Summer Is Here

“Summertime and the livin’ is easy” according to the lyrics of “Summertime” by George Gershwin. Actually, in the library, the livin’ is busy. While we do not have as many students, faculty, and staff using our resources, librarians and library staff are busier than ever working on a variety of projects. This includes work on the strategic plan for 2019-2014 as is true for the rest of campus.

Summertime is also a time when many of us engage in more prolonged and detailed research and writing than is possible the rest of the academic year. It is also a time when some of us attempt to catch up on more prosaic projects such as cleaning up our offices or cleaning off the voluminous files of paper printouts that have accumulated over time. At times like this, I reflect on how wrong futurist prognosticators were at the start of the computer revolution when they giddily informed us we would become a paperless society.

Summertime, also, should be a time when life slows down a little bit and we find it easier to locate a parking space on campus (or in town) and the campus sometimes seems to drowse in the heat. Summertime is also good for taking vacations whether short or long, local or international.

Your Research Interests Survey

As we know, the library acquisitions budget for History is sadly limited so it is more important than ever that I have a more specific knowledge of research projects in which you are engaged or, more generally, your research interests for, say, the next five years. This can help me make even more targeted use of the limited History Book Budget funds available. Also, at those rare times when extra funding becomes available, I can then also make more targeted recommendations for major purchases such as databases or microform collections or reference sets. Remember, all of this is separate from the automatic approval plan titles the library receives and in which I take no active role.

In order to be most effective, I’d like to engage in a brief in-person meeting with you individually to find out in more detail about your specific research interests. Something on the order of 15 – 30 minutes should be enough. I last did a similar survey about six years ago some of you may recall. (This is NOT the same as the more general library needs survey interviews I did with many
of you in 2015 either). I recognize that e-mail may be more convenient, especially for those of you who may be away on research trips, etc., so I’ll be happy to receive your response to questions I could send you that way too. However, I think in-person brief meetings can be more effective. I will be happy to meet with you in your office (no need to come to the library!). This is, of course, voluntary, but I would welcome any chance to meet with you if interested. I will be sending out this appeal near the start of each month now through November, perhaps, December, since I recognize many of you may be away for the Summer, etc.

Please let me know if you are interested and let’s see if we can identify a mutually convenient date and time to meet. Thank you for your consideration.

Library Workshops

Click on the Workshops link located in the lower central section of the Auburn University Libraries homepage (http://www.lib.auburn.edu/) for more detailed information and registration for the following workshops available to faculty and staff:

- “Digital Design: Getting Started with Adobe Creative Cloud.” Wednesday, June 26, 3 – 4 p.m.
- “Poster Design 101.” Thursday, June 27, 3 – 4 p.m.
- “Introduction to Systematic Reviews.” Friday, June 28, 3 – 5 p.m.
- “Creating Graphics: Adobe Photoshop for Beginners.” Monday, July 8, 10 – 11 a.m.
- “Designing Documents: Adobe InDesign for Beginners.” Tuesday, July 9, 10 – 11 a.m.

Additional workshops extending from May through September are listed at the Workshops link provided above.