Library now has web page on the world wide web

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University of North Alabama students may now gain access to the new UNA Libraries Web Page, an Internet web site dedicated to expanding the library's horizons.

The web page, which can be found at http://www2.una.edu/library, or under Information Technologies at the UNA Home Page, debuted in mid-January and is available to anyone.

Betty Meagher, Instructor Librarian and editor of the web page, said the system was developed for the students "so that they can access information in a logical and efficient manner. We are trying to approach resources in a less traditional way, and we are taking part of the Internet's quality resources and organizing them for the students."

The new web site provides a "no-frills environment" where UNA students and faculty can find quick access to library information, databases, information resources, state and federal government resources, and catalogs from other university libraries as well as the Library of Congress.

Meagher said the heart of the web site, though, will be UNACAT. Soon, students will be able to find information on library resources without having to find time to visit the library computers. UNACAT can be accessed from their own computers, helping students save time in their busy schedules. "Right now, it is under construction," Meagher added, "but eventually we will have UNACAT here."

Entering the UNA Libraries Web Page brings up a menu of seven topic headings. Clicking on highlighted blue lettering loads the information of the chosen heading quickly and efficiently.

Because of the web site's simple approach, access times to the page are very brisk. "I want this to be fast," Meagher explained. "When you're trying to do a term paper, you want to get done. You don't want to wait for a picture to load up."

Students can find news, hours, and policies on each of the four major campus libraries by clicking the "Library Information" heading.

The "Databases" heading features the Expanded Academic Index, an exclusive item that can only be accessed from the UNA campus. Here, journals from 1980 to the current year are indexed. Over 1500 journals and five major newspapers are included.

By clicking on "Information Resources," students can access the Virtual Reference Collection. This heading divides different Internet sites into individual subjects, most of which are unrelated to UNA. For example, students may access newspapers like USA Today. Job resources and electronic books are also located in this area.

The Electronic Citation Guide can be accessed from the UNA Libraries Web Page, according to Meagher. It shows students how to cite Internet sources in papers and reports.

The government and Alabama resources sections list government documents produced by the White House, NATO, and UN. On a more local level, information can be accessed on Shoals politics.

Clicking the "Other Library Catalogs" section leads to web pages of other universities around the nation.

Meagher said that the web page intends to provide the best possible service for UNA students. Referring to the recent Internet boom, she added, "I think that we are also trying to embrace this new technology."