From the Dean’s Desk

Mystic Square Dance

The library has begun planning for a renovation and expansion of our Archives and Special Collections facilities. It started out as a simple idea to add space for more productive processing of materials and bring some additional light into the staff offices. Now, however, it’s starting to remind me of that well-known puzzle called, at various times, a 15-puzzle, gem puzzle, or mystic square.

In order to expand the space for archives, we need to relocate the microfilm cabinets. That’s triggered a big project to eliminate some microfilm and fiche by replacing them with online equivalents. This is good news for researchers and students, because the online sources are much easier to use, more extensive – and available around the clock, even for students in distance education courses. The newly acquired databases are phenomenal – including large statistical series and items such as every issue of The Times of London, starting in 1785. But we will need to relocate some cabinets – perhaps to the current periodicals area, where we will need to move some current issues into the stacks.

We also need to move classroom 107 in order to make the expanded archives space more efficient. That will require moving it up to the main level – the most reasonable space being that currently occupied by map cases and oversized books. OK, so we’ll compress the maps into fewer cases and move them into a seating area, adding seating elsewhere throughout the library. The oversized books will go upstairs in space currently occupied by the reshelving area. Which we can safely reduce in size due to less use of printed material, and more use of electronic resources. That should solve the puzzle – at least for now.

The library is always growing and changing, though, so we may find ourselves playing Mystic Squares again soon. The Creative Production Lab has outgrown its space in room 118, so that should be moved up to the main floor, requiring finding a new home for our reference book section. The café is in need of expansion, too, so that will require moving….well, something, I’m sure.

The 15-puzzle, like so many seemingly simple things, is actually appallingly complex. A quick check of our Academic Search Complete database pulls up dozens of articles – mostly in mathematics, but including many other disciplines. There, you can learn that some results of the puzzle can be shown to be impossible (all numbers in order, except 14 and 15 reversed is one of these), and that a Boston dentist once offered free false teeth and $100 to anyone who could show him how to solve the puzzle. You’ll also find that the game is sometimes called the Boss Puzzle. Well, in the upcoming library renovations, there’s no one “boss”. We’re all working together to make the moving parts fit perfectly for the benefit of our users.

-Stephen Shorb
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The Criss Library Interlibrary Loan Department is pleased to announce we’ve added Document Delivery to our list of services we provide to our patrons. UNO faculty, students, and staff can now request any printed material that Criss Library owns—including articles, book chapters—to be scanned and delivered to your desktop. Patrons will use their ILLiad account, and most requests will be filled within 1-2 business days.

**Users of Document Delivery should follow a few guidelines for their requests:**

* We provide articles strictly for the purpose of private study or research.

* We can only provide one chapter of a book at a time.

* We reserve the right to refuse a document delivery request if we believe that the request would violate copyright law.

**What can be scanned?**

* Articles from journals, conference proceedings, and newspapers
* Book chapters
* Government Documents
* Any of our available materials that are on microform or microfiche

**What cannot be scanned?**

* Maps
* Other oversized materials or folio books.
Retrieve

To retrieve articles, log into your ILLiad account, click “Electronically Received Articles” under View on the left hand side of the screen. Articles will available for 30 days. Any Document Delivery requests not available through Criss Library will be requested from other sources via interlibrary loan.

Don’t have an ILL account? Sign up for one today. All you need is your NU ID and your Net ID Username. Not only will you be able to make Document Delivery requests, you will be able to make interlibrary loan requests as well.

Start here.
From the Archives:

The Omaha Civic Opera Society Presents:

The Barber of Seville

Criss Library Special Collections is proud to be the home of the archives of Opera Omaha. This collection includes programs, photographs, and reviews of the wonderful array of Opera Omaha productions from its founding in 1958 to the present. For over fifty years Opera Omaha has provided Omaha audiences with thrilling performances by magnificent operatic stars and we are fortunate to be able to preserve and provide access to this collection. The accompanying materials are from a Spring, 1964, Orpheum Theater production of The Barber of Seville by Gioachino Rossini.

-Les Valentine
A Conversation With
Melissa Cast-Brede, Ph.D.

Q. Where are you from and what is your position in the library?
A. I’m the subject specialist and library liaison to the College of Education and the Department of Psychology. Originally, I’m from McCook, NE but we moved around a bit so I’m a bit of a Nebraska/Colorado/California blend.

Q. What do you like most about Criss Library?
A. There are so many jewels amongst the people here. I’m learning something from these treasures constantly.

Q. What are your hobbies?
A. My hobbies change regularly but I always come back to reading biographies. It started in third grade when the school librarian gave me a biography of George Washington Carver and then another one about the experiences of a young girl in the bombing of Hiroshima. The biographies can be historical figures – I love the writing of David McCullough and Antonia Fraser. Or celebrities – Lauren Bacall’s autobiographies are just fun although I sobbed and sobbed when reading about Humphrey Bogart’s death. Arthur Ashe’s autobiography Days of Grace is pure elegance. Sometimes I get so angry/sad at what I’ve read that I need to set the book aside for a couple months. But I always go back.

Q. If you could have dinner with anybody, past or present, who would it be and why?
A. My grandmothers. I just miss them so. They both loved poetry and could still recite so many poems even after 70 or 80 years. They taught me so much about grace and the importance of being curious about the world. Neither of them sat still for very long except to read. There were so many things to learn from them and not nearly enough time to do so. This reminds me – I need to take my mother to dinner.

Q. What would people be the most surprised to find out about you?
A. I’m not a very surprising person. I do like fruitcake which seems to surprise people. But I think it’s more surprising to them that anyone likes fruitcake rather than just my liking the stuff.

Q. If a book was written about you, what would the title be?
A. Work in Progress.

Q. Where is your favorite place to eat?
A. Barcelona, Spain. If there is a bad meal in that town, I didn’t find it. And I ate a lot while there.

Q. If you had six months with no obligations or financial constraints, what would you do with the time?
A. First, there is a train that runs from Moscow to Mongolia. And then there is a train that runs across Australia. And since I’m in Australia, I should drop in on Tasmania and New Zealand. If it is February, then a trip to Antarctica would be in order, too. Is there still time? Madagascar would be fun. Did I mention Venice? But in the end, I’d still come home. There’s nothing like a prairie sky.

Q. What is the most interesting project you have worked on professionally?
A. Probably the development of the partnership with the English Department for the information literacy component of their English 1160 courses. It was a process of true collaboration and as a result, the outcome has been an effective and valuable student learning experience. When librarians from other campuses learn that we have almost 100% participation of the English faculty, they are dumbfounded. The success comes from the true collaborative spirit of the partners involved and the focus on students. Several library staff were involved and it may sound like bragging, but we did good.

Congratulations to Melissa for recently completing her doctorate in Library Science from Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas.
Spaces

Ralston High School students experiment with technology in the Creative Production Lab in room 118. These students were part of the many ongoing tours of the library.

A Ralston High School student becomes a weatherman using the green screen.
A student watches a 3D print in progress.

Students watch as a 3D model on the computer becomes a 3D printed object.

Photos by: Evan Ludes, UNO Student
New Databases at the Library

Those who have converted their collection of vinyl records to compact discs, and then a few years later recreate their music collection again on iTunes, will appreciate what libraries face. Legacy collections on microfilm or microfiche remain valuable and useful, especially when they remain the only available format. However, as resources become available online, libraries look to converting to online access when financially feasible.

In recent months, the University Library Friends and Senior Vice Chancellor BJ Reed have assisted the library in purchasing several databases that supersede microfilm or microfiche. In some cases, the databases also provide access to resources entirely new to the Library.

Researchers at UNO can now search through the entire scanned archive of the Times of London extending from 1785-2008. The American Periodicals Series and British Periodicals databases encompass over 1,600 magazines and journals published in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. ProQuest Statistical Insight pulls together thousands of statistical publications each year, ranging widely across governmental and private publishers.

You may click here to jump to a guide that describes and links to the Library’s newest databases. We highly recommend taking a look, because it is truly amazing what you can find there. -Jim Shaw
Purchasing books for the KANEKO-UNO Creativity Library is perhaps the best part of my job. I spend quite a bit of my mornings cruising Amazon, blogs, and publisher websites for items that fulfill the library’s goals of providing resources that celebrate and inspire creativity across all disciplines and subject matter. Some recent acquisitions generating excitement down here illuminate the wide variety of materials that result from human creativity. Allow me to share a few of my recent favorites in the hope that you will come visit and find some favorites of your own:

• “S.” By J.J. Abrams and Doug Dorst: It is difficult to know where to even start with this complex and beautiful book! This is a multi-layered book written by Doug Dorst, though the idea for it developed in the mind of filmmaker and director, J.J. Abrams. Let’s start with the fact that the book is supposed to be a library book, then add years and years of marginalia that is actually a conversation between two people, and add in piece after piece of ephemera and you have a deeply immersive mystery novel unlike any other. You really have to see this book!

• “William Shakespeare’s Star Wars” by Ian Doescher: That’s right. Star Wars, Episode IV in iambic pentameter. While very appealing to a certain demographic of Star Wars fans, the book actually appeals to me because of the author’s creative application of a historical style and method of writing. Adapting a movie that has become a cultural icon is a difficult undertaking in any form but especially iambic pentameter. The author manages to achieve his goal, in part, because Lucas Films agreed to assist him in editing the work. Collaboration and creativity often go hand-in-hand.

• “To Be Or Not To Be: A Chooseable Path Adventure” by Ryan North, William Shakespeare, and You: What is it with Shakespeare, you ask? Again, this book drew my attention because the author takes a very creative approach to a traditional, historical play. In this case, Shakespeare’s own “Hamlet” is the inspiration for a modern author, who asks that the reader become a character in the play and participate in the adventure that unfolds. Decidedly sarcastic and humorous as it may be, the book also illustrates the value of a creative approach to writing. (And funding! This book was the result of a Kickstarter campaign that made over five times the amount requested in one day!)

- Lindsey Bailie
A Trip to the CES

UNO Communications student Alex Kuklinski shares his experience at the technology trade show in Las Vegas.

This year marked my third time attending the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada. A lot has changed in those three years: I changed majors, stopped producing videos for huskermania, founded Techno FYI and moved back home so I could endure the startup costs. Each time CES rolls around I do my best to improve coverage of the show, which is the largest consumer electronics event in the United States.

I really wanted Techno FYI’s coverage of the 2014 CES to be outstanding. That being said, I began light planning for the event before the summer of 2013. There were three main goals I wanted to accomplish: bring along more contributors, obtain press passes and generate more content.

By the summer of 2013, I had two UNO students who were committed to attending CES with me: Eric Anderson and Ernie Bless. The company was doing well enough that it fully accommodate flight, hotel, ground transportation and food costs, but couldn’t afford to pay the contributors. I’m incredibly grateful of those two for volunteering their time to head to CES with me.

Obtaining press credentials were quite easy, as the CEA requires that attendees show connection to a press organization, through masthead or official statement, and demonstrate the organization has over 1,000 unique monthly visitors through a screenshot. There are a few other options, but that’s basically what I did to get press access.

Immediately after registering everyone for CES I started getting tons of press releases from multiple companies. Literally hundreds of emails that either contained press releases or invitations to attend booth tours. This isn’t a bad thing since I’m getting companies emailing me about their latest developments, which could lead to a potential news story; however, I was completely unprepared for the flood of emails that would persist until the event ended on January 10.

The next big thing was equipment. The I/O Show, my company’s official podcast, would make its debut we were at CES. I already have an audio mixer, but I wasn’t able to afford three fancy XLR microphones yet. Luckily for me, UNO’s Criss Library was generous enough to allow me to rent out three Sennheiser MD 42 microphones and an extra DSLR [camera] for
over a week. I then used my 3D printer at home to print microphone flags, which can be seen during our standup reports on our couple YouTube videos from the event.

Monday was scheduled to be incredibly busy due to all the press events we would be attending at CES Press Day. The day was supposed to be full of live blogs, recaps and more. The first event we covered was LG’s, which was okay, but we ran into problems with wirelessly transferring photos from a camera to the computer running the live blog. Since we couldn’t get photos transferred, the whole event consisted exclusively of text updates. Right after LG, we experienced the complete and utter failure of AT&T’s network. Without Internet access, we couldn’t conduct any live blogs, which was very disheartening. It wasn’t just AT&T though, Eric’s Verizon 4G hotspot failed and the free Wi-Fi provided at certain events failed too. We at most had triple redundancies fail on Monday, so that sucked. On the bright side, we got a bunch of event recaps up that day, so at least we had some content going up on the site.

We created a lot of different types of content, including three episodes of The I/O Show, video interviews with various company representatives and, of course, text-based articles. I put a lot of emphasis into scheduling CES this year, most of which were booth tours for various companies. I thought this would be great because we’d have access to all the products in each company’s respective booth. That didn’t end up being the case, as most of the representatives didn’t know the information we were asking and we didn’t have the hands-on access I was hoping for. I feel we’d be better off not scheduling booth tours and travel together getting information from other reps on the floor.

Since CES this year was heavily scheduled, I quickly realized that spending eight or more hours on the show floor was a bad idea. I never scheduled an event like this before, so my mindset was it’d be better to overplan versus not plan enough. The big issue was we were spending too much time on the floor, resulting in all of us feeling really tired as soon as we got back to the hotel.

Personally, as soon as I got back to the hotel, I felt like I was hitting a brick wall.

For next year, I won’t plan on spending nearly as many hours on the floor and set aside a lot of time for writing articles. This way we won’t have to spend our sleep time writing articles. Overall though, I feel like Techno FYI is finally ready to take on more big-time events. This year I wanted the company to do three things well at CES: bring along more contributors, obtain press passes and generate more content. All of those goals were accomplished.

With the 2014 CES in the books, it’s time to both promote Techno FYI and create more content so we can generate the funds required to cover more than one technology-focused event per year.

*For Alex Kuklinski’s full story, visit TechnoFYI.com*
Events Calendar

February 2014

Jan. 6 - Feb. 23: Osborne Family Gallery presents “The Conflict Zone,” a collection of images from the front lines of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, captured by some of the world’s leading combat photographers and journalists.

Feb. 19: At 7pm, Waitman Beorn, UNO Assistant Professor of History & Louis and Frances Blumkin Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies will discuss his recently released book Marching into Darkness.

March 2014

Mar. 1- April 6: In the Osborne Family Gallery, “My Heart is in the East and I am in the Farthest West.”

Mar. 12: Curiosity Review Book Club meets 6-8pm at the Kaneko Library to discuss David Sedaris’s new book, “Let’s Explore Diabetes with Owls.” Anyone is welcome to join!

Mar. 27: UNO Friends of the Library poetry with Carol Light at 7pm.

Hours for Spring Break:
Mar. 23 12PM- 9PM
Mar. 24-27 7AM - 9PM
April 2014

April 12: Tangerine Bowl Celebration at 1:30 pm.

April 13-May 10: UNO BASA Graduating Studies Senior Show in the Osborne Family Gallery. Opening Reception April 13th 3-5pm.

Hours for Prep/Finals Week:

April 28 - May 1: 7AM - 1AM
May 4: 12PM - 1AM
May 5-7: 7AM - 1AM
May 9: 7AM - 9PM

May 2014

May 9-10: Graduation
May 19: Summer Sessions Begin

May 26: Memorial Day Library Closed

Summer Hours:

Sun. 12PM - 9PM
Mon. - Thu. 7AM - 9PM
Fri. 7AM - 5PM
Sat. 12PM - 5PM
LIBRARY HOURS
Monday - Thursday: 7:00 AM - 12:00 AM
Friday: 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday: 12:00 PM - 12:00 AM

Consult website for holiday hours

Osborne Family Gallery
January 6th-February 23rd

Photos of exhibit by Evan Ludes, UNO Student