


6-27-2014

Criss Chronicles, Volume 4, Issue 3

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Recommended Citation

"Criss Chronicles, Volume 4, Issue 3" (2014). *Criss Chronicles Newsletter*. 11.
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CRISS CHRONICLES



Volume 4, Issue 3

June 27th, 2014

The Distinguished Service Awards

Hosted by the Friends of the Library



Also inside:

***A conversation with Bob Nash**

***Adventures in Interlibrary Loan**



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From the Dean's Desk **Like Finding a Needle in a Book Stack**

We think a lot about customer service at the library. Providing a comfortable, productive and efficient environment is important to us. Saving time and providing convenience for our patrons is really “in our DNA,” harking back to Ranganathan’s laws of library science which direct that we must “save the time of the reader.”

Sometimes an opportunity to better serve comes along in an unexpected way. One morning not too long ago, I arrived at the library ready to go to a meeting where I’d be making a presentation to university administrators. Everything was in order – except the button on my suit jacket. I hadn’t noticed it at home, but now it was dangling only by a single thread. I started asking around to see if anyone happened to have a sewing kit tucked away somewhere so I could make a quick repair. I had no luck until I spoke with Tyrome Williams, one of our building assistants. Ty said he would look around, and soon returned with the needle pictured here. He said he couldn’t find a needle so he made one – by sharpening a piece of wire and then welding a small loop on the other end. Amazing!

Ty’s inventive and helpful response to my loose button was typical of his willingness to help when called on. Going the extra step is also typical of many of the Criss Library staff. I shared my story with a few others and we began a discussion on how we could help library users with a variety of simple needs. Could we make sure the vending machine is stocked with aspirin and Tylenol? Could we provide a tissue or a safety pin if asked? How far does our mission to “save the time of the reader” extend to meeting personal needs, as well as a convenient and organized library collection?

As a result of our conversations we intend to keep a small supply of helpful items on hand. We will also keep listening carefully to our patrons when they express a need. Many of our services, like plastic book bags for rainy days and extra chargers for phones and laptops originated when someone asked, “I don’t suppose you would have....” We’re grateful for those questions and suggestions because they help us fine tune our services. By meeting simple needs – like helping with a loose button – we can remove distractions from the more important pursuits of research, teaching and learning. So, next time you need a little help, please ask us and give us the chance to serve. We’ll do our best, even if we need to make something from scratch.



-Dean Stephen Shorb

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On the Front Page: The 2014 Distinguished Service Awards



Laine McCurrin (center) was the recipient of this year's Distinguished Service Award. She is pictured here with Friends of the Library's President Marie Hiykel and Dean Steve Shorb. Not pictured: student recipient Amber Green.

At an annual luncheon, the Friends of the Library honor a staff member and student employee with Distinguished Service Awards.

This year's recipients were Laine McCurrin and student employee Amber Green.

Laine works in the Patron Services Department. Amber works in Archives and Special Collections.

Both were nominated by fellow employees for their outstanding dedication to their positions at the UNO Criss Library.

"Laine's infectious smile and bubbly personality add to her charm and ability to make every patron feel welcome in the library. Her thoughtful participation in staff meetings, as well as her excellent commitment to customer service, reflect her character and integrity. She is an admirable role model for our student workers, willingly going above and beyond her usual service whenever she sees a need."

"As a student employee, Amber consistently works as the level of a staff member. Her expertise in museums has greatly benefited the Hagel Archives as she works with the artifacts in the collection. She has conducted two training sessions on artifact care, handling, and description with Archive and Special Collections faculty and staff."

Conversation With:



Where are you from?

I've been a Nebraskan for more than 30 years now, but I was born in Kansas and grew up mostly in Colorado, with stops along the way in Iowa, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Missouri, and Scotland.

What do you like most about Criss Library?

The ever-changing cast of characters I work with, both within the library, and from all across the UNO campus.

What are your hobbies?

Reading, movies, music, baseball, playing softball, strategy games, single-malt scotch, and going out to dinner with my wife.

If you could have dinner with anybody, past or present, who would it be and why?

I can think of any number of people from the past that I

would enjoy having dinner with, but it would be nice to sit down to a meal with all four sets of my great grandparents. They all died long before my birth, except for my maternal grandmother's parents who died (at ages 95 and 103!) when I was very young.

What would people be the most surprised to find out about you?

Once upon a time I was a college basketball player (Okay...it was One: In Europe at a time when basketball was definitely not a big deal there, Two: Intercollegiate athletics in Europe are more like our college club sports, Three: I was not a starter).

If a book was written about you, what would the title be?

You Can't Judge a Book by Its Cover.

Where is your favorite place to eat?

Any restaurant with good spicy food: Mexican, Chinese, Indian, Middle-Eastern, Thai, Ethiopian, etc.

If you had six months with no obligations or financial constraints, what would you do with the time?

I would travel to various quiet spots near the ocean and hike along the beaches, take excursions into the surrounding country, and catch up on some of the books I have not yet gotten around to reading.

What is the most interesting project you have worked on professionally?

I have worked on a number of interesting projects over the years, but one of the more memorable ones was participating in an oral history project (with Shaista Wahab and other library colleagues) in which immigrants and visitors from Afghanistan were interviewed at the library during the period of the Soviet war in Afghanistan.

Bob Nash, Special Collections & Rare Books Librarian

New Faces at the U



Todd Anderson
Main Service Desk Day Supervisor
Favorite Book: *The Jack Reacher*
series by Lee Child



Katie Bishop
Humanities & Fine Arts Librarian
Favorite Book: *Wool Omnibus* by
Hugh Howey



Claire Chamley
Reference Associate
Favorite Book: *The Edible Woman*
by Margaret Atwood



Heidi Blackburn
STEM Librarian
Favorite Book: *Little Women* by
Louisa May Alcott



Eleanor Johnson
Social Sciences Librarian
Favorite Book: *I'm going to cheat
and say my favorite authors are
Barbara Kingsolver, John Green and
Diana Gabaldon.*

JNO Criss Library



Anna Maher
Building Services Assistant
Favorite Book: *A Room with a View*
by E. M. Forster



Laine McCurrin
Patron Services Assistant
Favorite Book: *Emma* by Jane Austen



Jonathan Nitcher
Interlibrary Loan Assistant
Favorite Book: *What We Talk About
When We Talk About Love*
by Raymond Carver



Amy Schindler
Director, Archives & Special
Collections
Favorite Book: *The Marriage Bureau
for Rich People* by Farahad Zama.



Jackie Skarda
Creative Production Lab
Supervisor
Favorite Book: *The Color
Purple* by Alice Walker

Focus on Resources: The Reference Collection Moves

Use of encyclopedias, dictionaries, topical yearbooks, and other items shelved in the Reference Collection declined in recent years as the convenience and quality of online resources improved. The reconfiguration of the Second Floor to create space for the Creative Production Laboratory and the Service Learning/Community Engagement Collection prompted us to reconsider the size and scope of the Reference Collection.

We moved many books to the Third Floor, and they can be checked out now. Items superseded by electronic resources were withdrawn. Most of the remaining books moved to the First Floor and reside on the southernmost ranges, just before the bound journals and magazines:



The library purchased new shelving for the National Union Catalog Pre-56 Imprints, and these volumes sit next to the Reference Collection along the west wall:



Two recent studies concluded that 20% to 25% of the works recorded in this monumental bibliography are not yet represented in the OCLC WorldCat or RLIN databases, which points to the care libraries must take in managing both their physical and electronic collections.

The law books in the Reference Collection remain on the Second Floor, because these works especially serve the larger community as well as UNO. They should prove a helpful complement to the Service Learning/Community Engagement Collection:



Should you need assistance finding Reference Collection items, please ask at the Research Center Desk on the First Floor.

*-Jim Shaw
Documents Librarian*

From the Archives: The Fifteenth Century Comes to the Criss Library

“What is your oldest book?” is a question frequently asked of the Criss Library’s Archives and Special Collections department. For years the answer to that question has been an early German translation of the Roman writer, Lucius Florus, entitled *Titus Livius, und Lucius Florus, Von Ankunfft und Ursprung des Römischen Reichs*, which was published in Strassburg (Strasbourg) in 1575. To readers of English it is known as the *Epitome of Roman History*. While that work remains the oldest book in the library, it is no longer the oldest printed item in the collection. That honor now belongs to three recent arrivals.

Due to the generosity of Dr.



Oliver Pollak, Professor Emeritus of History, and his wife, Karen, the library has become home to three valuable leaf books. Leaf books are books about significant historical works, which contain pages from damaged or incomplete copies of those works. The three leaf books donated by Oliver and Karen Pollak have pages that were originally

part of books called incunabula. Incunabula is a term used to identify books published in the latter half of the fifteenth century. That roughly fifty-year period represents the pioneering years of printing after Johannes Gutenberg (c.1395-1468) developed the movable type printing press. The word is derived from the Latin for “swaddling clothes” or “cradle.” As a result, these early books are also sometimes called cradle books.

One of the leaf books is *The Nuremberg Chronicle: A Pictorial World History from the Creation to 1493* (Los Angeles: Printed at the Plantin Press for Dawson’s Book Shop, 1950). It includes a leaf from the *Liber Chronicarum* written by Hartmann Schedel (1440-1514) and published in 1497. Since the book was originally published in Nuremberg, Germany, it has become known to English speakers as the *Nuremberg Chronicle*.

The second book, *Codices impressi: an incunabulum leaf, a page from Froben’s “Poor Man’s” Bible of 1495*, with a brief note on the printing art in the XVth century (Detroit: Friends of Ben Grauer, 1951), contains a leaf from the 1495 printing of Johannes Froben’s *Biblia Latina*, first published in 1491 in Basel, Switzerland. It is referred



to as a “poor man’s” bible due to its relatively small size.

Finally, An original leaf from the *Polycronicon* printed by William Caxton at Westminster in the year 1482. The life and works of William Caxton, with an historical reminder of fifteenth century England (San Francisco: Book Club of California, 1938) has a leaf from the *Polychronicon* of the fourteenth century English chronicler, Ranulf Higden (c.1280-1364). It was published in 1482 by William Caxton (c.1422-1491/1492), England’s first printer.

A special thanks to Oliver and Karen Pollak for providing the Library and its users with these three wonderful examples from the early history of the printed book.

*-Bob Nash
Special Collections and Rare Books
Librarian*



Adventures in Interlibrary Loan

MEIDÄN POIKAMME ESPANJASSA

The ILL department receives difficult requests all the time, but recently a patron asked us to track down a very rare, out of print book titled *Our Boys in Spain*. Originally published in 1939 in Finnish by K.E. Heikknen under the title *Meidän Poikamme Espanjassa*, the book was translated into English in 2002 by Matti Mattson, and our patron wanted to see the English translation. The book's subject is the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, a group of approximately 2,800 American volunteers who fought in the Spanish Civil War. Many of the volunteers were from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, which had (and still has) a sizeable Finnish population.

Out of print books are not hard to borrow, but only one library owned the translation of this book—and they wouldn't lend to us, nor would they make a copy for us. The Abraham Lincoln Brigade has an archive and a society and they own a copy . . . but they wanted to charge us over one hundred dollars to photocopy Mattson's ninety-six page book. No thanks!

It's frustrating to encounter these situations in the ILL world. The book is out of print. It would be foolish to make our patron travel across the country just to read a single book. We can't purchase a copy anywhere, not even from an online bookseller.

Finally, with some help from our patron, we reached out to a number of universities specializing in Finnish materials. We struck gold when we

contacted Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan. They had a copy, and were willing to photocopy the entire work.

Thanks to copyright law, it's legally permissible to photocopy an entire book under certain conditions. Section 108 of Title 17 of the United States Code provides permission to do so if "the reproduction . . . is made without any purpose of direct or indirect commercial advantage. . ." (It was!) and as long as a copy cannot "be obtained at a reasonable price." (It can't.)

Thankfully, Finlandia University understood both our need to deliver this book to the patron and the intricacies of copyright law. They photocopied and mailed us a copy of the entire book, and our researcher was overjoyed.

*-Mark Walters
ILL Coordinator*

KANEKO-UNO LIBRARY

A NEW LIBRARY FOR A NEW CENTURY

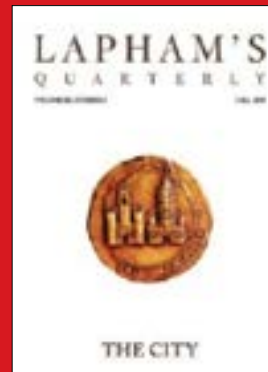
Last issue, I offered you a sampling of some of the newest books to grace our collection—epic Star Wars poems, complex mystery novels, and humorous plays that were catching the attention of our patrons. Books provide a great variety of subject matter to the library and allow me to expand the collection in so many directions, yet they are not our only source for creative material. The KANEKO-UNO Library also features DVDs and a growing collection of 3-D Blu-ray discs. But perhaps the most challenging type of material in the library to grow or expand is the periodical section. If you take a moment to think about the truly creative publications out there, what do you come up with? While we have a strong collection in art, architecture, and design, I've long thought there must be more periodicals that can fulfill other aspects of creative thinking and expression. And after some investigation, I am pleased to report that the following will be available in the KANEKO-UNO Library soon:



Dumbo Feather is an Australian periodical published quarterly and though it takes a bit of time to reach us here at the library, it is well worth the wait. Behind the bizarre title, this publication aims to give creative thinkers a platform to shine from. Each issue features five feature-length interviews with significant people from a variety of disciplines: enterprise, education, science, sport, politics, fashion, and the arts. The publisher explains their mission as: “Behind extraordinary ideas, there are extraordinary people. Dumbo Feather is a magazine about these people. Each issue, we scour the globe for those with the drive to make a difference, seeking out those who inspire, excite and thrill us with possibility. Whether they’ve touched millions or just those nearby, what unites them is their passion.”

Lapham’s Quarterly is published, as you may have guessed, four times a year. “Lapham’s Quarterly embodies the belief that history is the root of all education, scientific and literary as well as political and economic. Each issue addresses a topic of current interest and concern—War, Religion, Money, Medicine, Nature, Crime—by bringing up to the microphone of the present the advice and counsel of the past. Valuable observations of the human character and predicament don’t become obsolete.” Can you think of a better way to make learning more modern and accessible to current situations? Part of the aim of KANEKO and the KANEKO-UNO Library is to get people to think differently about issues- to seek counsel outside of their immediate thought process. Lapham’s Quarterly provides the history of original thinkers, so that the modern reader can bring a new understanding to a perhaps age-old topic.

*-Lindsey Bailie
Creative Library Manager at Kaneko*



Events Calendar

July 2014

May 16 - Aug. 7: Osborne Family Gallery presents "Around the World and Home Again," an exhibit of paintings and sculptures by Katy Haberman. Open to the public.

July 4: Independence Day
Library Closed

July 8: Poetry Books Celebration, featuring readings by Greg Kosmicki & Michael Skau from their recently released books at 7pm.

July 9: Curiosity Review Book Club meets at 6pm at the Kaneko Library to discuss *Consciousness: Confessions of a Romantic Reductionist* by Christof Koch. Anyone is welcome to join!

September 2014

Sept. 1: Labor Day
Library Closed

July						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2014

Aug. 18 - Oct. 1: Osborne Family Gallery presents the Werner Trucking Museum Exhibit.

Aug. 25: Fall Semester begins.



"AROUND THE WORLD AND HOME AGAIN"
by Katy Haberman

Osborne Family Gallery
May 16th - August 18th



Photos of exhibit by Evan Ludes, UNO Student

6001 Dodge St.
Omaha, NE 68182
(402) 554-3206

AVAILABLE

24/7 @ library.unomaha.edu

LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Friday: 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Sunday: 12:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Consult website for holiday hours



In April, the 1955 Tangerine Bowl winners were invited to the UNO Criss Library to reminisce about the Omaha University (UNO) win against Eastern Kentucky State (7-6). For the first time, they were able to see video footage of the game paired with the radio broadcast.



Photo by Kris Tuel