FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

Twenty-three faculty attended the Library’s Faculty Focus Groups last week. Faculty from every college and school and twelve disciplines gathered to discuss information resources needed for research and teaching. A full report on our findings will be available soon. Here are a few highlights. Some faculty came to champion a resource that we now have: “I came to show support for SciFinder.” “SciFinder was essential in preparing an interdisciplinary proposal.” The proposal could not have been done without it. SciFinder Scholar will help in attempting to get more research funding at Florida Tech.” The Library’s proposed budget for FY05 includes the $45,000 needed to continue our single-user site license to SciFinder Scholar. Other faculty brought requests for specific books and journal titles. Some brought their Library ‘money’ to cover the costs, and these items will be purchased immediately.

The other requested items will be added to our wish-list for future purchases. Many faculty brought questions:

“What would it cost to add all Elsevier titles in print and electronic formats?” The cost would be in the neighborhood of $3,000,000 per year. Others brought cheerful news: “The Evans Library’s Science Citation Index is better and more complete than UCF.” “The Library comes through 110% to help.” “The wireless network is great!” FYI: we’ve had patrons outside the Library accessing the wireless signal from within the Library, when the Library is closed and locked. Some faculty offered to help us: to send over desk copies and duplicates of textbooks to be added to the collection; to lobby the Administration for needed resources; to review donated materials, including a recent excellent collection in military science. One faculty member commented: “The Library is the heart and soul of the university.” I would say that the Library shares that honor with the faculty and the students.

Thank you, one and all, and warmest holiday wishes.

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