Park Library brings people together for discourse and learning

Since opening in 2002, Charles V. Park Library has become an academic, social, and cultural center – a place where Central Michigan University students, faculty, staff, and the larger community gather in an attractive and inspiring environment to share new ideas and perspectives.

“No matter what the event, no matter who the user, the library shows our dedication to academics, and this makes students realize they have made the right choice,” said Anne Marie Casey, associate dean of libraries.

Orientation draws new students to CMU’s hub of learning

Park Library staff members help organize and run two important first-experience events for CMU’s next generation of students – the Centralis Scholarship Competition and CMU and You Day events held each fall. As hosts for freshman orientation every summer, Park Library staff members also support class registration and placement test-taking through a dedicated printing system for 300 students per session over a four-week period.

“Years ago we used Finch Fieldhouse, the University Center, or dining rooms,” said Michelle Howard, director of academic advising and assistance. “At Park Library we have been able to be electronically linked to the academic center, and it’s worked out effectively for us. It’s also a chance for students to see that the library is a marvelous environment.”

“We give users incredibly good service because we’re willing to go the extra mile to accommodate a group’s special needs.”

– Anne Marie Casey
Associate Dean of Libraries
Dean’s Column

CMU Library Services: Tradition and Technology

A recent article in The Chronicle of Higher Education (July 1, 2005) called attention to the complete removal of books and journals from the undergraduate library at the University of Texas, with the space filled by hundreds of new computers for student use. This and similar developments elsewhere understandably stir the spirits of many who wonder and worry about the future of books, reading, and libraries in higher education. I get comments and questions frequently.

The digital transformation of academic libraries is exciting, if challenging, and provides great opportunities for academic librarians and staff to do a better job of what they always have considered their first priority: supporting student learning and faculty research by offering organized access to scholarly information.

At CMU we’re fortunate that Park Library has the physical and technological capacity, assuming adequate funding, to house the best of both traditional and virtual library services. Students in Mount Pleasant can browse among hundreds of thousands of printed books and also use the latest computers to access our expanding collection of digital databases and journals. Students in the university’s far-flung off-campus programs – from New York to Hawaii and from Calgary in Canada to Guadalajara in Mexico – can request printed books to be mailed to them and have immediate access to our digital resources as well. Reference librarians are only a few steps, several keystrokes, or a phone call away for all of our students and faculty.

The use of our electronic library materials is flourishing. They can be used 24 hours a day, every day, and from anywhere. Last year our 46 FirstSearch databases alone, which include full-text articles, were searched 15 million times; in just one month – November 2004 – they were searched about 2.24 million times at an average rate of 70,000 per day! For the year, our marvelous JSTOR retrospective collection of 700 scholarly journals was used 268,075 times; The Journal of American History 7,304 times.

Today at Park Library we directly subscribe to about 3,100 printed journal titles and 2,160 full-text electronic journals, some of which overlap in paper. We provide access to, through various package subscriptions and licenses, a total of 15,848 full-text e-journals. We also offer thousands of e-books.

These growing digital holdings are an expression of our commitment to collect the best available scholarly literature to support CMU programs in whatever form will have the greatest accessibility and value for our university clientele. Obviously, we also make the complementary commitment to assist students and faculty in using all our resources, print and electronic.

The impressive digital collections and their use are, of course, only one aspect of the technological character of library services at CMU. Just about everything we do at Park Library is supported by online systems, from the electronic reserves (see the article in this Reference Point issue) to the document delivery processes of Off-Campus Library Services. While these various systems have introduced many complexities to our operations and require ongoing development of our dedicated staff, they’ve combined well to make Park Library a good model of an academic library grounded in “print” culture and values yet ambitiously extending and recreating its services through technology.

The articles in this Reference Point issue will tell you about what else we’re up to at Park Library and display selected reasons for our pride in serving the CMU community. I hope you’ll peruse it with pleasure. Be sure to let us know if you have comments or questions.

Tom Moore
Dean of Libraries
Michigan has a major role in nation’s oil and natural gas history

Clarke Library exhibit reveals important, little-known history

Clarke Historical Library’s latest exhibition takes a look back at the impact oil and natural gas have had on Michigan’s history.

The History of Michigan’s Oil and Natural Gas Industry exhibit includes a printed catalog that tells the story of oil and natural gas exploration in Michigan; artifacts related to oil and gas such as history books, Michigan core samples, and an old rotary bit; a large number of documents and photographs that illustrate the history and people who worked in the industry; and a few fun items such as baseball caps carrying the logo of oil firms active in Michigan and board games based on the oil industry.

Local experts lend knowledge, resources, and time

Jack R. Westbrook, retired editor of Michigan Oil & Gas News (MOGN) magazine, played a critical role in putting the exhibition together.

“The highlight of the show is the end product of 6,000 oil and gas photos of Michigan that I’ve been identifying, basically creating a database or pictorial history of oil and gas production in Michigan since 1925,” Westbrook said.

William J. Strickler, oil exploration manager and founder of Michiwest Energy Inc., and longtime member of the Clarke Library’s Board of Governors, also offered advice about the exhibit. He found that the biggest challenge was to provide a unique perspective on a unique industry.

“It’s an industry that has been composed of some of the most courageous entrepreneurs Michigan has ever known. They were constantly taking risks to drill. Maybe they’d get their investment back, maybe they wouldn’t, but they never stepped away from a challenge,” Strickler said.

Oil discovery eased impact of the Great Depression for Mount Pleasant area

Mount Pleasant is an appropriate location for the oil and gas exhibit. During the entire history of Michigan oil and gas, Mount Pleasant remained an important base – and its unofficial capital – after the 1928 discovery of the large field near the Isabella-Midland county line. This discovery is credited with shielding the community from most of the economic hardships of the Great Depression, which began in 1929 and lasted more than a decade.

“The oil and natural gas industry in Michigan has been and remains an important source of income for the state’s residents,” said Frank Boles, Clarke Historical Library director. “The industry’s history is a fascinating story of great successes and significant failures. It is a story about people who routinely pour a million dollars down a hole in the ground in the hope that something marketable will be found. In the end it is a story we are proud to help tell and that we think people will benefit from hearing.”

Environmental issues led to establishment of trust fund

In addition to history, the exhibit addresses environmental issues, particularly the bitter controversy surrounding drilling in the Pigeon River area during the 1970s. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund sprang out of that controversy. The first of its kind in the nation, the fund uses the proceeds from oil and gas leasing and production on state-owned mineral properties to acquire and improve public recreation projects such as parks, rail-trails, boat launches, and other recreational venues.

The idea for the fund came about through talks held between the Michigan Oil and Gas Association, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, and the state. It represented a creative and innovative way to balance the desire for economic growth with the need to preserve the environment.
Art work reflects local and international

Distinctive themes distinguished exhibits

Park Library’s Baber Room and new third floor exhibit area will feature four distinctive art exhibits over the next several months – with themes ranging from the effects of war on everyday life to the whimsy of an internationally recognized illustrator.

Photographs By Iraqi Civilians, 2004

Third floor exhibit area

Through October 7

Last year an American arts foundation gave ten Iraqi citizens disposable cameras and asked them to photograph the world around them as a way to communicate their lives to the American public. The outcome is a collection of photographs that will surprise, disturb, and at times charm American audiences. Consisting of 30 color prints, the exhibit includes images of grave diggers carrying their shovels to a burial site in Falluja, a group of men hanging out in a barbershop in Baghdad, a man selling tea at a local car wash, and a little boy with a spinal deformity.

“People are in for a surprise. My work is quite modern, and I hope Mount Pleasant is ready for some abstract work,” Rao said.

A native of India, Rao earned a degree equivalent to a bachelor’s in commercial art and design from Nirmala Niketan Polytechnic Institute in Bombay, India, and a B.A. in art and graphic design from CMU.

Throughout her career, Monica has been involved in the arts as an illustrator, event manager, and graphic designer. In 1992 she earned the Silk Screen Printing Award for Drawing and Design from Sophia Polytechnic, and in 1995, the First Place Gold Medal in Art Competition from the J. J. School of Art in Bombay, India.

Rao has served as CMU’s outreach liaison for the past five years and also has played an important role in developing the Michigan Story Festival, recruiting students to CMU, and with the Women’s Connection, a program designed to engage CMU alumnae.

“My work gives me great pleasure, but art is meant to be shared,” Rao said.
Peggy Brisbane’s
*Hands On: Finger Play*

Third floor exhibit area
October 9 through December 2

Peggy Brisbane’s show, *Hands On: Finger Play*, will feature 40 photographs taken during her career as a photographer for CMU’s Public Relations and Marketing Department. Each portrait focuses primarily on her subject’s hands to capture a fleeting but evocative moment in their lives.

Brisbane’s *Hands* exhibit illustrates a wide range of campus activities, from biology students learning about snakes to Clarke Historical Library Director Frank Boles holding the bronze cast of Abraham Lincoln’s hand. The exhibit features athletes, CMU faculty, Native Americans, musicians, and distinguished visitors to the campus such as the host of *A Prairie Home Companion*, Garrison Keillor, and U.S. Senator Carl Levin.

“Hands are as expressive as the face,” Brisbane said. “I believe our hands are most closely tied to our abilities and efforts — our work. The photographs I like most are those that convey that moment of teaching, like the photo of the teacher handing a goldthread plant to a student. The challenge for me has been to tell the story in the simplest way.”

 Appropriately, the exhibit ties in with the Michigan Story Festival, which runs October 21 and 22.

“It strikes me that Peggy is really on to something here,” Jones said. “Hands are conduits for communication, and a lot can be said through them. In addition to being artistic, her photographs will serve as historical documents for the university.”

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Discovering the World
with Peter Sís

Baber Room
October 18 through December 16
(rotating with second show beginning November 13)

This exhibit will feature the work of internationally acclaimed illustrator, filmmaker, painter, and author Peter Sís.

Born in Czechoslovakia and a United States citizen since 1989, Sís has been published in 27 countries and won numerous awards. The show consists of 76 illustrations from books such as *Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus*, 1991, *An Ocean World*, 1992, and *Madlenka*, 2000. There also will be 18 hardback books accompanying the exhibit.

“Peter Sís is brilliant,” said associate professor of English Susan Stan. “He’s an intellectual artist with a unique signature style, but he’s also very versatile. His illustrations are filled with symbolism and merit revisiting again and again.”

On loan from the National Center for Children’s Literature, this exhibit will run in conjunction with the Michigan Story Festival.
Leading book collecting authority delights Friends of the Libraries

Before doing anything else on arriving in a new town, Nicholas Basbanes tracks down its library and second-hand bookstores.

“Then maybe I’ll find a place to eat,” Basbanes told an audience of more than 60 people at the third annual Friends of the Libraries luncheon in June. Basbanes went on to recall a number of amusing, often fascinating stories about the “gently mad” — those who share his passion for books and book collecting.

“People who are obsessed or eccentric often collect what others consider trash. But that is what is most impressive about collectors. They find and save these scarce, rare, and illuminating things, gather them together, and create unique collections that preserve our history and our culture. We would not have great collections without great collectors,” Basbanes said.

Nicholas Basbanes is a leading authority on books about books and bibliophile culture. He worked as an award-winning investigative reporter, literary editor, and syndicated columnist before writing his first book, *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books*. It became a nonfiction finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1995 and also was named a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year.

Audience fascinated by eccentric world of book collectors

The highlight of Basbanes’ lecture featured the story of Steven Blumberg, a book thief from Ottumwa, Iowa, who stole and sold 25,000 rare books over a 25-year period before being turned in to the police by a friend. In what Basbanes believes is the most egregious example of what he called “criminal bibliomania” ever to be recorded, Blumberg went on to plead not guilty by reason of insanity.

Basbanes also related his efforts to track down the leading collector of African American literature, Charles Blockson, who began collecting books about black history at the age of ten and went on to donate 80,000 books, pamphlets, and dossiers to Temple University in 1983. Basbanes’ own book-discoveries include a box of rare 19th century *Dial* magazines discovered under a flea market table and a first edition of Emily Dickinson’s poems, which he bought for $10.

“I am dazzled by Park Library. You see the reverence for books here, and with its seamless blending of print and electronic collections, it is a tribute to the book and the future of the book.”


“Tactility is everything to me, to pick up and to touch,” Basbanes said. “It is sometimes said that you have become a collector the day you buy a book you know you will never read. I own about 10,000 books. My house is a jungle with warrens of books everywhere, on a bewildering variety of subjects.”

Books written by Nicholas Basbanes

- *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books*
- *Patience and Fortitude: A Roving Chronicle of Book People, Book Places, and Book Culture*
- *Among the Gently Mad: Perspectives and Strategies for the Book-Hunter of the 21st Century*
- *A Splendor of Letters: The Permanence of Books in an Impermanent World*

Nick Basbanes is a gifted writer and speaker, with a special talent for telling great stories about the age-old fact that books and libraries are important to people,” said dean of libraries Tom Moore. “It was great to have him with us.”
Clarke Historical Library board member shares passion for learning and libraries

Sandra B. Croll’s eclectic interests first brought her to the Clarke Historical Library, but her passion for the place and the past it maintains has since made her one of its biggest supporters.

“I’ve always asked questions, and I’ve always wanted to know the answers. If you don’t know, look it up. Find a reference book or go to the library,” Croll said. “If I don’t learn something new every day, my life is not complete. I feel you need to look to the past to figure out where the future is going. And that’s where the Clarke Historical Library comes in.”

Croll joined the Clarke board in 2003 after her husband, Central Michigan University management and law professor Robert Croll, stepped down. She has felt a strong connection to the Clarke ever since. During the exhibition of the Ernest Hemingway Collection, she was able to read an original typed letter Hemingway had addressed to people she knew.

“Over the course of many years, Sandra Croll has been a generous and thoughtful patron of the Clarke Library,” said Frank Boles, director of the Clarke Historical Library. “Sandy is always a delight to work with. She has a deep appreciation for the importance of history and a deep commitment to the Clarke, for which I am most grateful.”

A life of giving continues with energetic support for libraries

After earning her B.S. in history and political science from Hope College, Croll first arrived in Mount Pleasant in 1970 with her husband, who retired from CMU in 1997. Her community volunteer activities have included working with the Red Cross, teaching swimming to the handicapped, and serving as president of the YMCA, garden club member, and art docent – to name a few.

Croll also is a big supporter of Park Library as a whole, attending as many functions and openings as she can in order to share her enthusiasm with others.

“I went to see Nick Basbanes speak to the Friends of the Libraries. When he talked about opening a book – touching, feeling, and smelling it – he expressed in words how I feel about books,” Croll said. “It’s important to promote the libraries to young people; libraries are the pillars of education, but they don’t come free. I want to make people aware of Park Library and the Clarke Historical Library as much as I can.”
Many people may know that they can access such international newspapers as *Beijing Ri Bao* (in Chinese), *Die Zeit* (in German), and *Ekonomika i Zhizn’* (in Russian) through Park Library services. But what many may not be aware of is the library’s various other connections to the international community.

The following represent just some of the ways Park Library serves Central Michigan University, the mid-Michigan area, and the rest of the world by bringing together cultures and ideas in an exceptional sharing and learning environment.

**Children’s book collection nominations enhance holdings**

Clarke Historical Library staff members have amassed an invaluable collection of international children’s books based on nominations for the Hans Christian Andersen Award, which is sponsored by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).

IBBY, a nonprofit organization of people from all over the world, promotes international unity through children’s books, access to quality books for children everywhere, and the support of writers, artists, publishers, and scholars in the field of children’s literature.

IBBY accepts nominations every two years from its national sections representing 50 to 60 countries. The Clarke collection was purchased from IBBY jurors for the years 1998, 2000, 2002, and 2004 – with a commitment to continue acquisitions.

Associate professor of English Susan Stan, who currently serves as president of USBBY, the American national section of IBBY, takes students from her course on international literature for children and young adults to view the collection.

“They can see and feel how different many of these books are — from the unusual illustration style to the paper and the bookmaking — it’s like nothing they’ve ever seen before,” Stan said. “They are quite taken by the books. We’re one of very few U.S. institutions to have such a collection.”
French information literacy expert visits CMU’s Park Library

Sylvie Chevillotte — chief librarian, researcher, and library and information science teacher at the French National Library and Information Science School — recently paid a visit to Park Library.

“Chevillotte is a well-known international expert on information literacy, and she chose to visit us to see what we’re doing, primarily to see how we’re incorporating information literacy into our curriculum,” said Michael Lorenzen, head of reference services.

A Fulbright scholar, Chevillotte has assumed the shared responsibility of the innovative project FORMIST, which aims to develop information literacy in French universities. She also has organized an annual symposium on information literacy with international speakers.

Chevillotte spent one day at Park Library, talking and exchanging ideas with reference and instruction librarians.

“It’s always great working with these students because it’s an unusual program for their country,” said reference librarian Connie Hildebrand. “The compressed format makes it possible for them to work and go to school at the same time.”

Hildebrand visits one class for each cohort to teach students how to conduct database research and how to contact CMU librarians for document delivery and reference services.

“In Mexico most of the students are sponsored by large companies, and they all speak English. The Canadians like our programs because most universities in Canada do not have night or weekend classes,” Hildebrand said.

OCLS: International meeting to be held in Georgia

Off-Campus Library Services will hold its 12th international conference April 26 through 28 in Savannah, Georgia, drawing librarians from as far away as Australia, India, the West Indies, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

“The primary objective of the conference is to provide a forum where practitioners and administrators of library off-campus programs can exchange relevant ideas and concerns and share research in this field,” said conference coordinator Connie Hildebrand.

The conference, which is coordinated, marketed, and administered by the CMU OCLS librarians, attracts academic, corporate, medical, and military librarians from across the United States and the world. This year it will feature 35 papers, three workshops, and seven poster sessions. Keynote speaker Marshall Keyes has been the executive director of NELINET, the largest library organization in New England.

“He encourages librarians to think strategically by serving as a facilitator in their planning processes and by demonstrating and teaching the art of environmental scanning,” Hildebrand said.
Library users: Students thrive on library’s community atmosphere and resources

Regina Mitchell: ‘The online databases have been tremendously helpful’

Regina Mitchell has found Park Library’s online services are invaluable in her busy life as mother of two daughters and director of distance education at Mid Michigan Community College.

“Park Library’s online services have cut down on the hours I’d have to spend digging through stacks to find what I need,” Mitchell said. “The online databases have been tremendously helpful. I’ve been able to save time and spend more time at home without having to drag my daughters all over the place.”

A native of Texas, Mitchell has been involved with Central Michigan University in one capacity or another since 1999. She worked as the technical coordinator for the Registrar’s Office for three years. She also worked at the Faculty Center for Innovative Teaching as coordinator of off-campus programs. In 2001, she received her B.S. in information technology and in 2004, her M.A. in educational administration. Currently, she is pursuing her doctorate in educational leadership.

Park Library’s online services have eased the growing demands on Mitchell’s time. From the convenience of her home she has been able to spend several hours a week making interlibrary loan requests and accessing educational leadership material using FirstSearch databases and online dissertations. If she can’t find something, she picks up the phone and gets immediate help from a reference librarian.

“I’ve always had great service at Park Library and wonderful help from everyone,” Mitchell said.

Jeremy Bigelow: ‘This is really my place, my niche’

Senior psychology major Jeremy Bigelow likes to sit at the top of the stairs of Park Library’s fourth floor. From here he can relax, study, watch people, and take breaks to talk with library staff and friends.

“You could say this spot in the library has become my home away from home,” Bigelow said. “As a freshman I used to try to study at home, but there were too many distractions. Here, I can really focus on my studies.”

Bigelow, who lives with his parents in Breckenridge, commutes to Central Michigan University every day. Park Library has not only served as a quiet, peaceful place to work but as a cultural center that in many ways has shaped Bigelow as a student and a person.

Bigelow admits that in high school he wasn’t a good student, but now he’s making plans to pursue a Master’s in Human Development. He gives some credit for his 3.46 GPA to Park Library because it has provided him with the perfect setting to remain sharp and productive.

“The library also has given me a chance to talk to a diverse group of people,” Bigelow said. “It’s opened my eyes to the way the world is and helped me gain different perspectives. I’ve learned that it’s okay if people are different from me.”

Bigelow enjoys watching the impressed reactions of new visitors to the library. He himself has become such a fixture — sometimes spending up to nine hours a day in his favorite chair — he’s been dubbed “library boy” by fellow students.

“I’ve made a lot of friends. I’ve helped people find books and negotiate the stacks. I’ve even had people sit down and share their problems with me, and I’ve done what I can to help them, which has helped me grow as a person,” Bigelow said. “I’ve gotten to know the staff on a personal level, and after graduation I will continue to come up here to read, because for me this is a community library.”

(Above) Regina Mitchell is an avid online library user. She values the amount of quality research Park Library’s many databases have provided.
Senior Jeremy Bigelow credits Park Library’s congenial environment for his success.
Each year the library and academic staff members discuss the orientation process and look for ways to make it an even more successful event for next year’s batch of new students. “They say it’s made a real difference,” Casey said. “In fact there’s been an upswing in freshman using print accounts.

Beautiful, high-tech rooms create a growing demand among users

Last year Park Library hosted more than 460 meetings and events. More than 30,000 people came through its doors to attend scheduled events in the Baber and Strosacker rooms, auditorium, corridor, or to attend sessions reserved in the various study rooms.

“We’ve gotten to be so popular as a meeting place that, unfortunately, we’ve had to turn people away,” said facilities specialist Seamus McFadden.

Recently, Park Library hosted the Business Insight Forum, the International Film Festival, the Faculty Excellence Exhibition, Centralis Competition, the Michigan College and University Personnel Association, and the annual Michigan Library Association Academic Library Day, to name a few. As it has done the past two years, it also will host a number of events related to this year’s Michigan Story Festival October 21 and 22.

The Baber Room

The beautiful Baber Room features artwork from local, national, and international artists, comfortable leather chairs, and an adjoining kitchen that can accommodate meetings and receptions.

Past art exhibits have included:
- Hmong Story Cloths
- Folk Woodblock Prints from Brazil’s Northeast
- C. Sandy Lopez-Isnardi: Digital media
- Katherine Ux: Fibers art collection

Auditorium

Park Library Auditorium is a state-of-the-art, fully mediated special event room that seats up to 140 people. It offers an LCD projector and screen and four coinciding plasma screens. This space is ideal for guest speakers, presentations, and workshops. The auditorium also has been used for concerts, poetry readings, and film festivals. Most notably, it hosted Governor Jennifer Granholm.

“Governor Granholm speaking here was a last-minute event,” McFadden said. “She was driving up and decided to stop. The word got out quickly, and the auditorium was packed.”

Other events have included:
- Walt Disney World Presentations
- International Film Festival
- Ann Arbor Film Festival
- Leadership Scholarship Competition
- STARS Program
- Northwoods Improviser Concert
- Friends of the Libraries Annual Speaker

Strosacker Room

The Strosacker Room offers a formal setting for up to 40 people. It contains 10 wooden tables, an adjoining kitchen, leather chairs, and a drop-down screen and video projector. It’s the perfect place for PowerPoint presentations.

Individual study rooms

Forty-one individual study rooms are officially assigned once a year for use by faculty, staff, emeritus, and graduate students. Each room is furnished with a desk, chair, and bookshelf.

“These rooms are in such high demand that there is a time limit in place to give as many patrons as possible the opportunity to use one,” McFadden said.

Group study rooms

Twenty of these rooms are available to anyone with a University ID card. Each can accommodate from six to 12 or more people. During the hours from 6 to 11 p.m. there is typically a waiting list to use the rooms.

Main corridor

Recently, unique presentations like the Faculty Excellence Exhibition have appeared in Park Library’s main corridor and auditorium.

“The energy is good here, and it was a nice event to have faculty available to discuss and show off their work,” McFadden said.

Other events have included:
- CMU & YOU Day
- Finals Focus
- Diversity Open House

Governor Jennifer Granholm came to Park Library’s auditorium for a visit with the CMU community. Many of the library’s meeting places have become popular for their appeal and convenience.
By filling out a simple form, Central Michigan University faculty members can give their students access to supplemental class readings from books, periodicals, and class notes that would otherwise take time to find.

"The purpose of the reserve system is to provide controlled access to assigned readings in support of classroom instruction," said Marsha Simpson, Access Services Reserve supervisor.

Each semester Reserve Services staff members locate and process course work materials, which students can check out from the Course Reserve Desk – located in the Mary Dow Reading Room. Check-out periods range from two hours to as long as one week.

Faculty also can make readings available to students through the Electronic Reserves, which provides faculty members the convenience of scanning lecture notes, study questions, and old tests. These items are saved in PDF format and placed on Blackboard, an online course management system.

"Placing material on Electronic Reserves saves on wear and tear of material," Simpson said. "It is convenient for both faculty and students because they can access those materials 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Patty Janes, associate professor of recreation, parks, and leisure services administration, uses Reserve Services every semester.

"I use it to support and enrich a student’s educational experiences and to achieve educational outcomes," Janes said. "The ability the reserve desk now has for putting reserve materials on Blackboard has been such a wonderful addition to support the educational process. The convenience of students accessing critical course materials from their Blackboard account has not only saved time but also improved performance. •