FAU Libraries Share Resource Materials with Universities in Nigeria and Armenia

BOCA RATON, FL (July 2, 2012) – Florida Atlantic University Libraries have recently signed an agreement to share copies of their articles and documents with the American University of Nigeria Library. The university, which serves about 1,400 students and 100 faculty members in the farming town of Yola, Nigeria, is struggling to develop research and teaching programs. The agreement allows the seven-year-old library to request up to 30 electronic photocopies of periodicals, conference papers, government documents and other materials each month from FAU Libraries’ interlibrary loan department.

“We are glad to assist this young institution in providing access to its faculty as they establish their research programs,” said William Miller, Ph.D., dean of University Libraries at FAU. “The university is in a poorer region and does not have a budget to access the expensive proprietary materials that we subscribe to.”

This is FAU Libraries’ second agreement for special services with an international library. Since 2001, FAU Libraries have sent electronic copies of materials to the Papazian Library at the American University of Armenia in Yerevan, Armenia. The American University of Nigeria and the American University of Armenia are modeled after the U.S. higher education structure.

At the American University of Nigeria, many of the professors and administrators are either American or have worked in colleges or universities in the United States. The library’s director, Amed Demirhan, is an American and a former Broward County Library employee who became acquainted with Miller and FAU Libraries through the Southeast Florida Library Information Network.

“This agreement is a big window for us and will allow our faculty access to current scholarly resources,” said Demirhan.

The intent of the special agreements is consistent with FAU’s reputation of forging distinctive alliances, serving diverse communities and expanding its international presence. The
agreements also demonstrate the good will of FAU Libraries, which primarily use WorldCat, a global network of library content and services that uses the web to connect 72,000 member libraries in 170 countries, as its main source for sharing research and resources.

“This demonstrates our willingness to share resources in the international arena and identifies us as a good place to come to for resources,” said Troy Christenson, interlibrary loan librarian and coordinator at FAU Libraries. “Sharing our resources enhances our ability to borrow materials for our university community.”

FAU Libraries’ interlibrary loan department is receiving more requests for international articles and documents, and expects that trend to continue to rise. FAU’s diverse student and faculty populations are requesting more research materials in their native languages, and the Internet is helping to increase awareness of the availability of the articles.

“The more our budgets shrink, the more it will continue to drive up demand for these services,” said Christenson. “We must borrow because we cannot purchase or store all of the materials.”

For more information on the agreements or on FAU Libraries’ interlibrary loan program, contact Troy Christenson at 561-297-3667.

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PHOTO CAPTIONS:

“Photo #1 AUN Library.jpg” Omachi Okolo, a library assistant at the American University of Nigeria Library, helps students (left) Bassaro Abdulrasheed and (right) Kamilu Elwan.

“Photo #2 AUN Library.jpg” From left, American University of Nigeria Library director Amed Demirhan and William Miller, dean of University Libraries at Florida Atlantic University.

About Florida Atlantic University:

Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University serves more than 29,000 undergraduate and graduate students on seven campuses and sites. FAU’s world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.