

Collier Library to adopt new classification system

Sometimes next autumn, the collections of Collier and some other campus libraries will undergo a subtle but significant change, announced Dr. Fred Heath, head librarian. Coincident with the installation of an computer-based cataloging system, the library will begin using the Library of Congress classification system rather than the Dewey Decimal System that has served it so well in the past.

"The change was made for several reasons," said Heath. "In the first place, the Library of Congress system is the language of academic libraries. The new computer-based cataloging system, SOLINET, will provide bibliographic access to hundreds of academic libraries across the

United States. Using the cataloging information previously contributed by these libraries is one way to speed the workflow here at UNA. Too, the Library of Congress system is considered to be technically superior to the more cumbersome, some would say outdated, Dewey Decimal system. The efficiency of all aspects of Technical Services operations will be improved by the conversion."

In addition, there were local reasons for the change, explained Heath. "Collier Library is crowded, with a long-awaited annex still in the planning stage. Conversion will permit Dewey books to be packed more tightly on their shelves; only the new LC ranges need to have space for

expansion. In this way Collier will be better to cope with its space needs as it awaits the new construction," he said.

According to the librarian, the library hopes eventually to put all of its current collection into the Library of Congress system. Working through SOLINET, the act of converting the old records will create a machine-readable data base of all library holdings. "A machine readable collection is the key to upgrading services to the community, and would make possible catalog listings of library holdings in the dormitories and speedier automated circulation systems," Heath said.

Until conversion can be accomplished, the materials in Collier Library will be shelved in

two classification systems. The older books in the Dewey System will be shelved on the mezzanine and the ground floor. All new books, with Library of Congress markings, will be shelved on the first floor. The card catalog will be the finding source for both collections.

"The transition time promises to be a busy one," said Heath. "This summer all the books will be moved to the mezzanine and the ground floor, thereby freeing the first floor for new books going into the LC Classification system in the fall. A priority project will be undertaken to completely change the Reference Collection to Library of Congress over the summer."