

Solutions to problems

Library sets 5-year plan for system upgrade

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Dean of the James Dickinson Library, Mary Dale Deacon is enthusiastic about new library plans and solutions to current library problems.

Deacon assumed her position in 1982 and found the University and associated services experienc-

to have indexes to journals (allowing students to search by subject) in addition to microfilm, maps, and documents, on the automated system."

Along with upgrading systems there are continuing plans to expand the collection by coordinating with other UNLV departments for their long-range plans for new degree programs. Several library specialists concentrate in specific academic areas and at-

in all of library Xerox copiers. The only problem we've had is when people don't follow the directions the first time they operate the Vend-a-Card."

A Library Handbook is in the process of being written. This handbook will initially be directed toward new faculty and graduate students. It will instruct them on how to use reserve books, how to order books, and will specify library staff they should deal with in relation to their particular fields. The next step for the Handbook will be to make it available to undergraduates.

Deacon is also attempting to get the new acquisitions on the shelves faster, by streamlining the process and reducing duplication of material available.

"This all leads to one thing, and that is growth," Deacon said. "The library will have concrete long-range plans by the end of December. These plans will and must include a new facility within the next six years," she said.

The UNLV Library's goal of academic enhancement is placing increasing demands on the current facility.

"As our university grows, so must our resources," said Deacon. The library personnel ask a few things of users:

- 1) Don't carry food to other areas of the facility. Insects and rodents are attracted by what we leave and damage to the collection and facility results.
- 2) Be a "responsible" borrower and return borrowed books on time.
- 3) Keep the noise level down so others can study in the serenity libraries are common for.

Deacon encourages individuals having problems with the library in any form to take a few minutes to talk to the library staff or herself.

"We are always willing to help," she said.

UNLV Library has largest collection of gaming material in the world

On the fourth floor of the James Dickinson Library you will find the largest collection of sports and gaming material in the world. There are more than 7,000 publications, according to Susan Jarvis, director of the UNLV Gaming Resource Center.

Just about everything related to gambling is found there including periodicals, cassettes, tapes, memorabilia, and books. Lots of books. One even dates back to 1529 and gives a gambler's probabilities.

There's a 16th Century book on the history of gambling in Italy and a copy of "Treatise on Billiard" dated 1807.

One of America's favorite early betting pastimes, cock-fighting, is described in an 1869 book and a 1900 book called "Bookmaking" at the library as well.

The Gaming Research Center started in 1969 with the object of becoming an international research center for anyone researching gaming related topics.



Yell Photo / Richard Vaughan

A new way to copy Vendacoder is one way the library is trying to upgrade its system.

ing an "adolescent stage of development," she said.

The library resources for collection acquisitions at that time were a mere \$700,000 and there were only 10,000 records on an automated system. In seven short years, this has increased to \$1.6 million for acquisitions and 369,000 records. According to Deacon, placing all of the records on an automated system can't happen soon enough.

Deacon said, "The current goal is to upgrade the systems and have all of the library resources on computer within the next five years. A large part of this goal is

tempt to obtain the most current publications in these particular fields.

Experimental programs to expedite and limit searches making more efficient use of student time are planned.

A new innovation at the library is a "Vend-a-Card" system that makes it easier and cheaper for students to make copies. Head Librarian, Nonbooks, Edith Landau said, "Once students catch on to the two-step process to get the card, copying will cost them about seven cents apiece."

Head of Circulation, Kay Tuma, said, "The system works

Library director Erickson retires after 25 years

Harold "Hal" Erickson, UNLV's director of library development, is retiring from the university in July after 25 years of service.

Upon his retirement, Erickson will receive the honorary title of librarian emeritus. In addition, Gov. Bob Miller has proclaimed June 30 "Harold H.J. Erickson Day."

Erickson was named director of UNLV's James R. Dickinson Library in 1965. Previously, he had worked as a librarian at the Syracuse University Library and the University of Cincinnati Library.

He guided UNLV's library through 16 years of growth, increasing the collection size from 75,000 to more than 500,000 volumes. He was also involved in

the planning of two major facility expansion projects that more than doubled the library's square footage.

After stepping down as director of the library in 1981, Erickson assumed the duties of director of library development. He is credited with bringing in more than \$2 million in endowments, as well as thousands of dollars in gifts and memorial contributions.

Among his many accomplishments, Erickson served as co-chair of the American Library Association's 1973 national convention. In 1978, he coordinated the Governor's Conference on Library and Information Needs, which resulted in the creation of the White House Conference on Library and Information Sources.

Greenspuns donate \$2 million to UNLV

University of Nevada, Las Vegas President, Robert C. Maxson, announced the donation of \$2 million for UNLV's Communication Department by the Greenspun family in honor of the late Hank Greenspun, founder of the Las Vegas Sun newspaper, on Thursday, July 12, 1990.

"We are very grateful to the Greenspuns for their support of our undergraduate and graduate communication studies programs," Maxson said.

"The Greenspun name is synonymous with communication in Las Vegas. With this gift, we will strengthen our programs in print and broadcast journalism, advertising, and public relations," he said.

Barbara Greenspun, wife of the late publisher, said, "We have watched the growth of UNLV with joy and pride, especially during the last decade."

She said, "It is through learning and communication that Nevadans can find prosperity and happiness, so it makes sense that

we honor Hank with this gift."

"Hank always believed that education is worthless without the ability to communicate, and communication is worthless without the knowledge to make it meaningful," she said.

President Maxson said the gift will be used in the communication studies department for faculty research, scholarships, lecture series, to bring distinguished visiting professors, and for the endowment of programs in the department.

A resident of Las Vegas from 1946 until his death July 22, 1989, Hank Greenspun established the Las Vegas Sun in 1950.

He served as the newspaper's publisher for the rest of his life, using his "Where I stand" column to fight many battles over the years. A colorful figure, Greenspun's name was familiar to all Nevadans and to many people around the United States and around the world.



Yell Photo / Richard Crow

\$2 million gift Brian Greenspun (podium), Barbara Greenspun, Robert Maxson, and the Greenspun family announce the gift to UNLV's Communication Department.