Building on a grand tradition

By Bill Bridge, associate professor of law, Dedman Law School; president, SMU Faculty Senate

We usually do not usually think of universities as corporate raiders, those businesses whose business it is to acquire other businesses. The success of the contemporary university in the United States rests in part, however, on the university’s takeover of other institutions such as hospitals, professional schools, living and eating places, amateur sports teams, museums, and libraries. Because this is a newsletter about libraries, let’s focus on those.

If we think about the great libraries in Western history, it is not until the late 16th century that the Bodleian Library at Oxford associates a truly great library with a university. Five thousand years earlier, the Mesopotamians had begun collecting not only records of daily activities, but also speculative works in religion, philosophy, and literature. Their “houses of tablets” archived the past for the sake of the future. The Romans, who looted Greek and Hellenistic civilizations, also acquired an appetite for libraries. Julius Caesar died before his planned public library could be opened in Rome.

Frequently libraries were not completely freestanding, but rather political and religious foundations operating somewhat independently of their patrons. (Librarians always were crafty at maneuvering for more autonomy than sponsors envisioned, even when the sponsor was the Vatican.)

When universities began to rise in the West, they needed books to support teaching. Just as Aristotle had used the library to recruit students, medieval universities began to collect materials to attract students and professors. Indeed, one working definition of a university is a grouping of teachers, students, and books with as much administration as necessary to put the three together.

Libraries have been known down through the years for their beauty as much as for their utility, for their daring as much as for their catholicity, and for their expansiveness as much as for their containment. As for the corporate “takeover” of the library to support the “mission of the university,” does yoking a library to something as platitudeous as an “institutional mission” clip its wings? Or will libraries continue to build on their own independent, grand tradition?

New photo collection opens window on war

When Melvin Shaffer watches television reports about the war in Iraq from his home in Richmond, Virginia, he almost expects to hear a familiar command:

“Shaffer, get your camera and get going.”

As a U.S. Army medical photographer in World War II, he documented the medical history of the war ranging from research projects on new drugs to the victims of the Dachau concentration camp.

His military photographs are stored in the U.S. Army Archives in Washington, D.C. But he recently donated 340 personal photographs to the Government Documents Collection in Fondren Library where they have been digitized to create an enlightening and moving Web site.

This 1945 photo of a young girl is part of a collection of photographs given to Fondren Library by World War II photographer Melvin Shaffer. Her parents left her at a care center in the Italian village of Santa Cristina in 1943 for safekeeping during the war. By 1945 the parents’ whereabouts were unknown.
bought a second-hand Watson view camera. The lens served as his window to the “other” home fronts of the war.

“The home front was not a phenomenon limited to the United States,” Shaffer says. “While in North Africa, I developed a strong interest in the local population going about their daily lives in the midst of war. It was these ways of life, and their adaptations and resistances to war, that I wanted to document for myself.”

Shaffer left North Africa for Italy in late 1943 where his responsibilities expanded to filming motion pictures of every major campaign in Italy, the invasion of southern France, and the final push across southern Europe.

Shaffer arrived in Berlin May 16, 1945, for his final assignment only days after the surrender. He faced a gruesome task. In the last days of the war the Nazis flooded underground railway tunnels to prevent advancing troops from using them to enter the city. Shaffer recorded visually the thousands of civilians who drowned.

“There are few photographs of Germany in my personal collection because I was numb, physically and emotionally exhausted . . . The photographs that I did manage to make for myself, however, reveal something of the fact that even in Germany not everything was utterly destroyed — including the human instinct for survival.”

After Shaffer finished his military service he began a 37-year career in biomedical communications. His responsibilities included managing a library system, which helped convince him that a library would provide the best permanent home for his photographs.

“Mr. Shaffer was familiar with Fondren Library’s WWII government documents publications collection Web site,” says Joe Milazzo, government information resources librarian. “He particularly wanted his collection to be as easily accessible on the Internet as those historic documents.”

Shaffer sent his original negatives, prints, digitized images, and annotations to SMU in March 2002. Milazzo spent the next six months making the collection Web-ready. Since October 2002, a search feature and topical browse options have been added to the Web site, worldwar2.smu.edu/mcshome.

“The existing WWII document collection gives a sense of the home front for Americans,” Milazzo says. “Mr. Shaffer’s photographs let us see the home front in both Allied and Axis countries where the consequences of war were experienced very differently.”

Shaffer is philosophical about the value of the photographs. “At the time, it just seemed the thing to do,” he says. “But then that is nearly always the case with photographers. You never really know why you take a picture, something just tells you to get on with it. Any event is just a fleeting moment in time — to be captured.”

A new photo collection continued from page 1

NEW RESOURCE CENTER PLANNED AT SMU-IN-TAOS

A gift of $1 million from former Texas Governor William P. Clements Jr. and another $1 million from an anonymous donor will support construction of a new computing laboratory and a resource center at SMU-in-Taos, the University campus at Fort Burgwin in Northern New Mexico offering summer programs.

The 5,000-square-foot building will house a state-of-the-art computing laboratory and a resource center that will include books, journals, maps, and other teaching and reference materials. Construction is planned for summer 2003 and the facility will open for the summer 2004 term.

The resource center will enable more than 40 students to work at tables, study carrels, or in comfortable chairs in a reading area. In contrast, the current library seats no more than eight students at two tables. New shelving will support expansion of the collection of 5,800 books. The resource center also will include a secure storage room for rare materials.

The new building’s stockade facade will blend in with other fort buildings while its interior will facilitate student and faculty research using print and electronic resources, says Linda Sellers, Fort Burgwin librarian. In addition to preparing for the summer term that begins in May, Sellers is selecting furniture and shelving. She also is planning the move of nearly 6,000 books and journals across the fort’s rocky parade ground to the new building.

Since 1973 SMU-in-Taos has offered summer study programs at the site of historic Fort Burgwin, a pre-Civil War fort. Approximately 300 students participate each summer in courses in the humanities, natural and social sciences, and performing, visual, and communication arts.

Shaffer’s photographs include this image of the worn feet of a napping desert tribesman who traveled with stories and news from Algerian city to camp.
DeGolyer Library cooking up new collection

Hickory nut spread, wartime pie crust, and directions for cooking an "old chicken" are among the recipes to be found in DeGolyer Library's new collection of historic cookbooks.

The collection features cookbooks published west of the Mississippi River from 1873 to the 1930s. Titles range from the 1892 cookbook of the Ladies Aid Society of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, to the 1917 Conservation Recipes of the Mobilized Women's Organizations of Berkeley, California.

"Cookbooks are an excellent resource for researching early domestic and food customs as well as the history of advertising and technology," says Cammie Vitale-Shuman, DeGolyer special projects librarian and curator of the collection.

In contrast to contemporary cookbooks, puddings, preserves, and homemade marshmallows were staples of early cookbooks, as well as remedies for injuries and illnesses, Vitale-Shuman says.

Ethnic tastes are reflected in How We Cook in El Paso, produced by the Robert E. Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Chile rellenos, chicken mole, and enchiladas appear in the organization's 1902 volume.

Many of the books include housecleaning, entertaining, and conduct advice. A section of the Golden Eagle Cookbook Cyclopedia of Practical Receipts, published in Denver in 1901, offers readers ingredients for concoctions that curl hair, remove wrinkles, and fade a suntan. The same section provides ingredients for a cement to fix a cracked stove and advice to keep hens laying in winter months.

The collection also demonstrates a transitional time for women in history, says Assistant Professor of History Crista DeLuzio, who teaches "The Emergence of Modern Womanhood in the U.S.: 1890-1930."

The beginning of the feminist movement is reflected in cookbooks produced by women's organizations to raise funds for charitable causes, DeLuzio says. The collection includes a cookbook produced by the Atell, Nebraska, Tabitha Society in 1911. The cookbook helped fund the society's Bethphage Mission for "epileptics and feeble-minded invalids."

"Women were beginning to organize to support causes," DeLuzio says.

Historic cookbooks also document the appearance of domestic science and home economics in the late 19th century, confirming the intellectual thought that running a home was a scientific and disciplined task. "There is a lot of information to be mined in these cookbooks for changes and tensions in gender relations," DeLuzio says.

For DeGolyer Library Director Russell Martin, developing the collection is part of his larger mission to document the history of publishing in the West. DeGolyer, a rare book library specializing in Western Americana, isn't the only library to collect cookbooks, but its recent focus on Western cookbooks is unique, Martin says.

Archivist Vitale-Shuman has not tried many of the collection's recipes, even though she has worked as a cooking school teacher, cookbook author, and caterer. "I tried one muffin recipe and they were heavier than lead," she says.

Instead she combs Internet auction sites and book dealers' inventories to add to the growing DeGolyer cookbook collection that now comprises more than 300 titles. Most vintage cookbooks are affordable, often costing less than $10 each. She also welcomes cookbook contributions from individuals and promises to preserve the cookbooks for future historians.

For more information contact Vitali Shuman at 214-768-3430 or email her at cvitale@mail.smu.edu.

SMU to honor Texas playwright

Playwright and screenwriter Horton Foote will receive an honorary degree from SMU at Commencement May 17 in Moody Coliseum.

Audiences will have an opportunity to hear Foote at several events. A reception honoring Foote for the 50th anniversary of the publication of his play "The Trip to Bountiful" will take place at 6 p.m. May 15 in DeGolyer Library, followed by a screening of the film at 8:00 p.m. in McCord Auditorium. In addition, he will participate in a panel discussion about his work in a symposium at 2 p.m. May 16 in the Greer Garson Theatre.

The Texas writer received his first Academy Award in 1962 for his screenplay of "To Kill a Mockingbird" and his second in 1983 for "Tender Mercies." In 1985, Foote's screenplay, "A Trip to Bountiful," won an Academy Award for actress Geraldine Page. He received the Pulitzer Prize in 1995 for the play "The Young Man From Atlanta."

In addition, Foote will be honored with a display of his manuscripts, handwritten screenplay drafts, letters, photos, and family memorabilia at DeGolyer Library. DeGolyer is home of the Horton Foote Collection, which documents the career of the Texas native, who has spent more than 60 years in film, stage, and television.
Library staff members share skills through mentoring program

As a cataloger for Central Information Processing in Fondren Library, Barbara Stockton spends her days processing new materials that come into the library. A class on book preservation, however, piqued her interest in older materials.

Stockton received an opportunity to further develop her preservation skills through a mentoring program sponsored by Central University Libraries. She and Ellen Buie Niewyk, curator, Bywaters Special Collections, spent a year repairing and conserving a collection of Dallas Art Association catalogs dating from 1908.

The Dallas Art Association was a predecessor to the Dallas Museum of Art. The Jerry Bywaters Special Collections of Hamon Arts Library includes catalogs produced by the association for special exhibits, including annual exhibits at the State Fair of Texas.

"These are beautiful old catalogs that show us the content of early exhibits and demonstrate how the association’s collection grew," Niewyk says.

Stockton and Niewyk met weekly to preserve 37 catalogs, removing rusty staples and mending torn and ragged edges. The booklet pages were deacidified to minimize deterioration. Stockton and Niewyk then reassembled the catalogs using even stitches with linen thread.

Stockton and Niewyk were rewarded for their efforts when one of the catalogs they preserved was included in the Dallas Museum of Art’s recent display, “Art of the Gilded Age.”

“I learned just as much as Barbara,” Niewyk says. "We sought help from other conservators in areas such as mending methods and creating three dimensional folders for storing the catalogs.”

The mentoring program, now in its third year, is part of Central University Libraries’ training and development program, Library Enrichment and Development (LEAD). Developed in 1994, LEAD provides continuing education program for CUL staff, says LEAD committee chair Bill Dworaczyk, CUL personnel officer and director of NCMIT. Seminars are regularly offered on topics such as copyright laws, new library collections, public speaking, emergency planning, and preservation.

"Mentoring provides another avenue for professional development," Dworaczyk says.

Nothing could be finer: Leaves and Literature heads to the Carolinas

The sixth annual Leaves and Literature tour, sponsored by the Friends of the SMU Libraries, highlights writers’ homes and the sense of place characteristic of many Southern authors. The tour, scheduled October 16-21, 2003, will begin in the Blue Ridge Mountains at the Asheville home that Thomas Wolfe immortalized in his classic Look Homeward Angel. The tour also will visit one of the South’s best known homes — the Biltmore Estate — built by George Vanderbilt in the late 19th century.

The rolling pastures and woods of the North Carolina home of Carl Sandburg are next on the itinerary. The renowned poet, biographer, and lecturer published more than a third of his work during his 22 years at his Southern home — Connemara. Highlights of the tour’s stop in Columbia, South Carolina, are the Richland County Library — the 2001 National Library of the Year — and the University of South Carolina’s library.

The Leaves and Literature tour concludes in historic Charleston with a walking tour of literary and architectural sites. Planter life of the 18th century will be explored at Drayton Hall, a 1728 Ashley River mansion, and Middleton Place, known for its elegant gardens.

For more information, contact the Friends of the SMU Libraries at 214-768-3225 or visit www.smu.edu/libraries/friends.

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New members of Friends of the SMU Libraries who have joined since April 15, 2003.

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New members of Friends of the SMU Libraries who have joined since April 15, 2003.
Sounds of conversation filled the air at Tables of Content, an event sponsored April 5 by Friends of the SMU Libraries to benefit the Friends’ annual grant program.

Members of the Dallas and SMU literary communities hosted tables seating eight guests and led discussions on topics such as political science, journalism, film, opera, and architecture. Table hosts included author Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey, journalist Lee S. Cullum, SMU political scientist Cal Jillson, Dallas Opera production director John Gage, Dedman College Dean Jasper Neel, and writer and speaker Rose-Mary Rumbley.

Honorary chairs of the event were SMU Board of Trustees member Sherrill Pettus and Library Executive Board member JoAnn Pettus.

Tables of Content underwriters included Charles G. Cullum, Marjorie and Fred Currey, Michael V. Hazel, Elizabeth Ann and Rusty Ketz, JoAnn Pettus, Sherrill Pettus, Caren Prothro, Elizabeth Prothro, Twila and Charlie Richardson, Toni and Marshall Terry, and Frances Golden Ware.

When photographer Carl Akeley traveled to exotic locales in 1914, he learned that early wooden cameras did not last in heat and humidity. To accommodate difficult conditions or environments, he created a rugged metal carrier that would survive in any climate; the new camera body became known as the Pancake Akeley. It was used in the early 20th century for shooting newsreel footage. A well-worn Pancake Akeley used on the battlefields of World War I is part of the new permanent exhibit “Lights, Camera, Action!” in the Hamon Arts Library.

The Pancake Akeley is part of the G. William Jones Film/Video Collection, founded in 1967, the only moving-image archive in the Southwest, as well as one of the oldest and largest in the United States. Housed in the Greer Garson Theatre, the collection includes 7,000 films and 2,500 video cassettes, including an extensive collection of African American-produced films. Feature film press kits, movie stills, film scripts, cameras, and antique projectors dating to 1905 are part of the collection named for the late G. William Jones, longtime cinema and video professor at SMU.

Items from the collection, including reproduced photographs from movies such as “The Ten Commandments,” “Superman,” and “Star Wars,” are part of the exhibit located in display cases on the first and second floors of the library. Other items on display include shooting scripts from “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf” (1966), “MASH” (1981), and “Dallas” (1978), and a mutoscope or flip-card motion picture device from the early 1900s titled “Wild, Wild Women.”

“We felt the need to raise the campus’ and community’s awareness of the treasure of film archives we have in the collection, so we created a permanent display with some of our materials,” Hamon Arts Library Director Tinsley Silcox says. “The archives have been available only to researchers in the past, but after talking to the film faculty, we felt it was important to make the items more visible.”
Lending to the youngest

Ryan Huntress, a curly haired toddler, clutches a book bag as he runs through the upstairs hallway of Arthis Kliever’s home. “Mrs. K, Mrs. K,” he calls. When he reaches the room at the end of the hall he is welcomed by Kliever to the neighborhood children’s library she has created in her home.

The medium-sized room is lined with red and yellow book shelves filled with board books for the youngest patron, picture books for preschoolers, and chapter books for older readers. Kliever uses a child-friendly color code and the Dewey Decimal system to organize the books. Ryan heads straight for the corner bookcase and selects a Richard Scarry board book.

Kliever, a retired member of the SMU library staff, developed the library to create a home for 1,000 children’s books stored in boxes in her garage. When her daughter, Launa, moved from Dallas, she left behind the classroom library she developed as a third-grade teacher.

“I wanted to get the books into kids’ hands,” Kliever says, “but I was too attached to get rid of them. I decided to create a library in my home for neighborhood children.”

Already planning a home remodeling project, Arthis and her husband, Lonnie, professor of religious studies at SMU, designated one upstairs bedroom as a library and the other as a workroom.

Arthis Kliever relied on the skills she developed working at the reference desk and in technical services at Fondren Library to organize her library. Her volunteer work developing an after-school satellite library for children in the Love Field area of Dallas also was useful, Kliever says.

When Launa’s Little Library opened in fall 2001, the shelves were filled with 3,000 books ranging from Berenstain Bears to Newbery Award winners. To announce the opening, Kliever delivered brochures to homes on nearby streets in her quiet Lake Highlands neighborhood in Dallas.

As word of the library spread, it quickly became known as a “neighborhood treasure,” says Ryan’s mother, Mary Huntress.

Every week Huntress brings Ryan, 4-year-old Anna, and 6-year-old Jack to the library. “At the ages of my kids, it’s more convenient than the public library,” she says. “They love coming here.”

While Kliever checks out the Huntress’ children’s books, she calls each child by name and helps them slip their books into the yellow and red book bags she makes for each of her patrons. When Jack wonders if she still has “those yummy cookies,” each child leaves with a Valentine cookie in hand.

“I grew to love children’s books raising my daughters and helping Launa in her classroom,” Kliever says. “If kids can learn to love books, they have their whole lives made. I’m trying to be one little part of that.”

New technology enhances microform reading

New library technology in Fondren Library has enabled History Professor Edward Countryman to search the microform Iroquois Indian collection with ease and to save microform information as electronic files.

“We hope the new technology will make microform more computer- and user-friendly,” says Erika Ripley, periodicals librarian.

The purchase of the new microform scanner was made possible in part by a $6,000 gift from the Friends of the SMU Libraries. The microform collection includes more than one million pieces of microform, including copies of The Dallas Morning News, The New York Times, and The London Times dating from the late 1700s. In addition, the collection includes Early English Books, microform reproductions of numerous books published in English between 1475 and 1700.

“Microform is the only stable archival format,” Ripley says.

Countryman acknowledges the value of the new technology for researchers using microform, as well as the need to continually advance library technology. “The microform collection is so important and this reader does the collection justice,” he says.
History students create DeGolyer displays

In April the seven glass-topped display cases in DeGolyer Library featured student research on women’s history topics. Students in the class “The New Woman: The Emergence of Modern Womanhood in the U.S., 1890-1930” used catalogs, newspapers, novels, photos, and scrapbooks in the library’s collections to analyze women’s changing roles.

A class assignment required student groups to select topics and use primary and secondary resources at DeGolyer Library to analyze the subjects and present conclusions in papers and displays. Most students started with general, ambitious topics, says Crista DeLuzio, assistant professor of history. “They soon learned it’s much sounder to make an argument for a more focused topic.”

Cockrell, one of Dallas’ founders, became a successful businesswoman after her husband’s death, at one time owning as much as one-quarter of downtown real estate. DeGolyer’s collection of her papers includes family photographs from the 1880s through 1910. The student group used the photographs to illustrate changing standards of women’s fashion.

Students appreciated the opportunity to handle and study objects from the past, says Russell Martin, director of DeGolyer Library. “They learned history doesn’t automatically appear tied up in a bow in a text.”

Out with the old: Central University Libraries sweep up

The card catalog in Fondren Library has provided a valuable resource to SMU students and faculty for generations, but it was removed during Central University Libraries’ Clean Sweep in October.

“We moved out the card catalog because now, in the days of automation, it’s just a piece of antique furniture,” says Carol Baker, public services director.

Central University Libraries created Clean Sweep to identify and clear out broken and obsolete furniture, equipment, and supplies. During two days of fall cleaning, library staff “removed everything from old lockers to broken tables, chairs, and cabinets to obsolete computers,” Baker says.

In the Norwick Center for Media and Instructional Technology, staff members made room for its growing collections during Clean Sweep.

“In 1998 there were fewer than 5,000 videos in the collection; now there are more than 10,000,” says Lisa Wall, acquisitions coordinator for NCMIT.

Because of digital technology’s improved quality and lower prices, DVD storage space has become an issue for NCMIT, she says. During the past five years the DVD collection has increased from 20 DVDs to more than 1,000.

In an effort to create more storage and use space more efficiently, staff members cleaned out NCMIT stacks, discovering obsolete items, such as laser discs and uncataloged materials.

“This effort helped us reclaim space and prepare for our upcoming renovation planning process, says CUL Dean and Director Gillian McCombs.
Announcements

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Events

• May 15 Horton Foote’s “The Trip to Bountiful,” 1953-2003 Exhibit Opening, Reception, 6 p.m., DeGolyer Library
• May 15 Horton Foote’s “The Trip to Bountiful,” screening 8 p.m., McCord Auditorium, Dallas Hall
• May 16 Horton Foote Panel Discussion, 2 p.m., Greer Garson Theater, Owen Fine Arts Center
• October 16-21 Friends of the SMU Libraries Leaves and Literature Tour, North and South Carolina

Exhibits

• Through May 17 Faculty Recognition Exhibit, Fondren Library Center
• Through August 1 “Horton Foote’s ‘The Trip to Bountiful,’ 1953-2003.” DeGolyer Library
• June 1 - July 15 “A Glimpse into the Ancient World: Jewelry by Ellen Buie Niewyk,” Fondren Library Center
• July 15 - September 5 “Railroading in the West,” Fondren Library Center
• September 8 - October 15 “Medieval Studies Exhibit,” Fondren Library Center

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