

N The NCSU Libraries Newsletter

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

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Research Library of the Future Panel Discussion

What should NC State's research library of the future look and feel like? As collections and services change, how will the current library's physical environment be altered? If an entirely new structure could be erected, what would it include?

The NCSU Libraries invites the university community to attend a panel discussion and brown-bag lunch to discuss the "form and function, place and space" of NC State's ideal research library. The brown-bag lunch discussion will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2001, in the Faculty Senate Chambers, D. H. Hill Library, from 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Attendees should bring their own lunches; drinks will be provided.

The panelists are **Larry Alford** (Deputy University Librarian, UNC-Chapel Hill), **Robert Burns** (Professor, NCSU Department of Architecture), **Jeffrey Scherer** (Architect and Partner, Meyer, Scherer, & Rockcastle, Ltd., and Chief Consultant for the NCSU Libraries Master Plan), and **Linda Treiber** (Doctoral Candidate, NCSU Department of Sociology). **Susan Nutter** (NCSU Vice Provost and Director of Libraries) will serve as moderator and panel respondent.

The event, sponsored by the NCSU Libraries and the Scholarly Communication Subcommittee of the University Library Committee, is part of a series of discussions enabling library users to voice their visions of what kind of library they would like to have at NC State in the future. This will be an open panel discussion with audience participation welcomed. For more information, call the Scholarly Communication Center at ext. 3-2046. ♦

"Ask a Librarian LIVE" Extends Hours

This fall, the NCSU Libraries is extending the hours for its "Ask a Librarian LIVE" service, which offers real-time, online reference assistance. By simply clicking a link on the Libraries' Web site, patrons can interact with a librarian and receive immediate answers to reference questions. Users can also engage in collaborative browsing that allows librarians to show, rather than merely explain, how to find materials on the Web or in the Libraries' catalog, databases, electronic books, and journals. Begun in January 2001, this relatively new service is already as popular as the library's electronic-mail reference service. Now, "Ask a Librarian LIVE" will be able to serve even more patrons with its new evening and weekend hours, which are:

Monday–Thursday	9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.
Friday	9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Saturday	1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Sunday	1:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

To use this real-time, online reference service, go to <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/libref> and click on the "Ask a Librarian LIVE" link. ♦

Design Library Image Database

A new Web-accessible image database of the slides in the Design Library is available at <http://databases.lib.ncsu.edu/design/slides/search>. The database, which contains more than 60,000 data records and 23,000 digital images, provides access to information about the slide image collection to the NC State community. It can be searched by keyword, creator, title, and item number, allowing users to explore the rich collection of art, architecture, and design-related images located at the Design Library. All data records contain call number and checkout status for the slides in the collection. The slides may be checked out of the Design Library by NC State faculty, students, and staff. ♦

NC State Librarians Win Best Paper at Major Engineering Education Conference

North Carolina State librarians Honora F. Nerz (head, Burlington Textiles Library and Engineering Services) and Suzanne T. Weiner (head, Collection Management), are the recipients of the 2001 American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference Best Overall Paper award for their submission, “Information Competencies: A Strategic Approach.” The award included a \$3,000 prize.

More than 1,000 papers were presented at the conference, which was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in June 2001. Their winning presentation is available on the Web at: <http://www.asee.org/conferences/annual2001/bestpapers.cfm>.

In their paper, Nerz and Weiner discuss how students who have been instructed in the use of library resources for specific class assignments often return to the library “unable to transfer

knowledge” from that previous instruction. The students then need “substantial individual help” from a librarian to do their next assignment. In assessing this situation, Nerz and Weiner suggest the solution is to integrate information and library competencies into the curriculum. With the collaboration of NC State’s College of Textiles faculty and, in particular, its dean, Blanton Godfrey, Nerz and Weiner tested this approach. Their paper explains what was done, why, and then analyzes the results. Weiner and Nerz agree that faculty members at the College of Textiles not only value libraries and information literacy but also see librarians as part of the educational process in the classroom. The faculty’s open attitude and progressive vision proved critical to the success of the research that resulted in the award. ♦

Contributors: Annis Barbee (Scholarly Communication), Rachel Kuhn (Design Library), Linda Saunders (Research and Information Services), and Nancy Vaupel (Scholarly Communication and External Relations).