Welcome to the New Academic Year

According to the calendar year it’s high Summer but according to the academic calendar year Fall has arrived. Welcome back to all who have been away and welcome to any new faculty or staff members!

This is both a time of uncertainty and a time of promise. As many of you may know the University’s adoption of a new budget model is now being implemented. At the same time President Steven Leath’s vision for moving Auburn University more into high-technology and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields and for hiring 500 new faculty members to expand the University’s
research mission, and to develop economic partnerships in the state is starting to take off. My understanding is that this means more of the library’s resources will be devoted to addressing the growing emphasis on STEM research and teaching but without any increase in its funding. While I am all for strengthening initiatives in science and technology (especially in an era when there are people in power who deny the reality of global warming or climate change), this does imply that the existing lack of sufficient funding for library acquisitions in liberal arts such as Political Science will not get any better and, perhaps, might get worse.

Adding to the uncertainty is the fact there are significant administrative changes taking place in the library that may affect funding available for the Political Science Book Budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. My understanding is that we may be going from the traditional arrangement of separate subject-specific book budgets to a structure involving broad-based acquisitions teams such as science and technology, social sciences, and humanities. I will be happy to provide more details once this becomes clear to me. My hope is that the funding available to me as your Political Science Library Liaison for library acquisitions will still be at least comparable to the $4400 made available for the 2017-2018 fiscal year even if I end up becoming part of a social sciences acquisitions team. Stay tuned.

One thing not changed is the library’s continued emphasis on service ranging from reference to document delivery/interlibrary loan to library instruction (see Library Instruction Sessions below for more information).

The Auburn University Libraries homepage (https://www.lib.auburn.edu/) will soon be undergoing a major design change. Going by the preview I have seen, it should not be too difficult to adjust to (and I’m speaking as a pre-computer non-technological print-oriented relic).

One major change coming will be the library’s move to a discovery system. In a nutshell, a discovery system is a computerized way of locating information from the library’s collections. This sounds like what most of us have been doing for the past 20 years or more. However, here is the main difference: a discovery system typically involves having one enter a search BUT the search results include everything matching the search terms from the library’s resources, not just books. In other words a discovery system will bring up (from the same one-time search) book catalog records PLUS journal article and other document citations from library databases as well. There will be full-text links for full-text items and citation records for items not available full-text. I believe the thinking behind the development of discovery systems is to make the search for library materials more like using Google. In other words, it will no longer be necessary to conduct separate searches for books and for journal articles. I am not sure when the discovery system will be implemented but I will be sure to notify you and, once I learn how to use it, will be happy to provide assistance to you and your students as needed. We are living in interesting times.

You may have noticed, also, that this newsletter looks a little different. We are now attempting to have a more standardized or unified look for library communications. Future issues of the Library News Gazette: Political Science Liaison Edition will be a bit shorter. (This edition was in preparation before the new guidelines emerged and, also, this being the start of a new academic year, there is a bit more news to report than usual). There may be other changes but I still intend to provide you with an informative and, perhaps sometimes entertaining, monthly newsletter to help keep you up to date on important library-related news.
Finally, some of you may be interested to learn that the Panera Bread establishment has finally opened – a year later than originally promised – on the Second Floor of the Ralph Brown Draughon Library. It can be found to your left upon entering the library after first passing through the Mell Classroom Building. I realize this is probably more of interest to your students than yourselves, but you should be aware that if inclined to have a snack, a meal, or a (non-alcoholic) drink, you do have that option inside the library. As a former special collections librarian and as someone who started his professional library career in 1980, the idea of an eating establishment inside the library still strikes me as odd even though we first did this in late 1999 when we opened up the Stacks Café (run by Starbucks) on the Ground Floor.

Library News Update

“I wrote my mom a letter and this is what it said…” – “This Little Girl’s Gone Rockin’” by Alma Cogan, 1958:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7qfsN-85_U

$$ Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Book Budget Update: The budget is the same as last year’s: $4400. The current balance as of today (August 14) is approximately $200. $$
Library Instruction Sessions

Just a reminder that I offer custom-tailored library instruction sessions available to your classes. Designed to both acquaint your students with relevant library resources and to promote information literacy, these library sessions are far more involved than the more traditional bibliographic instructions you may be familiar with from your own days as a college student. I will be happy to discuss options with you if interested. IMPORTANT: due to a hectic and always changing Fall Semester schedule, competition for Instruction Lab space from my Reference Department colleagues, and the need to properly prepare on my part, please contact me well in advance of the date(s) you are contemplating for scheduling one or more library instructions. It would very helpful if you provided me with at least a couple of alternative dates to consider.

If you want to ensure your students go beyond the bare minimum in their research and not rely just on Google for their information sources and you want them to have an understanding of the need to critically evaluate sources, I strongly encourage you to contact me at dodgeti@auburn.edu or 844-1729 to schedule in library instruction sessions.

“I do all my research on Google.”

Large Format Printing No longer Free

Colleagues,

Auburn University Libraries is no longer able to assume the cost of poster printing which has been available for free in the RBD Library’s Media & Digital Resource Lab. In an effort to recover costs, the Libraries will begin charging $7.00 per page for all large format printing beginning August 15, 2018. In keeping with previous policy, printing will be restricted to class
assignments, academic research projects and presentations. Fees are collected via bursar bills and the charge will not apply to AU faculty and staff at this time.

Regards,

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**Golden Oldies Radio Show on WEGL-Auburn**

Please excuse the inclusion of this non-academic notice but I thought I would take advantage of the start of the new academic year to inform or remind those of you who might take an interest in Rock ‘n’ Roll/Rhythm and Blues of the period c. 1945-1963, that yours truly, under the name Dr. Hepcat, has been hosting the Golden Oldies program on Auburn University’s own WEGL – FM 91.1 since May 1998.

The show features a lot of the less-well known recordings of the era as well as popular hits in the genre of Rock ‘n’ Roll/Rhythm and Blues along with related genres such as Blues, Gospel, Doo-Wop, Country, Rockabilly, Western Swing, and, occasionally, West Indian Calypso and early Jamaican Ska. See recent playlists at [http://www.auburn.edu/~dodgeti](http://www.auburn.edu/~dodgeti) to get a better idea of what you can hear on

**Tuesdays, 7 – 9 p.m.** on WEGL – Auburn, FM 91.1, the University’s radio station. Listen online too: [http://wegl.auburn.edu/](http://wegl.auburn.edu/).
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.
