

What's On Your Mind – March 2009

- Can you please help us by providing text books to the library, only to “borrow?” It would help so much. Sometimes we buy books, but they get stolen or lost and we cannot afford them again or they'll be so expensive for us!

Most college and university libraries do not buy or collect textbooks. These materials change very quickly, and it is not economically feasible for us to collect one of each for every class every semester. If we had only one book for each class, there would still be a large number of students for whom the material would remain unavailable.

- Why are there no Spanish language newspapers? Spanish is by far the most important language & culture to understand right now. Why are there so many Chinese papers but not any Spanish? Newspapers are the best way to practice a new language.

There are many Spanish language newspapers available through our online resources page on the CUL Webpage. Go to www.smu.edu/CUL then to Online Resources. There, under “N” choose NewsVoyager. You will find over 50 newspapers from Spain and over 60 from Cent. America/Mexico.

- UT Dallas has a drive-by book drop, which makes returning books much easier because you don't need to get out of the car to do so. It's like dropping off the mail! I highly recommend this feature to our library.

We will study the feasibility of a drive-by book drop for Fondren.

- I realize the reference area is not a designated quiet area, but some sort of policy should be in place to keep the noise down. This is still a library & not a social club & respect should be shown by being relatively low noise—especially at night the entire library shuts down.

Quiet study areas are available on the 2nd and 4th floors of Fondren Library East, and are designated as such for this very reason. When the upper floors close during 24/7 study hall, there are more students on the first floor, and there is more noise. We realize this, but feel that it is a good compromise to keep the building open 24/7 during fall and spring semesters.

- I requested the movie Chapter 27 last semester. It is still not appearing in PONI, even though the bulletin board said it has been ordered.

Chapter 27 is in the catalog, call number IDD 04703. You may request the video at the Fondren Circulation Desk.

- I think the library experience would be a lot better if the vending machines actually worked. It's really frustrating how they don't take pony and constantly just eat change. I have lost \$3.00 tonight alone!!

Thank you for bringing this concern to our attention. We report every problem with our vending machines to Auxiliary Services, who take care of these machines for the library. We will continue to monitor them.

- The new security officer is extremely loud! I have listened to him yell at probably 50 students in the last 2 hours. If I hear "ID please" again I think I might actually scream. I understand that his job is to secure a safe study environment; however, the booming voice is very unnecessary!

You are correct: our main goal is to provide as safe and secure a space as possible. We will ask the security guard to respect those studying while doing his job.

- Please do not continue removing essential reference material to the stacks in order to make more room for electronic toys. This is pure high school.

The library did engage in a year-long project in which we identified outdated and superseded materials in the reference collection and moved those materials to the circulating collection in order to provide additional study space for students in the Information Commons/24-7 areas. We have had several instances where faculty have requested specific titles be returned to the reference collection, and we have done so immediately. CUL strives to continue to provide a balance of print and electronic materials for all students and faculty.