



Library Letters

University of Northern Colorado Libraries
On the Web: www.unco.edu/library

Library Letters Picks Up Where BiblioTech Left Off

Library Letters represents the latest in communication from UNC's Libraries to our external audiences—those alumni, administrators and others who are interested in the happenings at Michener and Skinner Music libraries. *BiblioTech* filled this role from 1988 to 2003.

As the Libraries have continued to embrace the use of computers for access to information, including sharing our own



happenings, it became clear that we needed to realign our communications. Thus, *Library Letters* is created.

- Designed to provide brief updates, the *Letters* will be direct-mailed and posted on the Libraries' website (<http://www.unco.edu/library/index.htm>) thrice yearly.

The website also offers timely updates about happenings within the Libraries. Be sure to check it out!

Faculty Focus-Who's New?

While her contract states her job title as Technical Services Librarian – Electronic/Digital Resources, **Jennifer Leffler** prefers to go by Jen. No two days are the same for Jen, because her position is newly created and because of the nature of the electronic world. Responsible for maintaining access to the 100+ databases and over 29,000 electronic journal titles to which the University Libraries subscribes, Jen also works at the reference desk and is thrilled to be at Michener Library.



Jayati Chaudhuri

joined the UNC Libraries as the Science Reference Librarian in Fall, 2005. Holding a Masters degree in Geography as well as a Masters in Library and Information Studies, she was a Minority Resident Librarian at University of Tennessee Libraries for two years. Jayati now provides general library orientation instruction and database training sessions for undergraduate and graduate students and assists with their research. She is also responsible for materials selection and collection development procedures for all science related subject areas.



100th Birthday Celebration Planned

Archival Services is planning a Centennial Celebration of James A. Michener's birth. Archivist Kacy Guill and Special Collections Archivist Kay Lowell are planning campus events, displays, and collaborative efforts.

- The celebration will open with an exhibit of the Robert Vavra collection in the Mari Michener Gallery in early February, 2007.
- A permanent exhibit will open on Michener Library's mezzanine level in October of 2007. The exhibit will focus on items from the JAM collection. Grant monies could fund the permanent exhibit and a traveling exhibit that will visit public libraries and museums in Colorado and Wyoming.
- Other plans include a possible one-hour documentary film on Michener, collaboratively funded by federal and local money.

Volume 1, No. 1
Spring 2006

Skinner Music Library

The Music Library was dedicated in honor of Dr. Howard M. Skinner



on May 6, 2005 to recognize his many years of service to UNC's College of Performing and Visual Arts, UNC and the surrounding musical community.



H. M. Skinner unveils the new sign on campus.
Photo: Naomi Johnson

Banned Books Display Draws a Crowd in October 2005



Photo: Ebbie Sanchez



User Comments

"I just want to thank all of you at askcolorado because you have helped me get my first A."

"It was really cool, being online with a live librarian, better than searching the internet alone."

"Not only did I get my answer but I learned something new about using the libraries resources as well. What a great idea this is."

"Fantastic use of my taxpayer dollars!"

(Source: www.askcolorado.org)

Library Letters is published each semester by the University of Northern Colorado Libraries, Greeley, CO 80639.

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Award-Winning Online Reference Service Launches New Interface

AskColorado, the online, real-time, 24/7 reference service that brings librarians from across the state to serve patrons from as far away as France, as well as in our own school-yards and college campuses, will launch new software in early 2006.

The new software, designed by Tutor.com, will allow for a more seamless connection between patrons and librarians. This should improve an already very popular and responsive service, according to a Colorado State Library Representative. "This new interface will enhance the co-browsing capability of our service, which will let librari-

ans do more instruction while working with patrons" reports Sharon Morris "thereby helping to improve information literacy across the state."

Morris is the coordinator of the wildly popular service, and as such recently posted the following user comments on the AskColorado website (at left).

Since launching in 2003, use of the service has increased exponentially, with more than 5,000 questions answered per month in the first quarter of 2005. Librarians from public, school, special and academic libraries field questions using online chat technology. They



guide patrons to online sources of information, including databases of periodical articles. This helps patrons, particularly students, utilize more of the Internet than Google, and understand that library resources are still relevant in research. Tutor.com has developed an interface that should help with this co-browsing aspect of "virtual" reference.

Go to www.AskColorado.org for more information, or to ask a question!

Robert Vavra Materials Acquired for the James A. Michener Special Collection

The James A. Michener Special Collection has acquired the materials from Robert Vavra whose professional and personal relationship with Michener spanned thirty-five years. Vavra and Michener met in 1960 and worked together on the book *Iberia: Spanish Travels and Reflections*, published in 1968. The Vavra materials acquired include correspondence from

Michener, negatives of photographs of Michener, and quality prints of images from *Iberia*.

The letters are the informal correspondence between friends and show a more personal side of Michener not evident in much of the correspondence already in the Special Collection. Like the letters, many of the images show a relaxed, playful side of

Michener not present in other photographs in the Special Collection.

Visit the Archives' website for more information.



Broken Pipe Causes Damage

While the UNC campus was closed over the long weekend of 22 - 26 December 2005, a lower-level restroom supply pipe burst. The subsequent flooding was discovered by security personnel, who contacted Libraries Administration. Damage to items in Archival Services, as well as older periodicals in storage, while limited, is still being assessed. The Libraries website will continue to provide updates on the situation. Staff who responded to the initial alarm are to be commended for their willing hard work. Thanks also to those who expressed concern about this challenge.