

Library

'Tattle Tape' will save loss and money

By JENNIFER CONDRA
Staff Writer

An estimated 80 percent cut in book losses is predicted with the new library security system located in Collier Library and in the materials collections in the Education-Nursing Building.

The new "Tattle Tape" Systems were installed on UNA's campus in May, according to Dr. Fred Heath, university librarian. "The two systems combined were acquired at a cost of approximately \$22,000," he said.

The system is estimated to save 3,000 hours of book check time in which in the past someone had been hired to stay at the exit of Collier Library to make sure

students were not taking materials. At minimum wage this will be a savings of over \$12,000 per year. Book losses have cost the university hundreds of dollars per year.

According to 3M company, which makes the detection systems, the Tattle Tape sensitizes library materials to activate an electronic detector if patrons attempt to leave with a book or periodical which has not been properly checked out. An audible signal activates the unit gate locks.

There are markers hidden in the books. At the check-out desks, a book check unit deactivates the signal when books or periodicals

are processed. The book check also reactivates books as they are returned to the library.

Circulation librarian Glenda Griggs stated, "We know students often mix up library material with their own belongings by mistake. Fortunately this system will detect these materials when they are placed in briefcases or book bags."

Other educational institutions across Northern Alabama which have installed the Tattle Tape System include the University of

Alabama at Huntsville, Calhoun Community College in Decatur, Decatur High School, Alabama A&M of Huntsville, and Arab High School.