

Stepping into the past

Collier Library houses a museum in the basement

Few students realize the treasures of history that lay in the cool, dust-free atmosphere of the basement at Collier Library.

The Collier Library Archives has a wonderful collection of photographs, maps, and other items that shape the history of the university, Florence, and Alabama.

The archives room is equipped with a special air conditioning system that keeps the room at a cool, controlled temperature at all times. A system of double doors serves to make those entering the archives as dust-free as possible. The double doors create a sort of air

vacuum that also aids in protecting the materials.

According to Linda Dotzheimer, head of the archives, other precautions are also taken to preserve the materials.

"The room is environmentally controlled to keep the humidity higher than usual. Some of the materials are stored on metal shelves because wood has too much acid that would eat the papers up. Some items are stored in fire-proof boxes as well," said Dotzheimer.

The materials in the archives came from several different sources, including Congressman Ronnie Flippo, the Tennessee Valley Historical

Society, the defunct Wesleyan Museum, and various individuals from the community.

"Most of the material is donated by individuals. A lot of material came from the old Wesleyan Museum. When it was closed we couldn't find all of the people who owned the materials so we moved them into the archives," said Dotzheimer.

The oldest verifiable items in the archives date back to the Civil War. Dotzheimer, who has been in charge of the archives since 1985, said that it has a valuable collection of letters from the Civil War.

"One of the items in the

Wesleyan Collection is a photocopied set of letters from the Civil War. What adds to the value of them is that it is both sides of a husband/wife correspondence. Paper was in short supply so she would write to him, and he would write her back on the other side," said Dotzheimer.

Dotzheimer said that the archives gets a good mixture of visitors.

"We have students, faculty, community people, and people from all over. We even had some people from Japan to come here to research Dr. E.B. Norton. Every student should visit the archives at least one time."

By Janet Wallace



STUDENTS FIND the UNACAT system more convenient than the old card catalog. Becky Hays, a junior communications major from Scottsboro, uses one of the terminals on the ground floor. Each floor has at least one UNACAT terminal, eliminating the need to return to the ground floor each time new material is needed. (Photo by Charles Butler)

New catalog system more convenient

Collier Library is now user-friendly.

UNACAT, the new catalog system, was put into operation in January. Circulation and catalog control of the library's materials is now controlled by a single computer database.

Computers are located on every floor of Collier Library. If a call number is forgotten or more call numbers are needed, the information can be obtained without returning to the ground floor.

Like the manual card catalog system, the com-

puter database provides access to all library materials by author, title, and subject.

Students who are not familiar with computers have no need to worry about operating the new system. Instructions for searching by author, title, and subject are displayed on the screen. The computer system actually leads a user through the steps to finding materials. And, as usual, the library staff is always available to help.

By Janet Wallace



KEEPING COMPLETE and accurate records of the historical data on file in the archives is a huge responsibility. Library student workers such as Greg Pigg, a freshman from Cypress Inn, Tenn., have duty in the archives to help keep the records in order and to assist library patrons in finding material. Because some of the material in the archives is irreplaceable, much care must be taken in the handling of the various documents. (Photo by Kim Berry)

MAPS, PHOTOGRAPHS, LETTERS comprise some of the precious items in the archives collections. (Photo by Kim Berry)