

COLLIER LIBRARY

Moving in the fast lane

Computer technology provides up-to-date services for students using Collier Library

Ever since the construction of the new wing several years ago, Collier Library has slowly grown in many areas to meet the needs of students. This year has seen a general increase in use of the library as well as the new services.

The addition of the new checkout system this year moves the library into the computer age. The system uses a light pen to read bar code information on the back of each student's ID card. After the light pen reads the information, it is stored in the computer's memory.

There are many advantages to the new system, including automatic overdue book notices, keeping up with where a particular book is, and generating statistics.

"We haven't been using the system long enough to make good use of the statistics yet, but in the future we will be able to take the statistics and tell which sections are circulating the most. Then we can redirect our acquisition efforts into those areas where the big demand is," said Kenneth O'Neal, associate librarian.

In the future the card catalog may be placed on the computer as well, doing away with the current system. It would also be able to search for a book by subject.

"This is one component of an overall automated system. What the library would like to do is have a totally automated system," O'Neal said.

Another new piece of library machinery is

the "Infotrack" system. It is a periodical index on a compact disc. Though the system is in the library on a trial basis, it has proven very popular.

"I expect it's going to be very hard to get rid of because it's so much fun and the students like it," O'Neal said.

Of all areas in the library, the periodicals section has seen the largest increase in use. This year use is up 32 percent over last year, and showed a nine percent total increase over the last two years.

Another increase is in on-line search for books and inner library loans, in which one library borrows a book from another library.

The videocassette collection on the first floor has also proved to be popular among students. It has only been in existence for two years, and includes instructional and classic titles among its selections.

The library usually acquires six to seven thousand books per year. This rate has

stayed stable over the past ten years, though money appropriated to the library has almost doubled. Inflation has offset a large increase in the number of books attained.

Although there's always a steady stream of students working on term papers and doing homework, midterm and final exam time see the largest number of students using the library.

"The photocopiers are in their biggest demand at this time of year," O'Neal said.

With a number of changes and more anticipated, the library is easier to use than ever. All of this new technology might make one wonder if the librarian has become obsolete. O'Neal believes the students at the checkout terminals will be here to stay.

"They are a big help and we certainly couldn't run the library without student workers. They do a good job."

—Jeffrey David Cox

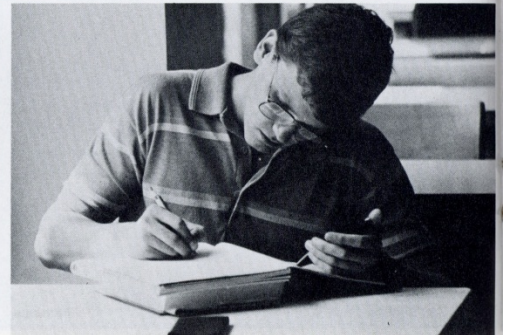
RESEARCH for term papers is a must and the library has the materials to get the job done. Bill Foster finds the reference materials located on the ground floor. (Photo by John Amis)



COMFORTABLY engrossed in his reading, sophomore Randy Lovelady relaxes with a magazine in the periodicals room. (Photo by Charles Butler)



RESEARCH is easier with group effort. (Photo by Charles Butler)



THE LIBRARY provides Patrick Renfroe a quiet place to catch up on his homework. (Photo by Charles Butler)



THE COPY MACHINES located on the ground floor usually get a great deal of business. The rush before AEA week caused many long lines as students hurried to complete assignments. (Photo by Charles Butler)

TIME SEEMS to slow down to a crawl when you're studying for a major test. Mark Tanner checks his watch during a study session. (Photo by Charles Butler)

JACKIE HELD reads "The Flor-Ala" in front of the library and catches up on the latest news. The library is located near the Memorial Amphitheatre, so students who need a break from studying can grab a park bench and enjoy the fresh air. (Photo by Charles Butler)