“Some Things Never Change”  By Janet Stoeger Wilke, Dean of the Library

Since around the turn of the century, there has been talk of the upcoming mass retirement of librarians -- especially academic librarians. Indeed, according to the American Library Association (ALA) in 2000, the average age of an ALA member was 49. Those folks are now in their late 50’s and, if still working in libraries, are certainly set to be part of the exodus expected for 2010-2015.

The “graying of the profession” type of articles that appeared early in the new century have been, somewhat, replaced by more hopeful headlines. A July 2008 *New York Times* article on library science students, was titled, “A Hipper Crowd of Shushers.” Even with the prevailing myth that Google is making librarians obsolete, the numbers are creeping up in library schools and the average age of the students is younger than in the recent past. The profession is developing a reputation of being “techie” -- a fitting term for people working almost constantly with technology, organizing and connecting people with a myriad of formats. Chat, email, podcasts, and more are all tools 21st century librarians use to connect with the user, sometimes 24/7.

How does all of this apply at Calvin T. Ryan Library? By Fall 2008 there will be at least three, and possibly as many as five, new faces among the nine librarian positions -- all joining the faculty since March 2007. Such dramatic change in such a short time is both a challenge and an opportunity for the library and the university. Now is the time for long-standing positions and workflows to be examined with the goal of hiring the right mix of expertise to fill the need. Some remaining staff may take on responsibilities previously held by departing colleagues. Newly hired staff look at old problems with fresh eyes and invigorate the entire process.

Coupled with the opportunities are very real challenges. Change, even when expected and desired, is a stressful process for all involved. It takes time -- with starts and stops and frustrations, and more than a little concern about how things will work out in the end. Through it all, however, outstanding service to the UNK community is the bottom line. Some things never change.

Book on History of KSC Digitized  By John Lillis, Archives Librarian

In 1980, Kearney State College (KSC) celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding. For this Diamond Jubilee, history professor Philip S. Holmgren was commissioned to compile a history of the first three-quarters of a century of KSC, formerly Nebraska State Teachers College & Nebraska State Normal School. In the resulting book, *Kearney State College, 1905-1980: A History of the First Seventy-Five Years*, Dr. Holmgren laid out the institution’s history in some detail and the book has served for twenty-eight years as a valuable and heavily used resource for those interested in the early history of KSC/UNK.

Dr. Holmgren’s entire book is now available on the Internet. Archives Librarian, John Lillis and User Services Assistant, Tina Walker, have scanned each page, converted the scans to useable file formats, and mounted the digitized images on the Library’s website. These pages can be viewed, zoomed-in on or copied free of charge. To see *Kearney State College, 1905-1980* online, go to the Library’s website at [http://rosi.unk.edu/](http://rosi.unk.edu/) and click on “UNK Archives” on the main screen. Then select the title from the Archives screen. You must have a PDF viewer downloaded to view these files.
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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
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Blue and Gold Yearbook Online

By John Lillis, Archives Librarian

The Blue and Gold, this institution’s annual yearbook, first appeared in 1908 and continued its run, with some interruptions, until its final issue in 1989. For decades it served as a record of many of the activities of the Nebraska State Normal School at Kearney, the Nebraska State Teachers College at Kearney, and Kearney State College. The Blue and Gold recorded the presence, identities, and appearance of faculty, administrators, students and staff. It also recorded memberships and activities of athletic teams and other organizations, the appearance of the campus, and the community of advertisers.

These yearbooks are by far the most heavily used items in the Archives of the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Many of the early Blue and Golds have suffered significant deterioration from almost a century of handling and will not last much longer if physical use continues. In order to prolong the life of the physical artifacts and to make the content of the Blue and Gold more widely available, the staff of the Library has begun to digitize them and make the scans available on the Internet. All Blue and Golds that have been digitized are available for viewing at any time, from any Web terminal. The staff members are working on the oldest yearbooks first.

The yearbooks are being digitized in color, at 300 DPI, on an Epson Perfection V700 Photo scanner, and the results are remarkable. The content visible on the Web is very much “warts and all,” unmanipulated images which give viewers an idea of the appearance of the actual artifact as well as its content. The images also convey the history of the actual books since they were printed; library ownership stamps, barcodes, checkout slip holding strips, call numbers, torn and dog-eared pages, smudges, the occasional mustache drawn on a face, etc., all show up clearly.

To view these images, go to the Library’s home page at http://rosi.unk.edu. Click on “UNK Archives”. Select the year desired and begin viewing. You must have a PDF viewer downloaded to view these files.

A major advantage of mounting these images on the Web, in addition to providing access anywhere and at any time, will be to eliminate the handling of the often-crumbling yearbooks. Library users asking to see the printed books will be referred to the Web-mounted images for those years of the Blue and Gold which have been digitized. Absent the need for handling, these books can be laid flat and deterioration from handling will be absolutely minimized.

Donations to UNK’s Archives of copies of the Blue and Gold will be gratefully accepted.

Personnel Notes

Trudy de Goede was selected to serve on the Intellectual Freedom Committee for NLA which started in September 2007.

The 2007 Nebraska Library Association (NLA) conference was held in Kearney in October at the Holiday Inn. Trudy de Goede, Dee Goedert, Diana Keith, and Tina Walker served on the Exhibits Committee and attended conference sessions.

Melissa Doebele, Mary Heater, and Rochelle Krueger set up and staffed the Library’s information booth at the conference and attended conference sessions.

John Lillis presented “Small-Town Treasures: Local Tools for Local Folks” at the conference and attended conference sessions.

Sheryl Heidenreich, Jim Rowling, Janet Wilke, Glenda Wilson and Dr. Ron Wirtz attended conference sessions.


Dee Goedert received the KUDOS award from the Board of Regents in November, 2007.
**Library Gifts**

The Library has recently received book donations from James Rohrer, Ann Snider, and Sam Umland. In addition, Robert Mitchell donated 16 laser discs and Kurt Siedschlaw donated 17 DVDs. The Curriculum/Non-Book Department received 68 complimentary children’s books from Houghton Mifflin.

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**Introducing the New Head of Technical Services and Systems**

**Rene Erlandson** began as the Head of Technical Services and Systems on January 14, 2008. An introductory interview was conducted by Jim Rowling.

**Briefly describe your educational and professional background, etc.**

I was awarded my bachelors degree from Iowa State University and obtained my MLS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I worked at the Parks Library on the Iowa State campus and then moved on to positions at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and with the Library of Congress.

**What made you decide that you wanted to be a librarian?**

My first job in a library was as a student assistant in the Cataloging Department at the Iowa State University Library. I was fortunate to be at ISU at a dynamic time for the Library—OCLC was bringing up its new product Prism and ISU was an alpha test site for the product. ISU was also launching its first OPAC and there was a young vibrant library faculty who were committed to bringing talented people into the profession. I caught the bug and was mentored by some wonderful people early on at ISU, and have been fortunate to have benefited from continued mentoring from some of the pioneers in consortial networking in Illinois and preservation at the Library of Congress.

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

I am the Head of Technical Services and Systems at the Ryan Library. The main focus of academic library technical services and systems today is to provide members of the university community with access to library collections and services from anywhere. My role at the Library is to coordinate the efforts of everyone involved in that delivery process.

**Where do you see academic libraries in ten years?**

Traditionally libraries have always been gathering places for communities they serve. I don’t see that changing. The library as a physical place will still be a gathering place for communities. The changes you will see in libraries (and are beginning to see) are a move away from an emphasis on physical collections and services towards virtual collections and point-of-need service—be that in a virtual environment or physically. Many academic libraries are moving away from traditional circulation and reference desks, where people have to come to a specific physical location in the library, and instead allowing users to self check-out materials and make initial contact with reference librarians through chat-reference. Changes in integrated library systems are allowing users to customize their interactions with the library databases. I see the national movement towards more personalized library service continuing to grow.

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**No Rest for the Adjuncts...**

Submitted by John Lillis, Archives Librarian

The photograph below appeared in the 1915 Blue & Gold yearbook:
Nebraska Public Documents Digitized

By Diana Keith, Government Documents Librarian

The Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska State Historical Society, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha have collaborated in a project to digitize part of the Nebraska Public Documents series.

First proposed by James Shaw, Government Documents Librarian at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the project began by digitizing microfilm copies of a portion of the set from the collection of the New York Public Library. The Center for Digital Research in the Humanities at UNL was responsible for template enhancements and search applications. Digitizing of additional volumes will be done as funds become available.

Calvin T. Ryan Library’s Nebraska Documents Collection contains bound volumes of Nebraska Public Documents from 1875 through 1956 under call number S3600T002 in the government documents area on the top floor. They are not included in the Library’s online catalog. Volumes may be checked out of the library. The set compiles annual reports from various state agencies and contains a wealth of historical information. The digitized versions, available at http://cdrh.unl.edu/nebpubdocs/, date from 1891 to 1929. The database has over 118,000 images and is keyword searchable.

One example of the type of information available is the 1912 annual report from the Kearney Tuberculosis Hospital which was under control of the Nebraska Board of Public Lands and Buildings. Included in the report is a list of patient names. Other annual reports from the hospital are also available.

MONA on Display

The Library’s lobby displays works from the permanent collection of the Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA). The works are: (clockwise, from top-left) Hong Kong Side Street, alkyd on canvas by Tom Talbot; Something Blue, oil on canvas by Leonard Thiessen; and Struck Detail Ares Ottobeuren, pencil by Terence R. Duren.