FROM THE DEAN’S DESK

“Numbers are the product of counting,” said American scientist and philosopher Gregory Bateson. The Library counts a number of things, to measure how the Library serves Florida Tech and a worldwide community of patrons. The numbers for an entire fiscal year fit on one 8 ½” x 11” page. These are some interesting numbers for the first 10 months of FY07: the Library has been open for 3,347 hours and has welcomed 180,382 patrons into the building - thus our threadbare carpet; staff have answered 21,006 research and reference questions; the Library Information Network (LINK) has received 98,465 UNIQUE visitors, for a total of 6,214,394 hits; 3,021 students have attended instructional sessions. Next month, I will share a few more numbers and explain how we use them for decision-making.

DISPLAYS, DISPLAYS, DISPLAYS

Native American Culture and Art, a new display on the first floor of the Evans Library, features books, periodical articles, Internet sites, government information, and colorful art work related to the Library of Congress Subject Heading “Indians of North America.” Included is an array of authentic artifacts lent to the Library by

- Library staff
- Dr. Cliff Bragdon, Associate Provost and Dean of University College, and
- Mary Dyer, Assistant to the Dean of University College.

Examples are a prayer pipe, jewelry, arrowheads, and a Hopi woven rug. Dr. Bragdon also loaned prints and realia created by his uncle W. Langston Kihn, a well-known Native American artist. This lobby display’s Web counterpart, complements it and is archived in the LINK’s – Library News – Library Displays section.

Continuing to be featured on the Library’s first floor is a Linkanoe. Designed, built, and named by inventor Edwin A. Link, this sectioned canoe is made of a shell of phenolic resin, a canvas cover, and shock cord. Disassembled, it can be stored in two duffel bags. Approximately 4000 Linkanoes were produced and sold by the Link Company in the late 1940s.

Also continuing is Uncommon Threads: Textiles of Southeast Asia, designed to promote library materials and to enhance recent campus lectures on Cloth that Speaks: The Intricate Roles of Indonesian Textiles by the 3rd Annual Ruth Funk Lecturer in Textiles, Dr. Mattie-belle Gittinger.

In the third-floor federal depository, the U.S. Patents display continues. Featuring congressional hearings, a task force report on intellectual property, the United States Patent and Trademark Office Information Technology Plan, and much more, the display offers a wide variety of interesting information on utility, design, and plants patents.

DID YOU KNOW?

Florida Tech theses and dissertations are submitted to the departments as unbound sheets of paper. The Library is then responsible for sending each manuscript to a book bindery in Greensboro, North Carolina, which returns them as neatly and colorfully bound books. Each academic unit’s works have a distinctive color binding and are shelved together with other books on their subject on the fourth floor. A non-circulating archival copy of every thesis and dissertation is kept in a locked special collection on the third floor.

WHAT’S NEW?

Visit the LINK’s Library News section to find out about the latest materials and Internet sites that have been added to library collections.

APRIL SPECIAL HOURS

The Library will be open from 6:00 p.m. until midnight on Sunday, April 8.

Regular spring semester hours are:

- Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – midnight
- Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday 10:00 a.m. – midnight