This past year has been a celebration of new responsibilities (UTOPIA), a new name and a new look for our libraries, as well as the celebration of a major milestone — the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Mexican American Library Program www.lib.utexas.edu/benson/mals/mals.html.

Building on the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection’s archival records and books of Spanish exploration and settlement of the U.S. Southwest, the Mexican American Library Program’s (MALP) collection and services were designed to meet the changing Latino demographics of the United States. Research materials focusing on Mexican American and U.S. Latino culture and history now number 30,000 volumes, hundreds of newspaper and journal titles, 3,000 microfilm reels on various subjects, thousands of audio-visual materials and over 100 archival collections.

To mark the anniversary celebration in fall 2004, Dr. David O. Nilsson, a retired special instructor in mathematics at the University of Texas at Austin, provided $25,000 in seed money for the collection’s first endowment. The David O. Nilsson Endowment for Mexican American and U.S. Latino Research Materials will provide funds for staff and archival expenses within the collection.

For more information contact Pamela Mann, Mexican American and Latino Studies Librarian, at 512 495-4520 or blac@lib.utexas.edu.

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Quicknotes

Support
In addition to the Nilsson Endowment the Libraries established in FY 2003/2004, the Cheng Wu Taiwan Studies Endowment funded by the Chin-Cheng Wu Foundation for Peace and Humanity of Carlisle, Massachusetts; and the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation Judaica Book Fund, established by the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation of New York.

News
In November 2004, the Libraries and the College of Liberal Arts co-sponsored a public symposium on “Publishing and the Academy: Current Issues.” Speakers included University of Texas at Austin faculty and library staff, the directors of the Texas A & M University Press and the University of Texas Press, and representatives from Oxford University Press.

For more information see: www.utexas.edu/cola/college_events/current/publishing/

Event
The Libraries held its first annual faculty seminar in August 2004 featuring sessions on library services supporting teaching and research. Sessions covered such topics as: “Personalized Research Alerting Services” and “Getting Started with Electronic Reserves.” A second annual faculty seminar is scheduled for August 2005.
Last year was a time not only for renaming our Libraries, but a time for re-imagining them as well — re-imagining a future offering boundless opportunities and challenges.

The Library Summit held in spring 2004 with students, faculty and library staff provided the parameters around which to configure this re-imagining. The outcome was a set of detailed goals and strategies, most immediately and for the longer term. The Library Summit discussions also served as a confirmation of the quality of service and the extent of resources currently provided by the Libraries.

In the coming years, through collaboration and optimum use of the creative potential among our Libraries staff, we will focus on the challenges of harnessing the potential of the digital opportunities open to us.

This will not be easy.

In order to accomplish this we must become more agile in order to free up the resources we need to respond to change, both physical — through collaboration with other partners in the student learning community — and virtual — through collaboration with content providers locally, nationally and internationally, and with corporate, federal, foundation and private donors who will help make it all possible.

We approach these challenges with confidence and a sense of mission.

— Fred Heath

Fred Heath is Vice Provost and Director of the University of Texas Libraries at the University of Texas at Austin. Heath serves on the Association of Research Libraries Board of Directors, as a member of the Advisory Board of SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) and as chair of the Texas Council of State University Librarians.

Vice Provost and Director

University of Texas Libraries: new name, new look

In August 2004, the General Libraries, the administrative umbrella for thirteen libraries on campus and in Port Aransas — the Perry-Castañeda Library, Undergraduate Library, Architecture & Planning Library, Fine Arts Library, Life Science Library, Mallet Chemistry Library, Kuehne Physics Mathematics Astronomy Library, McKinney Engineering Library, Classics Library, Walter Geology Library, Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, Wasserman Public Affairs Library and the Marine Science Library — became the...
UTOPIA (utopia.utexas.edu), the new digital gateway to the University’s vast store of cultural and scientific resources, is BIG. “The goal is to push the University’s value out to all citizens in new and imaginative ways,” said UT President Larry R. Faulkner during the public launch of the site at Explore UT on March 6, 2004. Since its debut, the site has had a whopping 11.5 million hits — with more visits every month.

In summer 2004, the responsibility for UTOPIA was transferred to the University of Texas Libraries. Mark McFarland, Associate Director for Digital Library Initiatives, University of Texas Libraries, and one of the original members of the implementation team for UTOPIA, assumed overall responsibility for the daily management and growth of the Web site. The Libraries-based UTOPIA team plans to make the site even more comprehensive and essential to all the people of Texas and beyond.

Current plans for UTOPIA include the continued expansion of its resources and content to benefit a range of use by the general public. Developed in collaboration with the UT academic community, this additional content will focus on resources for K–12 educators, students and parents.

“We will provide access for every citizen... into the resources of our libraries, collections, museums, and much more. The University is a dynamo, now with the power to bring light into every home and business in Texas, and we mean to realize that potential.”

-UT President Larry R. Faulkner

UTOPIA HIGHLIGHTS THE VALUE OF THE UNIVERSITY TO ALL CITIZENS

The Libraries held its first annual Summit in March 2004 in which more than 70 invited stakeholders (president, provost, vice presidents, deans, students, faculty and library staff) participated in facilitated roundtable discussions focused on library service.

Dr. Fred Heath, Vice Provost and Director of the University of Texas Libraries, emphasized, “We want the library to become even more relevant to you in your daily lives as you learn, discover and question.”

Data gathered at the Summit were used in the Libraries strategic planning process to better allocate scarce funds and staff. Several suggestions for improved service quality have already been implemented:

▶ 24-hour schedule for the Undergraduate Library for summer sessions
▶ A “return-library-materials-anywhere” policy
▶ A “Librarian on Location” Program
▶ Quiet and collaborative study spaces for the Perry-Castañeda Library and the Undergraduate Library
▶ Redesign of the Libraries web site to provide more accessible content meeting Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility guidelines
▶ Reduction of service points with clearly defined access in the Perry-Castañeda Library and the Undergraduate Library (partially implemented; ongoing)

For more information contact Damon Jaggars, Associate Director, jaggars@austin.utexas.edu; or Jocelyn Duffy, Executive Assistant, jduffy@mail.utexas.edu

SUMMIT FOCUSES ON QUALITY OF SERVICE, PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE
Spain's King Philip II ordered a comprehensive survey of the New World in 1577. The responses, called relaciones geográficas, often include maps such as the one for Acapistla (now Yecapixtla, Morelos) in Mexico. The map, drawn in 1580, shows both a city plan and the surrounding landscape by combining European and Native American artistic elements. Essential to any community was water. Note the springs near the village and the one in the central market/plaza area. Gray shading denotes dry watercourses. (Size of original: 62 x 85 cm. Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection.)