Auburn University Libraries’ primary mission is to serve the academic needs of the university, but like every other academic school or division at Auburn University, Libraries has a two-fold mission: service to the students and faculty of Auburn and outreach to the local community, the state, the nation and the world. Libraries has had a busy year, and I am glad to say we have succeeded in both looking inward and looking outward.

If you are a frequent visitor to Ralph Brown Draughon Library, you’ll notice big changes on the first floor where we’ve been putting in the new Study Commons. This 8,600-square-foot area was created in response to the overwhelmingly positive response we got after bringing the Learning Commons online on the second floor in early 2010. Marcia Boosinger will be addressing the particulars of this new student work area later in this publication.

I’m also happy to report that the university has agreed to make $1.3 million in one-time funding permanent. This money will primarily be used to keep the very expensive electronic journals and databases that contain the very latest research coming to the library.

Our commitment to Auburn students and faculty does not only extend to material improvements. In the past year we have filled several vacancies with library professionals who are making our service to the university even better. Please take a few minutes to meet these talented individuals by reading the “New Hires” article on page 5.

Looking outward to make available the wealth of information and talent in the libraries, we’ve undertaken to share some of the excellent collections housed in our Special Collections and Archives Department through special exhibits that invite visitors to the university to experience the triumphs and tragedies that have played significant roles in shaping the Auburn Family, the culture of our state and the religion of our world.

We’re also making ever-larger portions of our collections available to researchers around the world through our digital library initiative. Just in time for the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, we have made available our collection of war era letters and diaries as part of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries’ (ASERL) online Civil War Portal.

We have also sent our talented people out to help others in their efforts to widely distribute library holdings, most notably assisting Tuskegee University in their efforts to make their vast holdings of materials from the civil rights era available to researchers online as that significant chapter in U.S. history prepares to mark its 50th anniversary.

All of these things you’ll read about in more detail as you delve deeper into this issue of our annual newsletter.

I’m very proud of the people who work for the libraries and the contribution they make to both Auburn University and the wider community beyond the boundaries of our university. As you read this newsletter, I hope you’ll be equally proud of the work that has gone into serving both our university family and the scholars of the world.
Just a year and a half after opening the Learning Commons on the second floor with all the great places to study and services to help students succeed, RBD Library is seeing an increase in use that is nothing short of phenomenal.

Students are flocking to the library to take advantage of the excellent studying environment and one-stop services offered by the staff of Reference and Instruction Services, The Miller Writing Center, Office of Information Technology and Study Partners.

While we had high hopes for the Learning Commons and felt we had a good plan after gathering extensive input and studying library use for three years, the level of acceptance by users has been far above what we ever dreamed. During finals in the Learning Commons there are no vacant chairs or unused power outlets in the space. More students would like to use it, but it’s consistently full. We all hated to think that students were discouraged from coming to the library at the time when they needed a place to work the most.

The solution was obvious: expand to include additional work areas.

Once again starting with student input on the workspaces they wanted most in the library, libraries staff planned for a 8,600-square-foot Study Commons in the northeast area of the first floor adjacent to the Media and Digital Resources Lab.

Students indicated they wanted more comfortable furniture to settle into for long periods of studying. They also wanted additional structured group study areas and desks that would easily accommodate a laptop while giving them room to spread out other study materials.

The new first-floor Student Study Commons gives students many of the things they wanted most. Four new enclosed study rooms and 16 well-defined group study areas have been constructed. More than 200 new seats, many of them comfortable plush chairs and sofas, have been added. Also new to the Student Study Commons are L-shaped computer desks that give students a great place to deploy their laptops while affording them with a ready space to spread materials.

Lastly, more than 400 additional electrical outlets were added to power students’ always-hungry computers.

The project, accomplished over the summer 2011 term, required more than 2,000 hours of work by Facilities personnel, as well as the relocation of more than 250 cabinets that contain the library’s collection of microforms and maps.

It required a great deal of work on behalf of Libraries and Facilities personnel, but the students will derive great benefit from the first-floor Study Commons. It is just one more step toward maintaining the library as one of the most important centers of student learning at Auburn University.

Glenn Anderson Receives 2011 AACRL Significant Contribution Award

Glenn Anderson, associate dean for collections development (Emeritus) at Auburn University Libraries, has been awarded the 2011 Sue O. Medina Award for Significant Contribution from the Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries (AACRL). The annual award honors library and information professionals and graduate students who work or reside in Alabama and have made a significant contribution in the area of college and research libraries on the local, state, regional, national or international level.

Anderson was selected to receive the award for his 32 years of service at Auburn, and most particularly his last 12 years as assistant dean for collection development.

“Glenn Anderson’s contributions to the libraries of Alabama go far beyond the long and stellar job he has done for Auburn University,” said Rickey Best, board member and past president of AACRL. “His experience and ability to build consensus among diverse groups has resulted in all research libraries in Alabama getting better deals on their electronic database subscriptions, allowing member libraries to better serve their patrons.”

Anderson’s award was presented at the AACRL yearly meeting on April 20 in Orange Beach, Ala.

“We’re very proud that Glenn has won this prestigious award,” said Dean Bonnie MacEwan. “We’ve always known Alabama libraries were better off for Glenn’s work, but it is terrific to see his numerous accomplishments recognized with this award from AACRL.”

Anderson is the third member of Auburn University Libraries’ staff to win the Sue O. Medina Award. Aaron Trehub, assistant dean for technology and technical services, won the award in 2010 and Marcia Boosinger, associate dean for public services, won the award in 2004.
From the Assistant Dean for Technology & Technical Services

Aaron Trehub

The 2010-2011 academic year was an unusually eventful one in the Systems and Technical Services departments. Here are some of the major events, in rough chronological order.

The Technical Services departments underwent a radical reorganization in the latter half of 2010 and the first few months of 2011. With the support of Dean Bonnie MacEwan, Helen Goldman and Paula Sullenger proposed and then implemented a plan to (1) consolidate the Acquisitions and Cataloging departments in the space occupied by Acquisitions and the physical processing room, and (2) reassign the departments’ duties by format, a change that is reflected in their new names: Electronic Resources & Serials Services (ERSS) and Monographic Services. Inspired by LEAN training at Auburn and by visits to technical services departments at Duke University, North Carolina State University, and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the reorganization was designed to clarify and rationalize the two departments’ duties and to improve workflow between them. It also freed up the almost 4,000 square feet formerly occupied by Cataloging, which enabled the libraries to proceed with plans to improve patron services on the first floor. First, the Maps and Documents collection moved from the southeast end of the first floor to the old Cataloging space and the first floor service desk was combined with the MDRL service desk to create a unified service point inside the MDRL. This created space for an extension of the libraries’ Learning Commons to the southeastern quadrant of the first floor, including the area around the College Street entrance. The result of these changes is better workflow in the Technical Services departments; better access to the libraries’ maps, documents, and media resources; and better, more attractive, and more useful study and work space for patrons on the first floor. A triple win.

In late 2010, the libraries voted to accept the recommendation of the VuFind Advisory Committee and adopt VuFind—an open-source discovery tool—as the default search interface for the library catalog, digital collections, and other licensed or locally produced content. The change concluded almost eighteen months of development work and took effect in December 2010. As part of the same process, the libraries moved to a new version of the Web interface for Ex Libris Voyager, the traditional library catalog. The transition capped almost two years of modifications to and testing of the new Web interface. It took effect in July 2011.

The Auburn University Digital Library rolled out several new digital collections in 2010-2011, including collections devoted to 19th-century British naturalist Philip Henry Gosse and to Margaret Olivia Sage, a pioneering woman philanthropist of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Sage collection is based on the research of Professor Ruth Crocker of the Auburn University History Department; Dr. Crocker delivered a lecture on the making of the collection in February 2011, as part of the “Discover Auburn” lecture series. The Systems Department is working with Professor Jonathan Armbuster of the Biological Sciences Department on an NSF grant to create a world database of minnow types. And more digital collections are on deck for 2011-2012, including the complete run of “The Plainsman” and digitized copies of Civil War diaries and letters. The release of the Civil War collection is scheduled to coincide with lectures in the Special Collections & Archives Department.

Elsewhere, the libraries marked the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War by participating in a collaborative digital project sponsored by the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL). Together with over 20 other ASERL libraries, the Auburn University Libraries contributed digitized Civil War-era publications from its collection to a Web portal on the conflict. Designed by staff at the Digital Library of Georgia, the “Civil War in the American South” portal was publicly launched in April 2011, to coincide with the anniversary of the bombardment of Fort Sumter. The portal currently points to almost 9,000 digitized primary-source items—books, pamphlets, broadsides, letters, maps, personal papers, and manuscripts—from ASERL member libraries. More items will be added to the portal as they become available. You can visit the portal at http://www.american-south.org/.

Digital preservation is the flipside of digital collection-building, and the libraries continued to play a leading role in this field at the state, national and even international level. At the state level, the Alabama Digital Preservation Network (ADPNet)—the first statewide digital preservation network in the U.S.—adopted a new membership model that should make participation more attractive to small- and medium-sized cultural memory institutions in Alabama. Several smaller institutions—colleges and public libraries—have expressed an interest in joining ADPNet in the coming year. We gave presentations on ADPNet and on AlabamaMosaic, the statewide digital repository, at a digital preservation meeting in Boston in October 2010, at the ALLA convention in Orange Beach in April 2011, and at the Special Libraries Association (SLA) conference in Philadelphia in June 2011. The libraries went international in 2011, helping to organize and sponsor an international conference on digital
Auburn Libraries Assist Tuskegee Libraries in Making Archives Available Online

To further Auburn University’s commitment to outreach and cooperation with other institutions of higher learning in Alabama, Auburn University Libraries’ Systems Department has been working on a project with Tuskegee University aimed at bringing the historical materials in Tuskegee’s archives to a wider audience by making them available online.

This cooperative effort began in the summer of 2009, when the new head of Tuskegee University Archives, Dana Chandler, realized the wealth of historical materials his department was holding and began generating ideas for making them available to researchers worldwide. Putting many of the materials online was the obvious choice, but his department lacked hands-on experience with his preferred software solution: DSpace, an open-source digital content-management package developed at MIT and widely used for digital repositories.

Chandler turned to Auburn University Libraries Systems Department for advice on choosing a software configuration that would meet their needs, as Auburn has had a thriving digital collections program for several years. Aaron Trehub, assistant dean for technology and technical services at Auburn University Libraries, was more than willing to share the knowledge and experience his department has amassed in almost ten years of working with digital collections.

Trehub and Reuben Pasquini, the libraries’ DSpace specialist, made several visits to Tuskegee University to assess the archives’ needs and help install the DSpace software on a server at Tuskegee. Since then, Chandler and his staff have been customizing and populating the database with the items in their archives.

“The collaborative effort between Auburn University Libraries’ Systems Department and the Tuskegee University Archives has proven to be very successful,” said Chandler. “Thanks to Aaron Trehub and Reuben Pasquini, we were able to launch our new archives repository website in less time than if we had used a conventional repository software package. Their eagerness to aid us in this endeavor, coupled with their expertise, allowed us to complete our mission with no extra cost to the university.”

“We’re pleased to be able to help a fellow institution of higher learning to make their collections more accessible,” said Trehub. “Our own Auburn researchers will benefit from easy access to Tuskegee’s archives. The free exchange of our collective learning benefits everyone and we look forward to helping other universities that can use the work we’ve done.”

The Tuskegee University Archives Repository website can be accessed through the Tuskegee University website: www.tuskegee.edu. Click on the button labeled “Libraries.” Scroll down and select the heading “Archives & Museums.”

Libraries Team Wins Spelling Bee

Auburn University Libraries’ Win, Lose or Draughon spelling team of Marliese Thomas and Gerrit DeWitt came home with the first-place trophy from the Lee County Literacy Coalition’s eighth annual Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee. The event, held July 28, raised money for the literacy coalition’s education programs.

Thomas and DeWitt spelled 37 commonly misspelled words in the two-minute time limit to take the trophy from a field of 18 teams. Their closest competitor spelled 33 words correctly.

The team returned in triumph with the event’s traveling trophy and bragging rights for the year. The libraries last won the Lee County Literacy Coalition’s spelling championship in 2006.

...from the assistant dean

preservation at the National Library of Estonia in Tallinn in May 2011. Entitled “Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation,” the conference was sponsored by the Library of Congress, Auburn University, the Educopia Institute, the University of North Texas, and a number of private companies and non-profit service providers. It was attended by more than 200 librarians, archivists, and digital preservation specialists from over 20 countries. An edited conference volume should appear later this year, and a follow-up conference is in the works for 2012. For more information on the conference and its sponsors, go to http://www.educopia.org/events/ANADP.

In short, the Systems and Technical Services departments had a turbulent but productive year. The departments are well positioned to continue existing initiatives and take on new ones in 2011-2012.
Liza Wiesbrod has been with the libraries for more than 20 years, but this year took the step up to becoming the Music Reference Librarian managing all music collections - which include books, journals, scores, CDs, LPs, and DVDs - and assisting students and faculty in using music materials in their class and research projects. She is also serving as the Government Documents and Microforms Librarian - a sizable undertaking since Auburn is a Federal Depository Library.

New Hires at the Libraries

Auburn University Libraries has added five key faculty positions over the past year. Each brings experience that will greatly enhance library services.

Jaena Alabi comes to Auburn from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis where she worked as an assistant librarian for four years. Here at Auburn she is the English and Psychology Departments Reference Librarian. While she may have come to Auburn from Indiana, Alabi is no stranger to Alabama – she is a graduate of the University of Alabama.

Midge Coates had a PhD in chemistry and extensive experience with chemical companies in the private sector before earning her MLS from the University of Buffalo in 2003. She has been a contracted Digital Projects Librarian since 2009 and this year joins the library as a tenured faculty member. In this position she coordinates the creation, improvement, and preservation of new and existing digital collections.

She also liaises with the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) on two statewide digital initiatives: the Alabama Digital Preservation Network and AlabamaMosaic.

Nadine Ellero is Libraries’ newest member of the increasingly important Electronic Resources and Serials Services Department. She comes to Auburn from the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library of the University of Virginia where she served for more than 20 years, most recently as Intellectual Access Librarian. Here at Auburn she will be the Serials Acquisitions Librarian.

Todd Shipman brings a wealth of experience in connecting with young people to his new position as Education and Foreign Languages and Literature Reference Librarian, as he was a public school teacher teaching foreign languages for 10 years.

A graduate of the University of Alabama, University of Mobile and a recipient of an MLS from the University of South Florida, Shipman comes to Auburn via Valencia College in Orlando.

For more than 30 years, W. David Lewis was a mainstay at Auburn University’s History Department, teaching Technology and Civilization to students and compiling an impressive list of published works on the history of aviation and the impact of technology. Now the research notes that Dr. Lewis used to create such respected works as his acclaimed biography “Eddie Rickenbacker: An American Hero in the Twentieth Century” have come to Auburn University Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives department and will be made available for study by scholars from around the world.

Many of the notes are expected to go well beyond what Lewis committed to the published page.

“As I recall, Dr. Lewis told me that the first draft of his Rickenbacker biography was much longer than what eventually came out in print,” said Dwayne Cox, head of Auburn University Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives department. “I imagine we’ll find a considerable amount of previously unpublished material among his notes and early chapter drafts on Rickenbacker.”

Lewis was instrumental in bringing many aviation-related collections to Auburn’s Special Collections and Archives, most recently the Rickenbacker papers, which included rare photographs from the aviation pioneer’s life that spanned from his early years as a race car driver and fighter ace in World War I, to his years at the helm of Eastern Air Lines. These photos are available on the Auburn University Libraries Digital Collection site at http://diglib.auburn.edu/collections/rickenbacker/. The Association of Research Libraries featured Auburn University’s aviation collection in the volume that commemorated the ARL’s 75th anniversary.

Dr. W. David Lewis joined Auburn University in 1971 as the Hudson Professor of History and Engineering, and was a leader in the field of studying technology and its impact on civilization. He taught at Auburn until the time of his death in 2007, ending his career at Auburn with the title of Distinguished University Professor.
When it comes to introducing students to the library and its services, the reaction of the average student varies widely.

Some students are eager to embrace the library and know they’ll be spending a lot of time within its walls, using all the resources it has to offer as they pursue their degree. Others view the library as a necessity and know they’ll be there but do not relish the prospect. Still others hope they can slide through their entire education without a single visit to the library.

But the reality of a university education is that at one time or another every successful student will have to avail themselves of the resources that the library offers, and Auburn University Libraries has been trying hard to make the library less intimidating while educating students about all the resources they can use to make their educational experience both less stressful and more rewarding.

For the past five years, the most successful tool in the libraries’ arsenal to accomplish this goal has been its annual open house, Tailgate @ the Library.

Tapping into the excitement of Auburn’s winning football tradition, Tailgate @ the Library invites students to come to the library on the Friday before the first football game to enjoy free food and drinks while being entertained by the marching band, cheerleaders, the eagle and Aubie. While there, the students also participate in activities that introduce them to the services of the library and its partners and take them to every corner of the building.

In the five years that Tailgate @ the Library has been conducted, the faculty and staff of the libraries has become quite adept at educating students about the library in the middle of what appears to be a fun party. So adept, in fact, that few students realize just how much they know about the library until a need arises later in the semester and they return to the library to get the assistance they require.

The genesis for Tailgate
and entertainment, students are encouraged to engage in a form of scavenger hunt where they are given a card and must visit different areas of the library and participate in activities at each to get the card filled in. Students eagerly participate for the chance to enter a prize drawing with their completed card.

Now in its fifth year, Tailgate @ the Library has become an immensely popular event for students. At the last event more than 2,700 students attended.

“Tailgate @ the Library has exceeded all expectations I had for bringing students to the library and introducing them to what we can offer to make their university experience more rewarding,” said Dean MacEwan.

“Nancy Noe and the committee that helps her put on the event have become a well-oiled machine that consistently throws what externally looks like a great party but is actually a successful outreach to students to teach them about their library and how to obtain the services it offers.”

With its combination of food, fun and facts the student can use, Tailgate @ the Library is fast becoming a campus tradition that will be accomplishing its mandate of making the library a friendlier, more user-approachable place for years to come.

Tailgate @ the Library came from the incoming dean of Auburn University Libraries, Bonnie MacEwan, who joined Auburn in 2005.

Dean MacEwan tasked her staff with developing an activity that would bring incoming students to the library early in the semester to familiarize them with the library and let them know how to utilize all the services the library could offer in a fun and unintimidating way.

It was a simple mandate: Students meet library. Library meets students. Nobody gets hurt.

Nancy Noe, reference and instructional librarian at Auburn University Libraries, was intrigued by the idea and crafted an event that was all Auburn while accomplishing Dean MacEwan’s goal.

Using the football mania that sweeps the campus each fall, Noe developed an event that invited students to a huge tailgate party. While at the party enjoying free food...
With many significant anniversaries in Alabama history fast approaching, documenting Alabama’s past has taken on a high priority in the state. The recent donation to Auburn University Libraries of a letter composed by early Alabama statesman and politician John Williams Walker (1783–1823) sheds light on a significant chapter in Alabama history as Walker lobbied for a western boundary with Mississippi that would keep the majority of the Tombigbee River within Alabama’s borders.

“This is truly a foundational document in the history of Alabama,” said Greg Schmidt, special collections librarian at Auburn University Libraries. “I can think of few things that are more significant to a state and its ultimate character than the lands and people that fall within its borders.”

The February 1, 1818 letter, approximately 800 words long and opening with the salutation “My dear friend,” is a plea from Walker for the recipient in Washington, D.C. to work hard to ensure the largest part of the Tombigbee, then known as the “Tombeckbe,” stayed within the Alabama Territory and not to allow it to become part of Mississippi. The letter was written by Walker from the Alabama Territory capital of St. Stephens as he served in the territorial legislature less than two months after Mississippi was admitted to the union in December of 1817.

Walker’s efforts were ultimately successful, and when the state of Alabama was admitted to the union on December 14, 1819, the western boundary of the state included the majority of the Tombigbee River system that would prove so important for development of the western part of the state.

Schmidt hopes that scholarly research on the letter will ultimately reveal whom Walker was addressing with his “My dear friend” salutation, which will better place the letter in the context of Alabama history. After writing this letter, Walker would go on to become the president of the Alabama constitutional convention and one of the state’s first two federal senators.

The letter was acquired from a reputable dealer and donated by a friend of the library.

“We are very grateful for the donation of this significant piece of Alabama history,” said Bonnie MacEwan, dean of Auburn University Libraries. “This artifact of Alabama’s pre-statehood period will be treasured, preserved and treated with the respect befitting the importance of this document.”

Once processed into the library’s collection, the Walker letter will be put on display within the Ralph Brown Draughon Library Special Collections Department and a digital copy will be available for study by students and scholars all over the world through the library’s digital collection.

Kathryn Tucker Windham’s Life Honored in Special Collections Exhibit

In honor of one of Alabama’s most beloved authors, who died on June 12, 2011, Auburn University Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives Department has assembled an exhibit of the books and papers of Kathryn Tucker Windham. Housed on the ground floor of the Ralph Brown Draughon Library, the exhibit is open to the public and will run through the end of the fall 2011 semester.

Windham, a native of Selma, Ala., was the author of a variety of books on southern folklore and folk life, including a popular series of southern ghost stories. She was also well known as a storyteller, practicing her craft on National Public Radio and at a variety of festivals around the United States.

“Ms. Windham has been very generous to Auburn over the years with her personal papers,” said Dwayne Cox, head of the Special Collections and Archives Department. “Now we want to honor her life by sharing with our patrons the things she shared with us.”

The exhibit includes many items that chronicle Windham’s life. A handwritten manuscript for one of Windham’s books, fan letters from school children, and photographs of Windham are on display. Also included are several certificates the acclaimed writer received and even a 1991 resolution of the Alabama legislature honoring Windham.

The exhibit is open during all regular Special Collections and Archives hours.
Trehub Organizes International Conference on Digital Preservation

For Aaron Trehub, assistant dean for technology and technical services at Auburn University Libraries, the possibility that a catastrophe could wipe out large amounts of the world’s digital information is a familiar one. He has been thinking about the long-term preservation of digital content for half a decade. With Trehub’s leadership and some timely grant funding, Auburn University has emerged as a leader in the area of Distributed Digital Preservation (DDP). And in May of 2011, his work in this field was rewarded when digital preservation experts from around the globe converged on Tallinn, Estonia for the “Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation” conference.

Working in the spirit of Auburn University President Jay Gogue’s strategic plan to take the university’s outreach efforts to an international audience and with the backing of the United States Library of Congress, the National Library of Estonia, and the Atlanta-based Educopia Institute, Trehub spent two years of intense planning and coordinating to bring together leaders in the field of digital preservation to exchange ideas and information.

In 2006, Trehub worked with the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) to obtain a grant to establish the Alabama Digital Preservation Network (ADPNet), the first statewide DDP network in the USA. Auburn University was also one of the six founding members of the Atlanta-based MetaArchive Cooperative, the first multi-state DDP network. Originally consisting of six southeastern institutions, today MetaArchive has become an international network, growing to include 48 institutions in 12 states and four countries. It was while working on the MetaArchive project that Trehub and Dr. Martin Halbert, formerly at Emory University and now the dean of libraries at the University of North Texas, began to discuss the need to promote international cooperation in digital preservation. It was during one of their brainstorming sessions that Trehub had the idea of holding an international conference in Estonia, a location convenient to all of Europe, accessible to the rest of the world, and with a very advanced information technology infrastructure. Both Trehub and Halbert had personal and professional contacts in Estonia, including Trehub’s long-standing acquaintance with the New Jersey-raised, Columbia University-educated president of Estonia, Toomas Hendrik Ilves.

President Ilves’ office embraced the idea and forwarded it to the National Library of Estonia for further action. The Library of Congress joined in the effort and the Educopia Institute signed on to do the lion’s share of coordination for the event.

“Aaron’s knowledge, expertise, and contacts – both in Estonia and throughout the international community – was an enormous asset in our planning and production of the ‘Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation’ forum,” said Dr. Katherine Skinner, executive director, Educopia Institute. “He helped us to plan the program (including establishing the panel topics and selecting appropriate panel conveners), establish our venue and logistics and build sponsorship for the event. He is a core member of the program committee, without which, this event honestly would not have happened or at least would have happened very differently.”

“The Tallinn conference was a big success—bigger, actually, than we expected,” said Trehub. “We got more than 200 attendees from more than 20 countries, which was considerably more than we’d anticipated. An edited conference volume is in the works, with panel papers and plans for future action—it should be published later this year. Professor Cal Lee from the library school at the University of North Carolina –Chapel Hill will be giving a report on the Tallinn meeting at the iPres conference in Singapore in November, so we hope to get more visibility in Asia. And I’m told that planning for a successor conference is already underway.”


“All the signs are that we hit the sweet spot in timing this thing,” Trehub said. “The Tallinn conference addressed a real need, and not just in the States.”

Libraries Acquires Digital Back Files of Key Publications

Auburn University Libraries has acquired the digital back files of several publications that should prove invaluable to faculty and students doing research into the fields of study covered in these publications. The five publications’ topics run the gamut from agriculture to zoology.

“Facing an imminent rise in prices for these important research tools, we made the decision to find the funds in our limited materials budget now rather than pay more for them in the very near future,” said Bonnie MacEwan, dean of Auburn University Libraries. “I think faculty will be especially pleased with their access to the broad base of knowledge contained in these publications.”


These publications will be accessible through Aubie Express.
Auburn Libraries Achievements


Midge Coates - presentation, Grant Applications: A Worm’s Eye View, workshop on grant writing sponsored by the College, University, and Special Libraries (CUS) division of the Alabama Library Association (ALLA) at Homewood Public Library, Homewood, Ala., Oct. 26, 2010.

Tim Dodge - Elected Moderator-Elect of the Multicultural Information Round Table of the Alabama Library Association in April 2010. Established the MCRT listserv and helped in planning the first annual convention program held April 2011.


Tim Dodge - Re-elected for second three-year term (2010-2013) on University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies Library School Association Board of Directors.

J.P. Pendleton - Elected vice president of the American Library Association’s Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIR T).


Juliet Rumble, Bonnie MacEwan, Marcia Boosinger, Tamara Bowden, and Ellyn Hix - panel session, If You Build Partnerships, They Will Come and Share: Collaborative Learning Commons Planning and Use. CUS Breakfast, Alabama Library Association Annual Convention, Orange Beach, Ala., April 2011.

Greg Schmidt – Elected President of the Society of Alabama Archivists for 2010/11.


Greg Schmidt - publication, Man...or Astroman?, Encyclopedia of Alabama. Published March 1, 2011. http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-3027


Paula Sullenger - presentation, A Serials Format Inventory Project. Charleston Conference on Acquisitions. Charleston, S.C., Nov. 5, 2010. - An article based on this presentation will be published later this year in Serials Review.


Marliese Thomas - Chair, Standards Interest Group, Library and Information Technology Association, ALA, 2011-2012.


Aaron Trehub - publication, Applications of Digital Technology to Slavic Librarianship. Solanus: International Journal for
Marcia Boosinger, associate dean for public services at Auburn University Libraries, has earned the Women of Distinction Leadership Award for faculty given annually at the Auburn University Women’s Leadership Conference. Associate Dean Boosinger has served in various capacities within Auburn University Libraries since 1984, and has proven instrumental in moving the three libraries that make up Auburn University Libraries forward with the changing role of libraries in university student education.

“We’re very proud of Marcia here at Auburn University Libraries,” said Bonnie MacEwan, dean of Auburn University Libraries. “She has worked so hard for the students of Auburn and challenges the entire staff to be better and do more to serve our library patrons. To many of us, she is the library. We thank the award committee for recognizing Marcia as the distinctive leader she is and believe this award could not have gone to a more deserving faculty member.”

While her 26 years of work with Auburn University Libraries include many distinctive accomplishments, most recently Associate Dean Boosinger has been a driving force behind the Learning Commons project in Ralph Brown Draughon Library that saw a large percentage of library space repurposed from traditional shelves of books to a cooperative learning area for students to come and study together with all the most modern high-tech tools.

Greg Schmidt, special collections librarian at Auburn University Libraries, has been selected to receive the Gracy Award from the Society of Georgia Archivists for his article, “Functional Analysis in the Reappraisal of Faculty Papers” that appeared in the 2009 issue of the society’s publication, Provenance.

Schmidt’s article, written in collaboration with Michael Law, a graduate student in history, lays out a case study for arranging faculty papers by university function, a methodology that has been advocated in the academic archiving community for institutional records.

Schmidt’s case study used the papers of Dr. Malcolm McMillian, professor of history at Auburn from 1948 – 1978. This collection was donated to the library in 1990, but had not yet been fully arranged for researchers. Schmidt undertook to rearrange the collection, dividing McMillian’s papers into such functional areas as research, administration, teaching and outreach. He then had the collection entered into a new electronic finding aid to make it more accessible to researchers.

The Gracy award is named for David B. Gracy II, founder and first editor of the Georgia Archive, and is awarded by the Provenance editorial board to the one superior contribution submitted to their annual publication.
Visit Ralph Brown Draughon Library For Two Special Exhibits

Artifacts Left at Toomer’s Corner Oaks

In the days following the announcement that the 130-year-old oaks of Toomer’s Corner had been poisoned and were unlikely to survive, the Auburn Family engaged in a spontaneous outpouring of grief, well wishes for the health of the trees, and an affirmation that this would not break the Auburn spirit.

In the wake of that outpouring of emotion, many personal articles, signs and other artifacts were left at the historic trees. As efforts began in earnest to do everything possible to save the trees that have been the site of so many Auburn celebrations, these artifacts were removed from the trees and gathered in a new collection established to preserve this trying chapter in Auburn University history.

Auburn University Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives Department has undertaken to preserve this new collection and is sharing select pieces of it in an exhibit housed on the first floor of RBD Library and open during all regular library hours. The exhibit also invites patrons to share their own Toomer’s Corner oaks recollections, which will be added to the collection.

Both exhibits will be open to the public through the end of fall semester 2011.

Historic English Bibles

To mark the 400th anniversary of the first publication of the King James translation of the Bible, Auburn University Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives Department is hosting a special exhibit of some of the rare and historic Bibles that it holds in its collection.

The exhibit covers the approximately 100 years of English Bible translations that led up to the publication of the first King James Bible in 1611. Bibles in the exhibit include a facsimile of the 1525 Tyndale translation along with original printings of King Henry VIII’s Great Bible, the Geneva Bible, the Bishop’s Bible, the Rheims New Testament, and finally a 1613 printing of the King James Bible.

The story of how each Bible came to be made and the historical events surrounding them are explained in the exhibit. Also displayed are books and correspondence of Auburn Professor Emeritus Ward Sykes Allen, an eminent scholar in English Bible translations.

The exhibit is located on the ground floor and is open during all regular Special Collections operating hours.