



From the Dean

In recent months, faculty and staff at KU Libraries have been engaged in a thoughtful process to develop our organization's values and vision. Throughout this effort, we have maintained a constant focus on our role within the university and our goal to support faculty and staff.

While we are not yet prepared to put an official statement to paper, we know that we strive to be a dynamic partner in teaching, learning and research activities at KU. We take pride in advancing the university's mission through inquiry, active engagement with our users to share, discover and create knowledge products that are open and accessible to the communities we serve at KU, in Kansas and beyond.

We also know that contributing to an educated, information literate, technologically sophisticated and globally aware citizenry for the 21st century is of utmost importance. Understanding our users and their needs shape our commitment to be agile and responsive to them. Our services will reflect user-focused and skilled assistance to navigate our expert collections and online information resources that are accessible everywhere, at anytime.



Undoubtedly, these tenets are the foundation for excellence for the libraries and the campus. I look forward to sharing more about this informative process as we move forward.

Lorraine J. Haricombe
Dean of Libraries

SERVICE UPDATES



Watson's new service desk is designed to help patrons feel more at home and engaged with library staff.

Web site redesign

Over the summer, KU Libraries staff pursued a Web site redesign with the goal of creating a more intuitive and user-friendly site (lib.ku.edu).

Perhaps the most visible change to the site is a new federated search tool, allowing searches across several databases simultaneously. Additionally, many of the site's most popular research are immediately accessible from the homepage. We welcome your feedback on the expanded features. Please share your thoughts via email to kudiglib@ku.edu.

New Service Desk at Watson Library

KU Libraries added a new service desk to Watson Library to enhance the user experience and draw attention to new and existing resources. The desk, which was installed during the summer break, replaced the temporary desk on the main level of the library. This is the first phase in a concerted effort to improve staff visibility and create a warmer, more welcoming environment for library patrons.

Lorraine J. Haricombe, dean of libraries at KU, said making patrons feel at home can lead to

further engagement with library staff and services. "Time and time again, research has shown a strong correlation between a positive change in the physical environment of a library and a dramatic increase collection use," she said. "The more comfortable our patrons are, the more likely they are to interact with our librarians and utilize our collections."

New Databases added March 2008 to August 2008

American Firms Operating in Foreign Countries and Foreign Firms Operating in the United States lists American companies that have a substantial investment in overseas operations—and vice versa—that are wholly or partially owned subsidiary, affiliate or branch.

Wen yuan ge Si ku quan shu dian zi ban: Siku Quanshu (Wenyuange Edition) is the largest Chinese encyclopedia, compiled during the Qing dynasty (1773-1782) under Emperor Qianlong.

Also added: **Material conneXion**, **Public Administration Abstracts**, **Race Relations Abstracts**, and more. For a complete list of databases available through KU Libraries, visit www.lib.ku.edu/databases.

Learning Commons envisioned for Anschutz Library

Information Services and Student Success have combined forces to design and develop a modern learning environment within Anschutz Library. The proposed "learning commons" will integrate library, information technology and student success



Jennifer Church-Duran, KU Libraries assistant dean for user services, leads a discussion in a course in information literacy for undergraduate students at KU. The course was co-taught by Tami Albin.

services to provide a dynamic place that encourages learning through inquiry, collaboration, discussion and consultation.

Built to serve as a place of academic rigor and engagement, the commons will support all student learning styles, from collaborative to quiet study. The architectural design of this state-of-the-art learning space, which is planned for development in 2009, will be an inviting, flexible environment that supports learning through centralized access to expertise and spaces for active learning, individual and group work, inspiration and socializing, research, and collaboration between students, faculty and staff.

"The commons will utilize a scalable operational model for integrated service delivery of all these activities, blending cutting-edge technology, learning space design principles, collaborative venues and improved access to information resources and high-impact academic support services," said Jennifer Church-Duran, KU Libraries assistant dean for user services. "By promoting student persistence and student retention, the Libraries can play a key role in helping develop information literate graduates and self-directed lifelong learners."

KU partners in Mellon-funded design of next-generation library system

KU is a core partner in a new \$475,700 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to design a next-generation, open-source library system that is customizable and flexible enough to meet the changing and complex needs of 21st-century libraries and library users.

The grant was awarded to Duke University Libraries to create the Open Library Environment (OLE) Project, an initiative to develop a design document for library automation technology that fits modern library workflows, is built on Service Oriented Architecture, and offers an alternative to commercial Integrated

Library System products.

KU will be represented on the OLE Project by Assistant Vice Provost for Information Services Beth Forrest Warner and Associate Dean of Libraries Mary Roach. They join colleagues from Columbia University, Duke, Lehigh University, Library and Archives Canada, National Library of Australia, Orbis Cascade Alliance, Rutgers University, University of Chicago, University of Florida, University of Maryland, University of Pennsylvania, Vanderbilt University, and Whittier College.

KU joins project to bridge technology and scholarship

A team of three KU faculty and staff is taking part in Project Bamboo, a series of Mellon-funded workshops designed to explore technological advancements in the arts and humanities.

Project Bamboo unites more than 360 arts and humanities faculty, computer scientists, librarians, information technologists, and others from more than 90 international colleges, universities, and private and public organizations who are interested in advancing arts and humanities research through shared technologies. KU's contingent includes Scholar Services staff

member Scott Hanrath, Anthropology Professor Allan Hanson and Germanic Languages/Literatures Professor Frank Baron.

KU earned the opportunity to participate in the 18-month process thanks to a successful application by Holly Mercer. Mercer, a librarian and head of KU's Scholar Services program, explained that the libraries will partner with Information Technology to support the application of technology to humanities.

"I saw Project Bamboo as an opportunity to further explore the issues surrounding the application of technology to scholarly practices," said Mercer. "These workshops will help us identify current practices across disciplines on campus, engage our faculty and move the discussion forward, all in a very collaborative setting."

KU Scholar Services and the workshop participants will work to generate interest in technical solutions for scholarship on campus throughout the 18-month process. The information gathered from faculty will be used to build customized tools in response to expanding scholarly research needs.

Mark Your Calendar



Visit www.libraries.ku.edu/events to learn more about a series of library events planned for this fall. Whether you're interested in a lecture, social event or informative tour highlighting library resources, there's something for everyone. All events are free and open to the public.