

“What’s on Your Mind?” October 2005

“It should be made more clear that the one dollar used to purchase a copy card puts no value on the card. Also, 10 cents for self-service copier is an unreasonable price. Try 5 or 6 cents.”

There is a sign on the copy card vending machine in Fondren that explains that a *blank* copy card is purchased for a dollar and that additional money must be used to encode value towards making any photocopies or computer printouts. The 10 cent cost must cover paper and printer ink cartridges.

“This library is way too cold. I think I saw polar bears chasing penguins through the snow up on the third floor.”

“It’s too cold for me and several of the staff at reference and circulation and about 3 patrons I asked. July 7, 2005. Please let me know if this can be changed.

“It’s always too cold in the library, put the air down.”

“Stop wasting money of AC. It’s freezing in here.”

“It is too damn cold!!!!”

Fondren Library Center along with many buildings on campus is too cold for many students’ internal thermometers. Always remember to bring a sweater or jacket along to study. Also, feel free to move about through the library – some areas are warmer than others.

Did the polar bears and penguins have SMU Ids?

“I don’t understand why the SMU Libraries are only open for such abbreviated, truncated hours during the summer semesters. During the regular school year, you are open many nights until 2:00 in the morning. Why can’t you stay open that long in the summer.”

Fondren Library Center depends on student staffing during the late night schedules of the regular semesters. During the summer semesters, our occupancy counts have shown library use is reduced proportionately with the limited curriculum offered and we do not have enough student workers on campus to staff the later schedule hours.

“We aren’t 5. We can handle an open container! Thanks”

The focus of Fondren Library Center’s food and drink policy is to protect the library collections, equipment and furnishings from damages. Hot and cold drinks are allowed inside the library in spill-proof containers that have screw on lids. It is true that a Starbucks or Slurpee container with a pop-on lid does not fall in this category. Library staff do not feel these containers are sturdy enough to prevent spills that could damage library books and computers. Also, travel mugs and re-useable water bottles would not increase the amount of trash to be disposed of within the library. Fondren does not have the janitorial and trash services to adequately handle and dispose of food and drink containers. Many students are now bringing their refreshments into the building in travel-mugs or insulated drink containers on a regular basis.

“I wish SMU Alumnae could re-check their books on-line or via phone – the process would be easier than coming to the library in person. We have library cards too, & pay to use this wonderful resource at our disposal. Also, I don’t think it’s fair that we get only 10 books at a time to check out, since we need more (15) & SMU undergrads don’t really check out books here, where we do. “

Our SMU Alumni patrons are always welcome in the SMU libraries but it is true that once a student graduates their loan privileges become more limited. All patrons who are visitors (which include SMU Alumni) have more limited borrowing privileges because we feel it important to provide our enrolled students with as many available resources as possible. If we allowed visitors the same check out privileges, resources which SMU students might need for their studies or research then become less accessible. This is why we only allow the 10-book check out for SMU Alumni instead of the 30-book check out for our regular SMU students. The fee to obtain an Alumni library card is minimal only \$10.00 per semester, which is quite small in comparison to the large tuition fees registered students pay.

We do not allow phone renewals even for our SMU students, but do allow on-line renewals for registered SMU students. Since visitors do not have an official SMU student financial account with the university, we require a physical inventory renewal of all library materials. Our Fondren Library Center statistics show that undergraduates check out more materials than any other patron group associated with our library.

“ The ‘Artwork’ by Dennis Moser shouldn’t be considered as a work at all. Merely taking photographs of torn buildings, graffiti and a taco stand isn’t in any sense artistic, profound or imaginary. Shame on waste of materials spent on any reproductions on this work.”

Many believe that the aim of art is to spark interest and evoke emotion. Judging from your comment, this art exhibit has achieved its goal. “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder”. There were many very positive comments on the photography exhibit.

“It would be nice if the clock near the wheelchair accessible computer be replaced. It makes a noise every 5 minutes. It’s a nice place to study w/all the natural sunlight but the clock makes it too distracting.”

SMU Physical Plant is planning a change to a new clock system that uses GPS (Global Positioning System). The second hand on the clocks will have a sweeping movement and will not make that “clump” noise.

“We need white boards in all study rooms on the second floor.”

Thanks for the suggestion. They are being ordered.

**“If the Library is the heart of the university, SMU is having a heart attack.”
“The phrase in the entry way says, ‘The Library is the Heart of a University. Come on! Libraries are great, I but that is just too nerdy.”**

The quote is from SMU’s third President, Charles C. Selecman and was engraved below tower in the newly created Fondren Library Center in 1998. The new library entrance joined the previously separate Fondren Library and Science Information Center and was the first project to result from the Campaign for SMU: A Time to Lead. The cupola tower

provided natural light and serves as a beacon across campus. The original Fondren Library (now the DeGolyer Library) opened in 1940: "The library is the heart of a university." Selecman's grandson, Charles E. Selecman ('51), echoed his grandfather's sentiments at the November dedication. Sue Trammel Whitfield ('54) also spoke about her family's continuous support for the libraries over three generations.

"I am extremely motivated & happy about my field of study – Massage Therapy! I will be one of the best massage therapists in the WORLD. I have a question. I am looking for groups of young people who want to cuddle, and experience the healing energy of non-sexual touch. Please email any ideas. I want this very much. I want to hug people."

We are glad you find your field of study fulfilling but there is no soliciting allowed in the library.

"Set up recycle bins for paper/cans/bottles."

The Fondren Library Center has clearly marked can and bottle recycle bins at every public entrance/exit. There are paper recycle bins with clear plastic liners at most copiers and printers in the Fondren Library Center and in each staff office. Trash can be disposed of in any restroom or in public area wastebaskets which have black plastic liners.

The staff of the Fondren Library Center is committed to recycling. Please let us know where you think additional paper, bottle, or can recycle bins should be located.

"I think it was a bad idea to display the periodicals the way they are displayed, snaking them throughout the mezzanine and 2nd floor is neither convenient, not easily accessible. Surely you can come up with a more considered, intelligent plan."

Thank you for your comment. We are in the process of assessing the arrangement of the current journals in the Newspaper and Periodicals Reading Area. Our total number of subscriptions is too large for all of the current journals to be shelved in the mezzanine area. However we are looking at ways to improve the shelving arrangements.

The Periodicals Office is located on the 1st floor, and is staffed whenever Fondren Library Center is open.

"Two hour time limits is not conducive to study when I have to pick up and move every 2 hrs. The system SUCKS! when students have to fight to study in the library."

The group study rooms are in high demand and in order to give every student group an opportunity to use them, we limit the reservation period. They are often booked steadily from 8:00 am until closing. Fondren is investigating other areas to turn into additional group study rooms.

"On the computer screens put a different screensaver."

I'm not sure there is any rationale behind choosing this particular screen saver other than it was the one which made the most sense to staff. If you could give us specifics about what bothers you about the screen saver or what you would prefer to see in its place, then we would consider changing it.

“Hammond Library needs it’s own copy of the complete works of Christopher Marlowe.”

Thank you for your suggestion. The Arts Library bears the name of benefactors Jake and Nancy Hamon.

We recently received gift copies of Marlowe's *Complete Plays* and his *Dr. Faustus*. We are placing both of these volumes in Hamon, where they will complement the Marlowe plays that are already there.

“I would like to get the lights fixed on the first and second floor.”

We have sent in a work order to SMU Physical Plant to get the lights fixed.