Library Building Feasibility Study

TCU dedicated the Mary Couts Burnett Library in 1925. It would see an addition in 1959 and again in 1983 as the collections and student population continued to grow. In this past year the library has engaged Cannon Design to deliver a feasibility study to determine costs and phasing associated with a building addition and renovation.

Many would agree that libraries have changed from what we once knew. Today’s library strives to be more than the place where one gets information from books. Today’s library is a learning environment where the student experience is enriched from discovery, through organization, to knowledge.

Our challenge to Cannon Design has been to increase the qualitative seating for our students. Today’s library has approximately 800 seats for a population in excess of 8,000 and ideally we should see over 1,600 seats in tomorrow’s library. It is necessary to expand so that the “seats” would be in a very diverse distribution.

In the Mary Couts Burnett Library today you can find a traditional seat/ space where you can spread out some books and study in a somewhat monastic style with quiet concentration. You can also study in the Gearhart reading room which is an environment with large tables in elegant surroundings full of rich architectural history.

There is also a charged environment that is full of energy and technology where a group can work together on a project that can be displayed on a large LCD screen and edited on a wireless laptop. Our desire is to preserve each of these environments while increasing seating capacities. To this end the feasibility study provides a vision for tomorrow’s library.

Cannon will present a feasibility study that incorporates comments from an intensive two day design charrette that brought together the Cannon Design team with supporting expertise from local partner

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Enhancing the TCU University Experience: The Library’s Strategic Plan, 2009-2012

Enhancing the TCU University Experience: The Library’s Strategic Plan 2009-1012 is the Library’s new Strategic Plan. There are five strategies with related initiatives that comprise the Plan. As part of this planning effort, we developed new Mission and Vision statements.

Mission: To provide intellectual resources, innovative technology tools, and an inspiring physical and virtual environment to serve TCU’s diverse community of learners, supported by approachable and resourceful staff.

Vision: To enhance the university experience by creating a world-class library that facilitates exploration and scholarship.

Our development efforts
President’s Message

Fall is finally here but the TCU semester actually began on August 24. I have discovered that the library is a very popular place. A very large number of students are seen working in the computer lab, reference/systems area, periodical reading room and just about everywhere else. Relaxation breaks take place with Bistro Burnett in the lobby.

The Friends of the Library is also beginning an excellent and very active fall agenda. On November 16 at 3:30 there will be a Fall Board Meeting in the Library Conference Room. FacultySpeak will be at 5 p.m. following the meeting. Dr. Manochehr Dorraj, faculty member from TCU’s Political Science Department, will speak about his research with a particular focus on Iran.

On Friday, December 4th at 5 p.m. the Annual Friends and TCU Press Extravaganza will be at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens on Friday. Bob Ray Sanders will be the guest speaker and talk about a new TCU Press book, Calvin Littlejohn: Portrait of a Community in Black and White. Wine and snacks will be served and a large number of books will be available for purchase from their authors.

We are thrilled that Debra Dean, author of The Madonnas of Leningrad, has been confirmed to be the guest speaker at the Annual Banquet on Monday, March 22th.

Mark your calendar for the events and I will certainly look forward to seeing you.

Dean’s Message

TCU’s largest incoming class of undergraduates came to campus a few weeks ago. The Library will be open now 24 hours during the week days until the end of fall semester exams. With the university’s introduction of new doctoral programs this year, we will see an increased number of graduate students on campus. Each fall I sense a feeling of renewal for those of us on staff, as we once again, welcome a new group of students to TCU.

For me as the Dean, I’m celebrating three different things, different but important. For the first time in more than five years, all library staff positions are filled. We have had a number of staff retire during these years, and at least for now, we have caught up with our vacancies. Here’s hoping that we stay fully staffed for the balance of the year. The second item is that our year-long development of a new Strategic Plan came to fruition. Later in this issue of Windows please read Enhancing the TCU University Experience: The Library’s Strategic Plan 2009-1012. Finally, we continue to make excellent progress with the library’s feasibility study for a major addition and renovation to the building. It’s a good time for the Mary Couts Burnett Library. Come by and visit us this year!

Sincerely,

Dr. June Koelker
Dean of the Mary Couts Burnett Library
Friends’ Gift Gains Added Value

Two years ago the Friends made the first of two $10,000 donations to the Library for the purchase of C19: The Nineteenth Century Index. C19 is a comprehensive source for discovering nineteenth-century books, periodicals, official documents, newspapers, and archives. It indexes over 1.5 million books and official publications, 71,000 archival collections, and 18.9 million articles published in over 2,500 journals, magazines and newspapers.

C19 links out to full text articles in other databases the Library owns. These include American Periodicals Series and British Periodicals. This year the library acquired American Periodicals from the Center for Research Libraries, a full-text resource containing full-color scans of original documents archived by the Center for Research Libraries. When completed, this collection will contain three million pages. C19 will also link to this new database, greatly enhancing the value of the Friends’ gift.

The publishers of C19 have also added Dictionary of Nineteenth-Century Journalism in Great Britain and Ireland at no additional cost. English faculty strongly recommended the purchase of the Dictionary as an online resource. The Friends’ gift has made this valuable work available to the TCU community.

Faculty Speak—Fall 2009

Faculty Speak will be on November 16th at 5 p.m. when Dr. Manochehr Dorraj of the Political Science Faculty will speak about his research with a particular focus on Iran. Professor Dorraj is a frequent commentator on global and Middle Eastern affairs. He earned his PhD from UT Austin and has been on the TCU faculty since 1990. He has earned many teaching awards while at TCU including “The Most Inspiring Professor Award”, Pan Hellenic Council, TCU, 2004; “Faculty Appreciation Award in recognition of Distinguished Teaching and service”, TCU, 2000, 2002; “Professor of the Year Award”, TCU Student House of Representatives, 1998; “The Mortar Board Preferred Professor Award”, 1992, 1993, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004; and Finalist, ” Wassenich Award for mentoring” 1999. Please join us for a most informative event.

Debra Dean to be Friends’ Banquet Speaker

Debra Dean, author of The Madonnas of Leningrad will be the guest speaker at the Friends of the TCU Library Annual Dinner on Monday, March 22, 2010. The book is a fictionalized account of being a docent at the Hermitage State Museum in St. Petersburg (Leningrad) Russia during World War II. The author based her novel on the 900 day siege of the city by Nazi Germany during World War II. The book was a New York Times Editor’s choice, a Notable Book of the Year by the American Library Association, and a Booklist Top Ten Novel. Dean was a former actress in the New York theatre and has been a speaker at museums, universities, festivals, and other places. She now teaches creative writing in Miami and is at work on a novel set in the reign of Catherine the Great.
New Employees

Robyn Reid has been hired as our new Social Sciences Librarian. Robyn most recently worked at Point Loma Nazarene University as the Document Delivery and Archives Assistant. Robyn has her MLS from San Jose State University, M.Ed. from Azusa Pacific University and B.A. in History from UC Santa Barbara.

Janice Hicks is our new Library Specialist I in the Cataloging Department. Janice holds a BS in Business Administration from University of Missouri, a MA in Adult Development from St. Joseph College and is currently working on her Library Technical Assistant certification through the University of Maine. She has worked as a Library Assistant at Watauga Public Library and volunteered at the Fort Worth Public Library.

Clare Taylor recently filled the Library Specialist I position in Interlibrary Loan. Clare holds a BS in Horticulture from Texas Tech. Most recently, she is working a temp job for American Eagle. She has also volunteered as a Library Aide at the Carroll High School library in Southlake.

Amy Leslie is our new Library Specialist I shared by both Special Collections and Reference. Amy has her BA in Philosophy from TCU and is working toward her Masters in Library Science. Her most recent position was at Petrocasa Energy as a Title Research Agent, but she is very familiar with our library because she worked in the Government Information office while attending TCU.

Strategic Plan Continued

(Continued from page 1)

included the appointment of a Strategic Planning Committee chaired by the Library’s Associate Dean, Tracy Hull. Members of the committee included Mike Strom, Senior Archivist; Walter Betts, Systems Librarian; Dennis Odom, Head of Acquisitions; and Pat Austin, Senior Library Specialist. The Strategic Plan editor was Ammie Harrison, Arts & Humanities Librarian. During the course of the year, we held numerous focus groups and a day-long planning retreat. I am most appreciative of the contributions of library staff, TCU faculty and administrators, the TCU’s Computing and Telecommunications Committee, the TCU Library Committee, and TCU students. The Library now has a Strategic Plan that provides near-term guidelines for operational decisions and becomes a foundation as we develop space-planning scenarios for a possible library addition.

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Judy Alter Retires from TCU Press

Dr. Judy Alter retired as the Director of the TCU Press in July, having been the Director since 1987. She is responsible for a number of critically acclaimed volumes published by the TCU Press. Dr. Alter has been on the Friends of the TCU Library Board for many years. While on the Board, she helped to arrange campus visits by well known authors for the Friends of the TCU Library annual banquets.

In 2005 Dr. Alter received the Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Achievement from Western Writers of America. Her novel, Mattie, won a Spur Award as the Best Western Novel of 1987. Dr. Alter is a past president of Western Writers of America. She served for several years as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas Institute of Letters. The Dallas Morning News included her in its list of 100 women who have left their mark on Texas. We wish her well and hope that she continues to write in the years ahead!
Recent Special Collections Acquisitions —Roger Rainwater

Special Collections has acquired three new additions to its collection of nineteenth-century British novels originally published in monthly or weekly parts. This form of serialization was re-popularized in the nineteenth century among authors, publishers, and the public by the very great success of Charles Dickens’ *Pickwick Papers* published by Chapman and Hall in London in 1836-1837. Special Collections holds thirty novels in parts by such authors as Dickens, Surtees, Thackeray, Lever, and Trollope. The recent additions are all by Anthony Trollope. Trollope published forty-seven novels, 8 of which were originally published in monthly parts. Special Collections now holds 5 of these.

The *Vicar of Bullhampton*, considered one of the scarcest of Trollope’s parts issues, was originally published in 1869-70 by Bradbury Evans and Company in eleven monthly parts. In all, there are 33 illustrations (22 plates and 11 vignettes in the text) by Henry Woods. According to Michael Sadleir in his *Anthony Trollope: a commentary*, the novel was “ostensibly . . . written in defence of the ‘fallen woman,’ [and] has a quaintly solemn preface in which the author apologizes to his public for venturing on ground so delicate. But the book itself falls admirably to fulfill its proclaimed intentions. It is as characteristically Trollopian in plot and staging as the preface in its self-conscious propagandism is uncharacteristic. A vigorous story of village life, The Vicar of Bullhampton presents a delightful parson, several charming ladies, a gruff farmer, a pompous marquis and some aggressive nonconformity.”

*Orley Farm*, published by Chapman and Hall in twenty monthly parts from March 1861 through October 1862, was the first of Trollope’s novels to be published in parts. It contains forty full-page plates by the Pre-Raphaelite artist John Everett Millais. The pages of advertisements are particularly fine in this set, still including the cambric frilling sample with its ad in part six. Trollope declared in his autobiography that the plot of this novel was “probably the best I have ever made.”

This set of the parts of *The Prime Minister* published in 1876 by Chapman and Hall is a bit unusual in that the novel was issued in both the expected paper wrappers but also bound in cloth. Special Collections has acquired a set of the cloth-bound issue. Sadleir in his *Commentary* suggests that perhaps the novel was offered in cloth-bound parts to give the lending libraries of the day (Mudie’s, W. H. Smith, the short-lived Library Company, and the like) a sturdier product, able to withstand repeated lending and readings. The paper parts were often “read to death” requiring the library to replace them. This, the next to last of the Palliser novels, was issued in 8 monthly parts.

These and the other Victorian novels originally published in serial form may be seen any time Special Collections is open.

Library Building Feasibility Study—Continued

(Continued from page 2)

Hahnfeld Hoffer Stanford, staff from physical plant and the library, the Chancellor, Provost, and members from the Campus Master Planning team this summer. At this time the building would expand to the east of the current 1983 addition and would make use of a high density storage solution for library materials that would allow most spaces in the existing buildings and a large percentage of the addition to be made into student spaces. The 1920s building Gearhart reading room would receive some renovations to bring back its grandeur and have two additional reading rooms added on the east in new construction and a room to the west that would be a front to University Avenue. Along with these two spaces the Special Collections department would get a much needed collections viewing room. Additionally the Special Collections storage space would be increased and designed with preservation in mind. Technology would be incorporated throughout the building and in new team, study, and smart conferencing rooms.
Enhancing the TCU University Experience: The Library’s Strategic Plan, 2009-2012

Strategy 1: Provide a transparent library where resources and services are readily known and easily accessed

Initiative #1 A: Maintain an effective website that promotes library resources and services
Initiative #1 B: Provide access to library resources and services that are not time, space, or platform dependent
Initiative #1 C: Improve user interface to library resources
Initiative #1 D: Provide support for the creation, organization, dissemination, and preservation of all forms of media

Strategy 2: Collaborate with the TCU Community in adopting innovative academic trends to support TCU’s educational mission

Initiative #2 A: Facilitate continuous collaboration with the TCU Community to meet community needs
Initiative #2 B: Increase the library’s presence on eCollege to support curricular goals.
Initiative #2 C: Gain support from, and collaborate with, other campus units to provide web-based tools for students and faculty that help users understand copyright and legal use of information resources

Strategy 3: Cultivate an environment where the TCU Community has the necessary knowledge and skills to access library resources from anywhere and anytime

Initiative #3 A: Increase use of the library’s collections and resources through greater user awareness
Initiative #3 B: Make access to our collections and resources easier
Initiative #3 C: Improve user research skills via education

Strategy 4: Design the best physical and virtual environment for providing library services on TCU campus

Initiative #4 A: Improve the physical and psychological comfort level of our facilities in order to improve academic productivity
Initiative #4 B: Review the library policies and procedures concerning security, making enhancements when needed.
Initiative #4 C: Improve the users’ entry/exit experience and navigation ease within the building
Initiative #4 D: Provide flexible library space arrangements that can be easily altered to fit needs and use patterns for both users and staff

Strategy 5: Develop effective assessment methods to evaluate library collections and services

Initiative #5 A: Create statistical reports that document usage levels of library resources
Initiative #5 B: Conduct campus assessments on a regular basis to evaluate library services and collections
Initiative #5 C: Regularly review the strategic plan to evaluate progress towards goals and the continued relevance of the goals
Studying for spring finals—in the back of the reference room.

Reference Room—groups and individuals studying in the noisy zone

1st Floor Bound Periodicals—just another day.

Computer Lab—all computers can fill up as early as 8:30 a.m.

By Night—Parents Weekend

Approximately 86% of all students, faculty, and staff visit the library in a semester.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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