

It is our pleasure to nominate Ms. Debbie Cobb, library supervisor for the Marx Library Interlibrary Loan department, for the Employee of the Quarter program. Ms. Cobb consistently goes beyond what is expected of a staff employee in service of the University of South Alabama's students and faculty, providing service that establishes her department as a leader in interlibrary loan in the state of Alabama.

Recently, at an employee development event, Libraries employees were asked what about working in libraries fills them with a sense of purpose. Ms. Cobb stated that she views her purpose as being to help our students become graduates, our junior faculty become tenured faculty, and our tenured faculty become renowned scholars. She accomplishes this by leading a team that last fiscal year borrowed over 3400 items for our community. She also assisted students, faculty, and researchers at other universities with meeting their scholarship needs by coordinating the lending of over 2800 of our resources.

Ms. Cobb also recently developed a program to address the most frequent complaint found in the library surveys about Interlibrary Loan - having to pay for some ILLs. She implemented a program to use USA's IFM account (the Interlibrary Loan system of debits and credits) to pay for such loans for faculty, graduate students, and any student working on a Capstone or Senior project. Ms. Cobb's initiative satisfied a faculty and student need, but it did not result in the library having to spend extra money since those credits were already in place. While this new program was never advertised, faculty told us that they noticed they were no longer being asked to pay for any Interlibrary Loans and were extremely happy about it.

Frequently, when we introduce ourselves as being from the Libraries, our faculty tell us, unprompted, how helpful Ms. Cobb is. Another example comes from the acknowledgments section of Dr. Christina Lindeman's 2017 book, *Representing Duchess Anna Amalia's Bildung*: "the final work on this manuscript would not have been possible without the help of the University of South Alabama Marx Library Interlibrary Loan Department, for without them it would never have been completed."

Although her job does not require professional service, Ms. Cobb is active in several professional organizations at the state level. She is currently serving her second term as the treasurer of the Alabama Chapter of College and Research Libraries, and she serves as a member of the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries' Resource Sharing committee. Rarely are these appointments held by people who are not in a professional or faculty librarian position.

On a personal note, we have greatly benefited from working with Ms. Cobb. Not only has she shared her expertise and experience with us, she has also assisted us personally with our own scholarship. It is our opinion that official recognition of Ms. Cobb's accomplishments and service to the University of South Alabama is overdue.

Submitted by: Ellen Wilson and Kathy Wheeler

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