

## Special Collections & Archives -- A Jewel in the Tower

Have you ever visited the 12th floor of Kent State's University Library? It's the location of the department of Special Collections and Archives. We are open to all and encourage visitors. The department collects, preserves, and provides access to primary sources and rare materials that support student, faculty, staff, and community research needs. Our collections cover a range of subject areas, but some collections we are particularly well known for include:

- the history of Kent State University
- the history of Kent, Portage County, and the surrounding region
- May 4 (the Kent State shootings and their aftermath)
- true crime literature
- children's literature, including Babar the Elephant
- British and American literature, including 20th century poetry
- the history of the book and the book arts
- theater and the performing arts

We collect materials in all formats including books and periodicals, handwritten documents, such as letters and diaries, audio-visuals such as photographs and sound recordings, and even artifacts.

### Exhibits: Telling a Story through Unique Collections



**"The Nature of Natural Science" Exhibit (2011)**

Regular exhibitions feature materials from the collections. Our current exhibits feature materials related to the U.S. Civil War and the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. The Borowitz Gallery exhibit (located in the hallway outside of the Special Collections reading room) celebrates Babar the Elephant's 80th birthday. We also regularly feature selected items in the Library's first floor exhibit spaces.

### Personalized Research Assistance

In addition to our one-of-a-kind collections, we offer in-depth, focused research assistance to students, faculty, staff, and an international community of scholars. We encourage use of our collections for personal interest as well. Our primary goal is to ensure that everyone is able to access these collections in a supportive and friendly atmosphere. While there are special usage policies that apply to working with archival and special collections, staff will ensure you have a productive and satisfying research experience.

### Hands-on Instructional Program



We take particular pride in our instructional programs that allow students (both undergraduate and graduate levels) to learn about our primary sources in conjunction with their coursework. These sessions, which usually focus on a particular subject within the collections, also include coverage of so-called "archives etiquette"--how to access and use archival materials--as well as hands-on work with actual primary sources during the students' normal class time.

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## Resource News

### Predatory Open-Access Publishers

Librarians occasionally receive inquiries from faculty colleagues about the reputation of certain publishers. Discussion of “predatory publishers” recently surfaced, seemingly having become a more prevalent problem in the online environment. Jeffrey Beall, librarian at University of Colorado Denver, monitors this development. His recent blog post provided this definition:

“Predatory, open-access publishers are those that unprofessionally exploit the author-pays model of open-access publishing (Gold OA) for their own profit. Typically, these publishers spam professional email lists, broadly soliciting article submissions for the clear purpose of gaining additional income. Operating essentially as vanity presses, these publishers typically have a low article acceptance threshold, with a false-front or non-existent peer review process. Unlike professional publishing operations, whether subscription-based or ethically-sound open access, these predatory publishers add little value to scholarship, pay little attention to digital preservation, and operate using fly-by-night, unsustainable business models.” (<http://metadata.posterous.com/83235355>)

Beall’s post includes a listing of journals that fit this predatory definition, plus others that show some of the characteristics and are on his “watchlist.”

Beall recommends that faculty do not do business with these publishers. This would include submitting manuscripts, serving on editorial boards, and buying advertising--anything that would suggest legitimacy for these operations.

A recent article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* covered this issue as well: “Predatory Online Journals Lure Scholars Who Are Eager to Publish.” (<http://chronicle.com/article/Predatory-Online-Journals/131047/?sid=at>)

### The Passing of the Print Encyclopaedia Britannica

The decision to cease publication of the print *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was announced by its management in March. The company will continue to update and offer its digital online version. Select articles are made freely available on its website (<http://www.britannica.com/>). All others are available through subscription. Of note, some print copies of the 15th edition can still be had for \$1,400.

The famed 11th edition published in 1911 is now in the public domain and has been made available freely through the Internet Archive (<http://archive.org/details/EncyclopaediaBritannica1911HQDJVU>). It was a notable edition because well-known scholars authored a number of the articles. Many of the articles are representative of life in the 19th and early 20th centuries as well.

### China/Asia on Demand

*China Online Journals* (Wanfang) has changed into *China/Asia on Demand*. This resource provides access to more than 900 Chinese language arts and humanities full-text online journals.

To search, choose the Advanced Search option and choose the “Package: Arts & Humanities” before submitting the search to limit to that part of the database to which we have full-text access.

While many articles are retrieved instantly, there may be a waiting period of a few minutes to 3 hours for delivery of other articles. Users must submit an email address to be notified of article availability.

### OhioLINK Music Center

The *OhioLINK Music Center*, a subset of the *Naxos Music Library*, is an online streaming music database of international works from classical to spoken word. The 78,000+ tracks, 21,000+ works can be searched or browsed by track, title, performer, album, composer and date of composition. Flash player is required. Access to the music files is restricted to the students, faculty and staff of OhioLINK member institutions.

### Oxford Reference Online

*Oxford Reference Online* is being relaunched as *Oxford Reference*. In addition to the revised name, there will be a new interface to this resource. Included will be hundreds of thousands overview pages and 275 new timelines. Also provided will be *Oxford Quick Reference* which is designed to provide speedy answers and definitions from subject reference dictionaries, quotations, dictionaries, maps, flags, and timelines.

### Jewish Virtual Library

The *Jewish Virtual Library* (formerly JSOURCE), a division of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, covers a wide range of issues relating to Jewish history. Users have access to topically organized articles and photographs, including citation information. The Library has 13 “wings”, including History, Women, The Holocaust, Travel, Israel & The States, Maps, Politics, Biography, Israel, Religion, Judaic Treasures of the Library of Congress, Vital Statistics and Reference. Also included is the Virtual Israel Experience, “an educational tool and virtual tour of Israel designed especially for students going on Birthright and other trips to Israel.”

## Update on Library Services

### **Special Collections & Archives continued from page 1**

Our faculty partners have consistently indicated the value of these hands-on instructional sessions to their students, especially in providing students with the very rare opportunity to engage in research with real primary and historical sources.

To date, we've worked with courses in a variety of disciplines including, but not limited to, history, English, journalism and mass communication, visual communication design, art history, library and information science, and physical education. Our usage statistics from 1998 to the present indicate that 80% of all of our users are students on some level, ranging from middle school students through the doctoral level, and 45% of all of our users are undergraduate students.

### **Special Collections & Archives on the Web**

Whether you are thinking of utilizing Special Collections and Archives for your own research or courses, or are simply curious to see what we have to offer, an exploration of the department's Web site is a useful exercise. Our site offers "finding aids" (descriptive guides) to over 500 archival collections, browsable by title, subject area, or material types included. You can also browse our digital collections including the *Chestnut Burr* yearbooks and over 1,200 historical photographs of Kent State University.

Our books and periodicals are cataloged in KentLINK. Searches can be limited to retrieve materials found in Special Collections and Archives, by selecting "Special Collections" from the drop-down menu to the right of the KentLINK search box.

Please visit us online and in person, and consider "friending" us on Facebook to receive department news and events as well as interesting tidbits about our collections.

Home Page: <http://www.library.kent.edu/specialcollections>

Digital Collections: <http://www.library.kent.edu/digital>

### **Course Reserve Requests for Summer and Fall 2012**

Reserve Services is now accepting course material requests for the summer and fall semesters. Faculty can place their requests online at <http://www.library.kent.edu/reserveforms>.

Faculty can also visit our office which is located in University Library, Room 180, adjacent to the first floor Quiet Study Area, or call us at 330-672-7906 during our office hours Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For more information, see <http://reserves.library.kent.edu/eres/default.aspx> or call 330-672-7906.



### **Our Experience to Date**

The University Library began a 24/5 schedule in the Spring semester of 2011. For Fall and Spring semesters through finals week, the University Library maintains a 24-hour schedule, 5 days per week, opening on Sunday and remaining open without a break until Friday night. To ensure the safety of all, access to the building is limited to current KSU students, faculty, and staff beginning at 11 p.m. Users are required to present a valid FLASHcard to a security aide to gain entry. Security personnel patrol the building all night, providing a safe study and research environment.

In the first full year of 24/5 access, the University Library had 24,681 entrances to the building between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. Of those, 6,202 entered in the expanded hours after 2 a.m.

The Libraries' night staff observes that people use the library all hours of the night. At the beginning of a semester, only a few students stay in the building during late night hours. Building occupancy increases as the semester continues, drops a little after midterms, and then increases a lot for finals week. A pattern of building use has emerged for the hours of the night, too. Building occupancy is higher in the 11 p.m. and midnight hours and tends to decrease hourly throughout the night until the early morning scholars arrive during the 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. hours.

The hours schedule changes for intersession and summer. Check the "Hours" link on the Libraries' homepage for detailed information.

### **New Website Coming for University Libraries**

University Libraries will be updating its website over the summer. The goals of the redesign are to: 1) integrate the Libraries' site into the look and feel of KSU's web presence, 2) make the site easier to navigate and use, and 3) increase opportunities for collaboration and reaching new audiences. Users should encounter a more engaging and dynamic library web presence when the new site debuts, but they will also find all the resources, tools and services they have come to rely on. The new site is expected to go live sometime in July.

The team has undertaken focus groups, card sorting exercises, surveys and wire frame testing to gather feedback on the needs of the libraries' website. Additional feedback opportunities will come in June when a formal usability study is planned with an outside firm. If you or your students are interested in participating, please send a note to Diane Sperko ([dsperko@kent.edu](mailto:dsperko@kent.edu)). All feedback is welcome--send any comments or recommendations to Diane.



## ...more from the Libraries



### Calling Alumni Authors for Kent Reads Presentations--Fall 2012

Are you a Kent State alumni author who has written and published a book? If so the University Libraries Communications Office would like to invite you to participate in our Kent Reads with Alumni Authors series in the fall of 2012. The goals of this read aloud series are to feature the works of KSU alumni, to offer a forum for the university community to discuss topics of interest and to celebrate reading, books and libraries.

Alumni, students, faculty, staff and community members are welcome to attend these free talks by alumni authors. There will also be an opportunity for the featured author to sell and sign books after each presentation. They will take place on the first floor of the Library, and light refreshments will be provided.

For more information or to be considered as a presenter, please contact Diane Sperko, communications director, at [dsperko@kent.edu](mailto:dsperko@kent.edu) or 330-672-1852.



### Faculty Writing Group Fall 2012

Are you working so hard at helping your students navigate their writing projects that you have little time left for your own? Join fellow faculty from across the disciplines for lunch and collegial feedback on your writing projects.

The Writing Commons will once again offer group sessions for faculty writing. Meetings will be on alternate Tuesdays 12:30-1:30 on the 4th floor of the Library in the Writing Commons. We will meet every two weeks for lunch (BYOL) and helpful feedback on our scholarly and professional projects. Make some time in your schedule for you!

Our Spring semester sessions were very productive. So bring your lunch, any writing project at any stage of development, a mug for hot beverages . . . and perhaps . . . a friend!

### Student Multimedia Studio Tips: Historical Documentaries

A number of English writing courses have been using a historical documentary format for their multimodal writing projects that is worth sharing with other faculty from all disciplines since this format and process can be used for just about any type of presentation.

Essentially, students in the writing courses research a historical event then write a paper about it. The paper becomes the foundation for their video project. The student then interviews a person who participated in the event or for which the event had some impact on their life. Questions are asked that provoke responses that can be used to provide more insight into various aspects of the event, but from a personal level.

After collecting photographs, videos, music and even sound effects from the internet and other sources, the student is then ready to assemble the video. The "paper" is used as the "narration", generally covering the "facts" about the event, with pictures used as visuals added to coincide with the narrative. The recorded interview clips are inserted where they add the "personalized" story about the event, and finally, music, sound effects, titles and credits including citations are added.

The final video is then saved as a windows media video that can be played on any computer. iMovie can also be used for this type of project for those students using MACs. The finished video on a MAC is a Quicktime movie that can also be played on any computer.

The historical documentary format works well for these English writing courses. However, with only slight modifications in focus, the process can just as easily be used for creating videos about events or developments in the sciences, business, and just about any other subject area.

This summer would be a great time to start thinking about video project assignments or any other type of multimedia project assignment for fall or spring of next year. The SMS is a great place to start if you have any questions or would like to discuss how a video presentation could be used for your course.

If you have questions or want to schedule an in-class workshop or demonstration contact:

Gary Mote, Assistant Professor & Student Multimedia Studio Manager ([gmote@kent.edu](mailto:gmote@kent.edu), 330-672-2351).

## A Note from the Dean Jim Bracken, Dean of University Libraries jbracke1@kent.edu

### It is Not Too Late to Get to Know Your Personal Librarian

I was recently told that all I do is talk about space. Ouch! I am a bit embarrassed about this because it is about the opposite of my intention. Yes, space matters – to people. Books don't really care. Books are happiest when kept dry (30-50% RH), cool (65 °F maximum), and out of UV light. As we continue to think about ways to improve University Libraries, we will need to talk even more about space. But in fact, it is people who are the very reason that we are talking so much about space. Space matters because people matter more.

And in the cruelest month of April, when crunch time for big papers and final exams most ominously looms, is when Kent State's librarians should be more than an afterthought to you and your students. Indeed, the name of the specific librarian who is responsible for working with your particular subject area (department, center, institute, school, college, whatever) is perhaps the most important piece of information that any Kent State student or faculty member can possess. Subject librarians for just about everything at Kent State are listed at: <http://www.library.kent.edu/subjectlibrarians>.

Do not read any further until you have clicked on this link and refreshed in your memory your subject librarian's name. Consider her or him or them to be your personal librarian(s). They have answers. They can help.

You will also find the names of subject librarians linked individually from the many subject pages listed under just about every clickable word on the Libraries' many web pages – like under "Research," "Services," "About Us," "Help," and more. In fact, I dare you to find a Libraries' page lacking some sort of feature offering to toss you a helpful lifeline if you should get lost in the process of using the Libraries' web site -- like maybe something down in a page's lower corner giving you a contact if you have "Questions or comments about this page?" Or that "Ask A Librarian" button with that dirty pink (or is it raspberry?) background. Just wait until you see the Libraries' new website. My hope is that the new website's "ASK US" button will be even more annoyingly insistent for all of our users to ask for help when needed.

Look closely at either the physical or virtual Libraries and you will see the presence of librarians wanting to help users save time and succeed at Kent State. We count on you to encourage your students to seek assistance. Reminding your students to contact their librarian in April may insure that we'll see them again in August.



<http://www.library.kent.edu/askus>



Please consider making a donation online by using the University's secure form at <http://www.givetokent.org>. To specify the Libraries as recipient, scroll down the list and under "Student Assistance and Campus Life" select "Library Development Fund 15720". We are grateful for your support.

**FRIENDS'**

**CORNER**

## Library Card



### Are you a community borrower?

University Libraries invites members of the community to establish borrowing privileges by presenting a valid photo ID at the desk of one of our Kent campus libraries. This free service is available for those who are 16 years of age or older.

Community borrowers may borrow a maximum of 20 items. Of these, only five may be from another OhioLINK library. To charge out materials, borrowers must present a valid photo ID. Interlibrary Loan service is available at a charge of \$10 per filled request in addition to any charges assessed by the lending library. Community borrowing privileges exclude remote access to licensed electronic resources (such as research databases, electronic journals, and electronic books), including those from OhioLINK. Although visitors may use library materials within the Libraries, some in-house resources may carry similar restrictions.

Community borrowers may specify other persons allowed to use their borrowing privileges. These users must be authorized in person by the borrower using the "proxy borrower form" available at the Kent Campus main library Circulation Desk, or online at <http://www.library.kent.edu/proxyborrower>.

We look forward to having you as one of our users!

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