

## A History of James E. Shepard Memorial Library

Although what is now called North Carolina Central University came into existence in 1910, no formal library existed for a number of years. Students were required to purchase all the materials they needed for their education.

The first library facilities began in the Home Economics building (now Dent Human Sciences) in 1923. The first librarian was Miss Anthony, about whom no further information is known. In 1926, Marjorie A. Shepard, daughter of Dr. James E. and Annie Day Shepard, became head librarian. In 1929, space was set aside in the Hoey Administration building for a library. Books were shelved around the walls of the room, with seating accommodations for four or five students. During these early years there was no formal cataloging of library materials. Students checked out books by listing their own names and any chosen book titles in a composition book kept by Miss Anthony.

In 1929, Parepa R. Watson joined Marjorie Shepard and the growing library. Miss Watson led the effort to catalog all the library materials using the Dewey Decimal Classification. She left her position with the library in 1950. Miss Shepard worked in the library until 1960. During her years of employment she also taught in the History and English departments.

In 1937, the library obtained its own quarters when the Jones building was constructed with funding from the Works Progress Administration. It had facilities for 67,000 volumes and the library remained in the building until 1951.

During the library's early years, hours were short and seating facilities were limited. Yet the library played a vital role in the growth of what would become North Carolina Central University. Books and periodicals were selected by various departments of the college with a view to facilitating instruction as well as meeting the leisure reading needs of the students.

The library was made thoroughly usable by a carefully prepared card catalog, by various indexes, and other bibliographic aids. It was open to all students and other members of the college community. Both services and holdings grew rapidly.

The first proposal for a new library building was made by W.W. Pierson, Dean of the Graduate School, in 1945. The college's founder, Dr. Shepard, also made appeals to the North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction for additional library space. This dream was finally realized on November 3, 1951, when the James E. Shepard Memorial Library was dedicated and named in honor of Dr. Shepard, who had passed away on October 6, 1947. The architect for the building was George Watts Carr of Durham, North Carolina, and the building was constructed at an estimated cost of \$900,000.



The J.E. Shepard Library

Dr. Benjamin F. Smith became head librarian in 1951 and oversaw the movement of all library materials and operations into the new building. The move took from November 6 to November 23, 1951. James E. Shepard Memorial Library was opened for service to the college community on November 29, 1951.

The James E. Shepard Memorial Library was established to serve all the academic interests of the college. Its mission was to provide resources to support classroom instruction, research projects, and personal interest reading. When the library opened, it contained 54,437 cataloged books and periodicals. It had a balanced collection of federal and state documents, pamphlets, maps, and microfilm. The library received 494 magazines and 28 newspapers either by subscription or gifts. It provided open shelves, an excellent reference collection, and current books and periodicals for every field of study offered by the college. The seating capacity of the new library was approximately 500 students.

A special primary source collection for the study of African-American life and culture was created and housed in a new Treasure Room at Shepard Library. What came to be known as the Martin Collection was assembled by The Reverend Doctor Charles D. Martin, a West Indian Moravian minister who lived in New York City until his death in 1942. The collection consisted of books and other materials by and about Blacks in North America, the West Indies, Africa and South America. Miss Watson of Shepard Library and Dr. W. Edward Farrison of the English department made an initial assessment of the collection in 1948 and persuaded NCCU's president, Dr. Alfonso Elder, to seek funding from the Carnegie Corporation to purchase the collection. The Martin Collection was acquired for \$3,000 and was received at NCCU on March 23, 1950. The collection was moved to its new Treasure Room quarters in 1951 and is the foundation of Shepard Library's special collections.

From the 1950's to the 1960's, the library continued to grow. Dr. Smith recognized the collection strength needed for a liberal arts college and emphasized acquiring materials that would satisfy the reference and curriculum needs of undergraduate students as well as the teaching and research activities of faculty and graduate students.

In 1965, Dr. Pennie E. Perry became the head librarian of James E. Shepard Memorial Library. During her tenure, extra emphasis was placed on reference services, including the beginning of the library's instruction program for students. Interlibrary loan service for students and faculty was also introduced, enabling the campus community to borrow materials from other libraries. From 1966 to 1974, Sadie Sawyer Hughley, a library supervisor, occasionally worked as acting chief librarian.

As the college now became North Carolina Central University, the library collection continued to grow with materials carefully selected through collaboration between library staff and university faculty. By the mid-1970's there were 170,000 volumes, 2,175 journals, as well as a collection of federal and state documents, pamphlets, maps, and microfilm.

Early in 1974, construction began on a three-story addition to the library. This added approximately 50,000 square feet to the building and cost over \$2,400,000. The library moved into the new addition during December 1975 and January 1976.

With the expansion into a larger space, both building use itself and use of all library services increased immediately and positive comments were received from the campus community. Unfortunately, there were some unanticipated consequences as well. Access to books and journals in the original library building had been via closed stacks, where patrons requested items and staff retrieved them. In the new annex, books and journals were on open shelves for the first time, making them targets for both theft and mutilation. Library staff attempted to stem the tide of theft by manually checking patrons leaving the building, but this was only partially successful. Dr. Perry made repeated requests for a theft detection system. This was finally put in place in the 1980-81 academic year. The School of Business, which was making major investments in books and journals for its professional accreditation, provided funding for the purchase. The detection system helped stop the loss of valuable books, but mutilation of materials, especially journals, continued to be a serious problem.

The larger library building also allowed for the expansion of the Government Documents collection and the Curriculum Materials Center (CMC), though it took a number of years before completely adequate shelving in these areas, as well as in the Serials department, was obtained.

Dr. Perry was a vigorous proponent of automation for all areas of library services and operations. By 1979 she had obtained funding for Shepard Library to become part of the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET). This allowed the Cataloging department to use SOLINET for cataloging books and eliminated a backlog that had accumulated during an era of manual processing. In addition, by 1981, Acquisitions was using computer terminals to place orders.

With the move to SOLINET, Shepard Library was able to launch a project that had been in the planning stage for a few years, namely, reclassifying the book collection from the Dewey to the Library of Congress classification scheme. The reclassification improved the organization of the book collection and brought Shepard Library in line with the standard practice of other American university libraries. It was also a massive staff undertaking that required years of dedicated effort to complete.

During her tenure, Dr. Perry repeatedly documented a trend that affected university libraries everywhere, namely, the erosion of purchasing power brought on by the ever-increasing prices of books and journals. As only one example, in the 1976-77

academic year, Dr. Perry pointed out that while university administration had provided a 10% increase in the book budget, the amount translated into a 59% decrease in the number of volumes actually purchased. For a time, Shepard Library also had to compete for funding with the growing libraries at two new schools for which the university was seeking accreditation, namely, the School of Law and the School of Library and Information Science.

Also staffing was an ongoing concern as the library grew. During the 1982-83 academic year, a University-wide hiring freeze left Shepard Library with only 15 staff, as 2 librarians and 4 support staff left their positions. Eventually these vacancies were filled and funding assistance from the School of Business also helped bring a business librarian to the Reference department. This position expanded the instructional program of the department which was primarily carried by the Research Help Librarian's position. Dr. Perry also made the case that although the Government Documents, CMC and the Fine Arts Library had qualified professional librarians heading their operations, support staff was needed in all three areas to provide the best possible service to patrons. A Title III grant awarded in the 1983-84 academic year provided additional staff and equipment for the Cataloging department.

Continuing the move towards automation for effective service, Dr. Perry was able to bring online searching capability to the Reference department in 1982. She foresaw the closing of the card catalog at Shepard Library, since the retrospective conversion of card-based holdings was creating the database records that would allow use of an online catalog system. She foresaw the Circulation department's need for an automated system of book check out and also the need for a qualified systems librarian to join the staff. In one of her final annual reports, Dr. Perry said "The library is growing at a faster pace than was anticipated when the new addition was built and the existing library was renovated. The upgrading of programs at the university and proliferation of literature was prime among the many reasons for this growth." It was also never envisioned that the School of Library and Information Science would remain on the third floor of the original building. Dr. Perry had recommended that this space be utilized for student group study rooms, carrels for faculty and a secure room for donated archival manuscripts and other special collection materials. By the end of her 19 years of service in 1984, Dr. Perry had built the Shepard Library book collection to over 300,000 volumes.

Dr. Floyd C. Hardy became Director of Library Services in January of 1985. During his tenure, library staff completed the enormous task of reclassifying the entire collection and shifting all books into their new call number locations. Begun in 1979, this project ended in 1990.

In February 1994, Shepard Library joined the Triangle Research Libraries Network (TRLN). A library cooperative, TRLN consisted of libraries at Duke University, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Joining the cooperative allowed NCCU's faculty, students and staff borrowing privileges from a combined collection of over 10 million volumes. NCCU librarians began serving on TRLN committees and staff participated in TRLN continuing education programs.

Dr. Hardy continued making the case for library automation that Dr. Perry had begun, pointing out to university administration the many benefits to library patrons and the increased operational efficiency for staff. The Circulation department began using the LS/2000 system for book check-out in 1989. Reaching that point required a full-staff effort to barcode the entire collection. LS/2000 linked to the other UNC system libraries, which greatly assisted cooperative collection development and interlibrary loan. By 1990, NCCU theses were cataloged in the LS/2000 system and the Reserve department began using it to check out their materials.

When LS/2000 announced it would be phasing out its system, Dr. Hardy and library staff investigated available options. Because of its TRLN membership, Shepard Library chose the DRA online system which the cooperative used and for which TRLN helped negotiate a discount. This allowed NCCU's patrons to search the collections of partner libraries, as well as the Library of Congress and Education Resources Information Center (ERIC) databases that became available through DRA in 1995. In 1997, NCCU theses began to be added to DRA and Shepard Library's serial titles were also added. It should be noted that with the introduction of the DRA online system, Shepard Library no longer directly controlled its own automation environment. The DRA server equipment and software were housed and overseen by the university's Administrative Data Processing unit, requiring the library's cooperation with another campus technology department for the first time.

In 1989, Shepard Library offered its first CD-ROM-based periodical index, InfoTrac. There were also 4 IBM computers with it in the Reference department for user searching. By 1992, the number of CD-ROM indexes had jumped to 7, adding specialized databases in business, education, psychology, nursing, and the social sciences. By 1995, the growing number of CD-ROM databases was loaded into what was called NCCUnet. This campus-wide access began to give Shepard Library's offerings greater visibility. CD-ROM database access also replaced the library's previous use of the Dialog fee-based searching service.

By 1997, Shepard Library joined the state-wide initiative known as NCLIVE. The project, led by the State Library of North Carolina, combined the purchasing power of all public libraries, community college libraries, University of North Carolina

system libraries, and select independent colleges and universities to provide high quality information to North Carolina citizens. The CD-ROM databases were gradually phased out as NCLIVE's many Web-based databases became available. Journals began to become available electronically as well.

Throughout this period, Shepard Library continued to purchase computers for student research but demand regularly outstripped supply. Students were eager to use all aspects of the new technology, especially for word processing. In 1995, the library built two group study rooms but converted one almost immediately into a separate computer lab, foreshadowing a growing need across NCCU's campus for such facilities. Computers became common for library office operations as well. 1989 was the first year that the library connected to the campus Financial Records System (FRS) but eventually all staff were using computers that linked to the campus network, enhancing communication through email and efficiency through multiple computer applications.

There were continued improvements in the physical space at Shepard Library. Compact shelving was installed in the CMC for its popular and growing collection and the Fine Arts Library made use of the shelving being removed from the CMC. The Serials department received more shelving for its bound collection and the Circulation department received a new service desk and work area. Office space was expanded in both the Reference and Serials departments and new carpeting was laid on the first and second floors. Additional photocopiers helped ease the mutilation of materials, though the problem still continued.

Under Dr. Hardy's leadership, the book collection continued to expand and written guidelines for collection development were created. In 1993, all UNC system libraries received one-time funding to enhance their book purchases. Shepard Library received \$500,000 which effectively doubled the previous materials budget. This special appropriation allowed the library to purchase 5,191 new volumes versus 2,650 the previous year.

Dr. Hardy also began a Friends of the Library group in 1992 to help raise visibility and enhance resources for the library. The project was launched by inviting Dr. Mae Rodney of Winston Salem State University to address the new Friends group. Periodic book sales and other fundraisers were held by the Friends in subsequent years.

Grant projects provided collection improvements. In 1993, for example, a Title III grant allowed the Martin collection to be cataloged in the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). A 1997 grant from SOLINET allowed the library to microfilm 380 rare and out of print books from the Martin collection, making these works much more accessible to scholars. Library liaisons continued to work with academic departments to serve their collection needs, but adequate funding continued to be a problem, especially as the costs of databases and serials increased. However, by the end of Dr. Hardy's term as director, the book collection had grown to over 495,000 volumes.

In 1992, students held a protest to complain that Shepard Library was not open enough hours for their needs. The library responded by hiring student workers to keep the building open 12 additional hours during exam periods. Dr. Hardy also invited student participation on the Library's Advisory Committee. By 1999, library hours for the Fall and Spring semesters were extended to 1 a.m. An evening Reference librarian and two support staff for Circulation and Reserve were hired to provide night service in these critical departments.

In 1999, North Carolina Central University underwent a reaccreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). By this time, Shepard Library had multiple problems with its physical facility. There were roof leaks and a cooling system that regularly malfunctioned, making summers difficult for students and staff alike. Some window air conditioning units made the original part of the building more tolerable, but no such solution was possible in the annex with its sealed windows. Collection and staff space became tighter and the first plans were made to move the CMC into a new School of Education Building. After its site visit, the SACS committee made the following statement about the library, "The Committee recommends that the university take immediate steps to provide adequate physical facilities to house, service and make its library collections easily accessible."

In December 1999, Dr. Hardy retired and the university launched a search for a new library director. For the interim, Dr. Benjamin Speller, Dean of NCCU's School of Library and Information Science, was responsible for administrative functions while day to day oversight of library operations was shared by Debora Hazel, Head of Reference, and Veola Williams, Head of Serials.

Dean Speller and the library staff recognized the growing trend for information to be accessible any time/anywhere. Shepard Library gained increasing access to electronic materials thanks to NCLIVE and TRLN. The licensing of Science Direct, for example, opened 750 full-text Elsevier journals to campus patrons.

Despite the electronic expansion, interlibrary loan statistics also showed increased borrowing of books by TRLN partners, testifying to the unique holdings in Shepard Library's collection.

Under Dean Speller's direction, Shepard Library staff held a staff retreat to help establish priorities. Staff were most concerned about the deteriorating condition of the building and its effect on both staff and patrons, making the most of the electronic environment, communicating with patrons, and customer service.

In September 2000, Dr. George C. Grant became Shepard Library's director. He grappled with budget issues almost immediately. He noted on his arrival that the book budget provided by the university had not included any funds for the circulating collection in two years, a situation that continued into the next fiscal year. NCCU students and faculty visited TRLN partner libraries more frequently and Dr. Grant worried that Shepard Library's collection would become more and more outdated. The situation was slightly eased by a donation of 13,000 books from the Undergraduate Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and another 1,200 titles by NCCU faculty and alumni.

Dr. Grant asked the Serials department to initiate a review of its collection, with a view to cancelling titles. All academic departments received lists of journal subscriptions in their discipline, along with the associated costs. Departments were asked to cancel titles not deemed necessary. New titles could be added, but only if they did not exceed the expense of those cancelled.

Dr. Grant felt strongly that the Martin Collection was a unique resource at Shepard Library that could make a strong contribution to African-American scholarship if it were properly promoted. Several books from the collection were lent to UNC-CH's "Documenting the American South" project. For the second time, participation in a SOLINET preservation grant allowed for more books and pamphlets from the Martin Collection to be microfilmed.

The Reserve module of the DRA online system was implemented, allowing Reserve materials to be displayed to patrons. Plans were also made to expand the student computer lab.

Staffing was a concern for Dr. Grant. In the absence of a Bibliographic Instruction Librarian, providing library classes for students was very difficult. Without an assistant in the Reserve department, the sole librarian in the unit found it challenging to both process materials in a timely manner and simultaneously assist patrons, so other staff helped in Reserve on a rotating basis. Dr. Grant recognized the need for staff development so that effective service could be delivered in the digital environment. There were, however, no travel funds from the university that would pay for employee participation in professional conferences.

To address several issues, Dr. Grant submitted a proposal for Title III funding that would: organize the Martin Collection; construct group studies, faculty studies and research carrels; expand the bibliographic instruction program; and market library services using various media.

A major frustration for Dr. Grant was Shepard Library's building itself. He described its condition as "grossly inadequate" and told university administration that it could not support the demands of a modern, growing university.

Dr. Grant left Shepard Library in October 2001 and the university asked Dr. Floyd Hardy to come out of retirement and manage the library again while another national search was conducted for Dr. Grant's replacement. Dr. Hardy resumed the director's duties in November.

Funds from the Title III grant helped Shepard Library hire two graduate students from the School of Library and Information Science. One worked on improving the library's Web page and the other organized the contents of the Martin Collection.

Title III funds also purchased a computer, an LCD panel and a screen for the bibliographic instruction program. For the 2001/02 academic year, Debora Hazel, Head of Reference, simultaneously taught classes and performed departmental duties, but in the following year, a new Bibliographic Instruction librarian was hired. Classes were expanded and new bibliographies and other resources were created.

After several years of no purchases, funds were once again received that allowed the acquisition of books for the circulating collection. Library liaisons contacted academic departments and worked with them to spend their allocations.

Memberships in TRLN and University Librarians Advisory Committee (ULAC) continued to provide Shepard Library with significant discounts on electronic resources critical to research, such as JSTOR and Project Muse. In 2003, the library purchased Journal Finder, a software system developed by librarians at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The system showed patrons the extent of Shepard Library's journal holdings, whether in print or electronic form and provided direct online connection to the electronic versions.

The growing preference for online resources and the move towards an electronic environment made itself noticeable in equipment. By 2001-02, 19 computers and one printer were located in the dedicated Information Technology Services (ITS) student computer lab, with an additional 14 computers and two printers located in the Reference department. The space originally intended for the group studies and carrels envisioned by the Title III grant was set aside for an expansion of the student computer lab in response to a clear campus need. A side effect of the increased use of computers was increased waste of paper created by large scale free printing.

In 2002, the SIRSI corporation which owned the DRA software running Shepard Library's online catalog announced it would phase out DRA. Library staff began investigating available options for an Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) replacement.

Throughout the North Carolina system campuses, classroom buildings, laboratories and other facilities were in an increasing state of disrepair because no state funding was available for routine maintenance and prevention. In November 2000, the citizens of North Carolina approved a \$3 billion bond initiative that would allow needed renovations at universities and community colleges statewide. Dr. Hardy pointed out in this final annual report that the \$4.3 million allocated for Shepard Library's renovation was primarily to upgrade its ability to accommodate new technology. He also pointed out that even a renovated facility would still not completely meet the "research demands of our growing campus."

Unfortunately, the renovation did not begin soon enough to address an unexpected maintenance failure. During September, October and November of 2002, repeated steam leaks in the stack annex of Shepard Library "resulted in excessive moisture and an outbreak of mold on books and other surfaces in this part of the library." Though test results deemed the mold common and non-toxic, some staff and patrons had allergic reactions to it. There were no funds available to decontaminate the affected materials.

Dr. Hardy resumed his earlier retirement in June 2003 and recommended to university administration that retired librarian and former Shepard Library staff member Barbara Best-Nichols would be a suitable replacement for the interim director's role. Ms. Best-Nichols began work on July 1, 2003. In early August she sponsored a team-building retreat for staff in preparation for the new semester.

Mold problems continued in the circulating collection and allergic reactions continued to be reported. Although architectural plans were beginning to be drawn for the library's renovation, the actual work was not slated to begin for another year. In the interest of patron and staff health, Ms. Best-Nichols made the decision to close the annex wing of the library to patrons and Shepard Library notified its TRLN partners as well as OCLC that it would temporarily halt interlibrary lending. Print materials were available to patrons in the Reference, Reserve, Government Documents, CMC, and Serials departments, augmented by a growing electronic collection.

In September 2003, NCCU Chancellor James Ammons appointed Mr. Lionell Parker, assistant Dean at SLIS, as Shepard Library's Interim Director.

In preparation for the library's renovation, Mr. Parker worked with other university units to explore where staff and materials could be housed when construction work commenced. Could all materials and personnel be relocated together or would they have to be split? The experience of TRLN partners showed that some libraries closed entirely during renovations while others had done renovations in stages, moving staff and materials around within the structure as work proceeded.

Ultimately, no facility close enough to the NCCU campus could be found that would adequately serve as a university library. It was decided that the circulating book collection would be moved to an off-site location and the remaining materials, staff and services would stay in one half of the building while the other half was being renovated.

During Mr. Parker's interim director service, Shepard Library's instruction mission broadened in recognition of higher education's need for information literacy. All librarian liaisons began to provide library instruction sessions for classes in their respective disciplines.

In August 2004, the Curriculum Materials Center (CMC), moved from the second floor of Shepard Library to first floor facilities in the university's new School of Education building. Almost 10,000 print and non-print items were to be found in the attractive new CMC location.

Before library renovation could begin, mold removal and asbestos abatement at the library needed to occur. Partitions were erected on the first and second floors, sealing off the annex section of the building. In September and October 2004, mold was removed from three floors' worth of circulating books, bound journals and historical theses (approximately 600,000 volumes). In November, all collection materials from the annex were moved to an off-site storage facility near Durham Technical Community College. Asbestos abatement was completed in December.

In December, Chancellor Ammons replaced Mr. Parker and asked Veola Williams, Head of Serials, and Debora Hazel, Head of Reference, to serve as interim library directors.

In January 2005 construction activities began in earnest and patrons entered the building through a plywood tunnel created at the breezeway entrance. The upgrades to the building were to include electrical wiring, data cabling, lighting, plumbing, air conditioning, and alarm/sprinkler systems. All library services were collapsed into the older half of Shepard Library. The Reference and Reserve departments shared a single service desk. Because the ITS student computer lab had been located in the renovation area, 42 computers and three printers were consolidated into a section that had been Reference study space. Available study space for students became extremely limited, with seating largely confined to Serials, Government Documents, and tables on the ground floor under the main staircase.

The onsite print collections available to students and faculty for their research during this period were items in Reference, Reserve, Government Documents, and the current journals in Serials. Once the other collections had been cleaned of mold and moved to the off-site location, the library began a request/retrieval service that allowed patrons to ask for items in storage. Circulation staff used a university-provided van to make trips to the storage facility. The target turn-around time for a request was 24 hours, except on weekends (for security reasons, the storage facility was only available to library staff Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.). Fortunately, Shepard Library continued to broaden its electronic offerings by another 16 databases and 12 specialized journal packages, making this situation somewhat easier for patrons.

In March 2005, Shepard Library migrated from DRA to its new SIRSI integrated online system.

On July 1, 2005, Veola Williams, Head of Serials, accepted the position of Interim Library Director.

By Fall semester, Dokutek E-Reserves, a component of the SIRSI online system, was activated. This allowed for scanning journal articles, book chapters and other print materials into PDF format. Faculty were alerted to this new library service which would allow their students access to class reserve materials from any computer with Internet access.

More book purchases were made, including e-book packages. The suite of databases offered by Shepard Library reached 105, with over 25,000 journal titles, many with full text, accessible through Journal Finder. Remote access to these electronic offerings was provided by a proxy server maintained by ITS. Retrieval of print materials continued from the off-site storage facility but interlibrary lending resumed on March 2006.

After a lengthy vacancy, the newly designated Information Literacy Librarian position (formerly Bibliographic Instruction Librarian) was filled by Hafsa Murad. The Information Literacy Program coordinated by Mrs. Murad and assisted by library liaisons, focused on teaching students to locate, evaluate and use both print and electronic information effectively.

By July 2006, the first half of Shepard Library's renovation was completed. Staff moved into temporary office space in the newly renovated annex. The School of Library and Information Science moved from the third floor of the original building into the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance building in downtown Durham. The university Teleconference Center remained in Shepard Library in a specially designed media space. Besides new infrastructure, the renovated library building had new paint, new carpet, new shelving, and new furniture for both the public and staff. In time for the beginning of the Fall semester, a new ITS student computer lab, designated the MegaLab, opened on the ground floor of the library. Scaled back from the original vision of 100 computers, the facility offered 45 PCs and 10 Macs. In addition, Shepard Library now connected to NCCU's growing wireless network, allowing patrons with laptops much greater flexibility in accessing research materials.

On October 1, 2006, Dr. Theodosia T. Shields became Director of Library Services.

As the end of Shepard Library's renovation neared, preparations were made to move off-site materials back into the building. Space on the ground floor that had previously been devoted entirely to the circulating book collection was now seriously diminished because of the creation of the MegaLab, a new area for the Reserve department, some staff offices, and a large student study area. The library's expanded Treasure Room and University Archives moved into what had formerly been the Government Documents department. Most of the documents collection moved into the space vacated by the CMC, with some highly-used items located to the Reference department. All departments initiated major weeding projects at the off-site facility, pulling duplicates and little-circulated items as well as closed subscriptions or outdated journal titles.

Shepard Library staff moved into their renovated office space at the end of the Spring 2007 semester. A student group study area was created on the second floor and the area vacated by the Teleconference Center's return to the third floor was turned into the library's first Electronic Classroom. Twenty-four computers and state-of-the art projection screens created a home base for the library's Information Literacy program.

The Music Library also received new storage cabinets and additional shelving for its facility.

Shepard Library was one of ten institutions selected in 2007 to participate in the second phase of the Cornell Library and HBCU Library Alliance Digital Project. The project documents the history of black colleges and universities throughout the United States. North Carolina Central University's digital collection is projected to go live in July 2009. Three Shepard Library staff members also received digital training at Cornell thanks to a grant from Music Department faculty member Dr. Paula Harrell. The project, the Jazz Research Digital Library, is a university-wide interdisciplinary effort to which Shepard Library will contribute personnel. The initial collection will be comprised of photos from the collection of jazz photographer Jim Alexander.

Shepard Library was also selected by the HBCU Library Alliance to participate in its Leadership Institute. Dr. Theodosia T. Shields and Government Documents Librarian Victoria Silver attended the institute, receiving theoretical instruction as well as practical lessons in formulating goals and implementing objectives for projects at the library. They put their newly-acquired skills to work in early 2008 by leading Shepard Library's professional librarians in creating a new evaluation system for their job classification.

The 2007/08 academic year saw the implementation of the ILLiad Interlibrary Loan system. This fully automated system allows patrons to place requests for library materials and track the requests until completion. Although physical objects such as books must still be sent through the postal system, journal articles are now received in electronic form and routed directly to a patron's email address.

As North Carolina Central University's 2009 reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) approached, Shepard Library staff concentrated more on assessing services. Focus group sessions were conducted with students for their feedback. A grant proposal was submitted to and received from the Association of Research Library (ARL) to administer ARL's LIBQual user survey.

Greater efforts were made to market Shepard Library's services. Library liaisons updated existing subject guides and created new ones for their respective disciplines and publicized results to their faculty. Online tutorials for specific databases and other materials were made available.

During National Library Week in April 2008, Shepard Library hosted a panel discussion featuring former directors Dr. Pennie Perry and Dr. Floyd Hardy and current director Dr. Theodosia T. Shields. The directors discussed the library's history as well as achievements and challenges as they saw them and then took questions from the audience. During 2009's National Library Week, the library invited campus participation in a spoken word celebration.

In Fall 2008 the library hosted its first "Coffee Schmooze," a two hour reception in the ground floor lobby that allowed students and faculty to interact with library staff while enjoying refreshments. A repeated session in Spring 2009 highlighted books, journal articles and music CDs authored by NCCU faculty who were onsite to discuss their work.

Spring 2009 also saw Shepard Library's transition to a much-needed upgrade of its SIRSI online system. The newest version allows the library to harness more powerful features in its online public catalog for patrons and its individual module software for staff functions.

#### Source Acknowledgements

This history of the James E. Shepard Memorial Library gratefully acknowledges the prior work of Dr. Kenneth Shearer and Charlie B. Spencer in their A History of James E. Shepard Memorial Library, compiled in the mid-1970s. Besides using information contained in library reports and university catalogs, they were able to interview Marjorie Shepard personally about her memories and experiences at the library. The facts recounted from 1975 forward come from Shepard Library annual reports from then through the 2008/09 academic year. Andre Vann, Coordinator of University Archives, also provided valuable assistance in documenting parts of the library's history.

Prepared by Theodosia T. Shields, Ph.D.  
June 2009

---

Abbreviations in the Shepard Library history have been explained by Ms. Doris M. Sigl, Serials Librarian at the James E. Shepard Memorial Library. In addition, she explains that some letters are not abbreviations at all, but are the assigned names of companies or of specific products, as is true for DRA, p. 6; JSTOR, p. 11, SIRSI, p. 11; and ILLiad, p. 16.