

# FOCUS online

NCSU LIBRARIES  
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2000

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## NCSU Libraries Receives National Award

TERRELL A. CROW AND JINNIE Y. DAVIS, SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS



*[Left to right]: Jinnie Davis, North Carolina state representative Jennifer Weiss, North Carolina state senator Brad Miller, NC State Chancellor Marye Anne Fox, Provost Kermit L. Hall, ACRL President Larry L. Hardesty, Blackwell's Vice President Donald Satsky, and the Friends' Author-in-Residence Kaye Gibbons.*

The NCSU Libraries staged a festive celebration on March 21, 2000, in honor of its selection as the recipient of the **Association of College and Research Libraries' first Excellence in Academic Libraries Award** in the university category. Nearly 200 individuals enjoyed an elegant luncheon in the Talley Student Center Grand Ballroom before the official ceremony began. Among those invited were library staff members, retired library administrators, university administrators and faculty, members of the Friends of the Library Board of Directors, state legislators, student leaders, and special guests. Each guest received a gold-plated

commemorative bookmark from the Libraries and a red button supplied by ACRL that read, "NCSU Libraries: Best of the Best."

Larry L. Hardesty, president of ACRL, formally presented the handsome crystal award to NC State Chancellor Marye Anne Fox and Provost Kermit L. Hall. Hardesty described the award criteria and the library's well-documented description of its programs and outcomes in ACRL's decision to give the award to the NCSU Libraries. Chancellor Fox and Provost Hall each took a few moments to describe their pride in the library staff's accomplishments and the importance of academic libraries to any major research institution. The chancellor also announced she

would have the NC State Memorial Belltower lit in red that evening, a special honor conferred by the executive officers only for major awards or athletic victories. Provost Hall also expressed his admiration for Susan Nutter's outstanding leadership as library director before announcing the library's latest ARL ranking, a rise to 35 out of 111 academic research libraries. Following the award presentation, Donald Satsky, vice president for international sales and marketing for Blackwell's Book Services, Inc., delivered a \$3,000 check to Jinnie Y. Davis, assistant director for Scholarly Communication and External Relations. Davis was representing Vice Provost and Director of Libraries Susan K. Nutter, who was unable to attend the ceremony because of surgery. Satsky described the many times he had visited the NC State library in his early career and graciously acknowledged the contributions of former library director I. T. Littleton and assistant directors Cy King and Nell Waltner. Davis paid tribute to the exemplary leadership and strategic vision of Susan Nutter.

As a very special conclusion to the program, the Friends of the Library's Author-in-Residence, internationally acclaimed writer Kaye Gibbons,

described her many years of association with the NCSU Libraries. She worked there during her undergraduate days at the university, and she recalled vividly her first encounter with newly hired library director Susan Nutter from MIT. Gibbons, sauntering right into Nutter's office one day, said, "I understand you're from 'up there' and you're going to have this place full of computers and I want it smelling like books." Gibbons added she wanted the library always to smell like books, which Nutter promised to ensure. From this initial encounter, the Author-in-Residence program blossomed, with Kaye Gibbons providing unstinting support, talks, and donations to an institution she cherishes.

The library videotaped the award program, as well as typical activities at the D. H. Hill Library later that day. Publicity about the award resulted in an editorial in the *Raleigh News & Observer* praising the NCSU Libraries' achievements while noting the need for resources to sustain its momentum. Altogether, it was a joyous occasion that encompassed the entire university and truly accomplished the Excellence in Academic Libraries Award program's goal of achieving campus recognition of award-winning libraries. ❖

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT EXHIBITS SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER 8 TO DECEMBER 8, 2000—

**A VICTORIAN RENAISSANCE MAN:**  
JOHN OBADIAH WESTWOOD. D. H. Hill Library,  
Main Circulation Area, First Floor.

### OCTOBER 22 TO DECEMBER 22, 2000—

**CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF CHEMICAL  
ENGINEERING AT NC STATE UNIVERSITY.**  
D. H. Hill Library, Special Collections,  
Ground Floor.

### OCTOBER 19, 2000, TO JANUARY 31, 2001—

**A DIAMOND FROM COAL COUNTRY: THE CAREER OF  
LEE SMITH.** D. H. Hill Library, East Wing Reference  
Corridor, First Floor.

### JANUARY 4 TO APRIL 4, 2001—

**THE SODFATHER: JIM GRAHAM, A FRIEND  
OF AGRICULTURE IN NORTH CAROLINA.**  
D. H. Hill Library, Main Circulation Area,  
First Floor.

### FEBRUARY 9 TO APRIL 4, 2001—

**HOW TO LIVE ROYALLY ON A LITTLE: JANE  
MCKIMMON AND THE HOME DEMONSTRATION  
PROGRAM IN NORTH CAROLINA.** D. H. Hill  
Library, Main Circulation Area, First Floor.

### February 15 to May 18, 2001—

**Celebrating 100 Years of Women at NC State.**  
D. H. Hill Library, East Wing Reference  
Corridor, First Floor, and Special Collections,  
Ground Floor.

### APRIL 6 TO JULY 2, 2001—

**ADVISERS TO THE NATION: NATIONAL ACADEMIES  
AND NC STATE UNIVERSITY.** D. H. Hill Library,  
Main Circulation Area, First Floor.



## Digital Library Colloquium

BY ERIC LEASE MORGAN, DIGITAL LIBRARY INITIATIVES

**O**n April 25, 2000, the NCSU Libraries' Digital Library Initiatives (DLI) Department organized the first in an annual series of colloquia on digital libraries, their purpose, and the current state of the art. NC State Provost Kermit L. Hall opened the colloquium, and introductions were delivered by Vice Provost and Director of Libraries Susan K. Nutter, DLI department head Caroline Beebe, and Network Technologies Development Librarian Eric Lease Morgan.

The colloquium featured three prominent speakers who have significant experience with the ideas and concepts behind digital libraries: Clifford A. Lynch, executive director of the Coalition for Networked Information; Daniel Greenstein, director of the Digital Library Federation; and Donald J. Waters, program officer for scholarly communication for the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Lynch shared his ideas about electronic collections and the ramifications for scholarly communication. He began by providing a brief history of the term "digital library," dating the term to as early as late 1979. He alluded to Alan Kay's ideas of talking books and how they might communicate with each other. Lynch thought the idea of a "collaboratory," a term coined by Bill Wolf, might be one path for digital libraries, asking for further definition of which tools to "do scholarship" might belong in the digital library. In such an environment, libraries do not warehouse information so much as provide the means for communication between scholars who then create new types of content. He urged libraries to be aggressive in collecting and preserving this new material.

Greenstein described what he considered to be the greatest challenge facing digital libraries, namely, "They are owned by the institution, not



[Left to right] Standing, *Caroline Beebe*, *Eric Morgan*, and *Susan K. Nutter*, NCSU Libraries; *Clifford A. Lynch*, Coalition for Networked Information; and *Daniel Greenstein*, Digital Library Federation. Seated, NC State University Provost *Kermit L. Hall* and *Donald J. Waters*, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

any single department.” A digital library needs a shared sense of ownership, and this ownership brings with it a number of library functions spanning the institution: the mediation between users and information; the integration of support and services; and administrative, legal, and privacy issues. The shape of each of these functions reflects the individual institution, and the digital library will also differ from institution to institution. Greenstein challenged the audience “to try to understand how people use the digital environment and this will help us create the digital library.” He asked librarians to consider the “repurposing” of digital library collections, as well as building value-added collections.

Waters discussed the issues the Mellon Foundation is addressing in the areas of scholarly communication and publishing. Using examples such as JSTOR, the *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, Project MUSE, and Euclid, he reflected on the possibilities of creating, marketing, selling, and editing electronic “works of lasting value.” The

foundation is especially interested when the results of this process are “born digital.” The current state of electronic-book technology is a good example of a technology that does not yet further scholarly research. Waters asked, “For real scholarly analysis to occur, where should the linking, annotation, and synthesis of materials in electronic books exist?”

Nearly 200 librarians and academics from across North Carolina and surrounding states attended the colloquium. The forum fostered intellectual stimulation and exposure to ideas that were new to many in the audience. Questions posed by the audience were thought provoking, and discussion among participants throughout the day proved lively. Some of the more popular questions were about XML, copyright, and image databases. Feedback from the audience, based on electronic survey forms, overwhelmingly expressed approval for additional colloquia on the digital library. ❖

## Faculty Perspectives on Academic Publishing

BY PEGGY HOON, SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

**T**he Scholarly Communication Subcommittee of the University Library Committee and the NCSU Libraries sponsored a series of brown-bag lunch panel discussions on academic publishing. The sessions, conducted by NC State faculty members currently serving as editors or editorial board members of scholarly journals, took place on March 29 and April 3, 2000, in the Faculty Senate Chambers of the D. H. Hill Library. The primary goal of each session was to give interested faculty, staff, and graduate and undergraduate students an opportunity to obtain helpful hints on publishing in their respective fields.

“Getting Published in the Humanities and Social Sciences” featured Carolyn Miller (Rhetoric and Professional Writing), Edward Sabornie (Curriculum & Instruction), and Walt Wolfram (William C. Friday Professor of Linguistics and Dialectology). Miller stressed that scholarly writing and research constitute a social activity or “conversation” and writers must find their entrance into that conversation. Sabornie suggested that a “thick skin” is necessary in aca-

ademic publishing and that it is crucial for young writers to learn from extensive editorial revisions and comments. Wolfram’s presentation emphasized the advantages of mentoring young scholarly authors. Wolfram has assisted sixteen students in the publication and presentation of more than fifty journal articles and papers in the past seven and one-half years.

The second session in the series focused on “Getting Published in Science, Technology, and Engineering.” Panelists included Carl Koch (Materials Engineering), John Scandalios (Distinguished University Research Professor of Genetics), and Jack Odle (Nutrition). Odle began the discussion by outlining categories typically addressed by journal review boards when evaluating manuscript submissions. Koch followed by stressing attention to detail and style in the writing of a manuscript, while Scandalios advised scholars to keep the research and topics as simple, distinct additions to existing research.

Visit the Scholarly Communication Center Web site at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/scc/> for further information for the center’s activities for 2000–01. ❖

## I. T. Littleton Seminar 2000

BY KAREN CICCONE, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The NCSU Librarians Association (NCSULA) sponsored the I. T. Littleton Seminar on April 7, 2000. Association officers Karen Ciccone (president), Deborah Westmoreland (vice chair/chair elect), Linda McCormick (secretary), and Tamika Barnes (liaison to the Staff Association), together with Karen Grigg (NCSULA Food Committee) planned and made arrangements for the seminar and reception. Guest speaker Marshall Van Alstyne, assistant professor of information at the University of Michigan's School of Information, described a theoretical framework for valuing information that combined ideas from economics and computer science. A reception honoring former library director I. T. Littleton and the speaker followed the program.

Van Alstyne's specialty lies in the area of information economics, an interdisciplinary field of study that draws on principles of information science, economics, and computer science in an attempt to understand better our networked society. His research focuses on the measurement and management of information capital. Academic interest in this field is increasing as the growth in electronic commerce raises questions about how to value goods that are intangible.

Van Alstyne began by defining and describing many of the different types of information that individuals deal with, from facts to procedural knowledge. Using ideas from the field of computer science, he presented a robust definition of information. He then applied basic economic models to various types of information goods to arrive at methods for calculating their monetary value.

The seminar was free and open to the NC State community and interested colleagues. A diverse audience made up of representatives from such varied fields as library administration,



*[Left to right] Linda McCormick, Deborah Westmoreland, Marshall Van Alstyne, Karen Ciccone, and Tamika Barnes.*

economics, computer science, and English enlivened the post-lecture discussion. Attendees also included librarians and faculty from Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, NCCU, and corporate libraries in the area.

Funding for the seminar was provided by the I. T. Littleton Seminar Endowment, established in March 1987 to mark the retirement of I. T. Littleton. The I. T. Littleton Seminar series addresses major issues that affect libraries across the nation and explores diverse perspectives. Individuals interested in making a contribution to the Littleton endowment should write a check to "Friends of the Library" and specify the endowment name. Please send contributions to Friends of the Library, NCSU Libraries, Campus Box 7111, Raleigh, NC 27695-7111. ❖



*Focus*, a newsletter published three times a year, seeks to promote the services, activities, needs, and interests of the NCSU Libraries to the university, the Friends of the Library, and beyond.

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NCSU Libraries Homepage: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/>