

UTA Library Notes

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON LIBRARIES

Fall 2004 • Vol 10 • No 2

The UTA Libraries Online: A New Year, a New Web Site

BY SARAH JONES, Information Architect, UTA Libraries Digital Library Services

So, there you are, at home on a Saturday afternoon.... Maybe you're writing a paper for a class, or want to catch up on reading in your field of research, or you've just discovered some books that will be overdue tomorrow ... You need the library!

But ... home is a 40 minute drive from the UTA campus, or maybe even a 4 hour flight from Arlington. Or maybe home is only 4 blocks away, but with pouring down rain or the kids playing in the next room, there's no way you're going out.

The UTA Libraries believe that – no matter where you are – when you need the library, it should be there for you. And so the idea of the UTA Libraries Online was born: the idea of a web site that would provide you with all the information and services you need to succeed in your endeavors at UTA.

That was nearly 10 years ago, and now with the latest version of the UTA Libraries Online officially launched on October 4, 2004, this idea has come much closer to fruition.

Why Redesign?

While the UTA Libraries first started experimenting with creating a web presence for itself in 1995, it was during the 1996-1997 school year that its web site became well-established with information about the campus libraries, in-building services, and links to other web sites.

By Spring of 1999, the site had evolved to incorporate a more sophisticated structure to accompany the site's fuller range of information and services. Along with this came a fresher visual design, reflecting trends in the broader arena of web site design and development.

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The previous major redesign of the site happened during the 1999-2000 school year, when the UTA Libraries Online matured into the site that the current UTA community will recognize. This version, with its broad range of e-journals and databases plus a growing menu of online library services, would stand as the Libraries' online presence for over 4 years.

But, as we know, 4 years is a long time, especially in the context of the internet. Technologies and standards for web site delivery changed. With the growth of UTA's distance education programs and web-enhanced campus courses, more library services needed to become available online. The Libraries' online information resources also expanded dramatically, to over 31,000 journals and over 250 databases accessible from the Libraries' web site. In addition, expectations have changed for how a high-quality, sophisticated web site can service its customers.

To meet these changes in needs and expectations, and to be able to plan for future enhancements, it was clear that re-engineering the UTA Libraries Online would be necessary. To support this, the Libraries won funding from the Texas Infrastructure Fund (TIF) grant program for the 2001-2002 academic year. These funds provided support for the Libraries to purchase hardware and software solutions to form an entirely new web site platform – a platform with redundancy to minimize the chance of web site unavailability, with the capability of easy web content creation and revision, and, most importantly, with the ability to create a user-oriented, personalized experience for the UTA community.

The Redesign Process

The work of creating a new UTA Libraries Online required the talents of a range of library staff and the participation of students, faculty, and staff throughout the UTA campus. In the library, members of the Web Redesign Team conducted the preliminary research and developed early site designs. Staff from the Web, Unix and NT Support Groups in the UTA Office of Information Technology played an integral role in preparing the hardware and software platform for the site, and they continue to be vital partners with the Libraries for the continuing

Redesign Project Timeline

Preliminary research (2002-2003)

- Inventory the web site to understand the information we were providing
- Gather comments and suggestions from UTA students, faculty, and staff to find out what people expected from a library web site
- Analyze the information and services the library provides to find things that were missing from the library site
- Choose among hardware and software solutions to form the platform for the new site
- Choose among web delivery technologies and standards to find the most appropriate and most extensible structure for the site's information

Site architecture and design (2003)

- Develop prototypes for site navigation and content organization
- Develop visual/artistic designs for the new site
- Get feedback from the UTA community to find which structure and visual design worked best

Building and testing the new site (2004)

- Review and revise all existing web site content
- Prepare new content for information and services not previously provided on the site
- Transfer of all content (approximately 2000 web pages from 3 internet domains) to the new platform, refreshing it with new HTML markup and reorganizing it into approximately 1500 new files
- Preview the site for the UTA community and make changes based on feedback

See *New Web Site* on page 7

UTA Libraries Locations

Central Library

702 College Street
Reference: 817-272-3394
General Information: 817-272-3000

Special Collections

6th Floor, Central Library
817-272-3393

Architecture & Fine Arts Library

Room 104, Architecture Building
817-272-2387

Science & Engineering Library

Room B-03, Nedderman Hall
817-272-5050 & 817-272-5051

Electronic Business Library

Room 136, Business Bldg
817-272-5327

Social Work Electronic Library (SWEL)

Room 111
Building A, Social Work Complex
211 S. Cooper St, Arlington TX
817-272-7518

UTA/Fort Worth Campus

Room 302
7300 Jack Newell Blvd South
Fort Worth, TX 76118
817-272-5998

Evolution of Technological Infrastructure in the UTA Libraries

BY BOB SAMSON, Coordinator, Information Technologies

Libraries, in general, have evolved more and more from repositories of printed materials to digital data centers, with a heavy dependence on technological infrastructure. In the UTA Libraries, for example, one is less likely to find researchers engaged in quiet study with a stack of books open on their desk, than it is to see hundreds of students tapping away on computer keyboards as they conduct their research through the power of the Internet. The muffled whispers of the past have been replaced with the hum of computers and printers, and independent study has been superseded by collaborative research.

This evolution has created its share of issues and opportunities for the UTA Libraries as we make every effort to meet the demands of our users. Technological infrastructure is in a constant state of revision as we address new technologies and new ways of providing information services.

As university enrollment continues to increase, it is all but impossible to meet the demands of users for access to the Internet. The Libraries maintains more than two hundred publicly accessible desktop and laptop computers in six different physical facilities. These computers are rebuilt three times per year, on average, so that they contain the most current software required by researchers. The PCs are protected with a variety of security measures and anti-virus software in an effort to ensure the integrity of the devices and to guarantee personal security for those who make use of the equipment. PCs and laptops are replaced every three years so

that the Libraries may stay on top of new developments in PC functionality and provide our users with equipment that is more or less state-of-the-art and fully operational.

With a relatively small number of PCs and laptops available in the Libraries, we work closely with the campus Office of Information Technologies (OIT) so that additional network access can be made available. The Central Library, for example, houses a number of OIT facilities which can be used by Libraries' users when the need for PC access exceeds our capacity. PC labs across campus can be used to access the vast majority of Libraries' information resources and services.

In addition, the evolution of a wireless network in the Libraries, and across campus, has provided much needed increased access to network connectivity. OIT has made great efforts to enhance the campus wireless network in order to support current standards in the technology and to increase bandwidth across the wireless network. They have implemented security measures on the wireless network which ensure personal privacy while at the same time accommodate the network access required to conduct research.

Behind the scenes, the Libraries maintain an array of nearly two dozen servers, which provide all the background services needed to make our resources available to our users. These servers provide access to the Libraries catalog of local holdings. They support the management of the Libraries' collection, as items are added to the collection and checked in and out to users. They provide support for print services, so that users can easily take with them the results of their research. They make available information resources which weren't originally designed to be accessed by a web browser, through the use of operating systems and software applications designed for this purpose. They support the lending and borrowing of items from other libraries. They provide the functionality of new research tools, such as the recently implemented "UTALink" content linking service, and the upcoming "OneSearch" federated search engine. All of these servers are maintained, secured, and upgraded on a continuing basis so that they continue to serve their designated functions as efficiently as possible.

The UTA Libraries serves as the conduit to information regardless of where that information resides or in what format it is retained. The Libraries' technological infrastructure will continue to evolve so that we may support this primary service efficiently, securely, and competently.



Melissa Dickens, a public relations sophomore, takes full advantage of the offerings of the UTA Libraries while enjoying the mild weather. The park benches on the Library Mall are well within range of the library's wireless network.

Friends of the UTA Libraries Begin New Season

The Friends hosted their first meeting of the 2004-2005 year on September 24 with special guest speaker **Don Newbury**. Newbury is a philosopher, humorist, teacher, author, and former university president. His witty and folksy presentation focused on vignettes from his life as an educator and his observations about everything from college students, to marriage, to the mood of the country. He is the author of several books and audio publications, including *When the Porch Light's On*, *Life by the Seat of the Pants*, and *A Few Geese Short of a Gaggle*. There was an autograph party and book sale following his presentation and a reception in his honor.

Texas historian and prolific author **Randolph Campbell** was the speaker at the October 22 meeting. Campbell, the author of the new single volume history of Texas titled *Gone to Texas*, spoke about "The Search for a Usable Past" in the writing of Texas history, a history steeped in myth, folklore, braggadocio, and exaggeration. Campbell asserted that Texas is more a southern state than a western one, a fact that has done more to shape the Texas past than anything else. Campbell is Regents Professor of History at the University of North Texas. The Friends hosted a reception in his honor after his presentation.

As this newsletter went to press, the Friends have scheduled their special holiday program for December 3 at 7:30 pm on the 6th floor of the Central Library. The program will feature the UTA A Cappella Choir under the direction of **Jing Ling-Tam**. For more information about the holiday program or the Friends, please contact Betty Wood at 817-272-7421 or bwood@uta.edu.



Sally Spaniolo had her book signed and visited with fellow-historian-and-Virginian Randolph Campbell after his talk to the Friends on Texas History.



Don Newbury bills himself as "The Popcorn President," and didn't disappoint, bringing several freshly-popped bags to distribute at his Friends of the Libraries talk.

The Friends of the UTA Libraries started the 2004-2005 on September 1, with several new officers. They include Dorothy Rencurrel, president; Mary Ellen Emery, first vice-president; Bill Stallings, second vice-president; Lisann Peters, secretary; Brent Nicholson, treasurer; and Richard Francaviglia, parliamentarian. Don Kyle, Judy Reinhartz, and Tommie Wingfield were elected to the Friends Advisory Council.

The Friends Advisory Council met on September 28 to discuss plans for the year. Perhaps the most important item on the agenda was a proposal for the Friends to sponsor a McNair Award. The Council approved the creation of the Friends of the UTA Libraries McNair Award. There would be two awards given annually by the Friends to McNair students at UTA. The McNair program works with eligible undergraduates to help inform and prepare them for future graduate study. The program is for first-generation/low-income and/or underrepresented students. The work that students do in researching their McNair research projects will form the basis of the awards with special emphasis on how students used library resources in their work.

Of the two awards, one will be based on the student's research paper and another on his/her presentation at the McNair research presentations in August of each year. Each award will be \$500, and the awardees will be asked to present their findings at a Friends meeting in the fall. An awards committee will be comprised of two Friends' members and two faculty members who have served as McNair mentors in the past but who are not serving at the time they are on the committee. The first McNair award will be given in the fall of 2005.

A Scholarly Communication Crisis



Gerald Saxon

“Basically, scholars have lost control of the system, and commercial publishers have increasingly taken over. These publishers are more interested in making profits than they are in extending the boundaries of knowledge.”

This is my first column as Dean of Libraries at UTA, and I want to say how happy I am to be able to work with a talented library staff, a committed faculty and university administration, and an eager student body. Tom Wilding, former Director of Libraries, retired at the end of July and is now living happily in Wales. Tom and staff have set the library on the right course, and I hope to continue the innovations that have been started and to create new programs that will help our users.

In this column I wanted to write about something that has been on my mind, and the minds of many in the academic community of late, and that is the crisis in scholarly communication. Yes folks, there is a crisis, and it is impacting everyone on college campuses—the students, faculty, and library staff—though many might not be aware of it. My purpose in this column is to shed some light on the subject.

First a definition. By *scholarly communication* I mean the process by which research or new knowledge is created, refined, evaluated, disseminated, and preserved. Scholars conduct research, prepare their findings, publish their findings in books and journals, which are refereed by other scholars in the field, and the books and journals are sold to individuals and libraries who provide access to the information to a wide audience. In the past, much of this work was done by professional organizations and societies whose main purpose was to serve their membership, foster the dissemination of new knowledge, and underwrite the printing and distribution of the information. This has changed in some disturbing ways.

Basically, scholars have lost control of the system, and commercial publishers have increasingly taken over. These publishers are more interested in making profits than they are in extending the boundaries of knowledge. The result of this change in the system has been sharply rising costs for books and journals (both electronic and physical ones) and increasing restrictions on who can use the information, resulting in scholars and students having less access to the body of information in a particular field. In short, scholarly communication has become a huge international business and information a commodity to be sold to those with the deepest pockets.

A few statistics will help make my point. Between 1986 and 1999, the Consumer Price Index in the U.S. rose 3.3% per year (cumulative 52%), while health care costs rose 5.8% per annum (cumulative 107%). Journal prices, however, rose a whopping 9% a year on average with a cumulative total of 207%. For the past four years, 2000-2004, the increases in journal prices have continued in the

10% range each year.

What this means for UTA is this: with a journals/serials budget at close to \$3 million a year we need an additional \$300,000 each year just to maintain the serials we currently own. We have been fortunate in the recent past because an increasing student enrollment and a rising student library service fee have allowed us to cover inflation and maintain, even judiciously add to, the collection, but I am nervous that the enrollment management practices that have been put into place to slow growth and the concern about increasing student fees will have a negative impact on the library's budget, 70% of which comes from student fees. Lower enrollment growth means decreased revenue with which to purchase or license information.

Many academic libraries across the country have been less fortunate than UTA, and have already cut journals to cope with the spiraling costs (Duke Medical School, for example, cancelled more than 500 titles recently while Cornell cancelled 200 titles from a single commercial publisher). Other ways libraries have coped have been to not subscribe to new journals, reduce (or not grow) book budgets and place this money into journal collections, enter into consortial arrangements with other university libraries in order to negotiate cheaper prices from commercial publishers, improve document delivery systems such as interlibrary loan, and license electronic information. UTA has used all of these strategies as well to stretch our acquisition dollars.

There are also a number of strategic initiatives on the national—even international—level to begin to address the crisis. The scholarly community in a number of disciplines is creating and supporting alternatives to commercial publications. So-called “open access” journals like BioMed Central and Public Library of Science are helping to create a new paradigm for scholarly information. Open access journals, which are refereed and edited by the leading scholars in their fields, are paid for in numerous ways, including by the authors who publish in the journals or the authors' institutions, by grants, and advertisements. The one characteristic that open access journals have in common is that once published the information in the journal is available to anyone without charge and without restriction. For a list of open access journals, see the *Directory of Open Access Journals* at www.doaj.org.

Another strategy has been the creation of digital archives or institutional repositories. Many of these archives focus on a particular subject, such as mathematics or physics, or the intellectual products of a particular institution, like the well publicized D-Space from MIT. Pre-prints and post-prints of scholarly articles, research studies, lectures, think

pieces, and notes are some of the information products that institutional archives have included on websites. Similar to open access journals, these institutional repositories are freely available to anyone with internet access.

The crisis in scholarly communication is not a library problem. Rather it is a problem for the entire academic community. Over the next several months, the library staff will be discussing this issue with stakeholders across campus to raise awareness and begin a dialogue on the crisis.

In the meantime you might be asking yourself, especially if you are a faculty member, what can I do to make a difference in the crisis? SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) suggests the following:

- Where possible publish in open access journals;
- Include electronic publications in promotion and funding discussions;
- Encourage your professional society to explore alternatives to contracting or selling its publications to a commercial publisher;
- Encourage your society to maintain reasonable prices and user-friendly access terms;
- Modify, if appropriate, any contract you sign with a publisher ensuring your right to use your work, including posting it on an institutional repository;
- Carefully examine the pricing, copyright, and subscription licensing agreements of any journal you contribute to as an author, reviewer, or editor;
- Assist in establishing an institutional repository and deposit some of your intellectual products (pre-prints and post prints for example) in it;
- Educate yourself on the issue and invite library participation in faculty meetings and graduate seminars to discuss scholarly communication issues.

I encourage you to contact me if you have questions about the crisis or to send me your ideas on how we might want to address it. My email address and telephone number are saxon@uta.edu and 817-272-5318. I look forward to hearing from you.

The Fourth Biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography

The Fourth Biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography met on October 1, 2004, hosted by the UTA Libraries Special Collections



1 Jenkins Garrett (center) visits with Murray Hudson (left) and John Doktor. **2** Graduate Student Craig Shupeé was this years recipient of the Virginia Garrett award for his thesis, "Depictions of Physical Movement on European Maps of New World Exploration, 1564-1599." **3** Lucia Nuti traveled to Texas from the University of Pisa, Italy, where she is a Professor of Art History. She spoke on "Urban Maps as Paintings: From the Middle Ages to the Renaissance."

Texas Map Society Meeting



The Texas Map Society met on Oct. 2, following the Garrett Lectures.

From left to right are the past presidents of the organization including Dennis Reinhartz, Jenkins Garrett, Paul Bell and John Crain.

Photo by Brenda McClurkin

Donors

The UTA Libraries receive many donations throughout the year, in the form of books and journals and other materials, membership dues to the Friends of the UTA Libraries, and through the Adopt-A-Journal program. These individuals help the Libraries serve all users. This list represents donations and Friends membership dues made to the Libraries from May 2004 through September 2004.

Penny & Gary Acrey
Julie Alexander
Beth Anderson
Richard & Lois Ankele
E. Richard Atkins, Jr.
Mack & Pamela Bagby
Mary Baugh
Gordon Bleuler
Mary Lee Boyle
Judy Bright
Richard & Jeanie Browning
Betty Bob Buckley
David & Patricia Buisseret
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Gene Hull
Andrew Hunter
Mary Louise Jensen
James & Bansy Johnson
Daniel Kauth
Thomas & Peg Kennedy
Jan Kern
Robert & LaVerne Knezek
Donald Kyle
Dallas & Jo Lacy

Focus on Faculty

The Focus on Faculty lecture series began this year with Professor Kenneth Roemer's discussion of "Finding the Sacred in the Mundane: Transformations from American Indian Literature."



Kenneth Roemer speaks with Beth Wright (center) Dean of Liberal Arts, and student, Caitlin Griffin, a junior English major, after his presentation.



Eugene Brown, of the Indiana Miami nation, is the elder for UTA's Native American Students Association. He attended the Focus on Faculty talk, and not only played a few notes for the group, he also donated one of his handmade flutes to a member of the audience.

New Web Site continued from page 1

development and maintenance of the web platform. UTA students, faculty, and staff participated in focus groups, online surveys, and usability tests. Library staff collaborated to review and revise existing web site content and to write brand new content for new services. Once the new site was built, library student workers helped with proofreading and quality control.

What's Next?

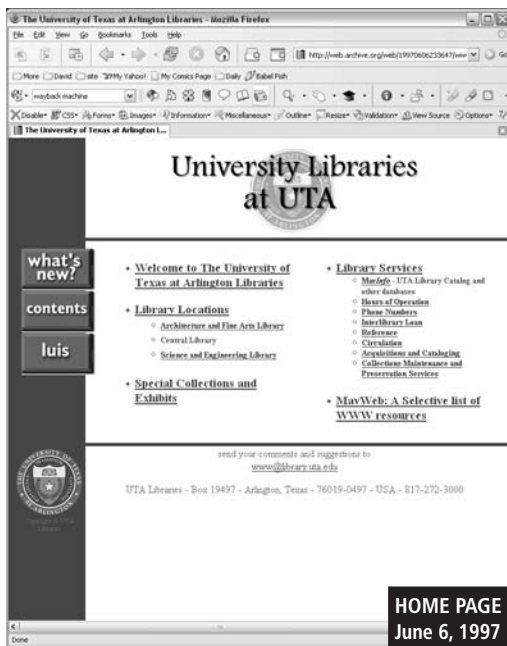
The new UTA Libraries Online officially opened on October 4, 2004, but that is just the end of Phase I. Future enhancements for the site are already in development. We are implementing a content management system for library staff and others to

easily create and update web pages. We also plan to provide customization capabilities so members of the UTA community can log in to the library web site with their campus NetID and choose the types of information and services that they are most interested in and that best serve their needs. And that's just the beginning. Throughout the continuing site development process, it will be the suggestions from the UTA community that will guide the new information and services we provide online.

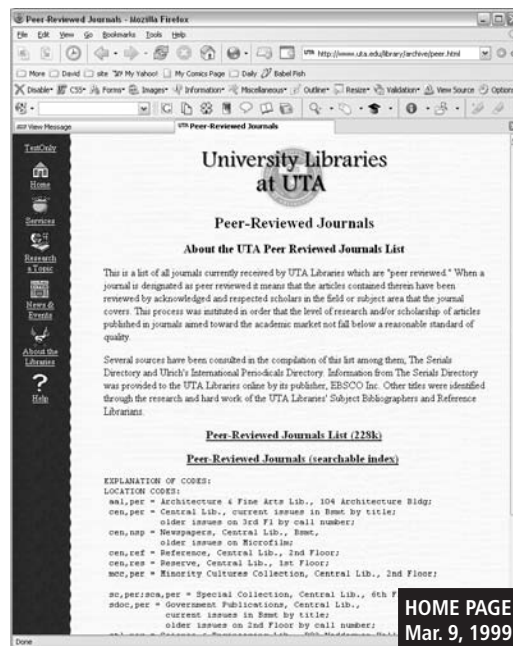
Please visit and send us comments. The UTA Libraries Online exists to serve you. Visit us at <http://library.uta.edu> and send comments to libraryweb@uta.edu.

Donors

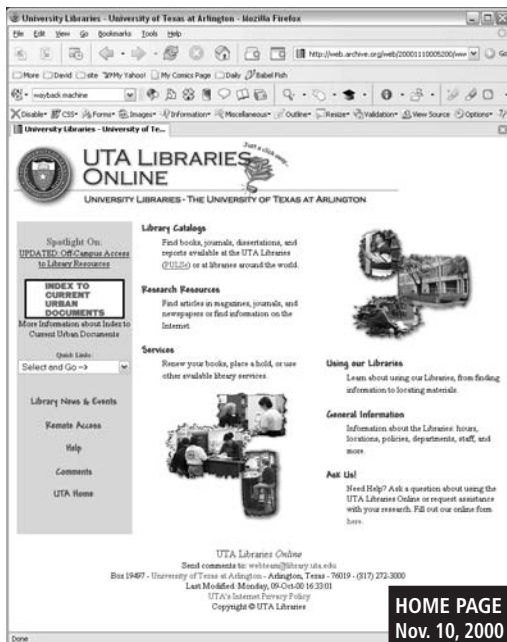
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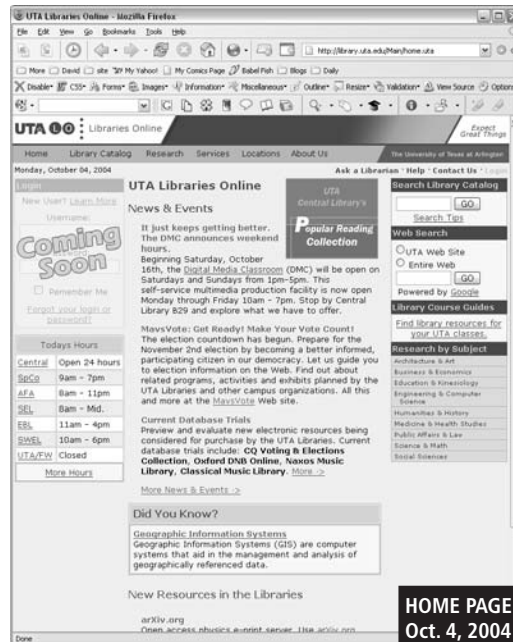
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June 6, 1997



HOME PAGE
Mar. 9, 1999



HOME PAGE
Nov. 10, 2000



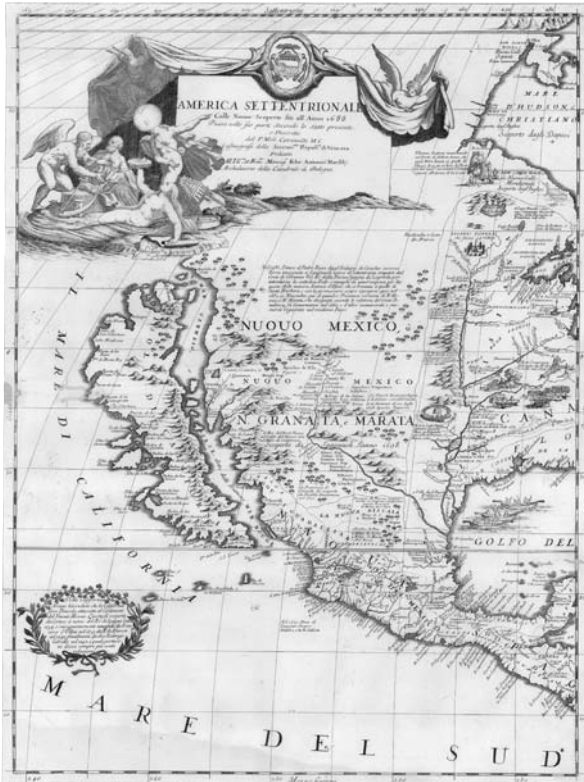
HOME PAGE
Oct. 4, 2004

EXHIBITS AND EVENTS • FALL 2004

Ongoing exhibit

Mapmaker's Vision, Beholder's Eyes: The Art of Maps.

This exhibit is in conjunction with the fourth biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures that were held in October 2004 and will remain up through fall semester.



America Settentrionale Colle Nuove Scoperte fin all'Anno 1688.
Published in Venice by V. Coronelli, 1695.

Friends of the Libraries Holiday Meeting

featuring

Jing Ling Tam

leading the UTA A Cappella Choir

The UTA A Cappella Choir has received many honors over the past few years. They have performed for the state convention of the Texas Music Educators Association, the Collegiate Choral Festival at Loyola University in New Orleans, the Texas Junior College All-State Choral Festival, and the Southwestern Division Convention of the American Choral Directors Association in Little Rock, Arkansas. They have also performed with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, and the Schola Cantorum of Texas. The choir is under the direction of Jing Ling-Tam, professor of music at UTA and a choral conductor of international reputation. The A Cappella Choir will be performing many favorite holiday songs.

December 3, 2004

7:30 p.m. • Sixth Floor • UTA Central Library

RSVP by December 1

(817) 272-7421 or e-mail bwood@uta.edu

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