Greetings! This year, our focus has been to add to our print and electronic resource collections. We’ve added new electronic journal titles and proceedings along with some core databases to support the curriculum and faculty research. Over 7,000 print books have been purchased, along with 300 new Arabic language titles. We also now have all of the Springer e-books published between 2005 and 2013.

Another area we’ve focused on is improving our website. When you visit library.aus.edu, you’ll find the left-hand navigation bar has been removed, library hours are dynamic, the search box includes tabs for research help and AUS Theses, and the search tabs for databases and course reserves have been improved. Other changes are more subtle yet improve functionality—for instance, all forms can now be submitted online. These changes should improve overall navigation and help you to find resources more easily. Let us know what you think.

Other developments include a Summer 2013 rollout of our new system to manage interlibrary loan and document delivery. This new system will help the library to improve efficiency. Your liaison librarian will be sending an email with details about the changes.

If you would like to discuss these changes or anything else related to the library, please get in touch with Daphne Flanagan at dflanagan@aus.edu or extension 2255.

Library Debuts Online Thesis Archive

As of the Spring 2013 semester, the AUS Library has premiered its DSpace repository, an online digital archive of student theses and institutional documents.

Developed by the MIT Libraries and Hewlett-Packard in 2002, DSpace enables long-term preservation, storage, and open access to all types of digital content, including text, images, video, audio and data files. Built on open-source software, DSpace is used by approximately 1,400 academic, governmental, and non-profit institutions worldwide to build institutional repositories, serve electronic records management needs, and more.

The AUS Library began building its DSpace archive in 2012. As of April 2013, the repository contains the full text of more than 215 student theses dating back to 2004. Additional institutional content, including photos and historical university documents, will continue to be added but restricted to internal use. The thesis collection, however, remains open to both the AUS community as well as the world at-large.

To access the DSpace archive, visit dspace.aus.edu, or go to the library’s Summon search at library.aus.edu and select the “AUS Theses on DSpace” tab. The library has endeavored to make the thesis collection available through catalog searches within the Summon portal.
Joy arrived in the UAE 20 years ago after earning a diploma in Mechanical General Electronics from his home state of Kerala, India, where his wife Preetha and daughter Anjaly currently live. He started as a driver at AUS in 2002 and joined the library in 2008.

Joy's primary responsibility is maintaining the library's physical collections (books, journals, and DVDs). He shelves items and keeps the various spaces in good shape, knowing which areas need special attention. His hard work ensures that users can locate what they need from the more than 192,000 items in the library. Through his experience, skill, and diligence, he has developed a knack for locating missing and misshelved items. He has also become an expert in book repair.

Joy's patience, approachability, and professional manner provide a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. While making his rounds, he is often approached by students for help. He answers questions and helps students understand how to find books while encouraging them to learn for themselves. He also trains and monitors student library assistants and helps at the Circulation Desk. If he wore a pedometer, it would record well over the daily recommendation of 10,000 steps.

Joy enjoys working in the library and especially the cordial and helpful atmosphere. He counts his colleagues and many students as his friends. In fact, he says most of the time it doesn’t even feel like work.

You may e-mail Joy at sjoy@aus.edu.

Library News

Alanna Ross was promoted to Associate University Librarian for Public Services in January.

Mary Ann Nash attended the ILLiad International Conference in Virginia Beach, VA, USA in March.

Daphne Flanagan will present the panel discussion Leadership and Best Practices in Development of Information Literacy Programs: Changing Roles and New Technologies, and Scott Carlson will present his paper RDA, FRBR, and the Coming Changes to Library Catalogs at the Special Libraries Association, Arabian Gulf Chapter’s 19th Annual Conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE in April.

Paula Deakin, Scott Carlson, and Daphne Flanagan will attend the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Conference in Indianapolis, IN, USA in April.

The AUS Library has installed and implemented ILLiad, an electronic interlibrary loan (ILL) system. The name ILLiad can be thought of as an acronym for InterLibrary Loan internet-accessible database.

Currently, ILLiad is a back-room operation used by the library's ILL staff to request, track, and receive items. The library currently processes all ILL requests that are emailed to ill@aus.edu by entering the details in the system and automatically requesting and tracking requests.

Next semester, the library will introduce access to the ILLiad website for faculty and graduate students, who will be able to submit new ILL requests, track the status of outstanding requests, view checked out items, request renewals, view request history, and cancel requests. Users will also be able to view, save, and print electronically received articles.

Interlibrary loan and document delivery services are limited to AUS faculty and graduate students. Requestors should first check to make sure that the materials are not available at AUS.

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