The annual Friends of the Libraries dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13th in Room 306 of the Kent State Student Center. There will be a cocktail hour from 6:00-6:45 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. This year’s speaker is Duane Webster, Executive Director of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), an organization of 123 major research libraries whose mission is to identify forces and influence events affecting the future of research libraries. ARL offers programs that strengthen members’ ability to provide equitable access to recorded information, and to promote national and international collaborative programs for library development. In his 25 years at ARL, Mr. Webster has been the driving force behind several important initiatives including establishment of the ARL/EDUCOM/CAUSE Coalition of Networked Information; the National Initiative for a Networked Cultural Heritage; and the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition. Mr. Webster’s topic will be “Challenges Facing Research Libraries.” The cost per person is $20. For reservations, contact the Office of the Dean of Libraries & Media Services (330-672-1680; lpapoi@lms.kent.edu).

Library of Congress Headings Related to May 4 Changed

The old Library of Congress subject heading “Kent State University -- Riot, May 4, 1970” has been replaced by the Library of Congress with “Kent State Shootings, Kent, Ohio, 1970” due to the extensive work of Kate Medicus, Special Collections Cataloger.

This change has been a goal of Special Collections ever since the heading was first used. Numerous Special Collections patrons (including family members of the victims) have complained that the term “riot” is inappropriate for this historical event, about which literature continues to be published. Establishing an unbiased subject heading seemed appropriate.

The process involved submitting a proposal for the new heading to the Library of Congress. The proposal had to include documentation of print and Internet sources in which the terminology of the new heading appears, in order to prove that it is commonly used terminology for the topic. The Department’s first proposal suggested the heading “May 4 Shootings at Kent State University, 1970” (following the form used for the heading “September 11 Terrorist Attacks, 2001.”) This first proposal was rejected by the Library of Congress review committee; they felt strongly that researchers would not be likely to search under “May 4.” It was determined that, while the phrase “May 4” is commonly used by researchers in northeast Ohio, “Kent State” is used more widely on the national level. A second, revised proposal was submitted in October, 2004, and the new heading—“Kent State Shootings, Kent, Ohio, 1970”—was approved in mid-February of this year.
Jack the Ripper Exhibition

*Mysteries of the East End: Jack the Ripper in Print and Popular Culture, Selections from the Borowitz Crime Collection* will be on exhibition until May 1, 2005 in the Department of Special Collections and Archives. The exhibition focuses on the large body of literature that has been created in relation to one of the most famous unsolved cases of modern times. The exhibit is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Special Collections reading room (KSU Library, Room 1212).

An exhibition catalog is now available. Please contact Cara Gilgenbach, Curator of Special Collections and Archives, for more information (330-672-1677; cgilgenb@kent.edu).

May 4 in the Arts

A new exhibit, *Impressions of May 4 in the Arts, Selections from the May 4 Collection*, is now on display in the Department of Special Collections and Archives. This exhibition includes paintings, books, poetry, sheet music, posters, comic strips, and other artistic expressions related to or inspired by the May 4, 1970 shootings at Kent State University. Also included are architectural design entries from the original Memorial Design Competition. This exhibition runs from March 1 through July 1, 2005 and is located in the gallery cases outside of the Special Collections Reading Room, on the 12th floor of the main library. It is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Curator Cara Gilgenbach at 330-672-1677.

Libraries and Media Services Occasional Papers Available

Since 1968, Libraries and Media Services has published a series of Occasional Papers on literary and library-related topics. A number of these publications are available for purchase through the Department of Special Collections and Archives. For a full listing of publications in the series, see an inventory of titles at http://speccoll.library.kent.edu/uarchives/speccollpubs.html#occ. At present, the only title that is unavailable for purchase is *A Festschrift for Djuna Barnes on Her 80th Birthday*. (First series, no. 9, 1972.)

The cost of each Occasional Paper is $5.00, including postage. Please make your checks payable to the “Friends of the KSU Libraries.” For more information, contact the Department of Special Collections and Archives, Box 5190, KSU Libraries and Media Services, Kent, OH 44242; 330-672-2270.