other hobby: Ping-Pong

Contest Rules:

Please send your answers to Lea Worcester via e-mail at lworcester@uta.edu with "Contest" in the subject line before March 25, 2004.

The winners of this and other contests in *Connections* will be determined by putting all of the correct answers in a "hat" and randomly drawing the winner. Winners will be announced in the next publication and treated to a lunch at the end of the semester where they qualify for entry in the grand prize drawing.

—The Editor

"Using clues and tips from a photograph, can you guess who the mystery staff member this month is?"

Dragons at the AFA

There are two new exhibits in the Architecture & Fine Arts Library, *Dragons in Art* and *Tchaikovsky*, designed by Kristen Conn, SLIS practicum student from TWU.

Dragons in Art

Dragons have been depicted in art for centuries. The images come from many different cultures around the world, from China to Persia to California.



“Dragons have been painted on silk, carved out of stone, cast in metals, and even woven into teapot totes.”

Tchaikovsky

Dragons have been painted on silk, carved out of stone, cast in metals, and even woven into teapot totes. The dragon has been used both as a symbol of strength and a symbol of evil. The exhibit includes images of dragons from books at the Architecture and Fine Arts Library.

People recognize the music of the Russian composer Piotr Ilich Tchaikovsky, though they may not know the man who created it. The exhibit highlights three of his most popular ballets—Swan Lake, The Nutcracker Suite, and Sleeping Beauty. The exhibit includes colorfully jacketed records from the three ballets and books about

his life. The display hopes to remind people of the composer. His music continues to remain popular and reaches the new generation through animation. Two examples are The Nutcracker Suite for Disney’s 1940 movie *Fantasia* and the Barbie *Swan Lake*, released on DVD in 2003, in which Barbie plays the role of Odette.

—Architecture and Fine Arts
Library Staff

Finding Anonymous!

Intrigued by the mysterious donation of a flower to each staff member of the library by Anonymous for Co-Worker Appreciation Day, our *Connections* reporter surveyed library staff to find out if anyone knew who the donor was. Every department interviewed had considered someone in administration as well as their own department head.

A random sampling of comments included, “If we know do we have to tell?” and “We all got flowers?”

We never did find out who sent the single carnation to everyone and it remains a pleasant mystery.

Thank you.



Suggestion Box

The online suggestion box, linked from the UTA Libraries Intranet Homepage, is a forum for Library staff to make anonymous suggestions to the Administration. The following are submissions for December 2003 and January 2004. If you are interested in past submissions, you can find them at <http://rocky.uta.edu/intranet/>.

Q. Our Revised Website - 1/15/04

What is taking DLS so long to revise the library's website?

A. Our Revised Website - 1/21/2004

The redesign--probably a better word is reengineering--of the Libraries' website is taking longer than expected. This is a huge undertaking that has involved library staff, student and faculty users, and a redesign team. It has also required DLS staff to learn new software, hardware, programming, etc. The learning curve has been steep and the schedule has slipped.

We are all frustrated by the schedule but no one more so than the DLS staff. We believe it is important that the job be done right. With the improved functionality for our users that is being built into the new site along with a fresh new look, we are confident that the new site will be worth waiting for. Marie Irwin brought the issue to LMT on Jan. 15 and the schedule for going live with the website was reviewed. The new site will be live on May 24. The DLS staff will also be sending out periodic updates to all staff discussing the progress of the new site so that library staff will have a clear idea where things stand.

—Gerald Saxon

Q. Dirty Restrooms - 12/5/2003

How can the Library ease the dirty bathroom/restroom crisis? We know we have fewer cleaning staff, and all manner of constraints. Still, we need to keep our environment sanitary and welcoming.

A. Dirty Restrooms 12/9/2003

This issue keeps coming up in a number of forums. Housekeeping has scheduled additional restroom checks and cleaning in the Central Library as a result of complaints that have been received here and elsewhere, but the enormous increase in traffic in this building is taking its toll on our facilities. Please continue to report specific instances to the Administrative Office. We will continue to report them. But also, if you have some bright idea about what other steps to take, please post them here or let me know separately. Thanks! —Tom Wilding

*"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life."
Henry Ward Beecher*

Milestones

The following Library Employees will be receiving service awards this Spring:

Ten Year Awards

Carleen Dolan
Ramona Holmes
Delores Morgan
Thomas Wilding

Fifteen Year Awards

Lea Bowden
Patty Grubaugh
Ann Kelly
Fern Mayhugh
Carol Randell

Twenty-Five Year Award

Pichi Arrigunaga

Thirty Year Award

Ruthie Brock

ILLiad Makes Borrowing Easier for Patrons and Staff

The implementation of ILLiad, a new interlibrary loan software package, has almost completely eliminated paperwork in the Borrowing department and has streamlined the borrowing process.

Rachel Robbins, Access Services Librarian, first heard about ILLiad in 2000 at a library conference. She was impressed with the product because “ILLiad is the only ILL product created as a result of ILL staff review of the entire ILL operation.” Robbins also liked that ILLiad is a web-based product, which gives its users more access to information regarding their requests, which empowers our patrons. After receiving affirmation from Sarah Jones that ILLiad was indeed the best option for ILL, Robbins implemented its purchase within one year.

In the old days, when a patron needed to borrow a book or find an article that we did not have in our holdings, s/he had to fill out paperwork for the loan, then turn in that paperwork to the ILL office. The staff in the borrowing department would then take over, adding the requests manually to the OCLC system and to the Clio database--and then track the progress of each request with more paperwork. Nowadays, patrons create a user account from which they place all their requests. ILLiad is also linked to WorldCat, so that patrons may simply use their username and password to place requests from WorldCat, which are then automatically downloaded to their

ILLiad account. Patrons can track their requests, check their request history, and renew their materials online as well.

This has completely eliminated the need for borrowing staff to add requests manually, and ILLiad is linked to OCLC so each request is updated in OCLC automatically. In fact, even though the Borrowing Department has less staff than it did this time last year, the workflow is much smoother and faster, and there is much less stress on the staff. Since there is much less time used to order the requests, we receive the materials faster than we did with the old system. Paperwork is a thing of the past, except in rare cases.

The Borrowing Department has seen the greatest improvement from ILLiad, but Internal Materials Group supervisor Josie Murdock says the next upgrade will

benefit IMG. This next upgrade will import call number information from Voyager straight into ILLiad, eliminating the need for staff to do call number searches and streamlining the lending process.

Bea Cantu, supervisor for the External Materials Group, says, “ILLiad has helped the borrowing staff 99.9%.” Rachel Robbins adds, “I believe we made the right decision. Staff and patrons alike are pleased with it and with each upgrade to ILLiad it just gets better and better.” Sue Sappington, Interim Program Coordinator, says, “Moving to ILLiad has been a huge step forward for us in terms of enhanced user services and staff efficiency. It brought our interlibrary loan operations into the 21st century. We are delighted with it and our patrons love it.”

—Sarah Baker



Log in screen for ILLiad at <https://illiad.uta.edu/illiad/>

New Faces



Lucas Altoe—Mail Services



Raul Escobedo—Science and Engineering Library

Gus Esquivel—Access Services



Byron Fenske—Mail Services



Girish Gangadharan—Information Literacy

“Hi! I’m doing my Masters in CSE and I’m the new GRA in the GIS program. It’s been a wonderful experience working with my colleagues at IL; these guys are extremely talented and incredible. I’m working, learning and having fun at the same time.”



Stephen Orr—Digital Library Services

“Stephen enjoys riding his bike to and from work but reluctantly drives when the weather is bad. He is not a librarian but likes to read comic books and philosophy.”



Martha West—Access Services

“I am a graduate of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, TX, where I also worked full time managing the circulation desk at Walker Memorial Library. My family and I just recently moved to Ft. Worth in August and we have enjoyed it so far.”



Lea Worcester—Information Literacy

“I am currently a doctoral student in the Library and Information Studies program at TWU. Prior to becoming a student I was Electronics Resources Coordinator for Arlington Public Libraries where I became interested in user education in electronic resources.”

Please notify me if I have, for some reason, omitted anyone from this list. Thank you for helping me make sure all new employees are welcomed.

—The Editor

SEL Exhibits: Is Cloning Baaaaa-d?



SEL is seeing double these days. The latest exhibit, “*Is Cloning Baaaaa-d?*” showcases books and resources on cloning. Other exhibits in SEL can be viewed at the following URL: <http://libraries.uta.edu/sel/SELDocs/exhibits.htm>. The most well-known “cloned” mammal is a sheep named Dolly. She was born in 1996 and the creation of Ian Wilmut and his colleagues at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, Scotland. After living a cloned life of six years, Dolly died from a progressive lung disease contracted from

a “virus induced tumor.” (Prudames, 2003).

The cloning was done by “transferring the nuclei from various types of sheep cells into unfertilized sheep eggs from which the natural nuclei had been removed by microsurgery. Once the transfer was complete, the recipient eggs contained a complete set of genes, just as they would if they had been fertilized by sperm.

The eggs were then cultured for a period before being implanted into sheep that carried them to term, one of which culminated in a successful birth. The resulting lamb was, as expected, an exact genetic copy, or clone, of the sheep that provided the transferred nucleus, not of those that provided the egg.” (Beardsley, 1997).

—Antoinette Nelson

Bibliography

Beardsley, Tim. 1997. A clone in sheep’s clothing: a sheep cloned from adult cells opens vast scientific possibilities and ethical dilemmas. <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?articleID=0009B07D-BD40-1C59-B882809EC588ED9E>.

Prudames, David. 2003. Dolly the (deceased) clone sheep to go on display in Edinburgh. http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/nwh_gfx_en/ART15679.html.

“The resulting lamb was, as expected, an exact genetic copy, or clone...”

Contributors to the March Edition

- Architecture and Fine Arts Library Staff
- Sarah Baker
- Joshua Been
- Girish Gangadharan
- Library Staff Association, Jean Sherwin and Ginny Pinkerton
- Candy McCormic
- Mark Mustacchio
- Jason Neal
- Stephen Orr
- Martha West

Connections

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Connections is the library staff newsletter published on the first business day of each month. The newsletter introduces new staff members, highlights departments, reports on library staff events, and is a forum for items of interest.

Suggestions and contributions are welcome. Please contact:

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Connections is archived online at:

<http://libraries.uta.edu/connections/index.htm>