

***“What’s on Your Mind”
May 2006***

“We have the door handle from the West Stacks Hostage. We will only accept \$1,000,000 in unmarked bills.”

Well, I think campus physical plant can replace the door handle for considerably less than a million dollars.

“Put some squishy material on the floor instead of the tile, so you don’t make so much noise walking.”

Some areas of the library are thoroughfares for our users. The fourth floor of Fondren East has carpeting and is a quieter study area.

“It would be nice if there was an online map of the library so when you search for a book, it highlights the area of the library that the book is at. The search gives names but if you are not familiar with the library than it is difficult – Thanks.

We agree that it would be helpful to link from the online catalog to library maps. Our system does not provide a simple way to do this, but we have been looking for solutions and are hopeful that something can be done. Thank you for your suggestion. Your ideas for the library catalog are always welcome and are an important part of our efforts to improve library services and resources.

-The SMU Libraries OPAC Team
(the people who work with the online catalog interface)

“Would someone please for the love of God, soundproof the study rooms?”

Fondren is converting as many rooms as possible into group study rooms. More group study space is one of the top five requests that we receive. Collaboration and group activities can get a little noisy. We will post signs in the study rooms to remind users that the rooms are not soundproof and to be considerate of those studying around them. Unfortunately, funds are not available to totally renovate these rooms that are converted into study rooms with extra soundproofing materials. When Fondren is completely renovated, the new group study rooms will have sufficient soundproofing so discussions and presentations within the rooms will not disturb users in surrounding areas.

“Is there anyway the printers by the Newspaper area could be equipped with staplers? Thank You.”

Library staff will equip the work area in the Newspaper/Current Periodicals Mezzanine with a hole punch, stapler and tape dispenser.

“Could we maybe get some interesting or attractive décor in the student lounge? The bright color is great but I go there partly for a pleasant distraction...& there’s not really any nice visual diversion!”

Staff have hung some colorful posters in the student lounge in hopes of dressing it up. Alas, the vending machines and the photocopy machines contribute an industrial theme to the room. We will take any suggestions for attractive décor.

**“Could you possibly have more step stools on each floor?
I had to walk halfway through the second floor before I found one ☺ “**

Those step stools do have a way of going on tour throughout the library. We are glad that you brought this to our attention. Nobody should have to walk half of the second floor to find a footstool. We actually have 5 footstools on the second floor, so one problem is that over time they become poorly distributed. As a result of your suggestion slip, we are having our Circulation staff check the distribution of footstools regularly, and they will redistribute them as needed.* We are also doing an inventory, and we will purchase additional footstools for areas that have too few.

“It would be nice if the circulation desk gave out ear plugs. It would be helpful during busy hours. I’ve seen it at other university libraries.”

The Reference Desk does loan earphones for use at the computer workstations in the library. With the prevalence of IPODS and cell phones, just about everyone seems to have something plugged into their ears already.

“There are a few broken/damaged floor tiles in the Information Commons area. These tiles may be decades old and old tiles may contain asbestos (not all but some did). The exposure levels would be small, but you might want to check it out. The breaks are so small, the easiest fix may be to simply patch over them (vs. tearing up the whole floor – I believe that asbestos was only in the tile backing and is only dangerous if broken up and ground into airborne dust.)”

We had staff from Campus Planning and Plant Operations come over and look at the floor. They also checked their records and found that the linoleum is not “hot” and does not contain any asbestos. Although the floor does show signs of wear and tear, it is of no danger to library staff or users.

“I’m glad to know my tuition dollars are being well spent by keeping the library open all day on Easter. I’m sure there were so many people here. By the way – people don’t start studying for finals until May.”

“Nobody is going to study on Easter Sunday! Close the Library !!!”

“Some say that Easter is a more valued Holiday than Christmas so I think it is extremely disrespectful that you would force people to work on a religious holiday, on Sabbath. They, like students and other university employees should be given the chance to enjoy this Christian holiday; especially since this is a religious affiliated holiday.”

“The Library should not be open on Easter! Or library employees should not be forced to work on Easter or on other important cultural, familial, and religious holidays.”

“I don’t think that the library should be open on Easter. If most businesses close I think the SMU Library should as well. The library staff works so hard, they deserve a day off like everyone else.”

“It is appalling that you are open on Easter. In addition to the fact that it is one of the most important Christian holidays, your workers will be stuck here, apart from their families. Good job, Fondren. Way to ruin Easter egg hunts and make Christ cry.”

Library usage on Easter Sunday was significant. 659 people came to Fondren Library Center from 1:00 pm until 2:00 am Monday morning. Traditionally, Sundays are the busiest day of the week for SMU students and faculty. Our usual Sunday opening time is set so that staff and users have time to attend a worship service of their choice before coming to the library.

“Please...for the Love of Good make the library 24 hours! Please!”

“Please make the library open later.”

“Make the library 24 hours please! Or at least open until 3 – 4 am.”

“Can you all install beds here during 24 hour finals week?”

Fondren is investigating ways to lock down the library so that part of the building can be kept open 24 hours. The largest challenge for the library would be to find funding for additional staff between the hours of midnight or 2:00 am and 8:00 or 9:00 am in the morning.