



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR INFORMATION:

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April 16, 2003

NCSU Libraries Wins Library of the Future Award for LOBO

The North Carolina State University Libraries is the 2003 recipient of the American Library Association (ALA)/Information Today "Library of the Future" Award. The Libraries won the award for its Web-based, technology-enhanced, and graphically attractive Library Online Basic Orientation program known as LOBO.

The cash award of \$1,500 and a gold-framed citation of achievement donated by Information Today, Inc., honors an individual library, library consortium, group of librarians, or support organization for innovative planning for, applications of, or development of training programs about information technology in a library setting.

During summer 2002, the LOBO revision project brought together the Instruction Team in the Libraries' Research and Information Services Department, other library staff, and NC State English faculty members involved in teaching



The NCSU Libraries LOBO team [clockwise from bottom center] Eric Pauley, Megan Oakleaf, Tom Zack, Josh Boyer, Darby Orcutt, Kim Duckett, Cindy Levine, and May Chang.



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freshman composition. The collaboration resulted in a greatly improved LOBO that uses information technology features to help students learn the information literacy process. These features include a search strategy builder, a book and journal citation builder, viewlets (automated Web-based training demonstrations), and wizards. Another LOBO feature is a direct link to the Libraries' "Ask A Librarian LIVE" virtual reference service, giving students an interactive, real-time connection to the reference librarians.

Tom Sloan, chair of the ALA award committee, cited these additions and innovations as being key to the selection of the NCSU Libraries for the award and then pointed to another factor. Sloan said, "The jury also recognized that LOBO was developed through a partnership between librarians and freshmen composition instructors."

Vice Provost and Director of Libraries Susan K. Nutter said, "This prize, won by an exceptional

staff of librarians who care deeply about information literacy, shows just how critical collaboration is on a university campus. We could not have done this alone. Collaborative projects between librarians and faculty members are central to the integration of information skills into all levels of the curriculum."

The ALA/Information Today "Library of the Future" Award will be presented to the NCSU Libraries at the ALA annual conference in Toronto, Canada, this June.

The NCSU Libraries offers leading-edge resources and services from its central library, the D. H. Hill Library, and four branch libraries. In all, the Libraries has a collection of more than 3.1 million volumes, nearly 53,000 print and electronic serials, and hundreds of databases, with emphasis on science, engineering, and technology. The Web URL for LOBO is <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/lobo2/>.