

explore, inspire, discover, reach,
create, celebrate, achieve, focus,
grow, connect, learn, inspire, celebrate, explore, innovate, discover, achieve,
reach, focus, grow, connect, create, learn, **University Libraries newsletter,**

FALL 2008, VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2



NEW TOOLS ENHANCE DISCOVERY OF QUALITY INFORMATION; ENCORE AND SUBJECT GUIDES MAKE FINDING AS EASY AS SEARCHING

Two new library initiatives place powerful discovery tools in the hands of library users. Encore is a new way to search the Libraries' catalog, and Subject Guides provide one-stop gateways to electronic information and services customized by discipline. Both tools incorporate a range of new features, including web 2.0 applications, which translates to a richer user experience.

"In a web 2.0 environment, innovative products are deployed quickly and users provide input that is incrementally used to enhance the original version,"

says Darcy Del Bosque, web services librarian. "Not only are users involved by providing feedback, but in many instances, users are responsible for the creation of content used on these sites."

Encore — a New Way to Search the Libraries Catalog



Encore is highly intuitive and visual, providing results that include book cover

images and tables of contents. New features include:

- One simple search box
- Web 2.0 features — such as tag clouds — to help focus the search by format, collection, subject headings, and other ways
- Google-like relevance ranking to ensure the best answer rises to the top of the results list

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Patricia Iannuzzi
Dean, University Libraries

It may sound like a lot of money, but we spend less than most of the academic research libraries in the West.

CONNECTIONS

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*For information, call (702) 895-2286
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<http://www.library.unlv.edu>.*

*Connections is a publication of the
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FROM THE DEAN

The University Libraries spends \$5 million every year to purchase electronic books, journals, and other kinds of databases. These millions of journal articles, books, and media, such as art images, digital music, and video, cannot be found by using Google. They are proprietary and available only through purchase and then are limited to computers on campus or to off-site users with RebelCards. It may sound like a lot of money, but we spend less than most of the academic research libraries in the West, including Arizona State University, Brigham Young University, University of Arizona, University of Colorado, and University of Utah.

This issue of Connections focuses on ways we help our users DISCOVER these collections in order to enhance their own learning, research, and knowledge production.

The cover story is about enhancements to the library catalog using web 2.0 features, like our new catalog interface, Encore. We've added thousands of electronic journals, many of them back files covering decades, building a solid journal-collection foundation. We spent a year working on a project making them all searchable in our catalog with links to the full text of more than 5,500 journals.

The library liaisons have launched a fabulous new discovery tool for all our

users, comprehensive "Subject Guides" for each academic department. Click on the subject guide of your choice on the Libraries homepage to find a special compilation of all our electronic resources that cannot be found through Google.

An important part of discovering the information one needs is possessing the skills and abilities to navigate the information-rich environment. The story about iSkills highlights a library-led pilot project to assess students' information-seeking and critical-thinking skills.

And finally, the article about the Libraries new Smart Cart showcases the creativity and the talent of our undergraduate peer research coaches, who working alongside staff are bringing the Libraries to students wherever they may be.

The peer research program is funded through the generosity of library supporters Flora and Stuart Mason, and the new cart service is funded through gifts from the Libraries Dean's Associates. The generosity of our donors continues to provide us with resources that provide a margin of excellence.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pati Ianni".

Patricia Iannuzzi
Dean, University Libraries



BUILDING AND ASSESSING LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

How do the Libraries build collections?

Running a library system as complex as the University Libraries' requires financial expertise as well as a strong partnership with the campus community. At the heart of the Libraries are its collections of electronic and print materials made available to student and faculty researchers. Librarians build these collections of resources using input from faculty members.

For every subject taught at UNLV, there is a corresponding subject, or liaison, librarian who is an expert in collecting for that field. These liaison librarians work closely with university faculty on incorporating library skills and information literacy into course work.

"Liaison librarians meet with faculty, department heads, and

deans to get the pulse of the colleges; see what they are teaching and what they are researching; and then build the collections accordingly," says Cory Tucker, head, collection management. "It is also important for liaisons to see what types of resources the faculty prefer to use — books or journals, for example — and what they expect their students to use for research assignments."

Why is assessment important?

"We're faced with a potential stall in the growth of the Libraries' collections," says Patricia Iannuzzi, dean, University Libraries. "We've been building collections steadily, particularly investing in deeper collections of journal back files (archives of previous issues) and large text collections. The Libraries

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ACQUIRES RECORDS OF CENTRAL CREDIT INC.

Despite the potential stall in overall collections purchases, the University Libraries Special Collections continues its aggressive pursuit of collections documenting Southern Nevada. A university library's Special Collections department is not entirely dependent upon funding and budgets in order to grow and develop great collections. Special Collections grow thanks to donors, whether a corporate archive becomes available due to a merger or a family donates personal business papers.

A case in point is the recent acquisition of the records of Central Credit Inc. (1957–1987). These records are important because they provide a glimpse into a specific and unique aspect of gaming in Nevada. Central Credit was established in 1956 by Tod Early, a cashier at the Mapes Hotel in Reno, to provide Reno casinos a centralized warehouse for check and credit information. Subscribing casinos exchanged player credit information with Central Credit on a secure phone line. Later, banks and law-enforcement agencies used Central Credit when dealing with suspected bad checks. In 1964, Early established Central Credit Inc. in Las Vegas to serve the casinos that previously had been unwilling to participate in any information-sharing services.

The collection, donated by the Early family, includes corporate documents, financial records and ledgers, photographs, and other materials.

To learn more about collections like this, visit <http://www.library.unlv.edu/speccol/>.

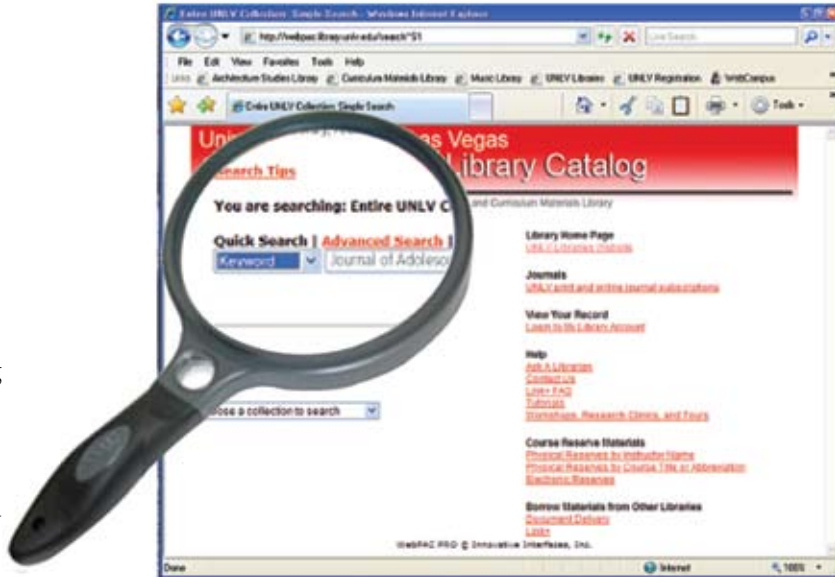
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STREAMLINED ACCESS TO MORE ELECTRONIC JOURNALS

More Journals and a New Index Make Accessing the Libraries' Journal Collection Easier

Library users will be able to find nearly 5,500 more electronic journal titles this year, the result of a yearlong project by library staff to improve access to full-text journals. Among several new features, staff created a journal title index for easier discovery of journals among catalog records for books, media, and other items.

Each electronic journal catalog record will display a link to "view full text" from which authorized



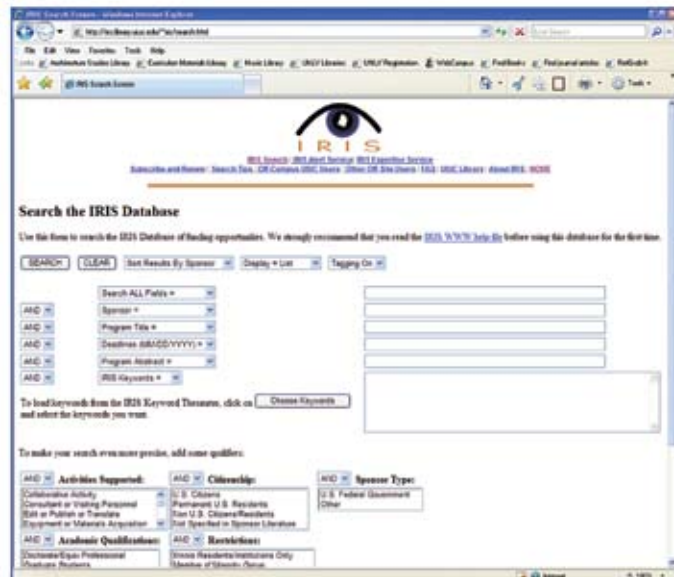
users can choose the best option. The combination of the journal title index, added electronic journals, and a new display for electronic journal issues

makes accessing the Libraries' journal collection through the catalog easier than ever. Visit <http://webpac.library.unlv.edu/search~S1>.

FEATURED DATABASE

IRIS — ILLINOIS RESEARCHER INFORMATION SERVICE — PRESENTS FUNDING SOURCES

More than 9,000 funding opportunities in the sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities can be located in IRIS. Advanced and basic search features are offered as well as links to the websites of the funding organization. The database has an alert service that allows users to be notified of relevant funding. An expertise service allows individuals to create a profile by institution for others to view their activities.



GAMING RESEARCH FELLOWS ENHANCE THEIR RESEARCH AND OPEN NEW AVENUES FOR OTHERS TO EXPLORE

In the 2007–08 academic year, the Center for Gaming Research initiated a ground-breaking new program, the Gaming Research Fellows. Five fellows, selected by a committee of library and academic faculty after a rigorous application process, each spent a month in residency at UNLV Special Collections, where they conducted a variety of research projects using the Libraries' unique collections.

“The program was designed to raise the profile of University Libraries' unique holdings in gaming and Las Vegas history,” says Patricia Iannuzzi, dean of University Libraries. “By attracting both respected veteran researchers and future scholars, the fellowships will simultaneously underscore the importance of our collections and spur new scholarship in our areas of concentration.”

The fellows represented several disciplines, from mathematics to history, and included both graduate students and established scholars from schools as diverse as Temple University, Utah State University, and the University of Arizona.

“Using just one source that I examined during this fellowship period,” says fellow Larry Gragg, Ph.D., “I found the material for a fine M.A. thesis. A close examination of the Las Vegas City Commission



Gaming Research Fellow Dr. Larry Gragg

Minute books, which begin in 1911 and continue through 1959, would enable a researcher to discover how the legalization of gambling in 1931 changed civic business in Las Vegas.”

Each Gaming Research Fellow gives a lecture on his or her research as part of the project. The public is invited to Gragg's presentation on Thursday, Oct. 23, at 7:30 p.m. in Lied Library.

“Using just one source . . . I found the material for a fine M.A. thesis . . .” says fellow Larry Gragg, Ph.D.

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STUDENT AND FACULTY INPUT MOVES LIBRARIES FORWARD

Libraries Heed Suggestions From a Variety of Sources, Including LibQUAL+ Surveys

Comments? Ideas? Suggestions? The University Libraries not only listens, but faculty and staff actively solicit feedback on a regular basis. It's all about improving collections and services for the campus

community. Suggestions have resulted in exciting programs and exhibits as well as improvements in daily operations. Here are just a few examples of actions we have taken based upon your input.



You asked for:	In response, the Libraries:
More electronic resources	More than doubled the number of electronic subscriptions from 9,000 to nearly 24,000 Added 225,000 electronic books and more than doubled database subscriptions to 300
More access to book collections to support research and curricular needs	Joined the LINK+ consortium of more than 30 libraries, giving access to 7.6 million titles with delivery within two to four days
Faster article delivery	Provided desktop delivery of Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery articles
Easier to navigate homepage	Designed and launched a new front page for the Libraries' website that includes an expanded search box Added specific pages for faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, and distance education students
More and better computers	Provided laptops for checkout at Lied and all the branch libraries, replaced more than 500 desktop PCs
More comfortable furniture	Replaced approximately 324 computer workstation chairs in Lied, the Architecture Studies Library, and the Curriculum Materials Library



LibQUAL+, one of the most important library surveys in the U.S. and beyond, has been offered at UNLV three times since 2002 and will be administered again in spring 2009. Participating libraries receive access to the data from hundreds of libraries and can compare scores on: the library as a place; the helpfulness and competence of library staff; and access to resources, both print and online.

Watch for the LibQUAL+ survey next spring and help shape your Libraries' future.

CAMPUS REFERENCE CART DEBUTS

Libraries Deliver Research Help-to-Go

Students arriving on campus for orientation in August were greeted by the University Libraries' "Smart Cart" on its inaugural journey. The cart allows library staff to venture out with a rugged laptop to the most populated campus hotspots and offer on-the-spot research assistance.

"Smart Cart" is the working title for the repurposed hot dog cart that offers information instead of frankfurters and provides the students with confidence instead of condiments.

The Libraries' undergraduate peer research coaches join staff to dispense "on-the-go" research help. Students will see the cart all over the campus at different times and at many major UNLV events. A student-only contest to name the cart is under way and entries will be accepted through mid-October. The "Smart Cart" is one of many projects supported through unrestricted gifts to the Libraries from alumni and community members.



"Smart Cart" will make appearances around campus.

Sidney Lowe Photo

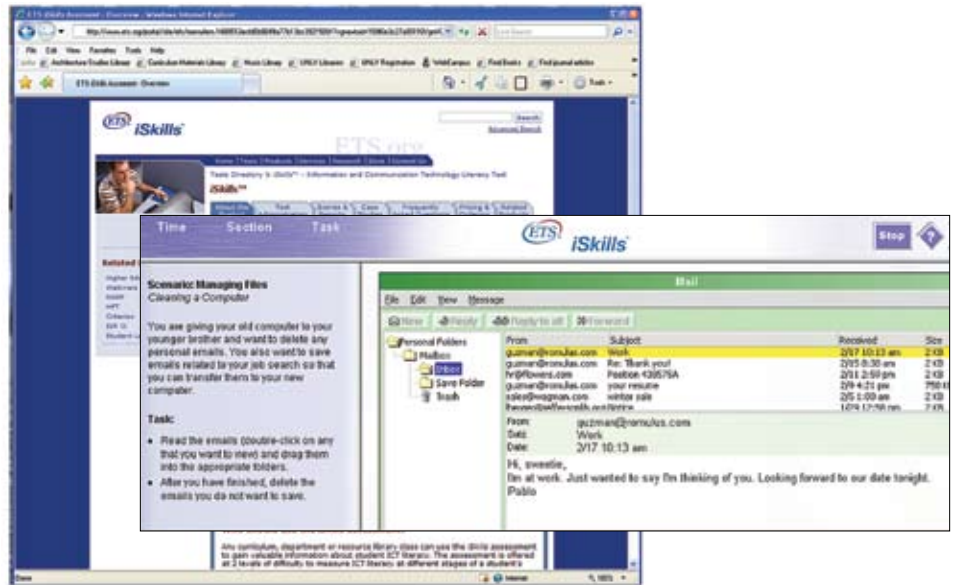
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WHAT SKILLS DO TODAY'S STUDENTS NEED TO SUCCEED IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

Information, Communication, and Technology Skills are Focus of Pilot Project

According to the Association of American Colleges and Universities, 70 percent of American employers want college graduates with better information skills. The skills identified as basic for workers in their industries include evaluating information, selecting information to meet the needs of a specific situation and audience, and presenting that information in an effective manner.

The University Libraries, in collaboration with several academic units, will test more than 500 students this fall, using a new standardized test called iSkills. iSkills was developed by the Educational Testing Service, the developers of the well-known SAT reasoning test. But iSkills is not your traditional standardized test. Tasks are real-time, are scenario-based, and use simulated technology (not multiple choice). "It is the only assessment that evaluates critical



thinking in the digital environment,” explains Patricia Iannuzzi, dean, University Libraries.

“The library has taken a lead at becoming an education hub for our campus. Our recently approved strategic plan, Focus: 50 to 100, calls for integrated higher education reform to improve learning and retention, to build the skills and values our students need to sustain lifelong learning, and to create a better sense of community on our campus,” says Neal Smatresk, executive vice president and provost. “The Libraries working with our new Academic Success Center, is a critical piece of the learning

assessment puzzle for our students, and will be instrumental in helping fill the learning gaps our students have through diagnostic vehicles like the iSkills test. I applaud their foresight in developing this test for our campus, and look forward to using it to provide students and faculty with information useful in designing opportunities for learning.”

Freshman students in Honors and Sciences are participating in the pilot, as are students entering UNLV with a GPA below 3.0 and students working in the Libraries. All participants receive the results of their iSkills test and valuable feedback.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Lied Library
(main library)

library.unlv.edu

895-2286

Architecture Studies Library

library.unlv.edu/arch

895-1959

Curriculum Materials Library

library.unlv.edu/cml

895-3593

Music Library

library.unlv.edu/music

895-2541

COLLECTIONS

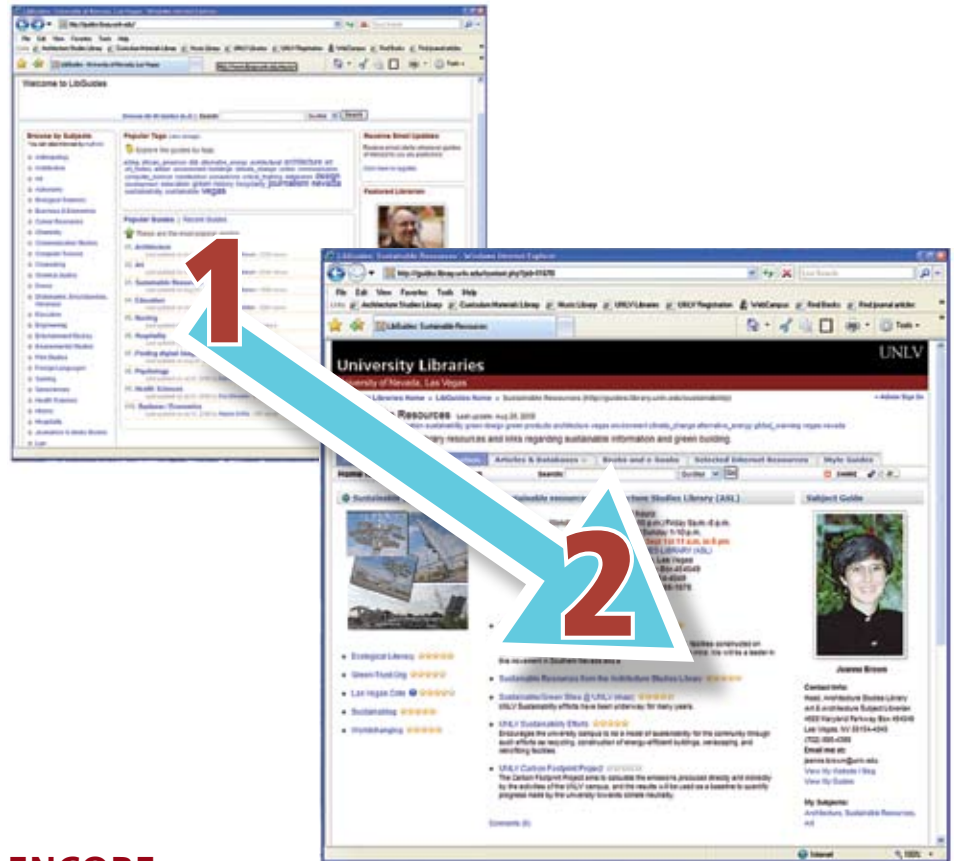
continued from page 3

face serious issues now with flat or decreasing budgets and serials inflation averaging about 10 percent.”

Tucker says: “This means, for example, our serials cost for this fiscal year is \$4.4 million. For next fiscal year, we are anticipating a 10 percent increase in inflation. So, for next fiscal year, our serials cost is the \$4.4 million plus \$440,000, which equals \$4.84 million. This is without adding any new serials. We need \$4.84 million to keep the status quo. So, if we have a flat budget, we would have to cut \$440,000 from our spending, most likely from serials, but also from books.”

“We’re faced with a potential stall in the growth of the Libraries’ collections,” says Patricia Iannuzzi, dean, University Libraries.

When the Libraries experience budget cuts, the data from the collection assessment will be used to target low-use, high-cost (high-inflation) items for cancellation. The Libraries Serials Review Group will identify items for consideration and then pass the list of items on to the liaisons, who will work with faculty to receive input and make a case for any exceptions. By working in collaboration with the university community, the University Libraries will continue to respond to the needs of the faculty by providing the most useful collections possible.



ENCORE

Continued from page 1

- “Did You Mean?” feature to correct common spelling mistakes.

Some library users have been trying Encore since Summer Session III, and it will be fully available in the fall semester.

Subject Guides

Imagine the ability to connect to all the information you need in one place. Library faculty who are liaisons to academic departments created customized guides for faculty and students. Available on the Libraries’ homepage, Subject Guides offer a new look and functionality, applying some of web 2.0’s most useful features, such

as tag clouds, library and subject news feeds, blogs, and the ability to chat with a librarian right from the guide. Users can rate Internet items using a star system and can suggest a resource to add to the guide.

“I really like this new format; it was a lot easier to find things. I like how it breaks information down, and I also like how it shows newer titles so I can see if anything new has been added to the library in the subject I searched for,” says one Subject Guides user.

Find Subject Guides on the Libraries’ homepage or <http://guides.library.unlv.edu/>.

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INVESTORS CIRCLE UNRESTRICTED GIFTS BENEFIT STUDENTS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

In a newly renovated group study room in Lied Library, a group of students gaze at the screen mounted on the wall. They are taking advantage of a SMART board, connected to a computer, that recognizes touch-screen commands and allows digital ink edits to the documents for their group project. This study room, with a 46-inch LCD monitor, SMART board flat-panel overlay, and wireless mouse and keyboard, is available to all UNLV students.

In Special Collections, a patron studying the growth of Las Vegas examines the transcript of J.A. Tiberti's oral history. This interview, like the others in the collection, offers firsthand observations from one of Las Vegas' pioneer citizens. These recollections provide vital insights into the people who shaped Southern Nevada.

These projects and many others received partial support from alumni and community members' unrestricted gifts. The Libraries' Investors Circle was created to recognize the generous people who make unrestricted gifts of \$1 to \$999 to the University Libraries. "Gifts of all sizes added together have a tremendous impact," says Dean Patricia Iannuzzi. "Unrestricted gifts are especially crucial as they provide funds that can be used for special projects directly affecting students and research." Unrestricted funds have been used to purchase a Libraries mobile research cart, enhance access to special collections, and develop a "meet the authors" program.

To learn more about the Investors Circle or to become a part of our community of investors, call Rhiannon Reynolds at 702-895-2235, e-mail her at rhiannon.reynolds@unlv.edu, or visit www.library.unlv.edu/giving.

Yes, I'd like to be a part of
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HONOR WITH BOOKS

Honor with Books is the Libraries' program which provides the opportunity to pay tribute, memorialize, or celebrate individuals, organizations, or events by placing a personalize bookplate in a book. For more information or additional payment options please contact the Libraries Administration Office at (702)895-2286 or librariesdevelopmentoffice@unlv.edu. The following were honored between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008.

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Mr. & Mrs. Mehrdad Asadifar
Mr. & Mrs. Brent '91 Bell
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The University Libraries wish to thank the following individuals, corporations and foundations for their generous support from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. Every gift is important and valued. It is our wish to recognize all donors correctly.

Please notify the UNLV Foundation of any discrepancies by calling 702-895-3641.

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Lisa Arth and John Pisano

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*Leora Baron-Nixon**

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Susan '67, '73 and Richard Brand

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Canadian Film Centre

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Kristene '05 and Roger Fisher



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Roger Thomas

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Elaine Wynn

Carol and Jeffrey Zucker

** Deceased*



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WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARIES

FACULTY AND STAFF CAN REGISTER LIBRARY ACCOUNTS ONLINE

Faculty and staff can set up library accounts from their offices or homes by visiting www.library.unlv.edu/circ/newfaculty_registration.html. Library staff will verify employment and create the account, usually within 24 hours. Accounts can also be set up by visiting Lied Library or any branch library. Before beginning the registration process, either online or in person, patrons must activate their RebelCard ID with RebelCard Services.

GUIDE TO THE LIBRARIES MORE ECO-FRIENDLY

The newly designed 2008 Guide to the Libraries features an easy-to-use, eco-friendly format. We scaled it down to save paper, printing special sections — such as the Lied Library floor plans — separately, so that patrons can take only the sections they need. The guide is designed to be used for two to three years, saving printing costs. Individual subject sections will be reprinted more frequently at a cost savings. The guide is also available online at <http://www.library.unlv.edu/about/>.

ACCESS AND DELIVERY SERVICES OFFERS ONE-STOP SHOPPING

The Libraries Circulation Department recently merged with Document Delivery Services, creating the new Access and Delivery Services (ADS) Department, which includes the LASR (Lied Automated Storage and Retrieval) System as well as the Reserves and Stacks units. The Lied Library Circulation Desk is now the convenient single point of contact for all the services provided.