USC Libraries Plan New Rare Books and Special Collections Facility

After many years of increasing its exceptional collections in several areas, the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at Thomas Cooper Library is making plans for a new home. The department urgently needs additional space that is better designed to meet changing standards and expectations. Areas where the department’s current space is inadequate include facilities for students and other users to conduct their research; appropriate storage areas for books, manuscripts, and framed materials; secure exhibit galleries of sufficient size; a “smart” classroom; a digitization center; and staff work areas. Also needed are upgrades to the security, climate control, lighting, and fire protection systems.

A new space could meet all of these needs and thus provide the opportunity for the department’s collections to be used to the fullest by both present and future generations of scholars. Completion of the new facility will be followed by a renovation and upgrading of the present Thomas Cooper Library building.

The Design
University and library administrators have been working with the architectural firms of Watson, Tate, Savory of Columbia and Hartman-Cox of Washington, D.C., to design a facility that will enable the University to house and care for its special collections treasures properly.

The planned facility consists of two wings that will be added on either side of the Thomas Cooper Library. The wings will have a total of about 40,000 square feet of space.

The East Wing will provide two stack levels for the more heavily-used book collections, as well as expanded vault storage for the most valuable items. Also in this wing will be a reference and registration room, public-access computers, visitor lockers, a reading room with computer access, the Fitzgerald Room, and staff work areas.

The West Wing will provide facilities for teaching and public programs as well as flexible and secure exhibit areas. Major components of the wing will be the main exhibit gallery, a 120-seat classroom and program space with state-of-the-art media teaching facilities, a 20-seat seminar room, a 12-seat seminar room, and three research offices for visiting scholars.

The proposed Digitization Center will allow the library to increase its contributions to the recent movement of universities and libraries toward mounting rare holdings in digital format on the World Wide Web. Digitization (producing a high-quality electronic image of an item) not only serves to make the item available to readers and researchers worldwide, but also provides a first line in conservation by reducing unnecessary handling of the original.

The Collections
The Thomas Cooper Library’s Department of Rare Books and Special Collections houses many valuable individual items and collections of related items. The core of the collection remains the remarkable legacy of the antebellum South Carolina College. More recent additions include a new generation of internationally-recognized research collections in literature, science, philosophy, and history.

At present the department’s collections total more than 100,000 volumes in addition to substantial holdings of archives and related visual items. These materials are priceless and irreplaceable. Information about all of the collections may be found at the department’s Web-site at www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/rarebook.html.

The University Libraries Office of Development is actively seeking donations to help build the new Rare Books and Special Collections facility. Naming opportunities have been identified for each wing; the exhibit areas; reading, class, and seminar rooms; the Digitization Center; and staff and research offices. For information about making a donation, please contact Carol Benfield in the Office of Development at 803-777-1278.
Library Planning Committees Established

Dean of Libraries Paul Willis has established committees to examine and recommend planning options for several areas of library services. The committees are the Organizational Review Task Force, the Digital Initiatives Project, the Preservation Advisory Committee, the Electronic Information Products Task Force, the Science/Technical/Medical Information Users Group, and the Film Library Advisory Committee. Details of the committees’ missions are given below.

Organizational Review Task Force
The charge to the task force is to study the organizational structure of the University Libraries, and comparable institutions, to seek broad-based input from the libraries’ personnel and others, and to make recommendations for restructuring.

The task force will focus on a structure to support the mission of a user-centered organization, giving attention to the impact of technology and digital information products on the work flow and services of the libraries. It will also consider peripheral issues such as the influence of partnerships with other institutions. The primary goal of the review process will be to maintain an effective and efficient user-centered organization. The structure should encourage collaboration among all units of the libraries.

Library staff members who are on the task force include Paul Cammarata, chair; Bill Sudduth, vice chair; Pat Harwell, and John Heiting. Also on the task force are Renee Jefferson of the School of Library and Information Science; Shari Eliades, librarian at USC Lancaster; and William Sandberg of the Moore School of Business. The task force Web site is www.sc.edu/library/intranet/orft.

Digital Initiatives Project
The Digital Initiatives Project was formed to bring together faculty and staff who are interested in the online or digital aspects of library service. The group has identified existing resources within the libraries and elsewhere on campus for potential digital projects and has conducted a survey of library staff interest. In a report to the dean, the committee presented information about where USC is vis a vis digital services, as well as suggestions for improvement of these services. Future plans include identifying the structure needed for a digital library and providing classes or tutorials for interested staff members.

Leaders of the project are Kate Boyd and Bob Skinder. The project’s Web site is www.sc.edu/library/intranet/digini/.

Preservation Advisory Committee
The Preservation Advisory Committee was established to assist and advise library administrators and the Arthur E. Holman, Jr Conservation Laboratory personnel in the following objectives: setting priorities for preservation and conservation activities based on needs and personnel available; setting priorities for benchwork; determining an equitable distribution of conservation work among laboratory clientele; ensuring clear communication and understanding between conservators and curators on proposed treatments and projected time-frames; and communicating preservation needs, activities, and policies to library and University personnel.

The committee’s ultimate aim is to utilize the conservation facility in an effective and efficient manner so that the many needs that exist in the collections can be addressed.

Members of the committee, all of whom are library staff members, are: Tom McNally, chair, Henry Fulmer, Allen Stokes, Herb Hartsook, Patrick Scott, Tucky Taylor, Jennifer Ottervik, and Holly Herro.

Electronic Information Products Task Force
The Electronic Information Products Task Force is examining the use of information products in a digital format in the USC libraries. The group is looking primarily at the following issues: bibliographic control of electronic resources, selection of electronic resources and their relationships to print materials, user support including instruction and training for staff and library patrons, access issues including remote access, and sharing opportunities with other institutions.

Library staff members on the task force include Jan Cambre, chair, Ginny Matthews, Joe Pukl, Alma Creighton, Virginia Weathers, and Gary Geer. Also on the task force are Warren Cope, Computer Services; Karen Rosati, librarian at the USC School of Medicine Library; and Frieda Davison, librarian at USC Spartanburg. The task force Web site is www.sc.edu/library/intranet/eiptf/.

Science/Technical/Medical (STM) Information Users Group
The Science/Technical/Medical Information Users Group was established to function as the University Libraries advisory group on scientific, technical, and medical resources. The goals of the group are: to develop strategies to make STM information desktop accessible; to determine the optimal format (digital or non-digital) for current and new serial subscriptions; to add more electronic-journal aggregator, publisher, and vendor packages such as S/D Ideal, ACS, ACM, Kluwer, Wiley, etc.; to maintain an ongoing evaluation program of serial subscriptions; to look for such outside support as grants, consortia, donors, etc., for purchasing STM resources; and to ensure a primary archive of scholarly research and knowledge by preserving and enhancing non-digital and digital STM resources.

Members of the task force are Sam Baker and Dwayne Porter, Arnold School of Public Health; Mark Berg, Marek Kosowski, Milind Purohit, and Lewis Bowman, College of Science and Mathematics; Caroline Eastman and Anthony Reynolds, College of Engineering and Information Technology; Margaret Hunt, School of Medicine; Sarah Gable, School of Medicine Library; Brooks Metts, College of Pharmacy; Kenneth Phillips, College of Nursing; Mike Wargovich, School of Medicine; and Tom McNally (ex officio), and Jan Cambre, Thomas Cooper Library.

Film Library Advisory Committee
The Film Library Advisory Committee has been charged to review the policies and procedures of the Film Library, to identify the needs of the USC community relating to the Movietone Newsfilm collection, and to consider changes relating to access policies and the use of technology to provide access to the film collections.

Members of the committee include: Ina Rae Hark, Department of English; Karl Heider, Department of Anthropology; Cleveland Sellers, African-American Studies Program; Glenn Smith, Distance Education and Instructional Support; Dan Streible, Department of Art; Linda Allman (ex officio), Film Library; and Tom McNally (ex officio), Thomas Cooper Library.
Director of the South Caroliniana Library Steps Down

After a 36-year association with USC, including 31 years as a faculty member at the South Caroliniana Library, Dr. Allen H. Stokes Jr. is formally retiring this summer. However, he will still be spending some hours each week at the library as he continues to seek out traditional 19th- and 20th-century materials to add to the library’s collections about South Carolina history, literature, and culture.

Stokes received his A.B. in history from Wofford College in 1964 and came to USC to complete two history degrees, an M.A. in 1967 and a Ph.D in 1977. In 1972, he began work at SCL as manuscripts librarian, moving into the position of director in 1984. In 1992, he was also named University Librarian for Special Collections. In this capacity he has been responsible for the programs of SCL (Manuscripts Division, Books Division, Modern Political Collections, and University Archives), as well as Thomas Cooper Library’s Department of Rare Books and Special Collections and the map and music libraries.

Stokes maintains memberships in several historical and library-related societies including the University South Caroliniana Society (of which he has been secretary-treasurer for the past 19 years), the Southern Historical Association, the South Carolina Historical Association, the Thomas Cooper Society, and the South Carolina Historical Society, for which he serves on the editorial board of the South Carolina Historical Magazine.

According to Stokes, the most rewarding aspects of his work have been traveling throughout South Carolina to seek out new items appropriate for the library’s collections; working with donors to add these items to the library’s holdings; processing, reading and studying new acquisitions; collaborating with distinguished colleagues and co-workers over the years; and working with the Executive Council of the University South Caroliniana Society to support and increase the library’s collections. He is particularly grateful for the opportunity to build on the work that was done by Robert Meriwether and Les Inabinett, both of whom preceded him in the directorship of the library.

Some of the most significant collections that have been added to the library’s holdings during Stokes’ tenure are: the Mary Boykin Chesnut diary and the Williams-Chesnut-Manning Collection; the Kohn-Hennig Library; the Robert J. and George W. Gage 19th-century library; the papers of the Christensen family of Beaufort; the Kendall Collection of the Papers of Henry Laurens; the Papers of John McCray; the Arthur Clement Dabbs Collection; the James McBride Simms Library. Stokes paid special tribute to Thomas L. Johnson, who retired last year after a long tenure as assistant director of SCL, for his tireless fieldwork in discovering and helping to acquire many of these works. Stokes also had high praise for Herbert Hartsook for the creation of the library’s Modern Political Collections department which houses papers of many important political figures and organizations of the state. Other areas whose collections have been expanded in recent years include University Archives and materials about African-American history and women’s history, as well as materials concerning a variety of political, social, and cultural groups.

Stokes is also pleased with the expanded research opportunities the library has been able to provide in recent years. These include the William Gilmore Simms Visiting Research Professor Endowment, the Lewis P. Jones Visiting Research Fellowship, and the Ellison Durant Smith Research Awards.

Another program that Stokes has fostered over the years is the South Carolina Newspaper Microfilm project. The purpose of the project is to preserve current and back issues of approximately 25 South Carolina newspapers that are not microfilmed commercially. Some of these are the Gaffney Ledger, the Marlboro Herald-Advocate, the Pageland Progressive Journal (whose backfiles date from the early 1900s), and two Lake City papers going back to the 1950s, the Times Herald, and the Lake City News and Post.

Tributes to Allen Stokes

“Allen’s dedication to patron service is unsurpassed and he has worked to assure that all of our staff adopt service to our patrons as a key goal. That is one of the reasons researchers love to work here. His scholarship and knowledge of our holdings and related materials at other institutions have made him an invaluable resource. But what makes Allen stand out is his concern for people—donors, patrons, faculty, and staff. It’s been a real education to work with Allen, and a real honor.”
– Herbert J. Hartsook, Curator of SCL’s Modern Political Collections

“Allen has never met a stranger. His impact upon donors, friends, and researchers alike simply cannot be measured. His name figures prominently in the acknowledgments to almost every scholarly publication bearing on South Carolina, and he is sought out by researchers far and wide for his phenomenal knowledge of the minutia of collections in this library and elsewhere.”
– Henry Fulmer, Head of SCL’s Manuscripts Division

“Allen’s encouragement and guidance over the years when I was privileged to serve on the Executive Council of the University South Caroliniana Society, meant everything to me. He has been a friend, supporter, and an important member of what I feel is my family—the wonderful people at our fine South Caroliniana Library.”
– Jane Crayton Davis, President of the University South Caroliniana Society, 1994–96

“In a word … dedicated.”
– Robin Copp, Head of the SCL Books Division

“Allen’s deserved reputation has been borne out daily for many years in at least three major ways. First is his encyclopedic knowledge of the collections in the South Caroliniana Library, both manuscripts and books. Second is his insistence upon accessibility

(cont. on pg. 6)
Butterflies in Cyberspace: The John Abbot Watercolors Project

Among the rarities in Thomas Cooper Library are 149 original watercolors of butterflies painted between 1813 and 1819 by the American naturalist John Abbot (1751–1840). As published engravings, Abbot’s depictions of butterflies from the Savannah River valley caught the attention of scientists worldwide. However, the original drawings alone preserve the most accurate evidence about Abbot’s discoveries.

The watercolors are now being cataloged and digitized so that they may be made available through the World Wide Web. Mark Maier, an MLIS student who has experience working with rare books, has digitized each of the watercolors in three different resolutions.

Because names and taxonomy have changed since Abbot’s time, the TCL librarians enlisted the aid of Rudy Mancke, of USC’s School of the Environment, and researchers at Florida’s Museum of Entomology to identify species. As a part of the digitization project, a database will be created that is searchable under both older and newer terminology.

The USC library purchased the Abbot watercolors in 1964, but only recently has their history been known in detail. Last fall, a Florida lepidopterist e-mailed a query to the library about the watercolors. “The digital image we sent back later that day solved a research problem dating back to the 1830s,” said Dr. Patrick Scott, associate University librarian for Special Collections. “The Florida researcher, in turn, shared his own research with us. This new project lets us make the whole set of watercolors accessible to researchers as never before.”

In Memoriam

When Dr. C. Warren Irvin Jr. passed away on November 13, 2002, the University Libraries lost a long-time friend and supporter who will be sorely missed. Dr. Irvin was a lover of knowledge and books who shared these passions with others and with the libraries.

In 1997, Dr. Irvin presented the University with a major collection of about 120 books by naturalist Charles Darwin called the C. Warren Irvin Jr. Collection of Darwin and Darwin Related Books. The collection represents “an important body of works central to the development and understanding of evolution and modern scientific thought,” according to the late George Terry who was vice provost and dean of libraries at USC at the time of Dr. Irvin’s gift. In addition, Dr. Irvin and his wife established the C. Warren Irvin Jr. and Josephine B. Irvin Endowment to develop and maintain the collection. In 1998, the Ivins continued their support of the libraries through a comprehensive, irrevocable, planned gift of property.

Business Library Offers New Full-Text Database

USC’s Elliott White Springs Business Library has recently acquired Business Source Premier, a full-text database designed specifically for business schools and libraries. This database contains 2,828 scholarly journals and business periodicals covering management, marketing, economics, finance, accounting, and international business.


The EBSCO company, creator of the database, is in the process of expanding the index and abstract backfiles for 300 top scholarly business journals back to 1965 or the first issue published (whichever is more recent). More than 200 of these journals will also have PDF full text for the same time period. Business Source Premier is the only source for more than 1,000 of the full-text publications it offers.

Business Source Premier contains PDF images for the great majority of the journals; many of these PDFs are native (searchable) or scanned-in-color. Five thousand substantial company profiles and 1,600 industry reports from Datamonitor are also included.

Treasure Acquisitions Program

The University Libraries unveiled a new initiative in February designed to offer library supporters the opportunity to assist with the purchase of rare or unique items as they become available. The initiative is called the University Libraries Treasure Acquisitions Program (TAP).

Special Collections librarians often discover the availability of an item (such as the one volume lacking from a set) through a dealer catalog, auction, or private owner. If the library budget is exhausted, TAP will be employed to find a donor who would like to supply funds to purchase the item before it is sold to someone else. Because the libraries’ collections cover a large gamut of subjects and interests, donors will be able to assist with the purchase of items that are of particular interest to them.

Examples of items currently available and desired include: a collection of 101 letters by Dr. Samuel Gilbert Webber, a Union naval surgeon, describing the shelling of Charleston and blockade runners during the Civil War with his own illustrations; “Sister Peg. Only Lawful Sister to John Bull, Esq.,” a rare pamphlet by David Hume, London, 1761; a first edition of Concerning Children by the early American feminist writer, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, published by Small, Maynard & Co., Boston, 1900; and Natural History Watercolors by William Bartram (Alecto Historical Editions).

For information about participating in the TAP program, please contact the libraries’ Office of Development, 803-777-5564. Gifts of $1,000 or more to TAP qualify the donor for membership in the libraries’ Ex Libris Society.
Emerson Bicentenary Exhibition on View in Thomas Cooper Library

The year 2003 marks the bicentenary of the birth of American Transcendentalist writer Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882). The Thomas Cooper Library is marking the event with a major exhibition on Emerson’s life and work. The exhibition will be on display from April through June in the Mezzanine exhibit area of the library.

Curated by Prof. Joel Myerson, Carolina Professor of English at USC and a leading Emerson scholar, the exhibition includes letters, manuscripts, and rare early pamphlets, as well as many of the author’s published books. A high point of the exhibition will be corrected proofsheets for Emerson’s famous essay, “The American Scholar” (1837), which is often called the “Declaration of American Intellectual Independence.”

The materials on display are drawn both from the Joel Myerson Collection of 19th-Century Literature and from additional Emerson manuscripts and memorabilia that Myerson has collected.

Myerson is also involved with concurrent Emerson exhibitions at Harvard, Emerson’s college, and at the Concord (Massachusetts) Public Library in Emerson’s hometown.

Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries

The Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL) has hired Rick Moul as executive director. This move marks an important milestone for the consortium, which was organized by the library directors of South Carolina’s public and private higher education institutions. Moul will facilitate PASCAL’s ongoing work in a number of important areas of library cooperation.

Moul, comes to PASCAL after seven years with the Western North Carolina Library Network, a regional consortium of academic libraries based in Asheville, North Carolina. “It’s tremendously exciting to be able to become a part of a project of this scope while it is still being designed,” he says. “With DISCUS, a project administered by the State Library that provides a common core of electronic resources to South Carolinians, and now PASCAL, South Carolina is taking its place in the movement toward statewide library cooperation along with states such as Kentucky, Georgia, Ohio, and Oregon.”

Founded in May 2001 after a year of investigation and planning, PASCAL’s mission is to assist South Carolinians in reaching their potential in academic achievement, economic development, and personal growth. The consortium’s mission is based on the recognition that academic libraries must cooperate to enhance library resources and services for students and faculty. Working in a cost-effective and collaborative way, the participating public and private academic libraries of South Carolina have committed to improving individual library resources and services and to providing timely access to the totality of the state’s information resources from each academic library in the state.

The overarching goal for the consortium is to strengthen the role of the academic library in helping higher education meet its mission across the South Carolina community.

Specific programmatic goals include providing universal access to core materials and information services; enhancing print and digital research collections that support scholarly achievement and further economic development; encouraging direct resource sharing among academic libraries; preserving the materials that contribute to the memory of South Carolina history and culture for future generations; and providing opportunities for collaborative training and professional development for library users and staff from South Carolina’s academic libraries.

In order to pursue these goals PASCAL is developing and nurturing relationships with key partners including the Commission on Higher Education, the South Carolina State Library, the Office of Information Resources, and the State Department of Archives and History.

PASCAL’s office is housed in the Thomas Cooper Library at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. To read the PASCAL strategic plan, please visit the following Web site: http://web.presby.edu/pascal/planning/straplancont.html.
News Briefs

USC’s Dean of Libraries Paul Willis has been elected to a three-year membership on the Board of Directors of the Association of Research Libraries. The Thomas Cooper Library is a long-standing member of the association and ranks 53rd among its U.S. college and university members. This is the first time that anyone from South Carolina has served on the ARL board.

The Association of Research Libraries comprises the leading research libraries in North America. ARL programs and services promote equitable access to and effective use of recorded knowledge in support of teaching, research, scholarship, and community service.

Both Allen H. Stokes Jr., retiring director of the South Caroliniana Library, and Thomas L. Johnson, recently retired assistant director, were among the inaugural group of recipients of Career Achievement Awards from the South Carolina Archival Association. The awards recognize the honorees’ many years of work at the South Caroliniana Library and their outstanding efforts in collecting, preserving, and disseminating South Carolina archival materials.

USC’s Department of History has instituted the Darrick Hart Award for Excellence in Public History. It will honor the memory of Hart, who received a BA in history, an MA in public history, and an MLIS in library science from USC. At the time of his death, Hart was preservation archivist and assistant conservator at USC’s Arthur E. Holman, Jr. Conservation Laboratory.

To be eligible for the award, a graduate student must be enrolled in USC’s Public History Program. A committee of faculty and alumni from the program will select each year’s recipient. For more information, please contact Kathleen Hilliard at kmhilli@ Mindspring.com.

Two exhibits are currently on display in the South Caroliniana Library lobby. “Yesterday’s Children” features photos of South Carolina children from the library’s collections. The pictures date from the 1840s to the 1940s and illustrate the areas of Children at Work, Education, Summer Days, Fair Days, and Portraits. Also on display are items illustrating the activities and holdings of the library’s divisions: Manuscripts, Books, Archives, and Modern Political Collections.

Science reference librarian, Bob Skinder has developed an online instruction tutorial for use by the Honors College and the University 201 Fundamentals of Inquiry course. The tutorial teaches library skills directly related to each week’s assignments. Students learn to use many library tools such as Infotrac and the Silver Platter databases, as well as ACRL’s Information Literacy program and other tools.

The South Caroliniana Library’s Ellison Durant Smith Award for 2003 has been presented to Matthew Lockhart, a Ph.D. candidate in the USC Department of History. His dissertation, directed by Dr. Walter Edgar, will analyze the emergence of the leisure and tourism industry in South Carolina since 1960, chiefly in and around Myrtle Beach.

The award provides financial support to undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate scholars seeking to conduct research at the South Caroliniana Library. It honors Ellison Durant “Cotton Ed” Smith (1864–1944), who served in the U.S. Senate from 1909 to 1944.

The University Libraries’ Ex Libris Society successfully completed its charter membership campaign in June 2002, with a total of 86 new members. Each of these donors gave a minimum of $1,000 to a library fund last year. Please contact Louisa Campbell at 803-576-5982 for information about joining the Ex Libris Society.

Burroughs Collection Donated to Thomas Cooper Library

The Thomas Cooper Library recently received a collection of materials relating to the American nature writer John Burroughs (1837–1921). The collection, which includes over 100 volumes by Burroughs as well as original photographs and memorabilia, was donated to the library by Prof. G. Ross Roy. It is called the W. Ormiston Roy Collection of John Burroughs in honor of Prof. Roy’s grandfather. The elder Roy knew Burroughs and served as a consultant on the landscaping of Burroughs’s estate in the Catskills. Many of the books carry inscriptions to Ormiston Roy from Burroughs or from his literary executor Clara Barrus.

Burroughs is increasingly recognized as a pioneer in raising consciousness of conservation issues. As a follower of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, and a friend of Walt Whitman, he also has a significant role in American literary history.

The collection is of special interest to the Thomas Cooper Library because it complements the Joel Myerson Collection of 19th-Century American Literature, a major research collection on the American Transcendentalist writers. The Myerson collection was acquired by the library in 2001.

Tributes (cont. from pg. 3) and service as the hallmarks of a great library, seeing that researchers, both professional and amateur, can find and utilize the material they need. All one has to do for the proof of this is to consult the acknowledgments pages of almost any important book that has been written about the South during his tenure; Allen’s name will be found among the author’s chief credits. Finally is the fact that he has allowed his staff the freedom to do the jobs for which they were hired under his leadership.

“He has been loved and respected by staff, colleagues, and researchers alike for his easy, unpretentious management style, his practical and down-to-earth approach, and his basic kindness and sense of humor. He has always been approachable as a human being first and then as a professional historian/librarian/director.”

– Thomas L. Johnson, former Assistant Director of the South Caroliniana Library
TDNet to Provide Improved Journal Access

The University Libraries recently subscribed to TDNet for improved access to full-text online journal articles. TDNet is an electronic journals management system primarily designed for intranet use (i.e., to serve information customers within organizations), which can also be accessed and searched remotely. TDNet offers management tools to enable better control and more effective use of electronic collections.

TDNet is comprised of two interlinked files. The main site allows library users to browse a list of e-journal subscriptions or to search for a specific title. Each entry includes the journal title, database or publisher name, online journal holdings, a link to the USC print holdings, and links to tables of contents, TDNet-compiled tables of contents, as well as those located at the publisher site. The secondary file, TDNet TOC (table of contents) accumulates electronic tables of contents for journal titles included in TDNet. The TOC file is updated weekly and all bibliographic information is searchable. Each TDNet TOC record includes article title, author, article source, ISSN, date, volume, issue and page numbering, publisher, language, and a link to the full-text journal issue.

TDNet’s database currently holds over 28,000 e-journal Web sites and table of contents records for over 25,000 titles. The University Libraries’ collection comprises more than 24,000 full-text e-journal titles that are available to USC users. Additional titles will be added in the future.

TDNet will offer improved access to electronic journal articles by identifying journal titles in databases such as LexisNexis, Academic Universe, InfoTrac, and Wilson’s Library Literature, as well as in collections such as ScienceDirect, JSTOR, Project MUSE, Kluwer Online, and SourceOECD.

Another major advantage of TDNet is that the system provides library holdings information for each e-journal title. TDNet also has a search feature that can be used to generate a list of e-journal titles by broad subject area. Users can create their own subject/journal profiles and will receive e-mail alerts when new issues appear online or subject terms match. This product offers enhanced access to the libraries’ many full-text resources from both on or off campus.

USC Columbia Libraries Survey Quality of Service

Joining with approximately 315 other institutions across the country, the USC Columbia libraries are participating in a survey designed to evaluate the quality of library service as perceived by users. The survey instrument being used is LibQual+, which was developed jointly by the Association of Research Libraries and Texas A&M University about four years ago.

Over 3,000 members of the University community were randomly chosen and invited to participate in the survey between March 24 and April 14, 2003. Responses are made online and are kept confidential. The USC libraries will receive information about responses both from their own patrons and from those of the other institutions. This information will show similarities and differences between the institutions’ survey results and may reveal best practices that could improve service locally. The USC libraries’ main goal in using the survey is to identify those areas that patrons consider most important and to make improvements in these and other areas of service.

Some areas covered in the survey include: the knowledge, skills, accessibility, and courtesy of employees; the extent and ease-of-use of print and online access tools; the convenience of the library’s location, hours, and service areas; the quality of the library’s Web site; the dependability of remote access services; the availability of up-to-date equipment; the timeliness of document delivery and interlibrary loan services; and the degree to which the library assists patrons in acquiring needed skills and keeping abreast of knowledge.

The 2003 survey is expected to generate over 140,000 responses. At present, LibQual+ represents the largest single-sector customer satisfaction survey done in the world.

Some other institutions participating the 2003 survey are: Clemson, Cornell, Emory, Georgia Tech, Iowa State, LSU, Ohio State, Syracuse, Texas A&M, The Citadel, Alabama, Cincinnati, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Pittsburgh, Texas, Washington, and Virginia Tech.
Shown are some of the volunteers who assisted with the Film Library’s annual inspection of USC’s Movietonews collection at the Ft. Jackson bunkers, where the collection is stored. Kneeling in front, left to right, are Linda Allman, Ben Singleton, and Stan Lollis. Standing in the second row are Paul Willis and Jane Ferguson. In the back row, left to right, are Nancy Washington, FLIP (the Film Library Inspection Project mascot), Karl Heider, Scott Allen, Spencer Madsen, John Albrecht, and Andrew Murdoch.