As another ECU academic year gets off to a great start, I am reminded of Charles Dickens’ words from A Tale of Two Cities, “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.” It is the best of times because you, our students and faculty, have access to the extraordinary resources of a wonderful library at your beck and call—resources that a decade ago would have only been available at a research library of the first order. To make use of those resources, you also have a dedicated library faculty and staff who seek to provide you with the services and books, journals, and information resources you will need to teach your courses and do your research.

It is the worst of times, because the library must institute a nearly 20% cut to services and acquisitions—so providing you with resources you want and need will be a challenge for all of us here at Joyner Library, but don’t let that stop you from asking for help and assistance. Budget cuts have not impeded us from making changes to improve services or enhance our facility. We are delighted to have the University Writing Center and Pirate Tutoring as new Joyner Library residents. The Reference Department is now collocated with our 100 workstation “computer lab,” and we have added six new group study rooms and 40 individual study rooms. So come visit us and see what’s happening!

New to the Library: six group study rooms and 40 individual study rooms!

ECU is preparing for an overall budget cut of 9% for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Some areas, including Academic Library Services, have been asked to make even larger cuts. ALS’s cut will be $2,607,106 or 17.9% of its total budget. To achieve a reduction of this magnitude, all portions of the budget had to be examined and reduced. Every effort was made to minimize the impact on ECU students and faculty, but with a cut this large we know the impact will be felt by all.

The following databases have been cancelled to help achieve the mandated level of cuts: American Film Institute Catalog, AP Images, AuditAnalytics, Bibliography of Native North Americans, BizComps, Chicago Manual of Style, CQ Global Researcher, eHRAF World Cultures, EmBase, ESI Library, ExecuComp, Film Index International, NTIS, Oregon PDF in Health & Performance, Proquest Research Library, and Psychological & Behavioral Sciences Collection. Other databases will be added to the cancellation list as our review continues. Contact Wm. Joseph Thomas, Head of Collection Development, if you have questions about database cancellations.

More information about how the library is dealing with the budget reductions and making cancellation decisions, can be found on our website. For general questions about the budget reductions, contact the Library’s Dean, Larry S. Boyer or Jan Lewis, Associate Director.
Students, faculty, and staff returning to Joyner Library will notice several changes on the first floor that will enhance the learning and research experience. These changes were informed by a space planning project that included student and faculty focus groups. Budget cuts limited our options, but we have been able to implement recommendations that did not require expenditures of state or endowment funds.

More comfortable individual and small group seating has been placed in the two wings of the entrance lobby. Pirate Tutoring and the Writing Center moved from the Old Cafeteria Complex into the library’s North lobby. The new location will make it easier for students to find these offices and will facilitate extended service hours. The Reference Desk moved to the back West end of the library in an area with over 100 computer workstations. Relocating the Reference Book Collection gave us an opportunity to relocate some computers to the space next to the first floor group study rooms. More tables and chairs will be added to this spacious light-filled area. Laptops, cameras, and other equipment are now available for check out at the Circulation Desk. In that area you will also find the DVD collection. Finally, we hope you will enjoy the new accent walls as much as we do. From the yellow at the Circulation Desk to the purple walls in Reference and TRC, we’re showing our pirate pride!

Music Library Celebrates Coral Anniversary

On July 1, 2009, ECU’s Music Library ended its 35th year of service as a department of JY Joyner Library and began a year long coral anniversary celebration. Though the music library was originally intended to support the educational mission of ECU’s School of Music, it has grown to meet the needs of musicians, music teachers, and music lovers from all parts of the eastern North Carolina region and earned the distinction of being the largest collection of music related materials east of Raleigh.

This gem in eastern NC’s musical crown had humble beginnings. In the 1958-59 academic year, ECU’s Department of Music converted its student lounge into a small library of scores and sound recordings. When the new AJ Fletcher Music Center opened in the mid 1960’s, it included an approximately 2,500 square foot music library managed on a part time basis by a retired music professor.

The next major milestone, the one celebrated this year, is the conversion of the independent departmental library to a branch of Joyner Library. During the 35 years since, the staff has grown to include two faculty music librarians and three paraprofessionals. The collection has grown from 14,500 volumes in the late 1960’s to nearly 90,000 volumes. The annual gate count of 50,500 in 1984 has doubled! For more information, contact Head of Service, David Hursh.

Upcoming Library Events

8/24/09 W. Keats Sparrow Awards
5:30-7:00pm– Exhibit Area, 2nd floor

8/24/09 Friends of Joyner Library table
9:00am Faculty Convocation

August/September 2009
Friends of Joyner Library membership drive
**Symphony - the integrated library system**

Joyner Library and Laupus Health Sciences Library unveiled a new integrated library system, Symphony, on May 21 replacing the previous system, Horizon.

The move to Symphony allows library users to search the catalogs of both libraries at once, a tool that has been the single most requested library catalog feature in recent years. ECU students, staff, and faculty will only have one library account with both libraries.

Symphony will improve the internal productivity of the ECU libraries and enhance their capabilities to serve both campuses as well as the greater community. The online catalog contains more than 1.7 million bibliographic records, over 2 million item records, and approximately 80,000 user records. Symphony also provides access to the collections of Elizabeth City State University. The three libraries have worked closely to make this possible.

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**Recognizing Joyner Faculty & Staff**

David Hursh, Head of the Music Library, for publishing *Good Medicine and Good Music: A Biography of Mrs. Joe Person, Patent Remedy Entrepreneur and Musician, Including the Complete Text of Her 1903 Autobiography*; Bryna Coonin, Reference Librarian, selected for 2009 BRASS Emerald Research Award; Hazel Walker, TRC Outreach Coordinator, for receiving Picturing America and We the People Bookshelf grants on behalf of Pitt County Schools; Patricia Dragon, Head of Special Collection Cataloging, for the publication of her article “Name Authority Control in Local Digitization Projects and the Eastern NC Postcard Collection” in *Library Resources and Technical Services*; and David Hisle, Library Fellow, for the inclusion of his Special Collections Video Tutorial into the ALA/ACRL Instruction Section’s Peer-Reviewed Instructional Materials Online (PRIMO) database.

Congratulations!

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**Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming**

ECU will celebrate literary traditions September 25 and 26. The *Literary Homecoming*, now in its sixth year, will offer interactive workshops in addition to panel presentations. The 2009 homecoming will bring people “back to the book” as participants will engage in activities that merge, challenge, and blur the line between what is seen and what is read. This year, eight award-winning writers rooted in the history, literature, and culture of eastern NC will share their work and their experiences with homecoming participants.

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**Contribute to Library support by joining the Friends of Joyner Library today!**

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**Click here for Fall 2009 Library Operating Hours**

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**For schedule of events and to register, Click here or call 252-328-6514**

lithomecoming@ecu.edu