Serving Our Constituents

Fact Sheet 2013

The University of Arkansas Libraries remain the intellectual hub of campus and the go-to place for research and discovery with more than 2 million visits last year. Students, faculty, and researchers have access to a collection of more than 2 million volumes, 5.5 million microforms, 50,264 journal titles, and 16,327 linear feet of manuscript collections.

In 2012-2013, the Libraries . . .

• Purchased the rare 1605 edition of a first-hand account of Hernando de Soto’s expedition, the first Europeans to set foot in Arkansas, to commemorate the milestone of its 2 millionth volume.

• Launched two digital collections: “40-50-100: Milestones in Arkansas’s Environmental History,” celebrating three anniversaries—the 1972 designation of the Buffalo River as America’s first “national” river, the 1962 creation of the Ozark Society, and the 1912 birth of Dr. Neil Compton, the founding president of the Ozark Society; and “Fruit-full Arkansas: Apples,” a collaboration with the Crystal Bridges Museum of Art of materials related to apple production in Arkansas.

• Recorded 18.9 million database page requests.

• Assisted researchers in Special Collections representing 42 of the 50 United States and San Juan, Puerto Rico, as well as Germany, Canada, Japan, Spain, Australia, Côte d’Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Slovak Republic, Sweden, France, China, England, Scotland, and Hungary.

• Added thirty-five manuscript collections, totaling 623.65 linear feet, to Special Collections and processed twenty-seven manuscript collections totaling 1,174.35 linear feet. Special Collections also added 560 books to its holdings, including the Margaret Smith Ross book collection that focuses on genealogy and Arkansas history.

• Saw a significant increase in two new library services: paging and intra-campus delivery (which allows students and faculty to request books from the stacks for pickup at the on campus library they specify) and RazorRush (which allows students and faculty to request journal articles and book chapters from library collections to be scanned and electronically delivered to their email).

• Hosted the following events: “40-50-100: Milestones in Arkansas’s Environmental History,” Archives Month Special Collections’ Open House featuring Ernie Duvall describing his recent book Dearest Letty; Geographic Information Systems Day, the fourth-annual film festival titled Fellini in February, and a series of events including lectures and traditional Buddhist ceremonies accompanying an exhibit of thangkas and artifacts from the Tibetan Cultural Institute.


• Received $224,396 in gifts and five grants totaling $138,000. The Libraries’ endowment principal was valued at $34,729,432 at the end of 2012.