

Tuition increase benefits NCSU libraries

North Carolina State University's (NCSU) Board of Trustees voted on November 17, 1995, to increase annual student tuition by \$400 for most students. Its action splits the projected \$8.2 million increase evenly between need-based financial aid and the NCSU Libraries.

The resulting infusion of \$4.1 million into the library budget will mean about a 35% increase to its annual state-appropriated budget of \$11.6 million. The majority of the funds will go toward the enhancement of the collections, stemming their recent decline in the face of rising inflation and costs. The monies will help restore purchasing power for books to its level in the late 1980s, allow support for new academic programs, and forestall further serials cancellations.

Remaining funds will be used to improve the ease and speed of access to the collections and expand services for the user community. Plans include offering a 24-hour library schedule, an electronic reserves collection for 24-hour availability, a program to improve the information-seeking competencies of students, and an automated system for request and on-campus delivery of articles and books not owned by NCSU. The new monies will also help the NCSU Libraries create a digital library, including the enhancement of electronic collections and networking infrastructure. Service desk hours in the main library and hours of opening in branch libraries will be extended.

"We recognize the hardship that the tuition increase will present for many students," said vice provost and director of libraries Susan K. Nutter, "but the additional funding will result in significantly improved services and collections for all students and faculty at NC State, which will be of lifelong benefit."

Collaborative delivery of electronic texts endorsed

Representatives from the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) member institutions (the Big Ten universities and the University of Chicago) launched an effort to develop a col-



laborative process for the production and networked distribution of electronic texts in the humanities. Their initiative transpired from a meeting sponsored by the CIC library directors and hosted by Indiana University's Library Electronic Text Resource Service (LETRS) steering committee last October.

Many of the CIC members have been deeply involved with electronic texts,

observed LETRS codirectors Richard Ellis and Mark Day. "This meeting provided the opportunity to discuss how we can move forward as partners in these efforts, thereby providing access to far more materials than could be made available through individual effort," said Day.

The first set of proposals "support CIC-wide development of digital collections for use by our scholars and students," said Roger Clark, director of the CIC, noting that the initiative will enable participating universities to demonstrate the feasibility of seamless access to institutional and consortia resources, and make it easier for all CIC member institutions to acquire and deliver electronic text resources. Elements of the initiative will include: providing networked access to existing electronic text resources within the CIC; defining procedures and policies for adding new resources; identifying and employing text markup conventions and standards; sharing expertise across the CIC; and collaboration in developing an abstract model and communications protocols for text searching and retrieval.

Alabama governor meets students digitally

In November the Honorable Fob James, governor of Alabama, met with an information policy class of students at the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) in Tuscaloosa. What makes this event noteworthy is that neither the governor nor half of the students were in Tuscaloosa at the time. The class is taught via the Intercampus Interactive Telecommunications System (ITS), a two-way compressed video system with sites throughout Alabama. Students at sites in Atmore,



Ron Doctor facilitates a discussion between his library science students and the governor of Alabama via an Interactive Telecommunications System at the University of Alabama.

Gadsden, Birmingham, and Tuscaloosa meet weekly for the class. The governor participated from the Project OnRamp site in the Alabama State House in Montgomery.

SLIS dean Philip Turner said, "This connection is an example of the real power of digital technologies. The capacity to enrich our curriculum is limited only by our imagination."

New ACRL discussion group formed

Based on a recommendation from ACRL President Patricia Senn Breivik, ACRL has established the Alliances for New Directions in Teaching/Learning Discussion Group. The first meeting was held at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago on June 26, 1995. The group was formed as a response to several national initiatives focusing on the increased use and integration of information technology into the teaching/learning process. Those initiatives include Educom's National Learning Infrastructure Initiative (NLII), the American Association of Higher Education's Teaching and Learning Roundtables, and the Coalition for Networked Information's New Learning Communities program. Breivik stated, "We believe that the potential impact of these efforts on the future of higher education and academic libraries is so great as to warrant strategic coordination among librarians' efforts" (*Cognotes*, June 25, 1995).

The article also says that the group will facilitate the evolution of strategic efforts in this area, which ties in well with both ACRL's new Strategic Plan and ALA's Goal 2000, according to ACRL executive director Althea Jenkins.

Joan K. Lippincott, assistant executive director of the Coalition for Networked Informa-

tion, was elected chair of the group and Timothy F. Richards, director of library and information technology services at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, was elected vice-chair.

At the initial meeting of the group, participants described their involvement in various national initiatives, discussed the purpose of the discussion group, and suggested ideas for its meeting at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio, 8:00-9:00 a.m., January 22, in the Convention Center, Room 201. Librarians who have participated in any of the national initiatives

mentioned above are encouraged to contact Joan Lippincott (joan@cni.org) if they would like to describe their institution's involvement at the Midwinter session.

"Every Librarian a Leader" program planned for New York

ACRL's 1996 President's program will offer attendees a three-day seminar and comprehensive leadership workbook. The program will consist of four modules over the three-day period, July 6-8, 1996, during the ALA Annual Conference in New York: the keynote address will focus on why librarians must be leaders on their campuses and how they can begin the process of cultivating more inclusive leadership skills; "New Perspectives for Creative Strategies" will examine ways to improve communication skills and develop creative problem-solving approaches; nine ACRL programs will address specific leadership themes; and "Assessing Your Style" will offer a hands-on session to review conference experiences and share thoughts about leadership opportunities. Participants will be asked to complete a leadership self-assessment survey.

"The program will involve interactive formats to train academic librarians in leadership skills and influence public policy both within their colleges and universities and in the broader arena in dealing with other professionals, professional organizations, and public policy agencies," said ACRL President Patricia Senn Breivik. "The library profession is changing rapidly as higher education is demanding greater accountability and responsibility of its librarian faculty and staff," Breivik explained. "Librarians need