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TERRY CROW, NCSU LIBRARIES.

Images from The Pulitzer Prize Photographs: Capture the Moment are unpacked in preparation for mounting the exhibition in the D. H. Hill Library.

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# Running Out of Space . . . NCSU Libraries Opens On-campus Shelving Facility

BY CAROLYN ARGENTATI, ASSOCIATE VICE PROVOST AND DONALD E. MORELAND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES, AND JAN KEMP, COLLECTION MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND PRESERVATION

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**W**ith a severe shortage of stacks and seating space, the NCSU Libraries has added a new shelving location for its least-used materials. Called the Satellite Shelving Facility (SSF), it is located on Sullivan Drive in the former Central Stores building. The SSF project began in 2000, renovations to the building and shelving installation were completed in 2001/02, volumes were identified and moved in 2002/03, and the facility opened in March 2003. In the 2003/04 academic year, the final sections of compact shelving will be installed, and—with the transfer of additional materials over the next two years from the D. H. Hill Library and branch libraries—the SSF will be at capacity. The transfer of collections from the D. H. Hill Library will create 450 additional study seats within the library.

The Satellite Shelving Facility provides 20,000 square feet of high-density, environmentally controlled shelving for low-use books; bound journals; and audiovisual, microform, and Special Collections materials. The building currently houses 250,000 volumes and over 7,000 linear feet of special collections, and more materials are being identified for location there over the next few years. It is estimated that the facility will be at total capacity by early 2007, if the addition of new collection materials continues at the same rate.

Library staff developed criteria for selecting materials appropriate for satellite shelving in consultation with the University Library Committee (ULC). Nearly 96 percent of the items shelved at the facility are bound journal titles that ceased publication or had subscriptions cancelled prior to 1995. More than sixty cabinets of low-use microform materials, as well as archi-



*Michael Wallace, supervisor of the Satellite Shelving Facility, retrieves a book from the compact shelving stacks.*

val and manuscript materials from the Libraries' Special Collections Department, are also housed in the building. The library recognizes that both the assignment of specific item locations and the services for satellite shelving will be modified over time in response to user needs.

A program of rapid delivery services for materials located at the SSF has been developed in

collaboration with the ULC and library users. The user community's response to these services has been extremely positive. Items housed at the SSF are identified in the Libraries' catalog with a location of "Satellite Shelving Facility." A "Request Item" feature provides a link to an online request form. Journal articles requested by faculty, students, staff, and registered borrowers are scanned and delivered via the Web, often within only a few hours. At the user's request, articles may alternatively be faxed or photocopied, with a cost-recovery charge for photocopies. Books and entire journal volumes (if needed) are delivered to the user's selected NCSU library location for pick up or to a campus office address. A small reading room at the facility, equipped with a computer and photocopier, is available by appointment for use by NCSU faculty, students, staff, and registered library borrowers. All services can be requested via the Web, electronic mail, fax, or telephone.

For further information, visit the Web at: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/ads/satellite.html>. Staff at the SSF can be reached by telephone at (919) 513-7190 or via an electronic-mail message sent to [satellite@ncsu.edu](mailto:satellite@ncsu.edu). ❖



REBECCA KIRKLAND, NCSU.

*[Above] Johnnie Pippin (NCSU Libraries) scans material at the Satellite Shelving Facility that will be sent via the Web to a researcher.*



REBECCA KIRKLAND, NCSU.

*Johnnie Pippin [seated] and Michael Wallace demonstrate the vehicle that is used to deliver material from the Satellite Shelving Facility to users across campus.*



## Special Collections Receives Generous Support for Sigma Xi Archive

BY LOIS FISCHER BLACK, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



REBECCA KIRKLAND, NCSU.

*[Left to right] Patrick Sculley (executive director of Sigma Xi), Susan Nutter (vice provost and director of Libraries), and Lois Black (curator of collections) stand beside a portion of the Sigma Xi Collection.*

**S**igma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, has generously ensured that the NCSU Libraries received not only the Sigma Xi Collection, but also the funds needed to process the society's collection and to make it available to researchers. The initial acquisition of the Sigma Xi papers was a noteworthy event in 1997, but subsequent additions to the collection have far eclipsed that donation. [A discussion of the initial gift can be found in *Focus*, volume 18.2 (1998). To learn more about Sigma Xi, visit its Web site at <http://www.sigmaxi.org/>.]

Since 2001, Sigma Xi has awarded the NCSU Libraries funds totaling \$20,000 to contract with a graduate student in the archival management field to help manage the collection. Jaime Margalotti, a graduate student who began work on the collection while enrolled in NC State's

public history program, was selected to process and catalog the material, which entailed several different steps beginning with a survey to evaluate and make preliminary decisions about the collection's content and organization. Through the course of this work, Margalotti also addressed preservation needs and familiarized herself with the society's history.

Sigma Xi was established at Cornell University in 1886 as an honorary society for scientists and engineers. One of the main goals of the society is to foster communication among professionals and provide support for research. Today, Sigma Xi's headquarters is located in the Research Triangle Park, and the society has close to 100,000 members internationally.

On June 30, 2003, Sigma Xi Executive Director Patrick Sculley visited the NCSU Libraries to

tour the Sigma Xi Collection, which is part of Special Collections. He wanted to gain an understanding of the work being done on the collection that occupies more than 400 linear feet of shelf space. The library began its processing activities in 1998, which included a survey of the materials donated in 1997. Thanks to the processing funds received from Sigma Xi, Special Collections renewed its processing efforts in 2001 and tackled a new donation of Sigma Xi materials.

Special Collections staff first reviewed the frequency of research requests received over the past few years to determine how the processing funds received from Sigma Xi might best be allocated. Margalotti then began processing the Sigma Xi Chapter Files, which entailed integrating new material into a previously organized series. Chapter Files are organized into two categories, Correspondence and Annual Reports. Upon completion of the Chapter Correspondence

Files, Margalotti began processing the Annual Reports Files. The next series to be addressed will be the Executive Files, followed by the Organizational Files, Audio-visual Collection, and Artifacts. The final group of materials will include the archives of *American Scientist*, a journal published by Sigma Xi, and Sigma Xi's Grants in Aid of Research. This extensive project will conclude with the preparation of an electronic guide to the collection, which should be mounted on the NCSU Libraries' Web site next summer. Special Collections is also planning an exhibition to commemorate the completion of the Sigma Xi Collection next spring.

For information about the Sigma Xi collection or to learn more about contributing a collection and the funds to process it, please call Lois Black, curator of collections, at (919) 515-9059, or send an electronic-mail message to

[Lois\\_Black@ncsu.edu](mailto:Lois_Black@ncsu.edu). ❖

## University Library Committee 2003–2004

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Penny M. Amato	Food Science
Richard H. Bernhard	Industrial Engineering
Alexander J. De Grand	History
Edward M. Farmer	Public Safety
James R. Flowers	Microbiology, Pathology, and Parasitology
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Jonathan S. Lindsey	Chemistry
Carolyn R. Miller	English
Craig M. Newmark	Economics
Susan S. Osborne	Curriculum and Instruction
Mary M. Peet	Horticultural Science
Douglas S. Reeves	Computer Science
Rebecca C. Swanson	Distance Education and Learning Technology Applications (DELTA)

Michael H. Theil	Textile Engineering, Chemistry, and Science
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### Student Members

Yinon H. Bentor	Student/Engineering
Michael E. Cropper	Student/Engineering
Erich M. Fabricius	Student/Engineering
Anjan R. Kundavaram	Student/Engineering
Chad V. Jordan	Graduate Student/Botany
Negela Moaddeb	Graduate Student/Soil Science
David Shuford	Graduate Student/Genetics

### Ex officio, nonvoting

Susan K. Nutter	Vice Provost and Director of Libraries
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# Agricultural Information for the New Millennium

BY ELEANOR M. SMITH, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICES

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was adapted from an essay that won the 2003 U.S. Agricultural Information Network Conference Scholarship.

**C**ontemporary challenges facing agricultural information parallel those facing agricultural research and practice.

Agriculture today must feed a growing population in a world of static or shrinking natural resources and increasing social and environmental constraints. Agricultural information professionals similarly must support agriculture by managing and improving access to a proliferating and increasingly complex array of information resources in a climate of shrinking resources and expanding constraints. Yet both fields have access to powerful resources and technologies. This article describes three major issues facing agricultural research and information—preservation, technology, and diversity—and highlights some of the ways the NCSU Libraries is dealing with them.

## Preservation

First is preserving the past, whether in the form of wild relatives of domesticated crops, early farming practices, or original agricultural publications. Agriculture helps preserve the past through seed banks, living plant collections, and germ-plasm collections. Similarly, agricultural information is often preserved in archives or by conversion to other formats. The NCSU Libraries' Preservation Department is participating in two collaborative projects to preserve agricultural information. The library's historic entomology collection will be microfilmed as part of the SOLINET Cooperative Preservation Microfilming project. The Libraries has also received a grant to microfilm rural agricultural material related to the history of agriculture in North Carolina.



COURTESY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

*Zeno P. Metcalf* was head of NC State's entomology and zoology departments from 1912 to 1950. He developed a comprehensive bibliography of the order Homoptera.

## Technology

The second issue facing agricultural research and information is the rapid growth of technology, whether biotechnology or information technology. Technological advances create new challenges for understanding and managing information and often require new skills and infrastructure. The NCSU Libraries is actively involved in several projects using technology to improve access to agriculture, forestry, and

entomology information. As a member of AgNIC (Agriculture Network Information Center), the Libraries works in collaboration with NC State's Department of Entomology to maintain a Web site named "Systematic Entomology: A Guide to Online Insect Systematic Resources" ([http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/agnic/sys\\_entomology/](http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/agnic/sys_entomology/)). The site features cutting-edge technology, a quality selection of resources, and an online reference service. AgNIC is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Agricultural Library and an alliance of land-grant universities to provide a network of subject-based electronic resource collections.

The Libraries is also involved in digitizing two major collections. The Metcalf project will create a Web-accessible bibliographic database of the early literature for several insect superfamilies. Zeno P. Metcalf was the head of the NC State entomology and zoology departments from 1912 to 1950. One of his many achievements was the development of a comprehensive bibliography (through 1955) of the order Homoptera. This project uses technology to preserve a collection while improving access to key print and graphic resources. In cooperation with Elisabeth Wheeler, professor emeritus of wood and paper science at NCSU, the Libraries recently received a National Science Foundation grant to develop InsideWood, an extensive Web-accessible database for wood anatomy and identification resources. This tool will make available images of specimens and photographs from NC State's extensive wood collections.

## Diversity

The third issue is diversity. Agriculture practice and research are becoming increasingly interdisciplinary while serving widely diverse populations. Agricultural information experiences a high level of diversity, too, in content, format, technology, audiences, and services.

## Models and Metaphors

Understanding the central models and metaphors of a profession helps information professionals in two ways. First, it provides insight into

the thought processes of users, which leads to better understanding of their information needs. Second, thinking metaphorically and abstractly offers fresh perspectives on the profession and sparks new insights and practices.

Genes and genetic information are central metaphors in modern agriculture. Agriculture, from its primitive beginnings to contemporary achievements in breeding and biotechnology, has relied on the same essential information source, the gene. What has changed is that understanding and manipulation of genetic information is occurring at ever-increasing levels of sophistication, technological skill, and potential for impact. Developments in agricultural information parallel these trends.

Another powerful metaphor is genetic diversity and how it connects the past with the present. Biotechnology requires a variety of genetic information as a source of new genes and traits. Because modern agriculture relies on a relatively small and uniform collection of plants, with a correspondingly limited collection of genes, diversity must be found outside of contemporary agricultural species. Wild species from which domestic crops originated provide a pool of genetic diversity essential to biotechnology. The place where a species originated sometimes contains numerous wild progenitors and is referred to as a center of diversity. The preservation of genetic diversity is essential to many aspects of agriculture today. Likewise, information and ideas from the past contribute to the development of new knowledge. Agricultural information specialists must preserve and make accessible the wide diversity of agricultural information, thereby creating centers of information diversity while developing systems to handle new types of agricultural information. The NCSU Libraries—with its strong historical and electronic collections and its development and adoption of services and technologies to enhance access to these collections—is meeting the challenge of becoming a center of information diversity for agriculture and allied fields. ❖



*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.

Editor: Terrell Armistead Crow.

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