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Library News Update

“The world for me ended at mail call today” – “At Mail Call Today” by Gene Autry, 1945: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00O2CJGq7Zo
Welcome to Summer

It is hard to believe that another academic year has come and gone. I hope you are recovering well from the final push grading term papers and final exams and, perhaps, approving theses and/or dissertations.

“Summertime and the livin’ is easy” according to the lyrics in the opera, “Porgy and Bess.” Well, perhaps not easy in the academic world, but certainly a little more relaxed for most of us compared to the Fall and Spring Semesters. This is the time of year when many of us slow down a bit or engage in research rather than teaching. Of course, if you happen to have an urgent deadline for a book contract looming as do I, then right now your life is anything but relaxed. Still, even I and those of you in a similar situation will get to relax a little bit once the manuscript gets sent in to the editor who will farm it out for peer-review. The prospect of additional rewriting and perhaps additional research is wearying but that likely will not take place until the start of the Fall Semester - just when things get busy again!

For the first time since 2015, we in the library are not faced with the ongoing racket and disruption caused by the construction of the Mell Classroom Building addition plus construction into the Ralph Brown Draughon Library and that is a blessing. There is some outdoor construction work going on in front of the Mell Street entrance plus some minor indoor construction work as well but for the first time in a long time, the Ralph Brown Draughon Library actually is quiet this Summer. If you or your students have any research to do, please come in to a much more comfortable library than was true Summer 2016 and 2017!

Except for a few mostly short intervals, I plan to be here for the Summer as usual, so if you or your students need any library-related assistance, please be sure to contact me at 844-1729 or dodgeti@auburn.edu. I will be sure to notify you of any extended absences via departmental wide e-mail messages.
Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Book Budget Update: The Political Science Book Budget for the new fiscal year became available in October. It is almost the same as last year's: $4400. As of this date (May 14), the balance stands at approximately $2100.

National Library Legislative Day

With funding supplied by the Alabama Library Association, I was able to participate in the American Library Association's annual National Library Legislative Day event held in Washington, D.C. May 7-8.

This year nearly 500 librarians visited Congressional offices on May 8 to advocate on major library-related issues such as keeping the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) from President Donald Trump's chopping block in his proposed 2019 Fiscal Year federal budget. The IMLS administers the annually appropriated Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) – the ONLY federal funding of libraries, which is distributed to all 50 states (most of which match the federal funding as we do in Alabama) to fund programs, construction, and other operations of public libraries. In addition, we advocated on behalf of broadband Internet access and also for
restoring Net Neutrality (the Federal Communications Commission having in December 2017 abolished the provisions of the 2015 Open Internet Order that prevented Internet Service Providers from potentially blocking or slowing some Internet businesses, web sites, and other sources of information based on purely commercial concerns).

This is my fifth National Library Legislative Day and I can say that normally one meets with a member of the Congressperson’s office staff rather than the Representative or Senator in person. This year, I got to meet in person with TWO members of the Alabama Congressional delegation: Rep. Mike Rogers (3rd. Congressional District) and Sen. Doug Jones. As of this date, I do not have a photo available (although one was taken) with Sen. Jones, but I do have a digital photo of yours truly plus Rep. Mike Rogers and Nancy Pack, Director of the Alabama Public Library Service.

**New Book of the Month**

While every book the library acquires is, I hope, of interest and value, this column features just one title chosen from the latest available monthly New Political Science Books list. The monthly list will continue to be sent via e-mail separately from this newsletter.

See *Washington Post* review: