Welcoming Our New Dean

University Libraries welcomes James K. Bracken as the sixth head of Kent State’s Libraries. Dean Bracken previously served as Assistant Director for Collections, Instruction, and Public Services at The Ohio State University Libraries. He has a doctorate in English literature from the University of South Carolina. His research interests focus on 16th century printing. He envisions a library that is both increasingly digital and important as place. As he says, “University Libraries want to help you wherever you are.”

Inviting Library Spaces

We are thrilled to be going into this year with new, very attractive spaces to offer our users. The redesigned Risman Plaza leads to a stunning new front entry for the Main Library. Once inside you will be struck by the bright, roomy lobby and a completely updated Circulation area. The changes are certainly bringing students in, and once there, we are committed to offering them services and an overall environment that contribute to their success.

For information on events celebrating each of these spaces, please see the calendar on the back page.
New Online Access to Major Collections

Early English Books Online

Early English Books Online (EEBO) contains digital facsimile page images of virtually every work printed in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and British North America and works in English printed elsewhere from 1473-1700 - from the first book printed in English by William Caxton, through the age of Spenser and Shakespeare and the tumult of the English Civil War. This incomparable collection now contains about 100,000 of over 125,000 titles listed in Pollard & Redgrave's Short-Title Catalogue (1475-1640) and Wing’s Short-Title Catalogue (1641-1700) and their revised editions, as well as the Thomason Tracts (1640-1661) collection. Work is underway to create searchable full text of the more than 100,000 titles in the collection. Previously, user access was through the Libraries’ microform collection only.

U.S. Serial Set Digital Collection

This collection begins in 1789 with the American State Papers and details Congressional business through 1969. It includes reports and documents either produced or ordered by Congress, as well as presidential communications and treaty materials. The Serial Set contains Congressional legislative reports that provide unrivaled insight into the legislative intent of laws enacted before 1969. Few, if any, research collections compare to the Serial Set in time span, subject variety, source authority and diversity or relevance to the modern studies of yesterday’s activities and attitudes.

U.S. Statutes at Large, 1789-Present

Another online collection from LexisNexis, the U.S. Statutes at Large is a chronological compilation of federal laws, joint and concurrent resolutions, presidential proclamations, reorganization plans, and constitutional amendments. Prior to 1950, it also included treaties and executive agreements, which have the same legal force as statutory law. This online version is updated monthly.

New York Times Historical

This resource provides the definitive digital archive of full-text and full-image articles for every issue from 1851 up to the past two years. The searchable index presently covers 1851-1993. NOTE: if you are looking for current New York Times content, please consult either LexisNexis Academic or the New York Times online (http://www.nytimes.com/).

New Access to a Half-Million Full-Text Documents through KentLINK

Over the summer the KentLINK catalog grew by about 25%! As a special project, we loaded a half million records for freely available materials in digital format. Most works are older and out of copyright; the recent works tend to be government publications.

The vast majority of the records came from the Hathi Trust (http://www.hathitrust.org), a collaborative archive of digital content contributed by a number of major research libraries. Most of the Hathi material was digitized as a part of the Google Books scanning project and includes works in 160 languages, chiefly English, German, French, and other European languages.

The second source of material is Project Gutenberg (http://www.gutenberg.org), the electronic text initiative founded by Michael Hart with roots going back to 1971. It is comprised of more than 33,000 titles, chiefly literary in nature. The texts are available in several different formats.

These collections increase dramatically the amount of full-text material readily available via KentLINK for viewing on your computer.

More JSTOR

The Libraries now offers access to two new JSTOR collections. Arts & Sciences VIII broadens coverage of core humanities disciplines and includes a group of rare 19th and early 20th century American Art periodicals. Business III increases coverage in economics, business administration, finance, and international titles.

Readers’ Guide Full-Text (1890-Current)

Reader’s Guide indexes general-interest periodicals published in the United States. Full-text is provided for 215 magazines back to 1994. Indexing or abstracts are available for 360 magazines back to 1890.

Book Review Digest Plus (1905-Current)

Book Review Digest indexes reviews of current fiction and non-fiction and provides review excerpts, as well as over 100,000 full-text reviews. The database includes children’s books in addition to books for adults and young adults. Currently over 550,000 reviews are identified. Updated daily.
There’s More...

The Student Multimedia Studio’s 5 Tips for Successful Web Projects

1. Choose appropriate software: consider features needed, student technological competency, project goals.
   - Dreamweaver: for professional developers, steep learning curve, expensive to buy, not in labs
   - Free online web editing tools: such as Google Sites, Blogger, Wiki-Spaces. Of these, the SMS highly recommends KSU’s specialized version of Google Sites.
   - KSU’s Google Sites: free, uses tools familiar to Microsoft Word users, runs on both PC and MAC, “gadgets” for incorporating multimedia, facilitates working in teams, and eliminates having to upload a completed site to a web server.

2. Provide your students with examples of other students’ successful web projects or one you’ve made yourself.
The best way to get students started on any project is to start by showing them what a finished project should look like. Here’s where “trying it first” for yourself really pays off since the tools you use and many of the problems you encounter will be exactly the same tools and problems your students will face.

3. Provide a list of the elements that should be included in the website with an accompanying grading rubric.
Elements could include: How many pages are required? What content should be on each page? How should the content be organized on the pages (layout and design considerations)? What site navigation is required? How should the site navigation be organized? Should there be links to external websites? Also, provide the weighting for each for the resulting grade.

4. Provide adequate time to complete the project.
   Time is needed for research, organization, composition, and revision--much the same as you would allow for a typical “paper” assignment. However, for most students, creating a website will be totally new experience. They need time to learn new software and tools and to explore the unique organization of content and material required for a website. “Drafts” of their sites can easily be reviewed by simply sharing the URL for the site.

5. Provide step-by-step instructions, demonstrations, or even a hands-on workshop.
The SMS has a number of tutorials available online to help students with their projects--many specific to the types of projects being assigned by KSU faculty. Also a SMS staff member can visit your class or take your class to the library for a demo or hands-on workshop developed specifically for your class project. Here’s a direct link to the SMS’ Google Sites Tutorial PDF file: http://www.library.kent.edu/files/SMS_GoogleSiteBasics.pdf

Students can always come to the SMS for one-on-one assistance. For more information about web projects or the SMS, contact Gary Mote, SMS Manager, at: gmote@kent.edu or visit the SMS website at: http://www.library.kent.edu/sms

JMP: A Possible Alternative for SPSS

University Libraries has obtained a site license to the SAS package, JMP. Faculty teaching statistics may find this an attractive alternative to SPSS because it offers comparable functionality and is available to all KSU users at a reasonable fee. JMP provides an exciting combination of graphical and statistical interfaces and the possibility of exploring your data interactively. Typical analyses ranging from descriptive statistics through complex multivariate analyses are included. For each of these, JMP provides unique graphical interfaces in addition to the traditional tables. It also offers profilers, tests of product reliability, survival analyses, interactive experimental design features, neural net modeling, basic IRT analyses, and more. For an annual fee of $15, JMP is available for download at: https://www.library.kent.edu/personal/software/index.php


If you would like more information about how JMP might serve your needs, contact the Libraries' Statistical and Qualitative Software Consultant, Tina Ughrin (cughrin@kent.edu), or visit the web page: http://www.library.kent.edu/statsoftware.
As the fall semester gets underway, I wanted to take a moment to point you to our new instructional services web site and remind you of the many ways University Libraries can support student learning in your courses. First, to inform you about our instructional programs and services, we’ve created a new web site (www.library.kent.edu/instruction). It provides details on our information literacy plan, our programmatic approaches to instruction and access to a new instruction scheduling form.

Second, whether your course is online, in a large lecture hall or in another face-to-face setting, I want to remind you of the many ways your subject librarian can assist you. Your subject librarian can provide:

- Course-related information literacy instruction (at the library or in your classroom).
- A classroom research consultation – you devote one classroom period to library research and your subject librarian provides a computer lab and their expertise to support students at their points of need.
- Online tutorials and quizzes for your Vista8 course sections.
- Customized online instructional materials to meet the objectives of your online courses.
- An introduction to discipline-specific resources or an orientation to a number of basic library services (e.g., Ask a Librarian, PeRCS, RefWorks, Interlibrary Loan, and more).
- Answers about and access to a wide array of library services like Reserves, special collections and student multimedia support.

To take advantage of any of these offerings, please contact your subject librarian (www.library.kent.edu/subjectlibrarians). If you have questions about this article or our instructional services in general, feel free to contact Ken Burhanna, Head of Instructional Services, at kburhann@kent.edu or 330-672-1660.

Have a Question? Text Us
KSU Libraries now offers a free text message reference service (standard messaging rates apply).

- Text us at 66746 and start your question with the word kent
- Example: kent how much does it cost to print in the library?

...Or IM Us
We are also answering instant messaging questions. IM the library by adding us to your buddy list (IMsKSULibrarian) or through the Libraries’ website at http://www.library.kent.edu/askus.

Hours for both services:
Sun 1-9 Mon - Thurs 9-9 Fri - 9-5 Saturday 12-5

Mmmm...Coffee and Treats
The coffee kiosk in the Main Library now serves Starbucks’ coffee and specialty drinks—including espresso and iced drinks, plus an expanded selection of treats.
Welcome to University Libraries

I am honored to be the new Dean of University Libraries and am excited about all that can be accomplished with the Libraries’ faculty and staff as we continue putting users first. You are why we are here. University Libraries wants to help you wherever you are. Already, I know that there is a lot that we do that can make a difference for you and your students.

We can make a difference for you and your students

University Libraries is committed to serving students and insuring their success; helping faculty to advance and achieve excellence in their teaching, creative, and research endeavors; and connecting with the world beyond our campuses. As one of the nation’s great libraries, we have a lot to offer you.

Just click for access

As a founding member of OhioLINK, University Libraries provides access to additional resources and rapid delivery of library materials from throughout the state. Through University Libraries and OhioLINK, you are never more than a few clicks away from finding that you have access to 48 million printed books, millions of articles in 12,000 electronic journals, thousands of images, videos and sounds, and more.

We can help your students succeed

We’re physically big, and we’re virtually even bigger, but we’re one system. We have fourteen locations in the eight-campus library system. All locations offer spaces for students to work alone or in groups, use print and electronic resources that support their work, and connect with library staff that can help them get whatever they need to succeed. Kent State’s Main Library houses core course materials and specialized research collections. Six branch libraries on the Kent Campus (Architecture, Chemistry/Physics, Fashion, Map, Mathematics and Computer Science, and Performing Arts) and seven regional campus libraries meet the needs of the disciplines and campuses they serve.

Help us get the word out to your students:

- Assignment Calendar
  This tool will help students schedule their time in order to complete assignments on time.
- Student Multimedia Studio
  The SMS offers students a wide range of multimedia equipment, software and support to create presentations for course projects and more.
- Personalized Research Consultations (PeRCS)
  Assigning a term paper or speech? Librarians can help and save students time too. They just need to make an appointment to get personalized assistance.
- Ask a Librarian
  Help is available no matter where you or your students are: instant messaging, texting, email, phone, or in person. We’re here to give you expert assistance.
- Writing Commons
  Refer students to the Writing Commons for help with any writing project. They can meet with writing tutors online or in person.

Kent State’s Libraries are your libraries

We want you to continue to explore and use Kent State’s Libraries. You can always connect with us at http://library.kent.edu.

Or call us at 330-672-3150, instant message IMaKSULibrarian, or text us at 66746 (start your question with KENT).

I’d like to hear from you as well. If you have any concerns or questions, please call me at 330-672-2962 or send me an email at jbracke1@kent.edu.

I look forward to meeting with students and faculty and learning how the Libraries might serve you better. We thank you for supporting University Libraries.
Borowitz Lecture: Musical Mysteries

The annual Borowitz Lecture will feature Albert Borowitz speaking about his latest true crime book, Musical Mysteries: From Mozart to John Lennon, published this year by the Kent State University Press.

Crime has formed the basis of countless plots in music theater and opera. Several famous composers were murder victims or believed to be murdered, and one of the greatest Renaissance composers slaughtered his wife and her lover. In Musical Mysteries, renowned true crime historian Albert Borowitz turns his attention to the long and complex history of music and crime.

Date: Thursday, October 14
Time: 3 p.m., lecture beginning at 3:20 p.m.
Place: Read Special Collections Classroom, 10th floor, Main Library

A small exhibition related to Musical Mysteries will be available for viewing in the Special Collections Reading Room, located on the Library’s 12th floor. Attendees are encouraged to view the exhibition in advance of the lecture. The lecture and exhibition, cosponsored by University Libraries and the Kent State University Press, are free and open to the public. Following the lecture, Mr. Borowitz will sign copies of his book, which will be available for purchase.

Upcoming Events

September 17, 3-5 p.m., Open house--with entertainment--for the Performing Arts Library (D003 Music & Speech)

October 8, 3-5 p.m., Celebrating the Library First Floor Renovation (Lobby, Main Library)

October 9, following the Homecoming Parade, Dedication of the Marion C. and William B. Risman Plaza and Library First Floor (Risman Plaza)

October 14, 3 p.m., “Musical Mysteries,” Lecture by Albert Borowitz (Gerald and Victoria C. T. Read Special Collections Classroom, 10th floor, Library)