Fall 2019: Welcome Back

Hard to believe the (academic) summer is over but here we are. I hope you had a restful and also, if teaching or doing research, a fulfilling summer. Hard to believe, also, that the average freshman, age 18, was born in 2001! I’m old enough to remember seeing the film, “2001: A Space Odyssey,” in 1968 in a movie theatre and being impressed by Director Stanley Kubrick’s vision of what seemed then to be the future. I suspect today’s freshmen, growing up with computers as a given, cell phones, social media, etc. probably regard the film as a quaint artifact. Be that as it may, I know we also look forward to engaging with a new generation and, here in the library, to providing them with the resources and services they need. The library is also here to provide resources and services to Auburn faculty and staff members.

Best wishes to us all as we embark on a new academic year!
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 am sending out this appeal near the start of each month starting in June through November, perhaps, December, since I recognize many of you may have been away over 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.

Construction Work: Extending 2nd. Floor Terrazzo Flooring

This will affect the Second Floor of the Ralph Brown Draughon Library extending from the recently renovated area adjoining the Mell Classroom Building to the atrium with the glass elevator by the Learning Commons/Miller Writing Center/Study Partners area. The existing carpet will be removed and white smooth terrazzo flooring as is currently in place in the recently renovated area will be extended. Anticipated dates of construction work: August 3 – 17. Access from the glass elevator and central stairwell to the Mell Classroom side will still be available by walking around the north side of the stairwell and coming around toward Panera Bread. You can also use the stairwell closest to the bookstore. Directional signs will be posted.
New Library Homepage and New Single-Search Interface

From the press release of Jayson Hill, Director of Communications and Marketing, Auburn University Libraries.

Auburn University Libraries Discover), a New Library Search Tool

Auburn University Libraries is excited to announce the launch of Discovery, a new, one-stop search tool that allows you to search more and search faster. The streamlined system reduces the number of clicks you have to make to find library resources by simultaneously searching multiple databases and consolidating results in one page.

Articles, journals, books, reports, archival materials, images, and more are retrieved in one convenient search. Filters and facets are provided to quickly refine results to those most relevant to your research topic. Additional benefits include the abilities to save searches, export citations, and create search alerts.

We have rigorously tested the new system, but it is possible you may encounter a few hiccups. We ask for your help in identifying any issues and appreciate your patience as we work to repair them. Please use our online feedback form to share your comments:

https://www.lib.auburn.edu/feedback/EDS/form.html

Information Literacy/Library Instruction

Just a reminder that I am available to teach custom-tailored instruction sessions for your classes. These sessions will be designed to promote information literacy concepts and acquaint students with relevant library resources. Please contact me (dodgeti@auburn.edu or 844-1729) well in advance so that we have time to collaborate on lesson plans and that I may accommodate your first choice for days/times.