



TODD LIBRARY UPDATE

Number 13

Middle Tennessee State University

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Questions Answered About New Library



This model of the new library shows the exterior design of the building which will be located southwest of the Bragg Mass Communication Building.

Library staff continue to receive many questions regarding plans for the building of a new library. Don Craig, dean of the library, responds to some of the more frequent questions in this issue of Todd Library Update.

Update: When will the new library open for use?

Craig: It's difficult to give a specific date of opening, since a number of factors will influence that date. While several important milestones have been passed, others remain—completion of construction documents, approval of construction funds by the legislature later this spring, and construction bid awards. A very important milestone reached was the inclusion of the project in

the budget Governor Don Sundquist recommended to the legislature.

The joint venture architectural team has almost completed preparation of construction documents, so we should be able to seek bids for construction of the new library during the summer and it is hoped we will break ground early in the fall.

With a 24-month building timetable, construction should be completed by early fall of 1998. It will take several months to receive and install furniture and equipment and to move collections from the current library, so we do not expect the new building to open until January of 1999.

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Tips Offered for Designing the Library Assignment

Many college students enter the university library feeling overwhelmed and confused, whether they are a first-year freshman or an older, returning student unfamiliar with all the new technology. Todd Library is probably much bigger than the high school or public libraries they are used to, and the sheer amount of information available often leaves them unsure about where to begin their research.

Students who have positive first experiences in the college library will be more enthusiastic and better prepared for research assignments throughout their college careers. Here are some suggestions for designing library and research projects that will help students develop a positive relationship with the library:

- Have a variety of topics from which to choose so that students are not competing for the same materials. Heavily used material may be placed on reserve.
- Don't forget to check the on-line catalog before requiring students to use a particular source just to be sure that the library owns the material and has the correct edition.



- Students are usually more successful with library assignments that relate directly to course material and ask them to think about developing a search strategy, rather than just hunting for facts.
- Provide a list of appropriate sources to give students a starting point. These may include subject encyclopedias, periodical indexes, directories, and other reference books. The User Services librarians will be happy to help compile a bibliography for your class.
- If your students need to use the CD-ROM databases or the Expanded Academic Index, please remind them to bring a 3 1/2" IBM-compatible diskette with them to the library so they may download their search results.
- If the assignment is particularly involved or difficult, you may want to send a copy of the assignment to the Reference Desk before giving it to your students. The librarians will be better prepared to assist them and may have some suggestions on questions or sources.
- The User Services librarians are glad to consult with you about designing library assignments. They can suggest appropriate sources, compile bibliographies, and lecture to your class about research strategies and sources. Please call the Reference Desk at 2817 for help with assignments or to schedule a library research class.

National Library Week Activities Scheduled

Every Spring libraries and communities across the country celebrate National Library Week. This year it was celebrated during the week of **April 14 - 20**, and continues the theme of "Libraries Change Lives." Each year during National Library Week, Todd Library honors student workers who have been with the library for three years and for staff and faculty who have worked for five years. This year the following student workers will be recognized with a certificate for their loyal service: Christy McInturff from Reserves,

Dianna Wheeler from Curriculum, and Stacey Johnson from Circulation. Also recognized will be staff members Jo Anne Minnick and Zinia Randles and faculty member Diane Baird.

Also during National Library Week, on **April 16**, Todd Library celebrated "Log-on @ the Library" Day. This special day is part of a national awareness campaign sponsored by the American Library Association as a way to spotlight the role of libraries and librarians in providing public access to the information superhigh-

way. This event provides libraries with an opportunity to show the amount of useful information available to students and faculty online. It will also demonstrate the special role libraries play in providing access to Internet resources not only through public-access terminals, but by helping to organize and make sense of the vast amount of information available. Watch Todd Library's Web Page (<http://www.mtsu.edu/mtsu/library/>) for more information about Log-on @ the Library Day.

Library Services Expand for Off-Campus Students

Todd Library is providing new services in order to meet the library and information needs of students and faculty whose classes are delivered off-campus either at remote sites or using compressed video classrooms or through other forms of distance education.

Rhonda Armstrong is the User Services librarian who is planning and coordinating these services.

With the installation of the new *Expanded Academic Index* off-campus students will have access to indexing of around 1600 periodicals, including the full text of approximately 500 of those. For business majors, *Business Index* offers indexing to 950 more business publications. There are also some periodical indexes such as ERIC that are available over the Internet, which students may access from the library's Home Page on the World Wide Web. (<http://www.mtsu.edu/mtsu/library/>) The library will deliver photocopies of other periodical articles directly to selected off-campus sites.



**Rhonda
Armstrong,
User Services
librarian**

To find out what books, periodical subscriptions, and other materials are owned by the library, off-campus users may also access Todd Library's PALS online catalog remotely with a computer and modem. It is available through direct dial-in or via the Library Home Page. (Dial 898-5660 for up to 2400 speed modem or 898-5176 for high-speed; type **c library** to connect.) If an off-campus student at one of the selected sites finds a circulating book in PALS that he wants, he may call and request delivery of the book from Todd Library. The combination of having the new online periodical indexes as well

as the online catalog will allow off-campus students access to much material. However, faculty and students should contact Ms. Armstrong if these databases do not meet their needs.

Ms. Armstrong is available to conduct library instruction for the off-campus classes and to provide information about MTSU's Library and the resources available at local sites. Subject bibliographies will be provided upon request. If Internet access is available at a remote location, instruction will be provided on how to use it to locate library resources. Faculty members should contact Ms. Armstrong to schedule these sessions.

Arrangements have been made at several off-campus sites for space for Reserve collections. Access to computers for Internet searching or dial-in access to the Library's catalog and the periodical indexes varies with locations. Contact Ms. Armstrong at (615) 898-2652 with questions about any of these library services.

Todd Library Staff News

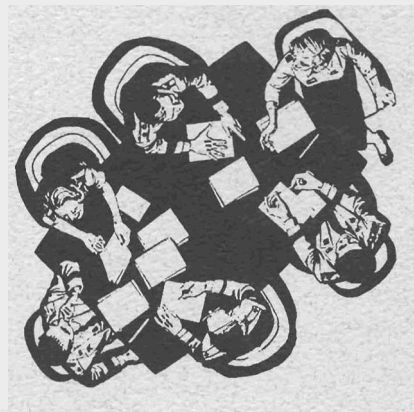
Philip Morgan joined the faculty of Todd Library on February 1 of this year as assistant professor/collection management librarian. He comes to MTSU from Nichols State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana, where he worked in Acquisitions. He was also head order librarian at Arkansas State University from 1988-1995, head of Serials and Media and Serials/Catalog librarian from 1983-1987 at Northwestern State University in Louisiana, and a librarian at the East Baton Rouge Parish Library from 1982-1983. He earned his Master of Library Science degree in 1981 from Louisiana State University and the Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi. His primary responsibility will be the acquisition of materials for the library.

Ann Funkhouser is the new library assistant supervising the Reserves Department. Ms. Funkhouser has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from West Virginia University and an M.B.A. from MTSU. She has five years experience as a public services assistant at the Evansdale Library in West Virginia. She replaced Carolyn Davenport who retired last summer after 14 years of service.

Sue Copeland has replaced Jo Joyce as the library assistant in the Microtext area of the User Services Department. Ms. Joyce, who retired in November 1995, had been a member of the library staff since 1973 and had made many contributions to library operations, especially in the changing field of microtext. Ms. Copeland had worked

in Government Documents and Circulation for over two years. She has been replaced in Government Documents by Kayla Swoape from the Circulation Department.

Karen Byrd, instructor/user services librarian, resigned on February 16. She has taken a position at the Nashville Public Library in the Audio/Visual Department.



New Library

(continued from page 1)

Update: Where will the new library be located? What will it be like?

Craig: The new building will be at the location identified in the University's master plan for facilities—southwest of the Bragg Mass Communication Building, directly south of the new Business/Aerospace building, and adjacent to Felder, Deere, and Core halls.

The library will be a four-story brick structure facing a large, open landscaped space that will replace the street between the Business/Aerospace and Bragg Mass Communications buildings. The building will have many exterior glass windows, as well as glass walls inside an atrium that will bring natural light into the core areas of the building. At the entrance will be a four-story atrium or multi-floor lobby surrounded by major service areas. The majority of collections will be located toward the rear of the facility.

Update: Can you tell us more about the atrium?

Craig: Yes, and I'm glad you asked about it. The atrium will be a space about 60 feet wide by 60 feet long inside the entrance. It will rise above the lobby floor to the roof of the building. On upper floors it will be surrounded by balconies leading to the major service areas.

To create the atrium, floor space on floors 2, 3, and 4 was removed and added to the remaining floor area so that the building retains the approved 250,000 gross square feet. In other words, no space was sacrificed to create the atrium; this floor space was simply moved to other parts of the building.

The inclusion of an atrium is an integral part of the building's functional design, which includes surrounding it with the major service points, main stairway, and elevators. This design will be a major factor in the ease with which people will be able to find their way around such a large facility.

Update: How will the new library be different from the current one?

Craig: The new building will be two and one-half times as large and will have an additional floor. It will offer a variety of spaces not available in Todd Library. For example, the new library will have over 40 small group study rooms accommodating 4-8 people and 60 individual study rooms for faculty involved in extensive research.

A room equipped with specialized equipment for students and faculty with disabilities will be located on the first floor. A much larger central copy center facility will be available, as well as small copy rooms on upper floors. While the new building will have a large Electronic Information Center, additional computer workstations will be located on other floors as well.

A study room open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week will be located off the entry vestibule to provide a quiet place to study when the library is closed. A Special Collections area where older and valuable items in the collection can be secured and preserved in a climate-controlled environment is planned on an upper floor.

In general, there will be more seating and more computer equipment scattered throughout the building in areas that are not crowded or noisy.

Update: Speaking of noise, some people prefer a quiet area to study while others like a little noise. How can the building accommodate both preferences in the new building?

Craig: One design criterion is sensitivity to user needs for different kinds of study space. That is why the new building includes a variety of seating—from small group study rooms, individual study carrels, and casual chairs to study tables for four persons.

The building is also designed to have zones with varying degrees of quietness and noise, from front to back and bottom to top. For example, most noisy service areas will be on the first and second floors where traffic is expected to be heaviest. Quieter study space will be located in areas walled off from these noisy spaces and on

upper floors where traffic and noise will be much less.

While the zoning concept works vertically, it also has a horizontal element. The quietest areas will be on upper floors toward the rear of the building away from the atrium and central service core. We believe that this design will provide almost any study climate that a user may need.

Update: Where will staff offices and work areas be located?

Craig: Another one of our design criteria is that staff must be accessible to users who need them but close enough to one another to be able to work efficiently. This is being accomplished by designating one quadrant of the building primarily for staff use. By arranging staff work units in a vertical core in one part of the building, travel distance and time between units will be reduced, thus improving staff productivity.

Update: We often hear that libraries are in transition from complete reliance on print to greater use of electronic technology. What is being done to make this transition into the future successful in the new library?

Craig: Another design criterion is that the building have the capability to accommodate present and future technology. It will contain a considerable amount of electronic infrastructure to accommodate technology that is expected to be available when we open.

Extensive conduit and above-ceiling cabling trays will be used for wiring needed immediately, as well as for cabling added in the future. Where the functional use of the area may need to change, for example from shelving to reader space, floors are being constructed with easily accessible openings to allow the installation of additional cabling in the future.

Future issues of *Todd Library Update* will answer other questions about the new building. If you have a question, please let *Update* staff know.

Todd Library Update

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