

A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries Vol. 25, No. 4 Summer, 2009

The Owl

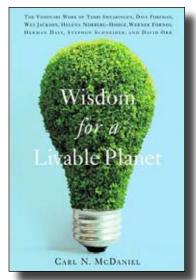
"The Owl of Minerva takes flight only as the dusk begins to fall." — Hegel

SUPPLEA REALIERS' PICES 2009

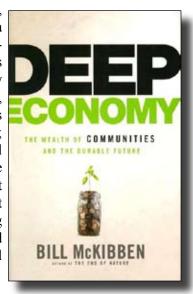
by Anna Marie Johnson

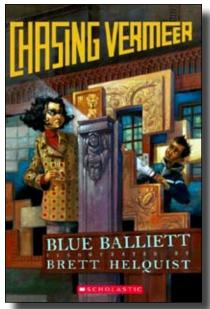
First of all, it is with mixed feelings that I'm announcing this Readers' Picks will be my last. My first issue as book editor was the June/July issue of 2000, and so it seems time, after nine years, that someone else should have a crack at it. Chris Poché, staff member in Current Periodicals and regular contributor to the Readers' Picks issue, has agreed to be the new book editor, and I know he'll bring fresh ideas and new energy to the role. So, while I'm going to miss it, I'm happy that the job will be in such good hands.

Lately, my professional reading about information literacy has, unfortunately, taken over my life. I am compiling a bibliography (with the help of my two lovely co-authors Latisha Reynolds and Claudene Sproles) of all the materials published in English about information literacy in 2008. We're up to over 500. Needless to say, I will be extremely grateful to get back to reading for pleasure before I go to sleep and at other points of my day! Before my life was taken over by this bibliography, I did have a chance to read some really wonderful books, one of which was *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*, by Bill McKibben (Ekstrom Browsing HD75 .M353 2007). Very rarely do I say this, but I'm going to declare this one a must read. This is one book that my husband and I both read (if you recall a previous *Owl* essay that happens like, never). At times both scary and hopeful, McKibben first issues a wake-up call: if everyone in the world lived like Americans, the earth would collapse. It is in our own self-interest to scale back, both in how much we consume and how we live. His prescription involves returning to a more localized economy and he gives ideas and examples that he has discovered from around the world: food, media, entertainment, currency, etc. He was influenced by some of the environmentalists in *Wisdom for a Livable Planet* by Carl McDaniel (Ekstrom GE105 .M385 2005) which contains eight essays, each about a different environmentalist. The topics are as varied as the people: Terri Swearingen, a nurse and mother who continues to fight the expansion of a toxic waste incinerator in her hometown of Chester, WV; Dave Foremean, one of the founders of EarthFirst! and a



proponent of the wilderness movement; Wes Jackson, former professor and founder of the Land Institute, a farm in Kansas where research into sustainable agriculture is ongoing; Helena Norberg-Hodge who has studied a Ladakh (Tibet) society which until recently had retained its traditional culture; Werner Fornos, founder of the Population Institute which provides education on the effects of earth's overpopulation; Herman Daly, economist who argues that traditional economics does not account for the importance of the natural world and that we ignore our place that world at our peril; Stephen Schneider, scientist who has fought for the recognition that climate change is happening more rapidly than we had first thought; and David Orr, founder of Oberlin University's Environmental Studies program.





On the lighter side, my niece Emily once more has demonstrated her exquisite good taste in books by recommending Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett (Ekstrom PZ7 .B2128 Ch 2004). This book centers around a stolen work of art and two eleven- year-olds who live in Hyde Park, Chicago. Although folks on Amazon quibbled about how the mystery is eventually solved (clearly those people are all science-y types who don't believe in intuition), I found it a delightful book about art (has the line that art is "lies that tell the truth") and coincidence. It has illustrations by the artist who did the Lemony Snicket books and each picture has a piece of the puzzle. One of the characters uses pentominoes but the quibble is that they weren't used mathematically but rather to create words. Well, words are better than numbers any day in my mind so this wasn't a problem for me. The other two books in the series are also very well done and managed to be interesting to an adult as well. *The Wright 3* and the *Calder Game* by Blue Balliett (Ekstrom Browsing, PZ7 .B2128 Wri 2006 and Cal 2008 respectively).

In this second book, Calder's friend Tommy reappears and there is much consternation on his part that Calder has a new friend, Petra. It is an awkward friendship triangle that isn't resolved really until the third book. All three books involve art

mysteries based upon real artists, Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House in book 2 and a sculpture by Alexander Calder in book 3 that is imaginary but based on his real work. All three are clever ways of getting kids interested in art but without talking down to them. The characters are smart, yet believable children. Each book also has some hidden code in the pictures that readers can enjoy deciphering. In each book there is also a fair amount of philosophical ideas that both big and little people can enjoy contemplating, like what is the purpose of art? Can a non-living thing communicate? What is the place of art in a community? Etc.

One of the Reference student assistants and I were having a discussion of Harry Potter one evening and that brought to mind what I suspect was a huge influence on J.K. Rowling, The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper (Ekstrom PZ7 .C7878 Da 1973). So I re-read it (again, something I almost never, ever do) and found it to have stood the test of time quite well. Apparently, there was a movie made of it a few years ago that didn't live up to the current trend of well-done books to movies (Chronicles of Narnia, Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings). The story revolves around Will Stanton, an eleven-year-old boy who discovers he is one of the "Old Ones" and a seventh son of a seventh son. He is the sign seeker, last of the Old Ones who will find the six signs (water, fire, iron, bronze, wood, and stone) and bring them together for a battle between the Old Ones and the Dark. This book is as intense as books 5-7 of Harry Potter. It is the second in a series of five books by Cooper. Unlike Harry Potter, most of the book takes place in England and many of the details are pieces of real English folklore. Like Harry Potter, the themes of family, friendship, and loyalty are woven throughout. One of my favorite quotes: "'It is a burden,' Merriman said. 'Make no mistake about that. Any great gift or power or talent is a burden, and this more than any, and you will often long to be free of it. But there is nothing to be done. If you were born with the gift, then you must serve it."

Finally, probably one of the best books I've read in a while: Good Omens by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman (Ekstrom Browsing PS3557. A3519 G6 2006). This was a book that everyone knew about except me, I think. My husband read it first (yes, I know, we apparently do read the same things more often than I thought!) and kept reading bits aloud until finally I told him to quit as he was going to spoil all the good parts. For the three of you who've not already read it, it's the story of an angel and a demon who have become, well, not friends perhaps, but colleagues over the

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six millennia that they've been on earth. When news comes to them that the Antichrist has been born and that the end of the world is nigh, both are dismayed as they have become quite comfortable living among humans. They work together to try and stop the Antichrist from growing up evil, much to the chagrin of both of their "superiors" who really want the war between good and evil to begin. Has some really stellar quotes: "God does not play dice with the universe; He plays an ineffable game of His own devising, which might be compared, from the perspective of any of the other players, to being involved in an obscure and complex version of poker in a pitch-dark room, with blank cards, for infinite stakes, with a Dealer who won't tell you the rules, and who smiles *all the time*." My husband felt the ending was a let-down; I don't think it is quite that bad.

This issue of Readers' Picks is once again chock full of good reads in a very wide variety of genres. The Libraries' staff has a fascinating and fun range of readings tastes. There should be something here for everyone!

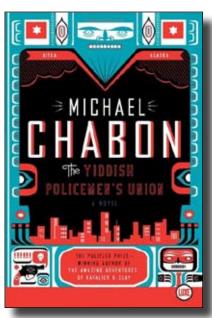
Bill Carner, Ekstrom Library

Careless in Red by Elizabeth George (Ekstrom Browsing PS3557 .E478 C37 2008) I LOVE Inspector Lynley on PBS's Mystery, but after 200 pages I was ready to peek at the end to see who done it and turn this one in. Way too much "background" and endless "insights" into too many dysfunctional families and then Viscount Lynley himself is severely damaged goods (his wife has been killed). All this led me to cry, "Where's the beef!" but then George finally remembers this is a mystery not a weepy book club novel and gets down to business, sort of. Still...at 625 pages Careless in Red is too big by half. Get thee to an editor, Ms George. The most striking thing about the book? Who knew surfing was such a big deal in Cornwall? But then, who cares?

Late Breaking News: I just found the latest Carl Hiaasen novel, *Scat*, in Browsing (PS3558 .I217 S23 2009) so I'm tossing *Careless...* overboard.

The Yiddish Policeman's Union by Michael Chabon (Ekstrom Browsing PS3553.H15 Y54 2007). An alternate future novel where there is no Israel, and Sitka, Alaska, has been a Jewish homeland for 50 years but that's about to end because the Alaskans are getting it back. There's a good police procedural in here but it's obscured by the justly-famous author's showboating of his considerable literary skills for the first three quarters of the book before his plot elements emerge from the fog of his overworked prose, finally forcing him to stop showing off and just WRITE.

Prayers for the Assassin by Robert Ferrigno (Ekstrom Browsing PS3556 .E7259 P73 2006). Good "what if" speculative fiction in the post apocalyptic vein -- in 2040 the world is a very different place where two-thirds of America is an Islamic Republic and several groups are vying for control of that state as well as the whole Islamic world. A good "man on the run" novel with a "big secret" at the heart of it. The story moves along like a fast-paced action movie with similar effect: the willing suspension of disbelief, at least until you put the book down. A good summer read to take to the beach, but don't take it seriously. "Ferrigno raises important questions about religious freedom while handling the subject of Islamic faith with great insight and evenhandedness," says Bookmarks Magazine.



And you can't go wrong with Elmore Leonard:

The Hot Kid (Ekstrom PS3562.E55 H66 2005) introduces Carl Webster, a Deputy US Marshall in 1930's Oklahoma dealing with a rich kid gangster wannabe.

In *Up in Honey's Room* (Ekstrom Browsing PS3562.E55 U6 2007) Webster is in 1940's Detroit tracking down Nazis and Nazi sympathizers.

It would be hard to beat *When the Women Come Out to Dance: Stories* (Ekstrom PS3562.E55 W47 2002) for a plane ride, short stories that fit perfectly between interruptions.

Cheryl Crane, Ekstrom Library

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein (Ekstrom Browsing PS3569 .T3655 A88 2008). For those of us who truly believe dogs are the most highly evolved philosophers amongst us, you will appreciate the wisdom and warmth this novel brings to a series of tragic events impacting this family.

Robert Detmering, Ekstrom Library

Falling Man by Don DeLillo (Ekstrom Browsing PS3554 .E4425 F36 2007) My favorite writer's disquieting but very moving novel about 9/11.

Negative Blue by Charles Wright (Ekstrom Bingham Poetry Room PS3573 .R52 N44 2000). This anthology is the first book I've read by Wright. Contemplative, beautiful poetry, often focused on the natural world.

Convergence Culture: Where Old and New Media Collide by Henry Jenkins (Ekstrom P94.65 .U6 J46 2008). Jenkins discusses the implications of new media technologies through the lens of pop culture topics such as Harry Potter and American Idol. It might sound cold and overly academic, but it's really engaging.

Mark Dickson, Music Library

The Music's All that Matters: A History of Progressive Rock by Paul Stump (Music Library ML3534 .S85 1997). As an unrepentant fan of prog(ressive rock) music, I enjoyed this work. The author filled in gaps of my personal recollection of the period and reminded me why I enjoyed the genre so much.

My Index of Slightly Horrifying Knowledge by Paul Guest (Ekstrom Bingham Poetry Room PS3607 .U47 M9 2008). A poetry collection written by and from the point of view of a paraplegic. Full of anger, but eventually revealing the poet's love of life.

The Strange World of Thomas Harris by David Sexton (not owned by UofL). Dang it, I LIKE the Hannibal Lecter novels and this essay/book, although not unflawed, helped me to understand the author and his works better.

Meet The Residents: America's Most Eccentric Band! by Ian Shirley (not owned by UofL). The only biography of this performance art collective I am aware of. I have been a fan since the 1970s and still enjoy their work.

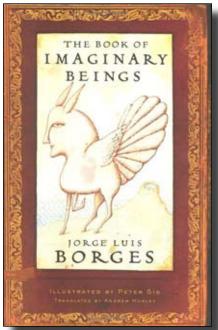
Wrong Movements: A Robert Wyatt History by Michael King (not owned by UofL). Drummer of the prog band Soft Machine, Robert Wyatt survived a fall from a second story window that left him paralyzed from the waist down. Many musicians might have been daunted, but Wyatt switched to piano and voice and has continued to create, record and perform thoughtful and fascinating music.

The Book of Imaginary Beings by Jorge Luis Borges with Margarita Guerrero, translated by Andrew Hurley (Ekstrom GR825 .B613 2006). One of my favorite authors in an atlas of literary imagined creatures. The descriptions and treatments are short, but thought-provoking as Borges usually is.

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe [Editor's Note: Mark actually referenced the mp3 format of this book--1587265443 9781587265440-- but a paper copy can be found in Ekstrom PR 3403 .Z5 R575 1995]. Knew the story, never read the novel. Now I have. Good thing, too. There's a lot more to the story than just being shipwrecked on an island.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee (Ekstrom PS3562 .E353 T6 1999). I'd read this before, but was ready to read it again. I love the story, of course, but

I just can't accept Scout as a real kid; she's just *too* precocious. Neither I nor any of my kin or friends were even remotely like her.

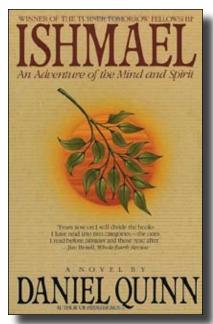


Blood Meridian, or, The Evening Redness in the West by Cormac McCarthy (Ekstrom PS3563 .C337 B4 2001). Nice bit of blood-letting, this. The American West with all of its unromantic violence.

The Collected What If?: Eminent Historians Imagining What Might Have Been: Essays edited by Robert Cowley and Caleb Carr (Ekstrom D21.3.C64 2005). Fun stuff for history buffs or science fiction fans. Pivotal moments in military and social history described as they happened, then again as if they hadn't.

Poems by Charles Baudelaire (Ekstrom PQ2191 .A2 1993). This is primarily "Les Fleurs du Mal." There's nothing like Baudelaire. All the craft and twice the bile.

Mississippi Writings by Mark Twain (Ekstrom PS1302 1982). I read *Huck Finn* in a separate edition a couple of years ago. This time around I read *Tom Sawyer* because I was familiar with the story, but I wasn't sure if I had actually read the novel. Lots of high jinx and boy adventure, and a bit of chivalry. However, I think I still prefer *Huck Finn* as the best Twain.



Justy Engle, Ekstrom Library

Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit by Daniel Quinn (Ekstrom PS3567 .U338 I8 1995). When was the last time you picked up a book that was over a decade old that still seemed relevant and timely? These are the books I thrive on and encourage others to read. The book is designed to make you think; you absorb and internalize the story. With all the damage we've done to the planet, how can we save it now? The two main characters are unexpected allies and one has sci-fi-esque powers which he uses to communicate. But don't let this sci-fi device detract from the ideas presented in this story. I don't want to give too much away because it will spoil the initial surprise when you're learning about the character. If you're looking for a thought-provoking, unusual read to help your mind wander from the heat during these summer days, check out Ishmael.

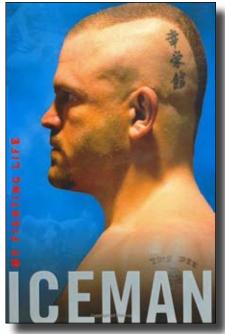
Sarah Frankel, Ekstrom Library

I recently finished *Iceman: My Fighting Life,* the autobiography of Chuck Liddell (Ekstrom Browsing GV1114.65 .L53 2008), a mixed martial arts fighter and former champion of the UFC (Ultimate

Fighting Championship). I am a big fan of the UFC and of Liddell's, so it was interesting for me to read about his life and journey as a fighter.

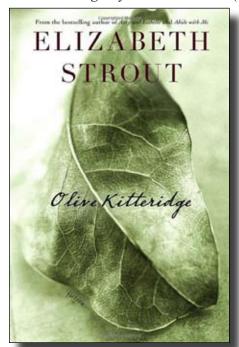
The book spans from pretty much his birth until 2007, right before the book was sent to be published. He discusses his childhood and upbringing in California, his early interest in fighting and wrestling days in college, plus his gradual rise to fame in the world of mixed martial arts. Many of his fights are detailed from punch to punch, so it is definitely written from an insider's perspective. It also includes many details about his personal life, from relationships with women and his family, to the many jobs he's had over the years.

It also includes a very detailed history of how the UFC first got started under the Gracie family and the many hurdles it has had to overcome in the last several years to get to where it is now. The UFC basically went from being classified as "human cock fighting" to being more socially acceptable with rules, safety guidelines and airing on regular television. This is a must read for anyone interested in mixed martial arts or fans of the UFC. It is a very quick read, with short chapters and frank language.



Gail Gilbert, Art Library

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout (Ekstrom Browsing PS3569.T736 O5 2008), now on The New York Times



bestseller list for paperbacks, is a current favorite of mine. Amazon reviewer Mary Ellen Quinn says: "Hell. We're always alone. Born alone. Die alone," says Olive Kitteridge, redoubtable seventh-grade math teacher in Crosby, Maine. Anyone who gets in Olive's way had better watch out, for she crashes unapologetically through life like an emotional storm trooper. She forces her husband, Henry, the town pharmacist, into tactical retreat; and she drives her beloved son, Christopher, across the country and into therapy. But appalling though Olive can be. Strout manages to make her deeply human and even sympathetic, as are all of the characters in this "novel in stories." Covering a period of 30-odd years, most of the stories (several of which were previously published in *The New Yorker* and other magazines) feature Olive as their focus, but in some she is bit player or even a footnote while other characters take center stage to sort through their own fears and insecurities. Though loneliness and loss haunt these pages, Strout also supplies gentle humor and a nourishing dose of hope. People are sustained by the rhythms of ordinary life and the natural wonders of coastal Maine, and even Olive is sometimes caught off guard by life's baffling beauty. Strout is also the author of the well-received Amy and Isabelle (1999) and Abide with Me (Ekstrom PS3569.T736 A64 2006).

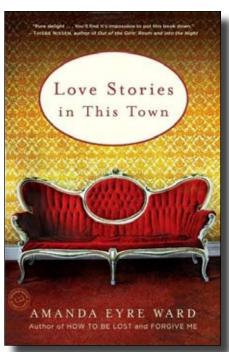
Rae Helton, Ekstrom Library

In between work, summer activities and rushing to the gym, I've managed to make time to read some wonderful short stories. Two collections that I highly recommend:

Love Stories in this Town by Amanda Eyre Ward (Ekstrom Browsing PS3623. A725 L68 2009). A collection of short stories that tackle life and love in many forms, including grief over losing a child, looking for a new home, finding lost love after 9/11, and self love. Ms. Ward is an excellent storyteller. Her first sentence paints such a vivid picture that its impossible to put the book down without ending a story. The central characters in the stories are smart women who survive and continue living despite life's challenges and circumstances. I really enjoyed these stories and the insights and inspiration they gave me.

Life is Short but Wide by J. California Cooper (Ekstrom Browsing PS3553 .05874 L54 2009).

J. California Cooper is my favorite author, not just because she has a cool name, but she tells her readers what they need to hear about loving, living, surviving and dying. She speaks the truth using southern prose that makes me feel as though I'm eavesdropping on two aunts sharing the facts of life. Ms. Cooper has written several short story collections and I've read them all. I actually own most of them:-). Her latest collection of stories is narrated by 91-year-old Hattie B. Brown who, along with her 105-year-old mother, tell stories of finding love, getting love and keeping love, all within the context of their family. The stories will make you laugh, cry and get angry. Ms. Cooper is a gifted



storyteller who reminds us of the important things in life and offers words of wisdom to help us along the way.

Marette Irwin, Ekstrom Library

Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcolm Caldwell (Ekstrom Browsing BF637 .S8 G533 2008) I could not put this book down. I started reading it at 6 p.m. and finished it at 3 a.m.!

Why do some people succeed far more than others? The author argues that if we want to understand how some people thrive, we should start looking at such things as their family, their birthplace, or even their birth date. *Outliers* explains what the Beatles and Bill Gates have in common, the extraordinary success of Asians at math, the hidden advantages of star athletes, and why all top New York lawyers have the same resume, in terms of generation, family, culture and class. It matters what year you were born if you want to be a Silicon Valley billionaire, Gladwell argues, and it matters where you were born if you want to be a successful pilot. The lives of outliers—those people whose achievements fall outside normal experience—follow a peculiar and unexpected logic.

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini (Ekstrom Browsing PS3608 .0832 K58 2007). This is a journey through the lives of two Afghan women as they live out their individual destinies. The hardships experienced by the two central characters, Mariam and Laila, serve to remind us that suffering and oppression of women is like a disease that infects the future and breaks entire societies into warring tribal factions. These two women struggling to survive and thrive in Afghanistan serves as a reminder for the rest of us that suffering may wear a burqa but always the heart of a woman beats underneath the mesh covering her indomitable spirit.

The common themes of human suffering, the struggle of women to be in control of their own lives, war and nation-hood, domestic violence and political forces snatching away the rights of individuals and waging endless war--these are all themes being played out on the political and social landscape in North America.

For me this was also a story of how we love one another so inadequately and with such brokenness that causes irreparable damage and hunger and yet we are giving what we have; like Mariam's mother who is so damaged herself and loved her daughter in such a flawed manner that ultimately the only possible outcome is tragedy.

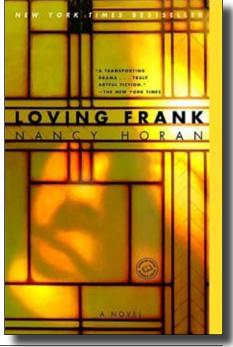
How much blame and responsibility do we have the right to heap onto our mothers? They are ultimately victims of their day and age as well as participants in the drama of their personal destiny which unavoidably is interconnected with the larger scheme of world politics and global evolution of the species. Forgiveness is then required from the broken daughters of these limping mothers and this is the hidden shadow theme of this novel that takes us through the unfolding history of one nation and the microcosm of two of its citizens, and specifically the characters of *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.

Days of Darkness: The Feuds of Eastern Kentucky by John Ed Pearce (Ekstrom HV6452 .K4 P43 1994). Grisly feuds tore apart the hills of Eastern Kentucky from the late nineteenth century until well into the twentieth. John Ed Pearce

weaves engrossing accounts of six of the most notorious and long-running feuds -- those in Breathitt, Clay, Harlan, Perry, Pike, and Rowan counties. What caused the feuds that left Kentucky with its lingering reputation for violence? Who were the feudists, and what forces – social, political, financial – hurled them at each other? Did Big Jim Howard really kill Governor William Goebel? Did Joe Eversole die trying to protect small mountain landowners from ruthless Eastern mineral exploiters? Did the Hatfield-McCoy fight start over a hog? For years, Pearce has interviewed descendants of feuding families and examined skimpy court records and often fictional newspaper accounts to uncover what really happened and why. His story of those days of darkness brings to light new evidence, questions commonly held beliefs about the feuds, and puts to rest some of the more popular legends.

Kathie Johnson, University Archives/Kornhauser Library

My book club just read Nancy Horan's *Loving Frank: A Novel* (Ekstrom Browsing PF3608 .O725 L68 2007) and to a person we all enjoyed it very much. This is a fictionalized account of the love affair between the famed American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Martha (known as Mamah) Borthwick Cheney, the wife of one of Wright's clients. I, for one, normally avoid this kind of writing, preferring actual biography or autobiography to a novelist



filling in thoughts, words and motivations for these characters who are not figments of his or her imagination. But in this case the writing is excellent, the author did her research, and the outline of the story is true to the facts. Even I, married to a Frank Lloyd Wright fan, did not know how this story would evolve nor anything about the surprise ending. An enjoyable read which I highly recommend.

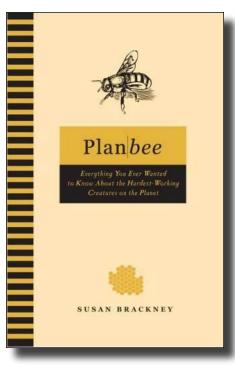
Sarah Jent, Ekstrom Library

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah (Ekstrom DT516.828 .B43 A3 2007). The Gravedigger's Daughter by Joyce Carol Oates (Ekstrom Browsing PS3565 .A8 G73 2007). The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (Ekstrom PZ7 .Z837 Boo 2007).

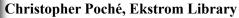
Ben King, Ekstrom Library

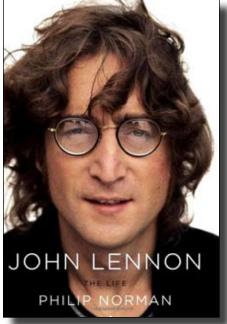
I recently finished *Plan Bee: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Hardest-Working Creatures on the Planet* by Susan M. Brackney (Ekstrom Browsing QL568 .A6 B68 2009). This is a relatively thin book, so not too difficult to get through. It was written by a person who raises bees in Indiana. It reinforces how important bees are to the pollination of so much of our food, and how hard-working they are. I have a newfound respect when I see a bee going from flower to flower. The book is not really complimentary of the drones. They basically just hang around and eat, mate with the queen, and then die.

I am now reading *Your Call Is (Not That) Important to Us: Customer Service, and What It Reveals About Our World and Our Lives* by Emily Yellin (Ekstrom Browsing HF5415.5. Y47 2009). Not being a big telephone fan, I was drawn to the title of this book. My blood pressure tends to rise mysteriously at the first ring of the bell. (Ironically, as I am writing these lines I just got a call from a telemarketer.) This book is basically about the different ways companies handle customer service calls. When you call for service you may get someone in the United States, someone in another country, or even someone working out of their basement at home. For instance, in many cities now when you drive up to a McDonald's your order is no longer taken by an employee a few feet



away, but could be taken by someone working from home in a small town in North Dakota who then relays the order information back to the on-site workers.





I have not had a chance to do much reading this year outside of the class on Immanuel Kant I took during the spring semester. When the labyrinthine sentences of this German philosopher had me crying uncle, I took some relief in Philip Norman's John Lennon: The Life (Ekstrom Browsing ML420 .L38 N66 2008). This biography is a fine companion to Norman's still indispensible Shout! The Beatles in Their Generation (Ekstrom ML421.B4 N65 1996). Indeed, the book's middle section on the years from the Beatles breakout stardom in 1963 to their breakup in 1970 seems almost rushed, as if Norman did not feel the need to cover that ground again. But the first section on Lennon's early life and the pre-Beatlemania years is developed in great detail and is a fascinating read. Despite Bob Spitz's attempt to give us the definitive story a few years back with *The Beatles: The Biography* (Music Library ML421. B4 S67 2005) (sadly, Spitz seems to have started a territory-marking trend of authors claiming authoritativeness for themselves with grandiose definite articles: "The Biography," "The Life"), Norman still surprises with new information and sensitive insight into Lennon's character, providing the fullest and perhaps the fairest account of Lennon's family life during his childhood.

The picture he paints of Freddie Lennon is particularly revelatory and deflates the usual view of him as the deadbeat,

walkout father who never showed any interest in his son until he became famous. I am still reading the book's final section—on Lennon's post-Beatles years—and am really enjoying it. Some of the information may seem old hat to other Lennon fans, but since I am more of a McCartney fan, much of it is new to me.

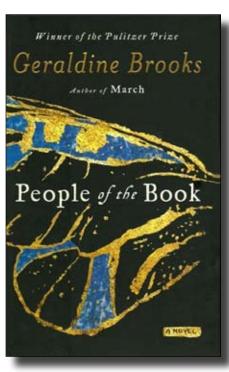
Other than this, I have only one other, smaller book to recommend: *This Is Water: Some Thoughts, Delivered on a Significant Occasion, About Living a Compassionate Life* (Ekstrom Browsing LC1011 .W25 2009) is the text of the commencement speech the late novelist David Foster Wallace delivered at Kenyon College in 2005. With his characteristically iconoclastic wit, Wallace sheds new light on the tired old idea that the value of a college education consists in teaching one "how to think."

Amy Purcell, Ekstrom Library

I am currently reading *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks (Ekstrom Browsing PR9619.3 .B7153 P46 2008). This is the fictionalized version of a true story. Hanna Heath, an Australian book conservator has the opportunity to work with a very rare illuminated Jewish prayer book. The book follows Hanna's present research of artifacts she found in the book to help tell its story. And interspersed are short stories of people associated with the book during crucial moments which document the very long history of anti-Semitism. Both the present and past stories are compelling. I look forward to reading other books by this author. Brooks won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for literature for *March* (Mr. March, the absent father in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*).

Jamie Saunders, Ekstrom Library

One of my most recent reads was *The Power of Kabbalah* by Yehuda Berg (Ekstrom BM525 .B477 2004). Even though I'm a baptized Christian, I've always been very spiritually curious and open-minded. And I was interested in getting beyond the "celebrity status" (i.e., famous followers such as Madonna, Demi Moore, Britney Spears, et al.) of Kabbalah to find out more about it. I have to say I am quite enthralled with it now, and have already read several more books on the subject. As the author explains, Kabbalah is not a religion, though it's been long associated with Judaism (in fact, for over 2000 years,



it wasn't allowed to be shared with anyone other than over-40 Jewish male scholars). It's more of a set of spiritual tools and principles, dating back to more than 4000 years ago. Whether or not it's truly life-changing as Mr. Berg claims, so much of it really makes sense, and is even quite profound. I do intend to study other scholars of it as well though, since I don't want to limit my intake to the more "celebrity brand" promoted by Berg.

Raymond Slaughter, Ekstrom Library

I recommend Sue Grafton's *C Is for Corpse* (Ekstrom PS3557.R13 C2 1987). Private investigator Kinsey Millhone is hired by a young man who fears that someone is trying to kill him and wants her to find out who it is. However, he ends up dead in what appears to be a car accident. Kinsey is convinced that it may be murder and continues to investigate to find the truth. There are many twists and turns in the investigation and for those who like good detective stories, it is a real treat.

Elizabeth Smigielski, Kornhauser Library

Hospital: Man, Woman, Birth, Death, Infinity, Plus Red Tape, Bad Behavior, Money, God, and Diversity on Steroids by Julie Salamon (Ekstrom Browsing.RA982.N5 M357 2008). From Publisher's Weekly: "Brooklyn's Maimonides Medical Center, is one of the busiest hospitals in the country serving one of the most diverse communities in the country. The ER keeps at the ready 67 translators. The kitchen offers an authentic Chinese menu that is also kosher. Meanwhile, administrators try to offer compassionate care with cutting-edge facilities, while dealing with the political and practical hurdles of a wildly diverse population, particularly its influential ultra-Orthodox Jewish community. I spend a considerable amount of time listening to doctors and nurses address problems of insurance, moving patients through the system, all the while keeping patient care the focus; this book helps me

better understand the business end of the process."

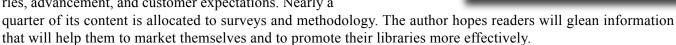
Virginia Smith, Law Library

You Don't Look Like a Librarian: Shattering Stereotypes and Creating Positive New Images in the Internet Age

by Ruth Kneale (on order but not yet received). Ruth Kneale is a friend and colleague whose pulse has always been on the bleeding edge of our profession. I'm thrilled to see that what began as a curiosity and grew into a movement now rests between the glossy covers of a bound *Information Today* publication.

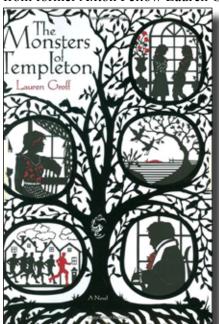
In her book, the author compares and contrasts traits of actual 21st Century library professionals to popular stereotypes. She gathers data from interviews and testimonials, and raids the vaults of popular culture for examples from movies, books, comics, music, media, advertising, and kitschy merchandise to demonstrate that "librarians are more than the sum of their stereotypes."

Not only is the book entertaining, it's a serious statement about the impact of our profession's perception on salaries, advancement, and customer expectations. Nearly a



Emily Symonds, Ekstrom Library

The Monsters of Templeton by Lauren Groff (Ekstrom Browsing PS3607.R6344 M66 2008). The debut novel from former Axton Fellow Lauren Groff, takes place in upstate New York and delves into the history and secrets



of a prominent local family. During a moment of crisis, Willie Upton returns home to Templeton and ends up researching her family history in order to find out her father's identity. With ancestral portraits, a mysterious lake monster, ghosts, multiple narrators, and James Fenimore Cooper references, there isn't much not to love about this novel. Also try her short-story collection, *Delicate Edible Birds and Other Stories* (Ekstrom Browsing PS3607. R6344 D45 2009).

Positive New Images in the Internet Ag

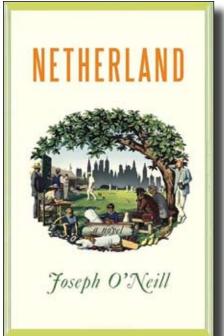
Ruth Kneale

Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson (Ekstrom Browsing E457.5 .S993 2006). A gripping account of John Wilkes Booth's assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the attempts against members of Lincoln's cabinet, and the search that followed. Swanson describes Booth's plan and follows him as he and a co-conspirator try to escape to the South. If you thought you knew everything about this event, you haven't read this book yet. It's the ultimate page turner.

Netherland by Joseph O'Neill (Ekstrom Browsing PR6065.N435 N48 2008). This novel follows Hans, a Dutch banker living in New York City following the events of September 11, 2001. Separated from his wife and child, who

have returned to Europe, the adrift and isolated Hans joins up with a group of immigrants who play cricket in the city, including one man from Trinidad full of big ideas. *Netherland*, a quiet novel about identity, was recently on President Obama's reading list.

Barbara Whitener, Ekstrom Library



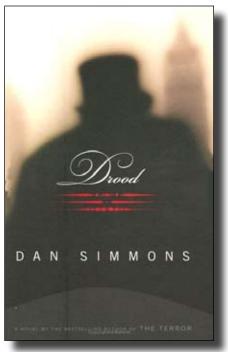
America by Russell Shorter (Ekstrom F128.4 .S56 2004). Well-researched history of the Dutch colony of Manhattan.

Drood: A Novel by Dan Simmons (Ekstrom Browsing PS3569.I47292D76 2009). The novel answers the question as to where Dickens found the inspiration for his uncompleted novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. If you like the writings of Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins as well as a good mystery, you'll enjoy this book.

Books : A Memoir by Larry McMurtry (Ekstrom Browsing PS3563 .A319 Z46 2008). If you love books, you'll love this book by a book lover.

Columbine by Dave Cullen (Ekstrom Browsing LB3013.33 .C6 C84 2009).

Account of the April 20, 1999 Columbine High School shooting.





New Employee Lounge Opens

Tech Services cataloger Joyce Graves relaxes on a break in the new employee lounge, replacing the old one displaced by the McConnell Archives project. The new area is located on the ground floor of the west side of the Ekstrom Library, just off the corridor leading to the service elevator.



Summer, 2009 A Page 11

From the Dean of Libraries

By Hannelore Rader, Dean, University of Louisville Libraries

The Kentucky Virtual Library Board (KYVL) met on May 6 in Frankfort and discussed library disaster recovery methods, the stimulus fund, the strategic plan, the budget, and the KYVL strategic plan.

On May 16 the Third Annual Kentucky Women's Book Festival took place in the library. The festival attracted close to 300 people and featured a keynote luncheon address by UofL's own Sena Jeter Naslund.

May 19-23 I attended the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) biannual meeting in Houston, Texas which included visits to Rice University and the University of Houston. Special discussion items included "the research library's role in digital repository services," the Google book search settlement, "DataNet: Learning from the First Award," "Defining libraries as multi-institutional entities," "New ways of collaboration," "Navigating a turning point in American economic history" and many other topics. One of the recurring discussions centered on the budget crisis on many ARL campuses. ARL is working on updating its measuring criteria.

The Faculty Senate Committee on Libraries met on May 14 and discussed the Graduate Certificate in Public History and the PhD in Sociology, among other items.

The Library Associates Board (LAB) met on May 28. Discussion centered on various fundraising endeavors such as "Honor with Books." The LAB Fundraising Infrastructure Committee met earlier and discussed a branding structure for the libraries.

June 9-10, I participated in the FoKAL (Federation of Kentucky Academic Libraries) meeting at Cumberland Falls State Resort. This group represents all academic private and public libraries in Kentucky. At this meeting the group discussed the budget, reciprocal borrowing, information literacy, an open sources symposium, the new LYRASIS consortium, the Kentucky Virtual Library, the OCLC WorldCat Local, FoKAL advocacy and related items.

The Libraries are part of the new OCLC WorldCat Local which will be available to the public beginning in January 2010.

Three library faculty have retired as of June 30, 2009: Janardan Kulkarni, William Morison and Glenda Neely. One staff member, Ann Collins, retired July 2.

From June 29 to July 23, 2009 the libraries are hosting two interns from Montpellier: Manon Laforet who is working at Kornhauser Library, and Mehdy Meddour who is working in Ekstrom Library.



Petirements and Other Events



Left: Delinda Buie congratulates Special Collections employee Ann Collins on her retirement after more than a decade at U of L. *Photo by Bill Carner*:

Below and right: Dr. Sena Jeter Naslund addresses an overflow crowd at the Third Annual Kentucky Women's Book Festival on May 16.





Summer, 2009 ♣ Page 13

epartment

Ekstrom Library

Office of the Dean

Personnel News

Steven Shackelford, Circulation Library Assistant, resigned effective May 15, 2009. Steven is headed for Seattle, Washington. Bon Voyage!

Reference & Information Literacy Departments

Farewell

The Reference Department sadly said good-bye to Jan Kulkarni, Physical Sciences Librarian, and Glenda Neely, Business Librarian, on June 30. They will be greatly missed both for their in-depth knowledge of their subject areas and also for their kindness and good humor. We hope that they will be back to visit occasionally!

LOEX Encore

Anna Marie Johnson and Latisha Reynolds presented a virtual conference presentation as part of LOEX Encore on May 14. This was a repeat of their session entitled "Wikipedia, iPods, and Chickens: An Active Learning Exercise to Teach Evaluation of Information" that Anna Marie presented face-to-face at the 37th National LOEX Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico on May 1. LOEX is the organization that promotes library and information literacy instruction, and the conference is limited to 250 or so people. (The conference registration usually fills in the first hour after it opens.) The presentation was a discussion of the exercise that we use here at UofL with the Communications 111/112 classes, and it allowed Anna Marie to use a picture of her very own backyard chickens as the opening slide.

i2a

Rob Detmering and Anna Marie Johnson attended the i2a (Ideas to Action) Institute on May 27-29 at Shelby Campus. The primary speaker, Gerald Nosich, provided two full days of instruction on incorporating critical thinking techniques into one's teaching. Nosich is affiliated with the Foundation for Critical Thinking, whose definition UofL is using for the Ideas to Action initiative (https://louisville.edu/ideastoaction/home)

Special Collections

Farewell to Ann Collins

For well over a decade, first as a student assistant, then as a temporary worker, and most recently as a half-time staff member, Ann Collins has contributed her passion for photography, her commitment to the University of Louisville Photographic Archives, and her broad array of skills, to our work in Special Collections. Ann retired on July 2 to travel and do volunteer work.

Quite literally irreplaceable, Ann performs a broad range of functions, including exhibitions preparator, imaging order clerk, darkroom and imaging technician, Bramson Award coordinator, and collections assistant. In addition to her unique set of skills, Ann always has brought to our work her devotion to detail and eye for excellence. We will miss her, but wish her every good thing in this next chapter Ann admires her retirement gift. Photo by Bill of her life.



Law Library

The Law Library broadcast three webinars in the newly renovated basement lab in June:

June 11: CaseMap for Legal Research & Writing - by LexisNexis

June 23: Cracking the Congressional Code - by ALA

June 30: Using & Searching the Federal Register Library - by HeinOnline

SLA 2009

The University of Louisville's librarians were well represented at the annual Special Libraries Association's conference that was held in Washington, DC from June 13-18, 2009. Angel Clemons and James Manasco from Ekstrom Library and Virginia M. Smith from the Law Library were in attendance, as well as Mark Paul, Library Director, University of St. Martin and former Systems Librarian, UofL. Virginia received a Professional Development Grant to attend the SLA Conference.

Two of our Kentucky Chapter colleagues were honored at the SLA Awards presentation. Stacey Greenwell was named a 2009 SLA Fellow and Abby Heath-Thorne won the Rising Star Award. James Manasco addressed the Closing General Session to invite the assemblage to attend the 2010 Annual Conference in New Orleans, as 2010 Conference Advisory Council Chair.

Media Resources News

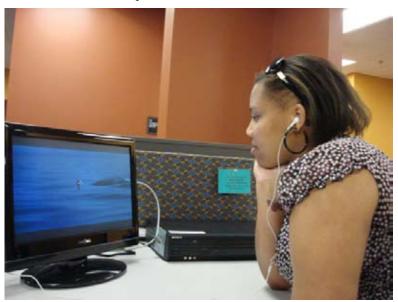
By Justy Engle, Tess Payton & Trish Blair

We have made a number of equipment changes so far this summer. The Learning Commons Computer Lab now boasts all-new Dell PC workstations for patron use. The Media viewing stations are all equipped with high definition flat-screen TVs with built-in DVD players. There are also 4 DVD/VCR combos currently available for use. Media's collection of Criterion titles on DVD has also grown thanks to the generosity of the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities. Graduate students, faculty and staff can now check out such classics as *The Double Life of Veronique*, *The Last Emperor, Mala Noche* and much more!

The SGA Collection is brimming with new arrivals. Do you remember the original *Twilight Zone* series? Thanks to funds from the Student Government Association, we have acquired the entire series, all five seasons! The

series is known for its fascination with the strange and paranormal, predilection to focus on the possibility of nuclear disaster, and easily identifiable music. Check out the episode list on IMDB (http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0052520/episodes) and it'll help you figure out which season you'll want to check out. One of our favorites comes in Season 5, episode 22, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," based on an Ambrose Bierce short story of the same name. You can read Bierce's short story online here: http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/OccOwl.shtml

To keep up with new arrivals, subscribe to our RSS feed: http://kla-itrt.org/uofl/tax-onomy/term/51/all/feed/rss.xml .



One of the new viewing stations in Media Resources. Photo: Tess Payton

Digital Collections

By Rachel Howard, Digital Initiatives Liberarn

With the addition of the Arthur Younger Ford (1861-1926) photograph albums and Stereographic views of Louisville and beyond, 1850s-1930 collections in June, UofL's Digital Collections site attracted nearly one million page views (982,357 to be exact) during that month!

A more in-depth examination of the usage statistics program reveals some interesting information about our users. For the past three months (April, May, and June 2009), the Kentucky Maps collection has been the most frequently visited, and in the month of June the phrase "Kentucky maps" was the most popular search bringing users to the site. However, in May, the most popular search terms involved "Fontaine Ferry Park" (likely due Fontaine Ferry Park, Louisville, Kentucky, June 1907, to the publicity surrounding the exhibit at the Frazier International



Terhune Collection, Photographic Archives

History Museum, which used some photos from our collections, such as the one above) and, as one would expect in Louisville at that time of year, "Kentucky Derby."

We can also gauge the relative popularity of sites referring users to our pages. In addition to linking to Digital Collections from UofL and Libraries web pages and following links from search engines such as Google, Yahoo, and Bing, many users find links to our digital collections within Wikipedia. For example, I linked to the stereographs page from the Wikipedia entry on stereography, assuming that researchers wishing to learn about that imaging technique would be interested in seeing examples of it. In the increasingly crowded information superhighway, people are more likely to find us if we put up signs at the spots they're already likely to be visiting.

Upcoming collections will branch out from our existing strengths in mostly local, mostly image-based collections: one will feature images taken overseas during World War I by a French citizen with Louisville (and UofL Libraries) ties, and another will include fully searchable texts of research created by UofL graduate students over the past century. Curious to find out more about these materials? Stay tuned—they're coming soon.



THANK YOU HAPPENINGS

Thanks to **John Burton**, **Earl Murphy**, **Andy Clark** and all the personnel in **Technical Services** working on the massive cleanup of LL35. – *Diane Nichols*

© © ©

Many thanks to **Jodi Duce** for processing my expense report from the recent SLA conference and to **David Ensign** for encouraging me to apply for the Professional Development grant. – *Virginia Smith*

I would like to thank Circulation and ILL staff and students for working together and pitching in while we are down two positions. Thanks John S., Alice, Danny, Jim R., Ryan, Steve W, Carlie, Michelle, Matt, Whitley, Evegina, Bethany, Khoa, and Megan! – Melissa Horrar

I want to send thanks to **John Burton** for all his hard work this past week when the cubicles were cleaned and the floor waxed. Without his help with the heavy lifting, things would have been quite a bit more difficult. – **Betty Joyce Graves**

© © ©

My heartfelt thanks to **Ann Collins** for all the help she's given me and all of us here in Special since way back in the 20th Century. Ann, you're irreplaceable. – *Bill Carner*

I would like to thank **Alice Abbott-Moore** for just being such a pleasant and friendly person, and for always being so sweet, helpful and generous to everyone she meets. – **Jamie Suzanne Saunders**

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Many, many thanks to **Sheila Birkla** and **Mioshi Cobble** for their outstanding work in coordinating the acquisition and distribution of new computers, scanners and other technology this year. – *Diane Nichols*

My thanks to Calvin Miracle and Liren Liu who have been learning more about the RRS and have been receiving training from me to better serve the libraries upon my absences/vacations. During a recent vacation of mine, Calvin saw the need for additional persons to know the RRS. I really appreciate that Calvin and Liren took the initiative to learn such a vast amount of knowledge.

Special thanks to **Office of Libraries Technology (OLT)** for their generosity in letting me use a spare office for conference calls. – *Alice Abbott-Moore*

© © ©

On behalf of the Kentucky Women's Book Festival, I'd like to thank **Dean Rader** for once more providing the venue for the festival. I'd also like to thank **Raymond Slaughter** for making sure we had all the tables and chairs we needed and in particular to **Kyle and Robert (from Shipping & Receiving)** for all the help with set up. The KWBF planning committee received many compliments on the great facility. – **Amy Purcell**

© © ©

I want to invite everyone to come see the new look in the Learning Commons area with the new pcs for student use. Without the help of several students (**Kelley** from media department, **Kyle and Robert** from the dock and all the rest of the dock students that helped install and recycle boxes)...this could not have been done in a record amount of time (never been done so far in 8 years – 5 working days from landing on the dock to deployment). Way to go, Guys and Gals!!! They went way above and beyond their jobs!!! – **Sheila Birkla**

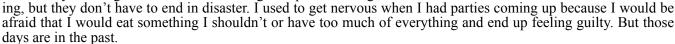
LIFEstyle

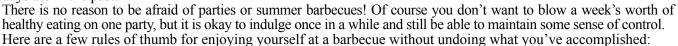
Opening the Doors to Healthier and Stress-Free Living A column by Sarah Frankel

How To Have a Better Barbecue

Even though the 4th of July festivities have come and gone, chances are with several weeks of the warm summer weather still ahead of us, there will be plenty of opportunities for those nice summertime barbecues to enjoy with friends and family.

Barbecues (and family gatherings surrounding food in general) can make your weight loss or maintenance goals quite challeng-





- 1. Come up with a plan. Before you even leave your house, think about how you will navigate your way through eating at the barbecue (plan, don't worry). If it is a familiar group of people, contemplate what they typically serve at their home. Maybe even bring a healthy dish that feels safe for you. You might get others eating healthy, too!
- **2. Drink lots of water.** Be sure to start the day off hydrated and keep drinking water throughout the party because it will keep your stomach full and can help keep you from going back for 2nds and 3rds on food. It will also help you avoid wasting calories on beverages or drinking anything artificially sweetened that can trigger your cravings for more food.
- **3.** Check out everything on the table first. Once you have an idea of everything to choose from, it is easier to decide what you are going to have and what you are going to pass on this time.
- **4. Only eat one "plate."** Even if you sample a little bit of everything, limit yourself to just one plate of food at the party as your meal. A good rule of thumb is to get every food group in that you can: fruit, veggies, grains, and protein.
- **5. Load up on veggies.** If fresh or steamed vegetables are an option at your barbecue, be sure to get plenty of them on your plate. Veggies are filling and nutritious and will boost your confidence in the choices you've made.
- **6. Can you make it at home?** Choose some "special" items or things you never make yourself at home or that were specially made (as in, not store bought cookies from a box).
- **7. Go easy on desserts.** Choose one dessert and keep the serving small; or if you can't choose between two, have half a piece of each. Don't choose the fruit because you think its healthier if you really want that cake or pie.
- **8. Avoid negative behavior.** Do not tell yourself you've been "bad" or can't eat something you really want because it is "off limits." That will just make you want it more and you are likely to consume a larger quantity that way. Try to be an intuitive as possible.
- **9. Leave the food area and go socialize.** This is my favorite tip because it really does help when you get the food out of your sight. Especially if you can find someone to engage in good conversation, this behavior is good not just for your healthy eating goals but for building relationships too.
- 10. Have fun. Enjoy yourself at the party and don't spend your entire time worrying about what you will eat or how long you will have to exercise to work it off. If you think you've overindulged, give yourself a "do-over" and get back to your healthy habits as soon as you realize this. Remember, you are only human.

Have a safe, healthy and happy summer season!

Library Exhibits

Ekstrom Library

Lower Level Lobby Special Collections

Photographic Archives Gallery

The Center for Photographic Studies Louisville, 1970 – 1978 Portfolios and related photographs from the collections June 11 – September 18, 2009

Rare Books Kain Gallery

The Robert and Diane Miller Collection

An exhibition drawn from the collection's more than 400 volumes, including rare first editions, proof copies, and first



Untitled, 1972 © C. J. Pressma

appearances in print of modern authors and poets such as Shirley Jackson, Sarah Orne Jewett, Marianne Moore, and Richard Wilbur. Professor Emeritus of English Robert H. Miller also formed the Libraries' Graham Greene collection, and taught the art of descriptive bibliography to several generations of scholars. **February 25 – July, 2009**



"Watermelons sold from a wagon on the street on Saturdays and Court Day, Jackson, Kentucky, September 1940." Photo by Marion Post Wolcott, Photographic Archives' FSA photographs

New Wing First Floor Display Cases

Kentucky emerges from the Great Depression: Farm Security Administration photographs

Okolona, King, and Blake Elementary Schools Elementary school students curated this exhibition during a visit to campus June 10, 2009. Examining dozens of images from the Farm Security Administration photographs in the Roy E. Stryker Collection, the students selected these images, grouped here along themes of images of the Ohio River, the difficulties of transportation in the first half of the last century, death customs in Appalachia, and small town commerce.

Media

Recognize

Photography exhibition created by local refugee teens at the Arcadia Community Center.

July 1 - 31, 2009

Law Library

Reading Room

Sisters in Struggle: Women in the Louisville Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975

This exhibit showcases several Louisville women who played a vital role in the local civil rights movement. For more information, see http://www.law.louisville.edu/node/2086.





Music Library

First Floor
Works of Brett Dean
Winning composer of the 2009 Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition
Through July, 2009