



LIBRARY FOCUS

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Hurricane Katrina Damage to University of Southern Mississippi Libraries

-Kay Wall, University Librarian

Hurricane Katrina packed heavy winds and rain as it made its way inland on August 29, 2005. While many lost homes and businesses on the coast, the University of Southern Mississippi Libraries also suffered damage at three teaching sites.

Hattiesburg Campus

Joseph Anderson Cook Library.

The window of the Director for the School of Library and Information Science was blown out during the storm and her office destroyed. This floor-to-ceiling window was essentially one wall of her office.

Additionally, there was minor water damage at the expansion joint on the second floor of the library addition, ceiling tiles were down and the carpet was damp. The expansion joint is in a hallway, so collections were not exposed to water. Power and heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) were restored September 1.

William David McCain Library and Archives.

While the facility sustained no significant damage from rain or wind, there were some leaks around windows on the third floor work area where carpet was damp.



Photo by Barton Spencer

Damage at Cook Library in Hattiesburg

The Halon fire suppression system has been damaged and rendered inoperable, according to the University's Safety Officer. Power and HVAC were restored September 1.

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Overall, the facility fared well and it appears to have little if any structural damage. The first floor of



Flood damage at the Gulf Coast Library

Photo by Diane DeCesare Ross

this three year old structure received 12-18 inches of flood water. The roof and all windows remained intact, with some minor leaks around windows on the upper floors. The carpet and soft furniture were soaked and there was mud on the tile floor. Items located on the bottom shelf received water damage, but the flood waters did not reach the second shelf. Since there was no power for over three weeks, mold and mildew have grown rampantly, with spots of mold

appearing on the second floor. While generator power has been in service since September 23, climate control has not been totally effective. Twelve dehumidifiers were delivered to the library Tuesday, September 27. There are ongoing efforts to salvage damaged materials, rid the facility of mold, and restore power and climate control.

More photos can be seen at: <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~libtech/gclibrary/index.html>

Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Gunter Library, Ocean Springs, MS

Gunter Library.

Located in the Caylor Building, they received flood water of approximately 18- inches. There were items on the bottom shelves that were ruined in

both the main part of the library and the stacks tower. There was more mud left in this facility and BMS Catastrophe has been working on salvaging materials. Power was restored September 2 or 3, but the HVAC system was not working properly, so mold and mildew continued to grow. Three humidifiers were dispatched to the site September 14. There was more initial collection damage at Gunter Library



Mold and mildew damage at Gunter Library

Photo by Diane DeCesare Ross

than at the Long Beach Library, but the earlier restoration of power and climate control meant fewer items had mold growth at Gunter than at Long Beach.

More photos can be seen at: <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~libtech/gcrl/index.html>

Restoration of Library Services

Long Beach: The University of Southern Mississippi is preparing the Gulf Coast Student Services Center, housed in the former Garden Park Hospital, for classes to begin October 10. USM Gulf Coast Library will provide regular library services in rooms 122-126 at the Student Services Center. Reserves, computers, the textbook collection and document delivery will be available during the hours of : Monday – Thursday 8 a.m.– 10 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday 2 – 6 p.m., and Sunday 2 - 6 p.m. Items will be retrieved from the Gulf Coast Library facility and brought to the Student Services Center. For more specific information, please see the library’s most recent update on Web news: www.lib.usm.edu or telephone 228-865-4510.

Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. Thanks to the hard work of both Librarian Joyce Shaw and GCRL staff members such as Adrienne Russell, Gunter Library operations returned to ‘normal’ for the beginning of classes September 19, 2005. Nearly 1,300 damaged items from the collection have been identified for replacement.

Disaster in the Libraries? Just Yell “DRAT!!!”

--Hans Rasmussen, Catalog Librarian

Hurricane Katrina’s impact on the university’s libraries in Hattiesburg and on the Gulf Coast has brought new attention and responsibilities to a normally low-profile group of librarians. The Disaster Response Action Team (DRAT)-- a 7-member committee of librarians responsible for preparing for and responding to disasters in the Hattiesburg campus libraries-- has finally faced the challenges for which it was created.

The DRAT spends most of its time working to prevent damage to the libraries and making plans to respond to disasters when they occur. Members regularly search out potential threats to the collections. They look for possible fire hazards such as the improper storage of combustible materials or the incorrect use of heat-



Photo by Barton Spencer

DRAT member surveys coast damage after Katrina

generating appliances. They monitor sources of water intrusion like ceiling leaks and poorly-sealed windows during and after inclement weather. DRAT members and other librarians examine materials coming into the libraries to catch mold or stowaway insects that might feed off books over time. The DRAT plans responses to the most common library disasters by maintaining a disaster response manual with up-to-date procedures, priority lists, and contact information. Its members are also trained in the most reliable and responsible salvage methods for damaged materials. All of the DRAT members attended a disaster preparedness workshop—ironically held at the University’s Gulf Coast Library in Long Beach—in August 2004.

While major disasters such as hurricanes, fires, and floods potentially pose the greatest threat to libraries, such mundane problems as a broken steam pipe, an overflowed commode, or an infestation of silverfish can also impact a surprisingly large number of books if not addressed immediately. Library dangers require quick response and the DRAT is prepared to take action whenever books, documents, and other materials are threatened. Since mold can germinate within 48 hours of an extreme rise in humidity, the university’s librarians are always alert to significant changes in temperature and humidity and inform the university’s Physical Plant staff to correct extreme fluctuations. Items in danger of water damage from unforeseen roof leaks are immediately moved to dry areas. In rare cases when small numbers of objects are damaged, librarians are able to salvage them. Air drying of wet books has been the most common procedure employed so far. Recovery from large disasters may require calling in a professional library salvage company.

During Hurricane Katrina, DRAT members gathered at the Hattiesburg campus libraries the Sunday before landfall to assist other librarians with unplugging computers, draping plastic sheeting

Photo by Barton Spencer



DRAT members take a lunch break after working on the Coast

over vulnerable book shelves, and moving supplies and furniture away from windows. DRAT members were on campus as soon as the storm had passed to survey the libraries for obvious damage and returned the next morning to conduct more thorough inspections. Eleven days after the storm, members traveled to the Gunter Library at USM’s Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs to advise on measures to save its collection after the library was flooded,

lost control of its rising temperature and humidity, and suffered a serious outbreak of mold on its wet books. Ten days later—a full three weeks after the hurricane struck—the committee was allowed to inspect the library at the Gulf Park Campus in Long Beach to advise on ways to deal with its identical problems.

For well over a decade, the Disaster Response Action Team has built and improved the libraries' capacity for responding to disasters that could threaten their collections. While most of its duties involve planning for large catastrophes and reacting to very small ones, every few years a major disaster tests the committee's readiness and teaches new lessons to apply in preparing for the next cataclysm. Hurricane Katrina has served as only the latest episode in what will be an endless series of events that will threaten the safety and integrity of the university's libraries. Happily, the DRAT will continue to guard the libraries against these future dangers.

Alumni Association Announces Library Book Fund

Alumni Association Director Bob Pierce and the association's Executive Committee have announced a 10-year, \$10,000 commitment to The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries.

The Alumni Association Book Fund will be used to purchase library books for campus libraries in Hattiesburg and on the Gulf Coast as directed by University Librarian Kay Wall. Pierce presented an initial \$1,000 check to Wall in October. Subsequent contributions of \$1,000 each will be made annually through 2014.



Kay Wall accepts check from Bob Pierce

“No one can question the importance of a good library to the success of any academic institution,” Pierce said. “We have an outstanding library, and I believe it serves as a cornerstone for Southern Miss. I am delighted that the leadership of the Association chose to support the library in this way.”

Wall says she was not surprised by the Association's commitment. “Our alumni have been very good to the University Libraries over the years, and this new commitment is evidence of that,” she said. “We are very grateful for the leadership and dedication of the Alumni Association to help support the purchase of library materials.”

The funds will provide support for each of the University's libraries on a rotating basis, so that materials are purchased and housed at each facility through the years. The collections of Joseph Anderson Cook Library and the William David McCain Library and Archives on the Hattiesburg campus will be recipients as well as the collections at the USM Gulf Coast Library and Gunter Library at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. According to Kay Wall, library books purchased with the Alumni Association funds will be identified with bookplates.

Current members of The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association are granted borrower privileges with the University Libraries. Alumni Association members must present a current Association membership card at the Circulation Desks of either Cook Library or the Gulf Coast Library to register. Document Delivery privileges are also extended to registered current Alumni Association members.

“It’s wonderful to see that our alumni continue to give back to the libraries as we provide library services for these active Alumni Association members,” Wall said. “We cherish the relationships we have with our former students, and hope that they will continue to fondly remember those days in the library.”

Cook Library Juvenile Collection Relocated to the Curriculum Materials Center

-Kaylene Behm, Head, Access Services

The Cook Library Juvenile Collection has been relocated to the Curriculum Materials Center (CMC) bringing teaching materials and children’s and young adult literature together in one place. This move will provide Education students with many of the resources they need to complete their assignments in one location. For example, a student preparing a lesson on the Westward Movement or Pioneers of the West, can find textbooks with lessons incorporating national and state standards, as well as factual information. Kits housed in the CMC, such as "Peoples of Long Ago," might include a model covered wagon, miniature clothes and other items of that era. Activity Books provide directions on how to build a sod house out of modeling clay. And now the newly relocated books from the Juvenile Collection contain interesting stories of people and events such as "I Have Heard of a Land" describing the experiences of an African American pioneer woman who staked a claim to free land.

***Curriculum Materials Center hours are
Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Friday,
8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 2 – 6
p.m.***



Book Arts Lecture Series

--Jennifer Brannock, Special Collections Librarian

Photo by Diane DeCesare Ross



UA Professor Steve Miller

University of Alabama Professor Steve Miller was the inaugural speaker for the newly created Book Arts Lecture Series sponsored by University Libraries' Special Collections on September 29. Miller's lecture "Making an Artisan's Book: Thoughts from an Alabama Printer and Papermaker" focused on the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in the Book Arts Program at Alabama, as well as his experience in Cuba collaborating with artists on a collection of poetry by United States Poet Laureate Billy Collins (2001-2003).

Miller began his talk by discussing the MFA in the Book Arts program at the University of Alabama which he coordinates. The Book Arts Program, one of a handful of programs of its kind in the United States, emphasizes the "book as a whole" with classes that include letterpress printing, bookbinding, papermaking, and the history of the book. He showed a number of images that illustrated the layout of the printing studio, equipment used in bookbinding, and elements of the papermaking process at Alabama. Information about the Book Arts Program can be found at <http://www.bookarts.ua.edu/>.

The majority of his presentation related to his book arts work in Cuba. Miller first visited Cuba in 2003 with other administrators from the University of Alabama as a representative for the College of Communication and Information Sciences. While the majority of the administrators were visiting Cuban universities, Miller struck out on his own to hunt down local printers and book artists. During this trip, he met Havana artist Carlos "Tato" Ayress Moreno and proposed collaborating on a project. Moreno agreed. Excited about the possibility of working with Cuban artists, Miller wanted the collaboration to focus on a project of great importance. He contacted US Poet Laureate Billy Collins and proposed a project that would include a bilingual (Spanish/English) translation of his work, illustrations by Moreno, and printing and design by the MFA students and Cuban artists. Over the next couple of years, Miller and some of his MFA students visited Cuba two more times to work on the book of poems. They printed the text of the poems in Alabama and took the pages to Cuba so that the images could be added. The pages were then brought back to Alabama where they were bound and placed in a handmade clamshell box.

When Miller approached Collins with ideas on how he wanted his poems to be illustrated, Collins' only requirement was that "the image was not a literal representation of the poem." Miller challenged Moreno to create abstract linocuts to illustrate the poems. Although this was not Moreno's style, he happily accepted.



A USM student examines one of the printing examples featured in the lecture by Steve Miller.

In addition to presenting a fascinating look at Alabama's Book Arts Program and his collaboration of Cuba, Miller provided the University of Southern Mississippi Special Collections with three broadsides to be housed in the Archives. These included a signed Billy Collins poem beside a Moreno linocut that was created in Cuba, a printing of Mary Wehner's poem *The Chinese Painting*, and a copy of a previously unpublished William Faulkner poem, *New Orleans*. All of these items are currently on display on the 3rd floor of McCain Library and Archives.



LibQUAL+ *YOUR OPINION COUNTS!*

As we plan for the future of University of Southern Mississippi Libraries, it is important that we understand our users' perceptions and expectations so that we can provide the services they need. In November, University Libraries will be conducting a web survey on the services provided by the Hattiesburg campus libraries. (Due to Hurricane Katrina, a survey will be conducted for the Gulf Coast Library in February 2006.) By responding to the survey, library users will provide essential information to use in planning our future. The survey is part of a North American effort led by the Association of Research Libraries to measure library service quality and identify best practices. We will greatly appreciate your help.



Consult a Librarian

--Adrienne Lee, Information Services Librarian

Having trouble finding resources for a research paper? Can't figure out the difference between ANNA, the Internet and the databases? Wish you had a date for Friday night? Consult a librarian!

Okay, we can't really help you find a date for Friday night but think of how much more attractive you'll be when you know how to find a scholarly journal article and can use Boolean search strings! You can have the undivided attention of a librarian to help clear up your confusion about the library and meet your research needs. Southern Miss librarians have always been happy to meet with you at the Information Services desk and by appointment for research guidance or an orientation to our many resources but now University Libraries is making it even easier to get an in-depth reference consultation.

Students, faculty and staff can schedule appointments with a librarian through an easy form available on the library homepage: <http://www.lib.usm.edu/forms/consultation.php> You can meet with a librarian individually or in groups of up to four people. Small group consultations are for people working on the same type of research or who need the same kind of orientation to our resources.

Remember, librarians are popular people! Give us at least a week's notice for your appointment and provide an alternate date and time in case we can't meet with you at your preferred time. Your consultation will be worth the wait!

Checkout What's New Online at the Library!

-Paul McCarver, Information Services Librarian

University Libraries is pleased to announce that a number of new databases and online periodicals are now available to our users. Among these are the following services:

Chronicle of Higher Education:

The electronic version is now available through the Library's online catalog ANNA. This weekly periodical contains news and articles about higher education topics. The online version provides daily updates and the reader may view older issues archived back through 1995.

JSTOR: This archival service provides full text articles from complete back runs of numerous scholarly journals representing various academic disciplines. The most recent articles are from three to five years old. The Library has extended its access to all of the available JSTOR components, notably all five of the *Arts & Sciences* modules and, also, the *Biological Sciences* module. Altogether, JSTOR provides users with archived full-text access to the back years of several hundred scholarly journals from a diversity of areas such as African-American studies, anthropology, business, ecology, botany, economics, general science, history, language, literature, mathematics, music, political science, sociology, statistics, and several others. Searches may be conducted by selected discipline area(s) or specific journals may be searched or browsed individually.

Mental Measurements Yearbook (MMY): Produced by the Buros Institute, this database enables the user to find descriptions and reviews of over 2,000 commercially available English-language tests and measures in such areas as psychology, education, business, and leadership. Publisher and pricing information are included. Coverage extends from the Ninth Edition of the print MMY to the present. The Library provides access to MMY through EBSCOhost.

Naxos Music Library: This service provides access to musical recordings. The emphasis is on classical music and opera but other genres such as jazz, folk, blues, new age, and Chinese are included as well. The database contains over 90,000 tracks and over 7,000 composers

Communication & Mass Media Complete (CMMC): This database provides indexing and abstracts for articles contained in several hundred periodicals related to the fields of communication and mass media. Numerous core research journals are covered and full text articles are provided from over two hundred periodical titles. Time spans covered vary with each periodical indexed. The Library provides access to CMMC through EBSCOhost.

Lexis-Nexis Congressional Serial Set: This database provides access to the digitized version of the *United States Serial Set*, a large and varied collection of publications authorized by and presented to/through the U.S. Congress from 1789 through 1969. Included are House and Senate hearings and reports as well as Executive and Judicial Branch reports. The text of treaties and reproductions of maps, illustrations, photos and litho-graphs may also be found in this service. The *Serial Set* is one of the most valuable sources of information about the activities and concerns of the U.S. Government and of the American people for nearly two-hundred years of the nation's history.

Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center:

The aim of this service is to provide access to a variety of sources that offer diverse opinions concerning controversial issues of our times. *Opposing Viewpoints* links the user to full-text magazine and newspaper articles, topic overviews, statistics, primary documents and related websites. Users can select from a listing of topics or search the keywords of their choice.

Project Muse:

This database provides access to full text articles from over 300 scholarly journals published in the areas of arts, humanities, and social sciences. Current issues and back years

are represented. Approximately 200 to 300 new musical releases are added to the service every year. The search engine allows the user to find music by composer, title, time period or year, instrument, genre or musical category, name of artist(s), performing group, or a combination of these criteria. Scholarly notes that accompany many of the recordings can be accessed and read while listening. This service provides a valuable teaching/learning tool for educators and students in addition to providing varied musical selections for the enjoyment of the individual listener.

To access these online services visit the University Libraries web site (www.lib.usm.edu) and click on the name of the service on the alphabetical listing of databases under the "Find Articles" section. To obtain the link for Chronicle of Higher Education enter that title into the Library's online catalog ANNA. Current Southern Miss students, staff, and faculty may access these services from off-campus by entering their 10-digit university identification number (include the first four zeros) when prompted for a password.

for selected titles are included. The entire range of publications may be searched by keyword, title or author. Journals may also be searched individually.

It's That Time of Year Again!

--Danielle Bishop, de Grummond Collection Specialist

The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection is pleased to announce plans for its 19th annual Holiday Book Fair. This year's event will be held in Cook Library on Sunday, December 4, and Monday, December 5. Come by and browse through the hundreds of new children's and young adult books that will be on display from publishers throughout the U.S. and Canada and enjoy the festive music and clever decorations. With such a wide

representation of subjects, genres, reading levels, and formats, you are certain to find the perfect book. Each visitor will receive a book list with publication and ordering information to peruse at their own convenience, and internet access will be provided for those who wish to place their orders on-site.

Come and join us for a unique Southern Miss tradition, and Happy Holidays!

Where: Cook Library, 2nd floor.

When: Sunday, Dec. 4, 1-5pm; Monday Dec. 5, 9-6pm.

