FROM INTERIM DEAN OF LIBRARIES

Sheri Downer

I wanted to say a few words to you as the Interim Dean of the Auburn University Libraries. First of all, I want to express my appreciation to the library staff who have been willing to put their support and trust in me as the interim dean. I feel honored and realize I must continue to build on the strong foundation and fine reputation of the Auburn University Libraries. Not only must we continue to provide excellent service and rich resources to support the curriculum, the library must also maintain an active leadership role in resource sharing and cooperative projects both statewide as well as nationwide. National recognition for our accomplishments and the successful management and shaping of change will enhance the opportunities we have to serve and support our patrons and the vision of the university. This will not be possible unless the leadership of the library remains responsive to the fulfillment of that vision and the needs and demands of both the internal and external participants in this change.

As you visit the libraries across campus I encourage you to utilize the resources the libraries can provide. There are always librarians and staff available to help access the resources, provide reference and teaching services and supply needed materials from other libraries.

CORNERSTONE PROJECT

Sheri Downer

AUBURN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES ARE PART OF $493,000.00 Leadership Grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Auburn University Libraries, along with the University of Alabama and the Alabama Department of Archives and History, will serve as the central digitizing centers for a grant awarded to the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries. The Cornerstone Project: Building the Foundation for Sharing Unique Treasures is a collaborative statewide initiative that will make historical treasures from Alabama's archives, libraries, museums, and other repositories electronically accessible. The Cornerstone Project will initially digitize historically significant materials from the collections of the Auburn University Libraries, the University of Alabama, the Alabama Department of Archives and History and the Birmingham Public Library. However, any interested repository in the state of Alabama can participate to digitize their own unique collections.

As a first project priority about 15,000 items will be digitized to enrich Alabama Moments, an online guide that encourages teachers to introduce Alabama into the state history curriculum required of all 10th and 11th grade students.

The project will enable the libraries to coordinate a statewide program to digitize unique historical resources.
held in the repositories and to work with these repositories to develop long-range plans to make their resources accessible online. The central library centers will provide training to assure that librarians, archivists and other staff attain the knowledge to successfully plan, implement and complete digitizing projects.

Auburn University Libraries and The University of Alabama Libraries will provide two shared-use digitization facilities and join with the Alabama Department of Archives and History in support of local digitizing efforts to serve as training centers for the program.

The Network of Alabama Academic Libraries will coordinate this program to assure that Alabama students, teachers, and other citizens as well as scholars throughout the world can explore Alabama's unique historical treasures online. The project will result in a comprehensive Web-based digital collection of documents, images, recordings, maps and multimedia documenting U.S. and Alabama history.

LIBQUAL+:CHARTING LIBRARY SERVICE QUALITY
Glenn Anderson

Early in April, 2002, a sample population of 800 faculty members, 800 graduate students, and 1,200 undergraduates at Auburn will be invited to take part in something called LibQUAL+. This article will explain a little about what LibQUAL+ is, why Auburn is participating in it, and what the University can gain from it.

LibQUAL+ is a research and development project undertaken to define and measure library service quality across institutions. LibQUAL+ measures library users' perceptions of service quality and identifies gaps between desired, perceived, and minimum expectations of service. Developed at Texas A&M in collaboration with the Association of Research Libraries, LibQUAL+ will allow faculty and student library users to identify strengths, weaknesses, and desired directions that the Library should take; it will also enable the Library to adjust its services and collections to better meet the expressed needs of faculty and students.

By participating in LibQUAL+, the Auburn University Library can identify where our services need improvement in the eyes of our users. We can compare our service quality in specific areas with that of 180 peer libraries, identify libraries with strong ratings in areas where we are rated as weak, and examine the best practices of other libraries. For example, a question about interlibrary loan, or journal holdings, or electronic resources will allow those taking the survey to indicate where the Library's current level of service ranks against minimum and desired service levels. A comment area will also allow faculty and students to indicate areas where they would like to see change or improvement. The Library is committed to addressing those areas which rank below desired service levels.

If you receive an invitation early in April to participate in the LibQUAL+ survey, please take ten minutes or so to complete the survey on the Web. Those who prefer to complete paper surveys will be able to get those from Glenn Anderson (844-1741 or glenn@lib.auburn.edu), to whom any questions about LibQual+ should be directed.

GENDERWATCH
Nancy Noe

Softline's GenderWatch (formerly Women 'R' CDROM) is a full text database that covers gender and gender roles across a broad range of interdisciplinary subject areas, such as business, education, literature and the arts, health sciences, history, political science, public policy, sociology and contemporary culture, and gender and women's studies. Indexed materials include over 100 magazines and journals, including Asian Journal of Women's Studies, Columbia Journal of Gender and Law, Harvard Gay & Lesbian Review, and The Journal of Men's Studies. Coverage also encompasses a growing collection of newsletters, conference proceedings, brochures and pamphlets. In addition to recent publications, archival material dating back to the 1970s is continually being added, providing a resource for examining the evolution of women's movement and gender studies over the past 30 years.

To access GenderWatch from the library's homepage (www.lib.auburn.edu), follow the 'Find Articles' link to 'Databases by Title'. Search the database by choosing the 'Basic' keyword search, which allows for searching by publication title or date, or the 'Advanced' search, which offers a number of search fields (author, subject, words in the title, type of publication). A controlled thesaurus is available through drop-down menus to assist with the search. Results can be sorted according to Relevancy, Publication Date or Publication Name. The 'publication information' feature links a page with publisher, editor, website, address, circulation, subscription and other background information about the source publication. Citation lists and full text articles may be printed, saved to disk, or forwarded via email.
In today's marketplace of repackaging material with little or no additional information, Softline Information offers a full-text database of nearly 200 newspapers, magazines, and journals from other media, minority, and native presses previously unavailable in electronic format. Although ENW omits press releases, social news, and letters, these materials covering local, national, and international sources are highly used by clientele seeking to include a representative sampling of America's diverse ethnic populations whose views are not always readily apparent in the mainstream media. Beginning in 1991, ENW now contains a collection of nearly 700,000 articles with an average monthly growth of nearly 7,500 articles. Many of the publications in ENW may not be readily available in most libraries due to the content, focus, and audience for which the publication serves. ENW has also been critically acclaimed, receiving a 4.75 of 5 from The Charleston Advisor and DATABASE Editor's Choice Award.

Recognizing the niche that ENW supports, the ProQuest Corporation, a leader in the online information industry, acquired exclusive distribution of Softline in November 2001. Ralph Ferragamo, CEO of SoftLink, has stated, "It was important to us to find a buyer that would commit to expanding access to publications that are underrepresented in databases. ProQuest has demonstrated a commitment to continue to develop databases that offer diverse views and information." ProQuest President and CEO of Information and Learning, Joe Reynolds, echoed these feelings with his announcement that "...the addition of these databases to our product offerings brings new and valuable facets to research and learning ... and we're committed to the continuation of providing and improving access to this important content.

Auburn University Libraries provide access to the entire date range of materials spanning from 1991-present. The database is available to the Auburn University community from both on and off campus. Off campus access requires (I.D.) authentication. Significant search features include beyond English or Spanish language searches the following major functions:

Free text and Boolean searching

11 searchable fields including Subject(s), Type of Article
and Ethnic Group of Publication

Over 6 million searchable records

A Controlled Subject Thesaurus

Pop-up/Browse windows for easy searching

Hyperlinks to publication profiles for detailed background on sources

ENW may be accessed through http://ewn.softlineweb.com/ethnic.htm or by linking to it through the Library's homepage (http://www.lib.auburn.edu/bil/), and then 'Find Articles,' and then either 'Databases by Title' or 'Full-Text Databases'. Ethnic NewsWatch is a valuable resource for many subject areas ranging from the more focused ethnic area studies to other subject areas including the arts, business, education, the environment, history, journalism, political science, and sociology.

NEW FACULTY

JEFF LUZIUS is a new Reference Librarian at the RBD Library. Jeff has a BS from Troy State University with a major in Psychology and a MS from Florida State University with a major in Library and Information Science. Prior to coming to Auburn, Jeff was an Access Services Librarian at Troy State University in Troy, AL. His research includes nontraditional students and the careers of academic librarians. Jeff is married and has a two-year-old daughter.

JEAN LIDDELL is a new Reference Librarian at the RBD Library. Jean has a BA from the University of Alabama-Birmingham with a major in History and a MS from the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa with a major in Library and Information Science. Prior to coming to Auburn, Jean was a Reference Librarian at Delta State University (Home of the Fighting Okra). Her research interests include improvement in BI sessions and women studies. Jean has two beautiful granddaughters.