



GENERAL LIBRARIES Library Bulletin

November 15, 2002 (Vol. I, No. 10)

New Series

The University of Texas at Austin

STAFF HONORS AWARDS



NOEMI CHENU

Library Assistant I
Benson Serials Cataloging
Long-Term Contributions
June 2002

Noemi Chenu is recognized for her contributions and her excellent work, "whether the task she has been assigned is complex and interesting or tedious, but necessary. Noemi must search, edit, and input data into no less than five complex international, national and local databases. Her job involves a plethora of detail; she sees the relationships of the systems and understands the significance of the details. As a result, Noemi is able to predict and resolve complex data problems and produce outstanding work. Noemi eagerly takes on new assignments and excels. Noemi is a "library commando" and can be counted on for significant contributions.

MARGARITA ALEJO

Library Assistant II
Benson Collection
Monthly Achievement
July 2002

Margarita Alejo is recognized for her "recent success in using electronic communications to reduce costs and staff time in distributing lists of publications offered in the Latin American exchange program." Through extraordinary effort Margarita verified that over one-third of the 800 institutions in the program are able to and now respond to email lists. Several six-page exchange lists are compiled each year; significant savings in time, paper, and mailing costs have been accomplished by the use of electronic lists.

Director of General Libraries, Harold Billings, announces retirement after completing 49 years of service to The University

AUSTIN, Texas - Harold Billings, director of general libraries at The University of Texas at Austin, has announced his retirement, effective next August 31.

Billings was appointed acting director of general libraries in April 1977, and was named director the following year. He has led the university's library system since then.

During his tenure as director, The University of Texas at Austin library collections have grown from four million to more than eight million volumes (from ninth-to fifth-largest academic library in the nation). An interactive circulation system established in 1980 was the basis for the creation of an online catalog, with its subsequent development as the digital UT Library Online (UTLOL) in 1994.

Visited daily by users from more than 100 countries, UTLOL now offers access to more than 200 full-text databases covering all subject areas, 5,000 digitized maps, 6,700 full-text electronic journals, including access to more than 100 million articles that are not on the public Internet. It also offers 47,000 electronic books, hundreds of online newspapers, government information, information on more than 40 million books and their locations around the globe, plus an online catalog providing bibliographic information on the holdings of the university's libraries.

Extensive attention has been paid to improving services for students, faculty and staff during Billings' tenure, including:

- Establishment of interactive suggestion boxes.
- Assignment of a staff ombudsman.
- Creation of a staff-sharing program that provides opportunities for staff growth by temporary assignment to different responsibilities in other work areas.
- Establishment of research work assignments that provide release time to enable professional staff to complete special projects of personal interest and benefit to the university.
- Creation of the Staff Honors Endowment, established in 1993, to recognize staff accomplishments and adds books to the library under the honoree's name.
- Establishment of a mentor program for students in the Graduate School of Library Science (GSLIS).

"Of all the accomplishments of the past 25 years," Billings said, "I am most pleased with the development of a superb staff, many now recognized nationally for their expertise, who deserve the credit for major, continuing improvements in library operations, programs and services."

Under his leadership, General Libraries staff have been instrumental in the creation and management of the UT System Digital Library,

making world-class university collections and information services available to the 15-member University of Texas System community. Billings played a major role in the establishment of the TexShare statewide resource-sharing program, which would not have survived its second year of existence had the General Libraries not volunteered to manage it. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board credited the initial success of the program to The University of Texas at Austin's efforts.

During his earlier years at the university, Billings helped Dr. Harry Ransom and his staff in the acquisition processes that built the Humanities Research Center (HRC) collections. At Ransom's request, Billings began the initial processing of some 600,000 vol-

umes of HRC collections stored at the Balcones Research Center (now the Pickle Research Campus) by producing photocopies of title pages and numbered bookmarks as proto-finding aids for titles in the collections. He was respon-

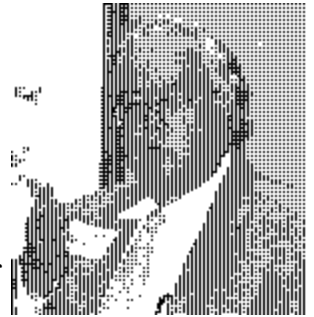
sible for a summer project in 1972 that reduced the university's estimated 1.2 million cataloging backlog by more than 300,000 volumes.

Billings established the library's Asian and Middle East Collections in the late 1960s, and worked with students and faculty to create in 1974 the Mexican American Library Program, now one of the nation's major Hispanic and Latino research and cultural collections and service centers.

Billings began his career at the university in September 1954 as a library assistant in the University Library Catalog Department. He had enrolled in the university's Graduate School of Library Science the previous summer.

After receiving his master's degree in library science in 1957, Billings was appointed to the position of librarian III, working as assistant head of cataloging. During 1965-67 he was chief acquisitions librarian. He was promoted to assistant university librarian for technical services in 1967. From 1972-1977 he was associate director of general libraries, with responsibilities in general administration, collection development and technical services.

Billings earned an associate of arts degree from Edinburg Junior College and a bachelor's degree in physics with highest honors from Pan (Please see **Billings** on other side)



General Libraries and School of Information hold Fall 2002 Mentor Program orientation

General Libraries mentors and five School of Information students participating in the Mentor Program for the Fall 2002 semester met for an orientation meeting and lunch Wednesday, September 25, 2002. Peggy Mueller, Staff Development Officer; Ron Pollock, Director of Career Services; and Shiela Winchester, Reference Librarian and Classics Archaeology, Philosophy, and Religion Bibliographer, Reference & Information Services Department (RISD); serve as the Steering Committee for the program. Box lunches were provided by Harold Billings, Director of General Libraries.

Included in the Mentor Program for this semester are: Yun Jeong Choi with Jenifer O. Flaxbart, Communication Bibliographer and Off-Campus Library Services Coordinator, RISD; Jillian M. Parsons with Peggy Mueller; Nicolette A. Schneider with Marcia M. Parsons, Head Librarian and Bibliographer for Theatre and Dance, Fine Arts Library; Carla Darocy Hultberg with Lindsey E. Schell, Bibliographer for English Literature, Women's and Gender Studies, and Youth Collection, Collections and Information Resources Division; and Ron Drees with Craig Schroer, Electronic Information Services and Reference Librarian, Benson Latin American Collection.

One hundred twenty-seven students have worked with General Libraries mentors since the program began in 1986. The Mentor Program

fosters relationships among graduate students and professional librarians in this formal and collaborative program of the General Libraries and the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin.

With thanks to the matched students and mentors and to our reserve of "not-yet-matched" mentor volunteers, we look forward to a good semester in the Mentor Program.

—Peggy Mueller

Staff retirement news

Margaret Flores retired August 31, 2002. Margaret was Circulation Supervisor and Library Assistant III, Public Affairs Library. Margaret's career at UT included over 30 years of service, which began in 1972 at the new Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs Dean's Office. In 1978 Margaret joined the staff of the Public Affairs Library where she worked for 24 years. Margaret received the University of Texas Excellence Award in 1981 and the Staff Honors Long-Term Contributions Award in December 1996.

Jo Soto, Library Assistant III, Fine Arts Library, retired August 31, 2002 with over 28 years of employment at the University of Texas. Most recently Jo worked on complex cataloging and serials projects for the Historical Music Recordings Collection and for the Geology Library. Jo was employed in the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center Cataloging Department from 1974 to 1988.

Library Bulletin staff

Jimm Harper, *editor/production*
Teresita Lozano, *proofreader*

Articles for the Library Bulletin should be submitted to Jimm Harper by e-mail or e-mail attachment at the following address:

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The Library Bulletin is now available on the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/about/news/bulletin/index.html>

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THE GENERAL LIBRARIES
Perry-Castañeda Library
P.O. Box P
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78713-8916

Billings (continued from other side)

American College (now UT Pan American) receiving in 1953 the first four-year degree awarded by that institution. He taught physics, chemistry and English in the Pharr-San Juan Alamo High School during 1953-54, before entering graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin.

He has been on numerous boards and advisory groups and was the founding chairman of the Research Libraries Advisory Committee to Online Computer Library Center Inc. (OCLC). OCLC is an innovative library computer services and research organization that serves more than 41,000 libraries in 82 countries and territories around the world.

Billings is the author or editor of works dealing with contemporary literature and bibliography, as well as articles about library cooperation and the electronic information revolution. His most recent publication is "Magic and Hypersystems: Constructing the Information-Sharing Library" (Chicago: American Library Association, 2002). The University of Texas at Austin GSLIS established "The Harold Billings Fellowship for the Study of Library and Information Science" in his honor in 2000. He received the 2002 Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award from the American Library Association, named in honor of one of the pioneers of library automation. The award "recognizes outstanding achievements (including risk-taking) by academic librarians who have contributed significantly to improvements in the areas of library automation, library management and/or library development and research."

A search committee, chaired by Dean of Liberal Arts Richard W. Lariviere, has begun a search for Billings' successor.

A chapter from Harold Billings' book, "Magic and Hypersystems," is available for reading at http://www.alastore.ala.org/SiteSolution.taf?_sn=catalog2&_pn=product_detail&_op=1116.

—News release,
UT Austin Office of Public Affairs

news

Cindy Lennartson, Undergraduate Library-Collection Development, began a staff sharing assignment in the Reference and Information Services unit of the Undergraduate Library, with Damon Jaggars as supervisor. **Alisha Little**, Collections and Information Resources Division, is staff sharing with Jim Holmes in Serials Cataloging. **Helen E. Jensen**, Periodicals and Microforms Unit, continues her staff sharing assignment in Preservation Services with Victoria Naipavel-Heiduschke. **Hugh Baxter**, Public Affairs Library (formerly Circulation Services), recently completed a three-month staff sharing assignment in Serials Acquisitions with Kim Popma as supervisor.

Volunteer news

Ngoc-Tram Le is a new volunteer with Victoria Paschich in Catalog Maintenance, Cataloging Department. **Andrea K. Shearer** is also a new volunteer in the Benson Latin American Collection and works with Adán Benavides. **Molly Wheeler** continues volunteering with Beth Dodd in the Alexander Architectural Archive, Architecture and Planning Library. **Lea Leininger** recently completed a volunteer assignment with Victoria Paschich in Catalog Maintenance, Cataloging Department.

For information concerning staff sharing or volunteer opportunities, contact Peggy Mueller, staff development officer, pmueller@mail.utexas.edu.

Charlotte Gunn, who retired from the General Libraries on March 31, 1982, died July 25, 2002, at the age of eighty-two. Mrs. Gunn was Library Assistant III and the head of the Catalog Maintenance Unit, Cataloging Department, and had worked for the General Libraries for twelve years before her retirement. Mrs. Gunn received the University of Texas Excellence Award in 1982.