



George A. Smathers Libraries

# LIBRARY NEWS

For the University of Florida Faculty

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## E-books in the University of Florida Libraries

Electronic books – e-books – now constitute more than one percent of the library collections at the University of Florida. In recent years, UF has added links from the libraries' Web page (<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/instruct2/elecbooks.html>) to public domain collections of e-books, such as Project Gutenberg. The libraries are also digitizing unique and specialized materials from the collections as well as making them available electronically. In addition, commercially available e-books are being purchased for the collections.

The largest single source of these titles is NetLibrary. UF now has more than 45,000 NetLibrary titles that are listed in the library catalog and are available via a link for browsing or check out. E-books have the advantage of being available 24/7 from any location, and there is never a concern that the book is mis-shelved or that pages have been excised or marked up by other readers.

How well are e-books meeting the needs of our users? We undertook two projects to understand this better.

One of the greatest potential uses of e-books is course reserves. The libraries' electronic reserves services

provide a wonderful way for faculty to make readings readily available to their students. UF has offered electronic reserves for several years now – giving students the possibility of accessing materials 24/7 from anywhere. While we began with faculty-supplied materials, the largest e-reserve content is articles in journals. Staff either provide links to the articles in library-owned databases or scan articles from paper journals. Since copyright restrictions greatly limit the amount of content that can be scanned from print books, e-books seem to be ideal for course reserves. How viable are e-books for course reserves? And, is UF using them effectively for this purpose?

During fall semester, a total of 988 books were on course reserve. Of these, only 26 were e-books. The remainder were print books housed on reserves shelves – the traditional way. All of the books on traditional reserve were searched in WorldCat to determine whether electronic versions are available. An additional 90 were discovered to be available as e-books. So, about 12% of the titles on course reserve could have been delivered electronically. And, the

range of subject areas covered was broad; many scholarly resources from academic presses and other scholarly publishers were found in the search. As more and more titles become available in electronic form, e-books can be very viable resources for electronic reserves.

In December 2004, we put a brief survey on the library Web page con-

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## E-books *(Continued from page 1)*

cerning e-books. It asked three questions.

### Have you read any e-books from the UF libraries?

### Have you purchased or downloaded an e-book from another source?

If you answered “yes” to either of the above questions, please briefly describe the pluses and minuses of your experience using e-books.

#### The results are interesting:

- 85% of respondents have used e-books
- 8% have purchased an e-book
- Response to the principle of e-books is very positive, and users support this format
- Negative responses focused on the details of use

#### Favorable comments:

- Books are available 24/7 from any location. This saves time and travel to the library

- E-books work well as reference tools or for quick look-up
- The full-text searching feature is extremely useful
- E-books at UF are easy to find in the library catalog, and it's easy to browse them online
- In short, e-books are convenient and sometimes a lifesaver. They are great as a back-up and as an alternative to interlibrary loan

#### Unfavorable comments included the following observations:

- It's difficult to read on a computer screen. Paper is overwhelmingly preferred by respondents
- Downloads can be slow via dial-up
- The books from NetLibrary may be checked out to another borrower when needed. The short loan period (four hours) makes the books available more quickly but this can be bothersome to someone who needs the book longer without the hassle of renewal
- Generally only one page at a time can be downloaded (and this is

- unlikely to change given copyright restrictions and publishers' licenses)
- E-book text can't be marked up (This isn't true. Users must set up and log on to an account. Then mark-ups are available to the person long into the future via their account)

#### What action is suggested by the survey?

- The libraries should work with publishers to encourage publication of affordable scholarly books in electronic format
- The libraries should seek changes in those license agreements that limit reading to a single user
- The libraries should routinely purchase e-books for course reserves
- More training is needed for users concerning the features of e-books
- Library policies should be examined and changes made in some areas.

*Carol Turner  
Director for Public Services*

## LibQUAL+® survey will measure libraries' service quality

On March 16, the George A. Smathers Libraries will send out a survey called LibQUAL+®, which measures library users' perceptions of service quality and identifies gaps between desired, perceived and minimum expectations of service. The survey will be sent by e-mail to a randomly selected group of faculty and students and requires approximately ten minutes to complete. Recipients will be notified on March 8 if they have been selected to take the survey. Responses are confidential and no identifying links between responses and respondents will be retained. More information about the survey can be found on the libraries' Web site:

<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/admin/libqual/libqual.htm>

Faculty and students who receive the surveys are requested to complete and send back by March 31.

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# Library News Survey

Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey to help the libraries provide you with the information you need.

Fill out, fold so the address on the back shows, and put in campus mail  
or e-mail your comments to [bhood@uflib.ufl.edu](mailto:bhood@uflib.ufl.edu)

1. Do you receive this newsletter in your mailbox?     Yes     No
  
2. Do you prefer to read this newsletter     In Print     Online  
If available only online, how often would you check to find out current library news? \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. What kinds of articles do you find useful? (check all that apply)  
 Descriptions of new databases and other information resources  
 Descriptions of new services offered by the libraries  
 Highlights of different areas of the libraries  
 List of orientations and classes offered by the libraries  
 Information about libraries' faculty and staff  
 Library space and facilities  
 New technologies used in the libraries  
 Pullout sections for future reference  
 Upcoming events  
 Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Suggestions for additions or improvements to Library News  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. How do you get news and information about the libraries?  
 Library News  
 Libraries web pages  
 Subject Specialist librarians  
 Reference librarians  
 Colleagues  
 Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Your department or administrative unit \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. Additional comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
8. If you have written a question or comment above to which you would like a response, please give your name and e-mail or phone number below.  
  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail/phone \_\_\_\_\_

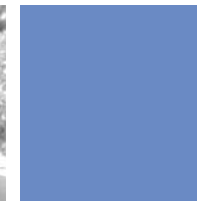
Thank you for your time.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey on page 3 to help the libraries provide you with the information you need.

TO:  
Library News  
c/o Barbara Hood  
PO Box 117001  
Campus



**Celebrate  
Reading  
with your  
libraries**



## **Smathers Libraries' third annual Read-A-Thon coming April 11-15**

The George A. Smathers Libraries' third annual Read-A-Thon will be held April 11-15 under the canopy on the Plaza of the Americas. The event will run Monday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and feature ten-minute readings from favorite books by faculty, students, administrators, and local authors.

The atmosphere is casual, unstructured except for the time slots and open to everyone on campus to be a reader or a listener. To sign up to read, go to the Web site at <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/readathon/>

The Read-A-Thon is a celebration of reading held in conjunction with National Library Week.

## New electronic databases

### The Nation Digital Archive

[http://www.nationarchive.com/index\\_login.asp](http://www.nationarchive.com/index_login.asp)

*The Nation* is America's oldest weekly magazine. Published since 1865, this periodical's reporting, opinion, and criticism make for an unmatched collection of primary source material that includes topical articles on everything from prohibition to civil rights to art criticism.

Some of the most thought-provoking writers, activists and artists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries have contributed to *The Nation*: Henry James, Sinclair Lewis, Willa Cather, H.L. Mencken, Upton Sinclair, Margaret Mead, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Bertrand Russell, I.F. Stone, Jean-Paul Sartre, W. H. Auden, Martin Luther King, Jr., Toni Morrison, Gore Vidal, Alexander Cockburn, Katha Pollitt and many, many more.

*The Nation* has also featured illustrations from such political artists as Art Young, Hugo Gellert, William Gropper, Fritz Eichenberg, Hendrik Van Loon, and Ben Shahn.

### Index to Legal Periodicals Retrospective: 1918-1981

(In WilsonWeb)

access via the UF Library Catalog.

This retrospective database indexes over 750 legal periodicals published in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. Plans are to include annual surveys of the laws of a jurisdiction, of the federal courts, yearbooks, annual institutes, and annual reviews on selected topics. This is a companion database to **WilsonWeb's Index to Legal Periodicals Full Text: 1981 to date**. You may also search the period 1918 to date combined.

### PsycCRITIQUES —

<http://www.apa.org/psycritiques/>

A database of book reviews in psychology, PsycCRITIQUES replaces the print journal *Contemporary Psychology: APA Review of Books* and provides fulltext reviews of current books and some films, as well as a ten-year backfile. In each weekly release, PsycCRITIQUES will deliver approximately 20 reviews of psychological books, most from the current copyright year. It joins APA's family of research databases PsycARTICLES and PsycINFO.

### MIT CogNet

<http://cognet.mit.edu/library/>

The CogNet Library is a growing, searchable collection of books, journals, reference works, OpenCourseWare links, and conference materials provided by The MIT Press and other publishers, professional associations, institutions, and even individuals who are willing to share their work.

Full-text journals: Seven MIT Press journals plus searchable abstracts of over 30 journals from other publishers.

Full-text reference works: *The Handbook of Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*; *The New Cognitive Neurosciences, 2ed.*; *The MIT Encyclopedia of the Cognitive Sciences*; *The Handbook of Brain Theory and Neural Networks, 2ed.*

Full-text books: Over 400 works in cognitive science from The MIT Press

For the latest additions and changes to library electronic resources, check the Web page for "Library News & Updates," available from the UF Library's Home Page at <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/> or go directly to: <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/whatnew.html>

## Preservation Department brings life to damaged and fragile materials

The Preservation Department of the UF Libraries is responsible for the maintenance and repair of archival and library materials, keeping them fit for use and circulation using commercial library binding and a full range of conservation services. The Conservation Unit is responsible for the physical condition of the collections, including repair and restoration, rebinding, deacidification, encapsulation, construction of protective enclosures and environmental monitoring. The unit also serves as a resource for the university and the general public for questions relating to the conservation of books, paper, and photographic materials.

Over the last few years, the Conservation Unit has been seeing an increased need for a dedicated work area for flat paper treatment. Conservation of flat and unbound paper has normally been done only when an item was used, moved, or acquired in a fragile or physically threatened state. The online catalog, along with the library Web pages, which often highlight specific collections and formats, has increased awareness of less visible parts of the collections resulting in higher use, leading to a greater need for protection and stabilization of these materials. Additionally, the Digital Library Center has an ongoing program of digitizing collections of ephemera, maps, manuscripts and flat paper. Once digitized, conservation treatment is appropriate so the item can be properly stored and safely used.

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## Rita Smith is member of 2005 Caldecott Award Selection Committee

Rita Smith, Associate Librarian in the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections and Curator of the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature, had the opportunity recently to serve on the 2005 Caldecott Award Selection Committee. Each January the committee selects the most distinguished American picture book for children published in English in the United States during the preceding year. The Award goes to the illustrator of that book, who must be a citizen or established resident of the United States.

The announcement of the award is the culmination of a lot of work, reading, and discussion by a group of 15 people who compose the committee. Of the 15 members, eight, including the chair, are elected by members of the Association of Library Service to Children or ALSC, a division of the American Library Association. The other seven members are appointed by the President of ALSC to balance the gender, ethnic, professional and geographic representation of the committee. Each committee serves for one year. Smith's participation on the 2005 committee meant that she read books published in 2004 and the winner and honor books were announced in January 2005.

Because publishers want to be sure committee members consider their books for the award, they send complimentary copies of their picture books to members throughout the year. Once the books began arriving, there was hardly a day that a book or two didn't arrive on the front porch, which was, Rita says, "like having Christmas every day of the year!" Altogether, Smith



Rita Smith helped select the prestigious 2005 Caldecott Medal winner, *Kitten's First Full Moon*, written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes.

received and read over 550 picture books. Knowing from conversations with previous committee members that she would be expected to evaluate many books, Smith emptied two large bookcases in her home study. She bought eight tall metal bookends and six packets of 4 x 6 lined note cards and when the picture books began to arrive in late February, she was prepared.

At first, she read each book carefully and took detailed notes. But when she started to get more than 15 or 20, she realized that she needed a process that would immediately eliminate the run-of-the-mill books from those which, in her opinion, were more worthy of her time and serious consideration. She began to give each book a quick first read and then put it on one of three piles: the "no" pile for books not worth spending any more time on; the "maybe" pile to look at more carefully later if she had time, and the "yes" pile, to read more care-

fully and evaluate that day. As she read more and became familiar with various art media and the pattern and rhythm of picture books and as she defined and refined her own personal preferences, this became easier to do.

Throughout the year, Smith also talked to book groups, public librarians, public school children, UF children's literature classes, and opened her home up to several Sunday afternoon "picture book reads" in an effort to get feedback on the picture books from a variety of other viewpoints.

The committee met once in early January 2004 to talk about the elements of a good picture book. They met again in June to talk informally about books that they had already received and to hold practice discussions. No title is eliminated from consideration at either of these two meetings.

The committee met a final time during a long weekend in January 2005, after the year of reading was

over. All day Friday and Saturday and again on Sunday morning, the eligible books were discussed and evaluated, narrowing the list of contenders. As the committee members worked through the stack of books, they looked at how well the illustrations were executed in the chosen medium and how well the illustrations interpreted and expanded the story, theme, or concept of the book. The committee makes its decision based primarily on the illustrations, but other components of a book, such as text and over-all design, are considered, too, especially if they make a book less effective as a children's picture book.

Finally a vote was taken and the

winner chosen. After the winner was selected, three honor books were chosen. The winning title this year is *Kitten's First Full Moon* written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes. The three honor books were: *The Red Book*, a wordless book illustrated by Barbara Lehman; *Knuffle Bunny* written and illustrated by Mo Willems; and *Coming On Home Soon* illustrated by E. B. Lewis, written by Jacqueline Woodson.

The books must be chosen by noon on Sunday, in order to give the Association time to write a press release. The committee met again at 6:45 Monday morning to call the four artists and inform them that they had

won. This was followed by a large press conference, open to the public, where all children's literature award winning books were announced, including the Caldecott Award, the Newbery Award, the Coretta Scott King awards, and the Printz Award.

Smith thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being on the Caldecott Committee. "It was an honor," she said, "to be appointed to the committee and a wonderful opportunity to learn more about picture books and to get to know the other committee members who were an articulate and interesting group of people."

## Preservation *(Continued from page 5)*

Maps, posters, broadsides and other large format items pose a particular problem for conservation. Many times these items have to be washed or given wet treatments to remove a backing, clean and minimize stains or repair tears. While washing an 8½ by 11-inch sheet of paper is relatively easy, doing the same to a 3 x 4 foot poster can be difficult.

In the fall of 2004, the Reprographics Unit of the Preservation Department moved its functions and reporting to the Digital Library Center. This move left vacant a second floor loft that had been used for quality control of microfilm. The loft was converted into a flat paper conservation work area. Since the loft is located directly over the water and sinks for the conservation lab, it was a fairly simple set-up to construct a large format wash station.

The station is supplied with deionized water from the main floor filtering system, and is drained through a gravity drain to the sink

below. The area contains a paper washing station capable of treating either small items or pieces as large as 3 x 6 feet. The water in the wash trays can also be chemically treated to help remove stains, deacidify and buffer the paper, or resize paper as needed. Next to the wash station is a drying area where the newly washed items can be air or blotter dried. There are also several stations for paper repair. We are now able to efficiently and safely treat maps, posters and other flat paper of all sizes. This newly renovated space complements the first floor area under the loft that contains a spray deacidification



**John Freund of the Preservation Department demonstrates to library staff how he washes a large format map in the new flat paper working area.**

system to treat acidic paper, a suction table and humidity dome for flattening, drying, humidifying and stain removal, an ultrasonic encapsulator and a blast freezer used for both freeze drying and insect extermination.

*John Freund  
Preservation Department*



# UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

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<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ps/librarynews/>

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## Library West construction update

Construction and renovation of the new humanities and social sciences library are on schedule for a January 2006 opening. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing are all ahead of schedule. The building is expected to receive the LEED or "green building" national recognition for using healthy, efficient and environmentally sensitive techniques.

The concrete floor infills are completed and the air handling equipment arrived on nine semi trucks in February. The new power and AC will soon be activated and tested inside the building. The steel roof deck is completed and water pipes have been tested. The concrete ceiling in the new section is being painted white to reflect more light into the book stack areas.

For current photos and updates see the construction Web site: <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/pio/construction/>



Rob Roberts, director of the Libraries Facilities Planning Department, inspects the scaffolding and masonry work at Library West.



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