

New system to shut down, upgrade

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For those of you who are planning on waiting until the last minute to do that term paper, it could take you longer than expected if you don't plan ahead.

Beginning April 6, the automated circulation used in Collier Library will be shut down for approximately three weeks to install and upgrade new equipment.

While there will be some inconvenience to the patrons of the library, the staff hopes to make the procedure as easy as possible. Patrons will have to complete checkout cards when charging library materials.

Instructions and the materials needed will be placed on every floor of the library, next to the elevators. Staff will be available to assist, and a second circulation desk will be set up during the busier times to eliminate lines.

Students should allow more time when checking out material, but these temporary methods should still be faster than the old

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method of signing book cards. While the system is down, it will not be possible to process holds, identify material that is checked out, or tell when material checked out will be returned. Students are urged to be aware of this in order to avoid doing assignments at the last minute and possibly finding some of the material unavailable.

When the system resumes operations, all transactions will be keyed in. The system will then process holds and prior fine and overdue notices. Since many of

the overdue notices will not be printed until after the close of the term, be sure to return all library materials to prevent fines from accumulating over the summer.

This new circulation system which is produced by CLSI, Inc., one of the oldest companies in library automation, is a totally integrated library system that speeds up the checkout procedure, relieves routine tasks such as filing cards and writing overdue notices, provides greater control over the collection, and many other advantages.

UNA uses CLSI through its membership in the Library Management Network, a cooperative of libraries in North Alabama. By working together as a network, the libraries of LMN are able to participate in automation activities that would be impossible as individual libraries. UNA received funding from the Alabama Public Library Service and the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries to cover the cost of the equipment and the conversion of the bibliographic records to machine-readable form.