

Calvin T. Ryan Library



In Brief

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In Brief is a publication of the Calvin T. Ryan Library, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, NE 68849. It is designed to keep UNK faculty, staff and administration informed of library events, programs and developments. In Brief is distributed electronically. Paper copies are also available. Its production is overseen by the Publications Committee. Members are:

James Rowling
Melissa Doebele
Tina Walker
Rosemarie Wilson

Questions may be directed to James Rowling at:
rowlingj@unk.edu or
(308)865-8545.

“People in the Center”

By Janet Stoeger Wilke, Dean of the Library

In his 1989 book *The Great, Good Place*, sociologist Ray Oldenburg lamented the decline of “third spaces” - the first two being home and work - those public, informal, and neutral areas where people gather to interact, discuss, and enjoy good company. To paraphrase Twain, the reports of the demise are exaggerated! Oldenburg himself acknowledged this with a later book describing such remaining places.

“Third space” is now among the “new” watch words in the academic world. As students arrive on campus with experiences and expectations vastly different than those of past generations, colleges and universities, and their *libraries*, evolve to meet their needs. It is well recognized that provision of varying “spaces” can pull students in and contribute to their total educational experience. A recent segment on *CNN.com* described the new library at Rhodes College as the “campus living room,” with “intellectual vibe.”

An article entitled, “An Anthropologist in the Library,” from the August 17, 2007 *Chronicle of Higher Education*, described students who “come to the library to unplug, to get offline. They still need time for concentration and to focus intensively on something.” Neil McElroy, Dean of Libraries at Lafayette College described their new space with the statement, “We’ve put people in the center.”

All of these thoughtful comments point toward a broad definition of what is included when the library is considered. Books and computers and databases certainly, but also places where students feel comfortable to ask librarians for help, huddle with classmates around a laptop, meet with faculty outside of the classroom, read, think, and find a comfortable location to socialize with friends while having a cup of coffee. Sounds very much like a “third space” and a bit like a “living room.” Perhaps not the one in the homes students come from, but certainly one appropriate for a university committed to be a premier undergraduate residential institution.

Many of the academic libraries in the news have had the good fortune of starting over with new buildings designed from ground up with the “living room” concept well defined and firmly in place. Others start with what they have. The coffee shop at Calvin T. Ryan Library has been a successful first venture in recognizing the evolving nature of UNK students and the kinds of “spaces” that can be made available. This project has been followed with additional steps, including reconfiguring the Reference Desk to both meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards and make it more inviting for all students to sit and work with Reference Librarians. Furniture has been rearranged to enhance group study, comfortable chairs and whiteboards added in study rooms, and greenery included for a softer look. In addition, the building-wide wireless access installed by Information Technology expands work areas for those using laptops.

Providing the appropriate “third space” for all students, including those unable to get to the “living room,” is quite a challenge. Future plans include expanding services to meet students where ever they may be – in the library, at a distance, or online.

“People in the center.” Good words to keep in mind.

Gale Virtual Reference Library

By Trudy de Goede, Collection Development Librarian

Calvin T. Ryan Library has expanded its online support for study and research by adding the **Gale Virtual Reference Library (GVRL)** to its website. Go to: <http://rosi.unk.edu>. Choose **Online Reference Resources - General - Gale Virtual Reference Library**.

This cluster of electronic versions of familiar titles in the Library's Reference Collection is large, easy to access, easy to use, and available in full-text. As of this month GVRL includes more than 142,000 individual, searchable documents. The file is kept current by the publisher Thomson-Gale

GVRL offers virtual versions of titles such as *Children's Literature Review*, *Contemporary Authors*, *Encyclopedia of American Foreign Policy*, *International Directory of Company Histories* and the *Business Plans Handbook*.

Library webpage users will recognize the GVRL search screen and its capabilities. For a typical search a user would enter keywords that describe a research topic, or search by known information such as an author's name or a title. Users can also restrict a search to a portion of this large collection. For instance, a researcher can opt to search business titles only or literature titles only. An advanced search mode is also available which permits more flexibility and sophistication in structuring searches.

GVRL offers all the conveniences of web-based resources. It is constantly available, it can be used by many people simultaneously, it bypasses the restriction on checking out reference materials, and it is designed to be used without additional readers or other specialized hardware or software.

Consider GVRL for research in the sciences, the environment, law, medicine, literature and literary criticism, philosophy, history, biography, and more.

Library Gifts

Since the Spring semester, the Library has received book donations from Sam Umland, Susanne Bloomfield, William Aviles, and Jim Rohrer. All are current members of the UNK faculty. Retiring faculty Lon Pearson and Bob Cocetti also made large book donations; Lon donated 93 books while Bob donated 115 books. Magazines and journals were donated by Otto Lohrenz, Lon Pearson, Herbert Craig, and Susanne Bloomfield. In June, the Library received 568 issues of various horticulture and botany journals from Ellen T. Paparozzi, Professor of Horticulture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The Curriculum/Non-Book Department received 56 complimentary children's books from Houghton-Mifflin and added 59 textbook series (2592 pieces valued at \$45,716.35) to the Regional Instructional Materials Review Center (RIMRC).

Introducing the New Head of User Services & Instruction

Ronald Wirtz began as the Head of User Services & Instruction on August 1, 2007. An interview to introduce Dr. Wirtz was conducted by Jim Rowling.

1. Briefly describe where you grew up, something about your family, your educational and professional background, etc.

I was born in Concordia, Kansas, and spent much of my youth either in Manhattan, KS or in Aurora, KS, a very small farming community about 20 miles from Concordia. I attended school in Manhattan, but escaped to my grandfather's farm in Aurora whenever I could. My mother's family had come to the Aurora area in the 1880s from Quebec, and most of that side of my family continued to speak French at home until the early 1960s.

My father's family was also farmers, and had come to the U.S. from Germany in the 1880s as well. They settled around Great Bend and Ellinwood, KS. My father was a "first generation" college student, and completed his degrees at Kansas State on the GI Bill. He spent his entire professional life at Kansas State, rising to the rank of Associate Professor before his untimely death at age 49. My older son and his family still live in Manhattan, where he is head of a computer network support team for Hale Library. My younger son lives in Morrison, Colorado, where he works as a computer programmer for an international medical supplies and equipment company. My daughter attends Texas State University in San Marcos, where she should complete a degree in Theatre with an emphasis in Costume Design next year.

I have two degrees from Kansas State University, a B.A. in French and a Ph.D. in Education. I also have an M.A. degree in French from Colorado State University and an M.L.S. from Emporia State University. In the course of my career, I have worked as a school library media specialist in Nebraska and Kansas, as a library director for a food institute in Kansas, as a department head for a medical school library in Georgia, and as a library director for a community college in Texas.



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For more information please contact:

Lucas Dart
University of Nebraska Foundation
Kearney Office
P.O. Box 2678, 214 West 39th St
Kearney, NE 68848
LDART@nufoundation.org
(308) 698-5270
<http://www.nufoundation.org/Shop/showDivision.sp?cat=62>

To Support Calvin T. Ryan Library

“Private financial support is vital to creating a margin of excellence at the Calvin T. Ryan Library. Your gifts can assist the library in bringing valuable collections of information to the library on paper and electronically, as well as creating a physical environment which complements learning of UNK students and other library users. Gifts supporting the library are tax deductible and are handled by the University of Nebraska Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation. Thank you for your support.”

“User Services” --continued from page 2 --

2. What made you decide that you wanted to be a librarian?

I started out to teach French at the small-college level, but as a result of widespread student protests against required curricula, followed by a general decline in foreign language enrollments in the mid-1970s (and consequent reduction in the number of available teaching positions), I decided that I needed to do something else with my life. I felt that my knowledge of French would be useful in an academic library, and I was fond of reading and books (virtually a requirement for all librarians during that time). I also enjoyed learning about computers and instructional technology, and was encouraged in those interests by ESU faculty members. I still enjoy all those different aspects of library work today.

3. Would you briefly describe your position and duties at Calvin T. Library?

My title is Head of User Services and Instruction, which is a new position that reports directly to the Dean of the Library, Janet Wilke, within a reorganized Library administrative structure. My duties involve the “traditional” roles of coordination of reference and instruction, along with general oversight over circulation. My position also includes a responsibility to encourage, facilitate and support change in order to ensure that library services evolve to meet the current and emerging needs of our clients. Of necessity that will also include the implementation of more technology applications in the workplace.

4. Where do you see academic libraries in ten years?

I believe that academic libraries in the future must be viewed as technology leaders on the campus. As part of the function of serving as the primary information resource for their users, libraries will have to continue to show innovative leadership in the development of new technologies. I believe that libraries must move away from the “information warehouse” model in which we collect information and store it on the off chance that someone may need it, to the “just in time” model in which we serve more as information brokers and search facilitators. We will find and ship information to our clients upon their request, and also serve as human intermediaries between the client and a multiplicity of information vendors and resources.

Since we will also see increased electronic publication of monographs and reference “books” in the future, we will have to be highly proficient in managing those types of materials. The continuing shift to electronic resources will enable academic libraries to utilize more compact computerized storage and retrieval warehousing methods for existing print collections, permitting some library space to be reconfigured in order to accommodate a wide variety of human needs, client learning and research styles, and technologies.

5. What are your impressions of UNK and Kearney?

I like the size of the student and faculty population of UNK. I think that it is ideal in that a person can really get to know other faculty members, administrators and students as people – that is much more difficult in larger institutions. Being able to relate to students and faculty both as clients and as friends and colleagues can help us in our efforts to provide high-quality library service. The size of the university will also allow me to become more involved in the service and social aspects of the institution and the community.

My wife and I both enjoy the quality of life and ease with which we can get around in Kearney. We most recently lived in Waco, TX (population 226,000) and Augusta, GA (population 535,000), both of which have high levels of air pollution, poverty, crime, and traffic congestion. In comparison, Kearney seems to be a really great place to live. We also like the climate, although after living in the South for around eight years we will have to readjust to having a real winter.

Another Recruiting Tactic?

Submitted by John Lillis, Archives Librarian

The following appeared in the Antelope on June 22, 1923:

“Misses Mary Boe and Anna Brady, who left Canton, Ohio, to drive in an auto to Boulder to attend the university this summer, were marooned by muddy roads at Kearney. They have registered in our college and are happily taking their summer work here, a room having been placed at their service in Green Terrace Hall.”



Index to the Kearney Hub

By John Lillis, Archives Librarian

An index to articles appearing in the *Kearney Hub* is now available online. The index provides citations to more than 20,000 articles appearing in the *Hub* since September 1, 1997, and to several thousand others appearing before that date. While not a comprehensive index, it focuses on local government, businesses, personalities, organizations, institutions, and events. Not included are citations to wire service stories which are indexed and available elsewhere, or citations to reports of local sporting events.

A sample entry:

Aaron, Henry 'Hank'

***Hank Aaron plans UNK speech Ja 15 99 3A (P)**

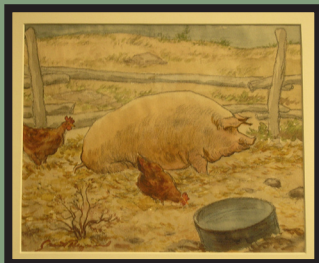
This citation tells you that an article about Hank Aaron headlined "Hank Aaron plans UNK speech" appeared in the *Kearney Hub* on January 15, 1999, on page 3A. The (P) tells you that it includes a photograph of Mr. Aaron.

Until recently, this index has been available for use at the Library's Reference Desk, and a copy has been provided to anyone requesting one. It is now available at: <http://www.unk.edu/uploadedFiles/academics/library/newspapers/Hub%20Index.pdf>. It can also be reached by going to the Library's home page at <http://rosi.unk.edu>. Once there, click on "Find Articles" then on "Online Newspapers" and then on "Kearney Hub Index."

Mona on Display

The Library's lobby displays works from the permanent collection of the Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA). All of the works shown here are from Grant Reynard, a native Nebraskan.

The titles are (top, clockwise) Cows in Autumn; Corn Crib and Chickens; Nebraska Farm; and Happy Joe, the White Hog. Additional prints by other artists are displayed in the Library's cafe.



Personnel Notes

Jim Rowling, Trudy de Goede, John Lillis, Sheryl Heidenreich, and Rochelle Krueger served on the User Services Search Committee which began meeting in March 2007 and concluded in July of 2007.

Diana Keith, Greg Anderson, Melissa Doebele, Dee Goedert, and Julie Stall served on the Technical Services Search Committee which began meeting in April 2007 and concluded in August 2007.

Sheryl Heidenreich attended the following: UNCL Staff Development Meeting in Lincoln in March 2007, 38th Annual ILL Conference in Colorado Springs, CO in April 2007 and the NLA Technical Services Round Table in Lincoln in May 2007.

Trudy de Goede and Glenda Wilson both attended the following: 15th Annual Innovative Users Group Conference in San Jose, CA in May and the Great Plains IUG Meeting in Lincoln in June. Trudy de Goede also attended the NLA Technical Services Round Table in Lincoln in May. Glenda Wilson also attended the 2007 University of Nebraska Information Technology Day in Omaha in March.

Cindy Messenger, Cataloging Assistant, resigned in May to take the position of Library Director at the Hot Springs Public Library in Hot Springs, South Dakota.

Rosemarie Wilson, Cataloging Assistant, resigned in October as she and her family have relocated to Omaha, NE.