

A long and eventful chapter in the history of Collier Library closed in August, 1980, with the retirement of head librarian Ruth Dacus. During her long career at UNA, which began in 1947, Miss Dacus served as assistant librarian for three years, acting head librarian for one year, and head librarian for 29 years.

For the first 16 years of her tenure, Collier Library was housed in the older two-level structure built in the late 1930's. In April, 1963, a new four-level addition was opened. Since 1963, library holdings have increased from 68,635 volumes to well over 180,000.

A new era in the library's history began in August, 1980, with the appointment of Dr. Fred Heath as university librarian. Dr. Heath's responsibilities are the coordinating all information resources on campus, including Collier Library, the Media Center, and the Curriculum Laboratory.

"The three things that I feel make a library successful are a thorough collection, an appealing study environment, and a professional staff," explained Dr. Heath.

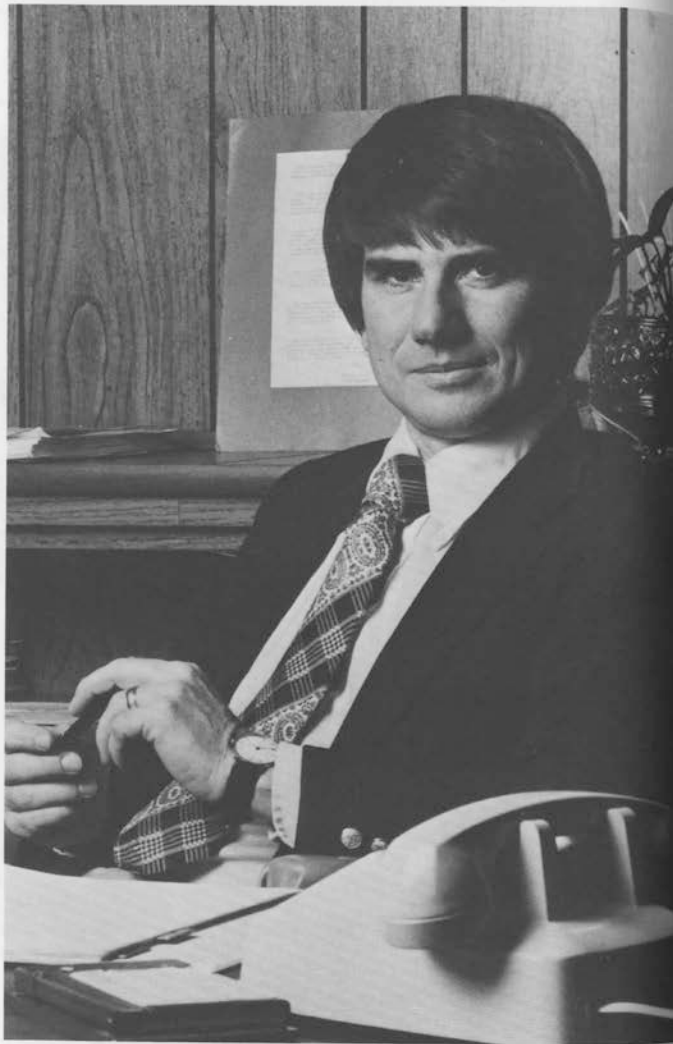
"Some of the library's specialty areas are an excellent Alabama history and literature collection, a fine collection of government documents, and a reference department that is very good for a university of this size," noted Heath.

One major change already made in the library is the relocation of the Periodical Indexes to the Reference Room. This centralization allows easier accessibility to all of the resource indices.

"The most important change we are looking forward to is installing a computer cataloging system called SOLINET. It will give us access to holdings of other libraries this size across the country," concluded Dr. Heath.

Dr. Fred Heath, previously an assistant librarian at Radford University in Virginia, was appointed as university librarian in August, 1980.

A new feature in Collier Library is the popular reading collection, which includes many bestsellers. Grace Simpson, library technical assistant, keeps the collection orderly. Photo by Susan Hill.



Collier Library



MISS RUTH DACUS
Head Librarian, Retired August 1980
MR. NORMAN ELSNER
Assistant Librarian
MISS MARTHA GRIFFIN
Associate Librarian
MISS GLENDA ANN GRIGGS
Assistant Librarian
MRS. MYRA HARSCHIED
Assistant Librarian

MR. KENNETH WAYNE O'NEAL
Assistant Librarian
MR. CRAIG T. STILLINGS
Assistant Librarian



Many students, like Larise Hennessee, prefer to study in a relaxed position. Collier Library has five study areas similar to this one. Photo by Susan Hill.



United States Congressman Ronnie G. Flippo of Florence donates congressional documents and other materials to the university, his alma mater. A "Ronnie Flippo Room" is being established in Collier Library to receive and house the papers. From left are Dr. Fred Heath, university librarian; Dr. Robert Guillot, UNA president; and Congressman Flippo.