

Collection Development Update

by Carl J. Danis

What is the purpose of Collection Development Services? Quite a few people do not understand its purpose or that such a process even exists. Collection development is basically defined as the planned purchase of library materials in a variety of formats that support and match the instructional and research needs of the institution. In addition, the collection development process must operate within certain fiscal constraints.

Given that this is the purpose of Collection Development Services, the question becomes what we have been up to. Collection development is an ongoing process. We are constantly ordering, evaluating, and exploring resources to ensure the collection remains balanced and supports the needs of the UNCP community. When thinking about evaluating the collection, typically one thinks about evaluating books, but the Sampson-Livermore Library is more than a collection of books. We also have access to many electronic resources that aid our patrons in finding the information they need.

There is a process by which we select these electronic resources for addition to our collection. Once we are made aware of a resource or a decision is made that our collection is deficient in a subject area, the process of looking for and examining resources begins. Typically, the Collection Development Librarian along with the Paid Databases Subcommittee of the Library's Planning Committee will examine these resources.

When we need feedback from the UNCP community, a resource under consideration for purchase is made available on a trial basis. This allows the librarians and the campus community to examine the resource. All concerned parties can then submit feedback about it. The Paid Databases Subcommittee listens to the feedback, or lack thereof, and makes a decision.

Following the above-described process recently resulted in several additions to the Library's collection of electronic resources. The first significant item under consideration for

2006-07 was *America's Historical Newspapers, 1690-1922*. Because the response to the resource was extremely favorable, it was added to the Library's collection. More recently we have looked at resources like *GeoRef*, *Bibliography of Native North Americans*, *Ethnic NewsWatch*, and *Gender-Watch*. Trials next spring will include resources that affect business, music, film and theater, and environmental issues.

Other important additions to the collection have been the McNaughton books and DVDs. This initiative funded by the Friends of the Library is a terrific way to supplement our current reading and media collections. The McNaughton program is a leasing plan, rather than a purchasing plan. Each month, according to our plan, we are allowed a certain number of books and DVD points, and we receive a catalog of forthcoming books and DVDs from which to choose. These lists are examined and selections are made. At some point we must make a decision to either purchase these items outright or return them, usually after a year.

I would like to emphasize to the Sampson-Livermore Library supporters and patrons that if they have suggestions for additional resources for the Library, please contact me or any of the librarians. Suggestions for purchases can be made by clicking on **Suggestions** from the menu of the Library's website at www.uncp.edu/library/. I can assure you that each suggestion is taken seriously and evaluated. My contact information is: Carl J. Danis, Collection Development/Electronic Resources Librarian, Sampson-Livermore Library, UNC Pembroke. I can be e-mailed at carl.danis@uncp.edu or called at 910.521.6876.

Information about current trials of electronic resources can be found on the Library's website www.uncp.edu/library/ by clicking on **Database Trials** under "What's New."

Snapshots from Friends of the Library Programs

1. Dr. Fran Fuller discussed her new book during an October 18 program
2. On October 3, Scott Hagwood discussed ways to develop a great memory
3. Emyl Jenkins discussed Southern Christmas traditions during a November 28 program
Front row left to right: Emyl Jenkins and Carol Franch
Back row left to right: Dr. Judy Curtis, Dr. Elinor Foster, and Dr. Anthony Curtis
4. Dr. Liliana Wendorff introduced her new book during an October 18 program

