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PART I LIBRARY NEWS

COLLABORATORY SUPPORTS
GROUP STUDY

SEARCHING EARLY ENGLISH
BOOKS ONLINE (EEEO)

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY COMMITTEE
2004–2005

NCSU LIBRARIES AWARDED MAJOR
TEXTILES MICROFILMING GRANT

LIBRARY CATALOGERS RECEIVE
PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

GALE AWARD CEREMONY

VOLUME 25 NO. 1, PART II
LIBRARY SEMINARS AND EVENTS

VOLUME 25 NO. 1, PART III
NEW LIBRARY PERSONNEL
FEBRUARY–JUNE 2004

VOLUME 25 NO. 1, PART IV
LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

VOLUME 25 NO. 1, PART V
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER, NCSU LIBRARIES.

NC State, ca. 1948. This image and others will be featured in the NCSU Libraries' exhibition Transforming Society: The GI Bill Experience at NC State. The exhibit runs from October 14 through December 22, 2004.

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[FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY](#)

[LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT](#)

[SCHOLARLY
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Photographs by Becky Kirkland and Daniel Kim, NCSU, unless otherwise noted.
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Collaboratory Supports Group Study

By CAROLYN ARGENTATI, ADMINISTRATION



NC State faculty, students, and staff can complete group study projects in the NCSU Libraries' Collaboratory.

Students at NC State have few options when it comes to finding well-equipped space for group study and collaboration. Computer labs and library-seating areas are typically designed for individual work and discourage conversation. Students involved in team interactions often meet in dining halls or dorm rooms, where they cope with issues such as noise, lack of seating appropriate for groups, minimal flat work surfaces, and uncertain computer connectivity.

The NCSU Libraries now offers the Collaboratory to faculty and students as one solution to these problems. Located near the Digital Media Lab in the Learning and Research Center for the Digital Age (second floor, East Wing, D. H. Hill Library), the Collaboratory is a computer-equipped room designed to facilitate collaboration and discussion by small groups. Presentations and other digital materials may be displayed using the computers in the room or with laptop computers owned personally or checked out from the Libraries' Laptop Lending Service. A reservation calendar on the Web

allows users to see when the Collaboratory is available and reserve it in advance (<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/ads/dml/reserve.html>). Collaboratory reservations may also be made by telephone through the Digital Media Lab (919) 513-3855, where the staff provides on-site support for the Collaboratory.

The NCSU Libraries is working as a partner with the Information Technology Division and the Learning in a Technology-Rich Environment (LITRE) initiative (<http://litre.ncsu.edu/>) on a project called "Flyspace." This pilot project will establish and test the effectiveness of well-equipped, technology-enabled work spaces for student group work and learning. The goal is to create a collaborative work environment that is inexpensive, easy to use, and requires minimal support. The Collaboratory is one of three rooms identified for the "Flyspace" project; the other two rooms are located in the Talley Student Center and are expected to be operational during the fall 2004 semester.

The Collaboratory at the D. H. Hill Library is equipped with a PC and a Macintosh computer,

each equipped with a large display for viewing by a small group and with software for creating presentations and manipulating multimedia materials created in the nearby Digital Media Lab. Seating is available for two groups of six to eight people. Videoconferencing equipment can be reserved for use in the room, and wireless networking is provided. Networked printing is available from printers in the Digital Media Lab. Additional equipment and furniture will be added to the Collaboratory as recommended, based on the findings of the “Flyspace” pilot project. ❖

Over the summer, my graduate student and I have used the Collaboratory to . . . jointly work on a large body of verbal data collected in a study of PDA use at NCSU’s Veterinary Hospital. The Collaboratory is a nice setting for this work because the designers of that space . . . recognize that collaboration does not always take place in one medium. At times, it is best to sit around a table, spread out sheets of paper and talk. At other times, collaborators need to sit at a computer and produce something. At the Collaboratory we were able to do both. . . .

—Jason Swarts, Assistant Professor,
Technical and Professional Communication

Searching Early English Books Online (EEEO)

BY WILL WHEELER, COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

This spring the NCSU Libraries acquired an exceptional resource for faculty, students, and other researchers. Early English Books Online (EEBO) is a breakthrough collection of full-text images currently encompassing 105,000 unique titles and 83,000 illustration images that will grow over the next year to 125,000 individual titles.

This collection represents some of the earliest and most valuable print materials of the English language. From the first book printed in English by William Caxton through the age of Spenser and Shakespeare, EEBO includes many of the earliest books across nearly every subject from physics and engineering to literature, history, religion, and politics.

Covering the period roughly from 1475 to 1700, EEBO includes rare bibliographic works previously available only through microform or by traveling to one of the few libraries or museums holding physical copies of these books. For physical scientists and historians of science, the collection includes books in the sciences by Boyle, Newton, and Galileo, as well as popular scientific tracts such as Nicholas Culpeper’s *The English Physician* (1652). Researchers in the humanities will be pleased by the wide array of works in literature

and religion such as early editions of Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, Malory’s *Morte d’Arthur*, the King James translation of the *Bible* (1611), and the *Book of Common Prayer* (1549). Students of women’s studies will find useful the editions of works by Aphra Behn, Anne Killigrew, and Margaret Cavendish.

Faculty at NC State are already incorporating this valuable new resource into courses, and students can view these rare primary source documents not only on campus but also from off-campus sites. Faculty have expressed their keen interest in these materials for their value to current and future research. Over time, access to this collection will become more valuable as researchers link the present age to its early roots.

Access to this new resource is available through the NCSU Libraries Web site at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/eresources/databases>, where “Early English Books Online” should be selected from the alphabetical listing. Although searching is possible for known items, the sophisticated browse feature allows people to explore by author, title, subject, date, and prior classification. Questions or comments about EEBO should be sent to darby_orcutt@ncsu.edu or william_wheeler@ncsu.edu. ❖

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Ex officio

Susan K. Nutter	Vice Provost and Director of Libraries
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NCSU Libraries Awarded Major Textiles Microfilming Grant

BY SCOTT DEVINE, PRESERVATION

The NCSU Libraries, working in partnership with the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) and fifteen other libraries throughout the Southeast, has received a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to preserve collections from NC State's Burlington Textiles Library. This two-year project, begun in July 2004, will preserve a broad range of materials that document the history and culture of the American South. The Libraries' share of the grant, "Industrialization of the Textiles Industry in the New South," will provide approximately \$40,000 in microfilming services that will preserve the content of 288 brittle volumes published between 1820 and 1945. Publications



Students at work in the College of Textiles, ca. 1926.

chosen for the project include early technical handbooks as well as material documenting the effects of industrialization on the economy and culture of southern communities.

After the Civil War, textiles became one of the most important industries in the South. By 1850 there were already more than 200 textile mills in the South. Expansion after the war created a southern textiles industry with a production volume that rivaled New England's. Because of the employment opportunities that came with the textiles industry, textile mill towns quickly emerged as centers for working and living in the South. In this way, the textiles industry had a profound impact not only on the rate of urbanization in the region, but also on the developing cultural and socioeconomic life that would help to shape the modern South.

The textiles program that later became the College of Textiles opened at NC State in 1899. The nature of its teaching and research programs was applied and practical. As the textiles industry expanded and flourished in the region, the need for a program to train mechanical engineers to run textile mills grew. NC State, formerly named the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, became the home for this program.

The Burlington Textiles Library opened in 1945 and consisted of 1,000 books and periodicals collected during the early years of the college. Many of the older items in the library's collection are handbooks and training guides published in Europe and New England. These books, used as teaching and research aids, were critical to the process of educating southern

textile engineers. Today, the Burlington Textiles Library includes approximately 50,000 volumes and over 200 periodical subscriptions.

Materials selected for preservation microfilming include a variety of nineteenth and early-twentieth-century technical manuals and handbooks. Pocket-sized guides explaining how to set calculations properly for looms and other machinery, as well as guides to early textile industry standards are good examples of the kind of material that will be filmed. Practical handbooks for repairing machinery are also included. Many of these handbooks are small and show signs of having been carried in a textile worker's pocket, the well-thumbed pages creased and marked with machine oil and other signs of regular use. More elaborate items, such as fabric and wool sample books and instructions for pattern designs, are also included in the material to be microfilmed.

The development of the textiles industry had a powerful impact on southern communities and on the people who found themselves moving from an agrarian-based culture to the more complex industrial world of textile machines and mills. When NCSU established the College of Textiles, it recognized the need to recruit and train local experts in all aspects of the textiles industry. The Burlington Textiles Library is one of fewer than five libraries in the nation focusing on textiles. Through the years, the library has collected and maintained a wide range of items used to educate and prepare students for careers in the textiles industry. Preserving these items will enable NC State to continue its mission of educating students and professionals for an innovative future in textiles. ♦



Library Catalogers Receive Prestigious Award

BY CHARLEY PENNELL,
CATALOGING DEPARTMENT



[Left to right] Karen Letarte and Jacqueline Samples.

Karen M. Letarte and Jacqueline P. Samples, both Cataloging Department librarians at the NCSU Libraries, were honored in 2004 as joint recipients of the Association of College and Research Libraries' Samuel Lazerow Fellowship. Their proposal, entitled "Looking at FRBR Through Users' Eyes: Toward Improved Catalog Displays for Electronic Serials," was selected from proposals submitted by librarians from across the continent. According to committee chair George Abbott, "While this important project will contribute to the emerging study of the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) in technical services departments, it also has a broader scope that will lead to improved library service to users."

The fellowship is one of the most prestigious awards for researchers in the areas of collection development and technical services. Publisher Thomson Scientific provided a \$1,000 award and plaques to the recipients during the American Library Association's annual conference.

The FRBR model, developed by researchers at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, supports the four user tasks necessary for successful information retrieval—namely find, identify, select, and obtain. Catalogers contribute to a user's success at these

tasks through the art of description, recognizing the relationships that exist between content and carriers. Although it has been relatively simple for catalogers to apply FRBR concepts to monographic materials, such as books, it has been much more difficult to apply the model to serials, which can change attributes (title, form, frequency) over time and contain multiple expressions (articles, images) by multiple authors. Electronic serials further exacerbate problems for catalogers since content can change while the carrier seemingly remains the same.

Although the FRBR model has received a great deal of academic attention over the last five years, it is largely unproven in practice. The research proposed by Letarte and Samples seeks to measure the applicability of the FRBR theoretical framework within a test environment, using a random sample of library patrons who will search and display descriptions, both conventional and FRBR-based, and rank the usefulness of their results. The value of the present study is in leveraging libraries' considerable investment in existing descriptive data while improving the presentation and utility of that data for library users. The research conducted by Letarte and Samples will generate data to guide further studies in this new area. ❖

Gale Award Ceremony

The North Carolina State University Libraries received the 2004 Thompson Gale Award for Excellence in Reference and Adult Library Services, awarded by the Reference and User Services Association, a division of the American Library Association (ALA). The \$3,000 award and citation recognized the Libraries for developing the U.S. Congressional Bibliographies database, an imaginative and unique library reference resource available at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/stacks/senatebibs>.

NC State reference librarian Jack McGeachy and Systems Department colleagues created the U.S. Congressional Bibliographies database and Web site, and McGeachy accepted the award on behalf of the Libraries. The database lists and describes U.S. House and Senate committee meetings since 1985—those for which printed transcripts are issued as well as those that are unpublished. According to Betty A. Gard, chair of the ALA awards committee, the database is

... an authoritative, exhaustive reference source of meetings held and documents released by the House of Representatives and Senate committees. The Web site is notable for simplifying complex, sometimes elusive, material and making it easy to locate. ❖

*[Left to right] Betty A. Gard (chair of the award committee), NCSU librarian Jack McGeachy, and Frank Menchaca (vice president of Thompson Gale) at the award ceremony in Orlando, Florida.
Photo courtesy of the American Library Association.*





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/>