

LIBRARY @ A STATE

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YOUR LIBRARY STAFF

This is the first in a continuing series of articles that will profile the members of the Dean B. Ellis Library Staff.

How many people can claim they have worked for only one employer their entire life? Barbara Harrell, Administrative Secretary to the Library Dean, has been employed for more than 39 years at ASU. She began her career as Secretary to the Acquisitions Librarian when ASU was Arkansas State College. She remained in that position until her promotion to Director's Secretary three years later. During her tenure at ASU, she has worked with four directors/deans and three interim deans. Her employment at the library is the only job she has held.



Barbara Harrell
Administrative Secretary
to the Dean

Harrell remembers: "The library as well as the university campus has changed tremendously since 1964. When I began working at ASU, the library, not quite a year before, had moved into a new building and the museum was located on the ground floor of the library. The university had just started building the Carl R. Reng Center. When you looked around campus, all the freshmen were wearing red A-State "beansies." At that time, the library was actually located at its physical address of 108 Cooley Drive. The street cut through campus directly in front of the library."

Harrell has worked through two major library renovations and additions — one in 1978 and then in the early 1990s when the tower was built.

During the 1960s, the library had 11 librarians and support staff. It now has 37 librarians and staff. At the present time the library has more than 75 public access computers for student use to search the public on-line catalog system but until 1991 entries were made manually and placed in a card catalog. Harrell said, "If you mention the card catalog to students now, I'm not sure they would know what you are talking about."

"I remember very well the day when the library got its first computer and how excited everyone was to have one. All the librarians and support staff shared it on a scheduled basis. It is amazing to look back and think about all the changes that have been made and what has been accomplished in these short 39 years."

Harrell was born in Jonesboro where she has lived all her life. She is a graduate of Jonesboro High School. She is married to Eldon Harrell, a retired lieutenant with the Jonesboro Fire Department. They have one son, Todd, and two grandchildren, Torey and Hayden. She is a member of Bethany Missionary Baptist Church. Her hobbies are reading, crocheting and quilting.

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STUDENTS DONATE LIBRARY EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES

Student Infrastructure Fees are major funding sources for new library equipment and resources during fiscal year 04. The primary restriction on purchasing equipment with this fund is that the equipment must be designated for "student use." This includes any equipment that helps students in the library—everything from better lighting to new computers.

Most of the items are selected by direct requests from students. A committee of students looks at the equipment requests, decides if the requests meet the standard of student usage, and then prioritizes the equipment requests that do. The prioritized list is then sent to Research and Academic Affairs and the Student Government Association for funding.

The ASU student body has paid for the following equipment and resources for the library during the past two years.

2002/03 Academic Year: 23 computers for student use; 1 Minolta reader printer; 1 SerialsSolution; 2 microfilm cabinets; 2 digital cameras; 1 five-drawer flat file cabinet; 1 media CD/DVD cabinet; 4 book carts; 1 bank of lights on 7th floor; 2 LaserJet 4200TN printers; 1 CD recorder; 1 microfilm reader; 1 multimedia projector and new carpet and tile at the library entrance.

03/04 Academic Year: 30 computers for student use; 1 Sun server (online catalog); 3 digital cameras; 1 SmartBoard for library instruction; 1 card validation reader; 11 white markerboards for group study rooms; 95 security units for public access computers and more than 60 reference books.

Library Staff

ONLINE NEWSPAPERS

The library has dedicated a computer station solely for searching newspapers. The Online Newspaper station, located in the Front Porch reading area of the library, links via the Internet to seven categories of newspapers:

- Alternative, Business, Daily, Non-Daily and University/College categories which link to 77 newspapers published in Arkansas
- National category which links to the New York Times, USA Today, the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post
- Out-of-State category which links to 13 newspapers in the surrounding states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas

This station will not only provide students with an easy means of keeping current with what is going on in their local area, but also allows them an excellent place to research what is going on all over the nation.

FROM THE LIBRARY DEAN

This second issue of the newsletter of the Dean B. Ellis Library continues our efforts to share timely information about new and expanded library services, resources, and policies that support instruction and research at ASU. Several of the articles in this issue highlight new employees available to assist you, improved technology, new resources added recently. And also, this issue acknowledges the tremendous support of the library by students through allocations of Student Infrastructure Fee funds during the past two years.

Specifically, Student Infrastructure Fee fund allocations during the academic years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 have enabled the library to add, among other items, approximately 50 new computer workstations throughout the library for student use, over 60 new reference books, and an assortment of other equipment, that were recommended by students and intended primarily for their use. Also, you may wish to browse the Reference stacks to see the attractive permanent label that has been affixed to each title purchased with infrastructure fee funds.

Few university libraries across the country can boast of such a level of tangible support by its students. Few libraries have needed this level of support more than here at ASU. And, few libraries, if any, are more appreciative of support from its students.

— George C. Grant

STUDENTS OF NOTE

George Taku - Circulation - President of ASU African Students (ASASA) for the term March 2004.

Stephanie Sweeney - Microforms - received the Academic Distinction Scholarship from ASU.

Roshondra Jackson - Circulation - inducted into the National College Honor society, nominated for Who's Who 2003.

Lisa Marie Smith - Periodicals - graduated in December. She received a Bachelor of General Studies with emphasis areas in English, Journalism and Speech Communications. She was a student employee in Periodicals for two years.

Emily Sharp - Reference student - has been added to the President's List for Academic Achievement.

KUDOS

Tracy Farmer, Systems Librarian, and Chris Bearden, System Administrator for the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library, presented at the annual Arkansas Library Association in Ft. Smith, in September "Database Authentication: Two Different Means to the Same End."

Farmer and Myron Flugstad, Technical Services Librarian, presented at the annual South Central Voyager Users Group Conference in Ft. Worth, Texas last October "Managing Electronic Serials: Our Roller Coaster Ride to Controlling Electronic Content." Farmer also presented "Database Authentication: Two Different Means to the Same End."

On December 1, 2003, Sherry Eskridge became the first employee of Arkansas State University to hold the title of Library Supervisor I. Eskridge received her B.A. in Political Science from ASU and has been employed at the library since 1993. She supervises circulation, course reserves, and stacks maintenance.

WEB SERVER

In addition to the new Sun server, which was installed to house the online catalog, the library also purchased a new Dell server to replace the existing web server. This new web server is Linux based, unlike the current server which is Windows based. The server hosts the library's web site and two proxy servers.

NEW DATABASES

- ComDisDome - an information service for the fields of audiology and speech pathology. Full text.
- American Humanities Index - a collection of bibliographic references (citations) to literary, scholarly and creative journals. Citation.
- Communication & Mass Media Complete - Bibliographic and keyword references in communications studies from 26 journals with coverage extending to the inaugural issue. Citations and abstracts.
- Business Source Elite - articles from scholarly business journals. Full text. Regional Business News - regional business publications. Full text.
- BioMed Central - content is specific to biomedicine. Full text.

ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Archives & Special Collections department of the library is located on the seventh floor in the tower of the Dean B. Ellis Library. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and closed during university holidays. Below is a quick summary of the collections you can find in Special Collections.

- Arkansas Collection - material about the state of Arkansas, the people of the state, and books written by Arkansas authors.
- Arkansas Documents & Regulations - publications from various Arkansas agencies, departments, and institutions collected and distributed by the Arkansas State Library in Little Rock.
- Hough Collection - books and other materials on aeronautics collected by Retired Colonel Cass S. Hough.
- Lois Lenski Collection - various material from children's author Lois Lenski.
- Wilson Collection - books from the library of Robert Dale Owen, 19th century politician.
- Rare Books
- Arkansas Maps

For more information, dial 972-3077 and ask for Archives and Special Collections.

ELLIS LIBRARY NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER LAYOUT:

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Christine Perry and ASU Publications & Creative Services
Barbara Harrell, Tracy Farmer, Robin Payne, April Sheppard,
Laura Downing, Ann Wilson, Mark Berky and Dominique Hallett.

SPECIAL PRIMARY RESOURCE COLLECTIONS

The Archives house primary resource collections. Most of them are not yet available for use. However, inquiries are possible for specific subject information. A few of the more noteworthy collections are:

- Political papers from United States Representative E. C. "Took" Gathings
- Political papers from United States Representative Bill Alexander
- Political papers from United States Representative Blanche Lambert Lincoln
- Political papers from Arkansas Governor Frances Cherry
- Historical papers from the Judd Hill Plantation (Poinsett County)
- Historical papers from the Twist Plantation (Crittenden County)
- Agricultural and lumber history from Gieseck, Arkansas (Cross County)
- H.M. Cooley papers (early 20th century Jonesboro attorney and former advisor to and board member of Arkansas State College)
- The Mid-South Center for Oral History (oral history interviews conducted from the late 1970s to the early 1990s)
- St. Francis Levee District tax records



NEW LIBRARY STAFF

The library would like to welcome its newest employees: faculty reference librarians Dominique Hallett and Hiromi Kubo, and staff member Tia Wheeley.

Hallett completed her post-graduate degree in library and information science at Louisiana State University and her B.A. at ASU. She has presented papers at the 4th Annual Teaching in the Community Colleges Conference and at the 1999 ACRL/LA conference. She has worked as an information technology consultant for Portland State University and as Systems Librarian and Head of Technical Services at Northwestern State University.

Kubo completed her post-graduate degree in library and information science at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and her certificate in library science at Meisei University, Japan. She has worked for the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library at UMC, for the Kochi Newspaper Company in Japan as a database editor and information researcher, and also as a correspondent columnist.

Wheeley comes to the ASU library from the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library, where she spent the last five years receiving orders, cataloging, running quality control of bibliographic records, collecting statistics, and training new personnel. She is in charge of the ASU pamphlet file and is a member of the reference staff



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