



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries
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The Owl

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

Sundown Towns: A Disturbing Legacy

by Sara Pickett
Women's Center, University of Louisville

"Most Americans have no idea such towns or counties exist, or they think such things happened mainly in the Deep South. Ironically, the traditional South has almost no sundown towns. Mississippi, for instance, has no more than 6, mostly mere hamlets, while Illinois has no fewer than 456..."

-Jim Loewen, *Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism* (The New Press, 2005)

Similar to this quote, when I was given the assignment of looking into what are known as Sundown Towns for a library exhibit and lecture, I had practically no prior knowledge of this history. However, the stories and information that have emerged since researching this hidden historical entity are both shocking and heartbreaking.



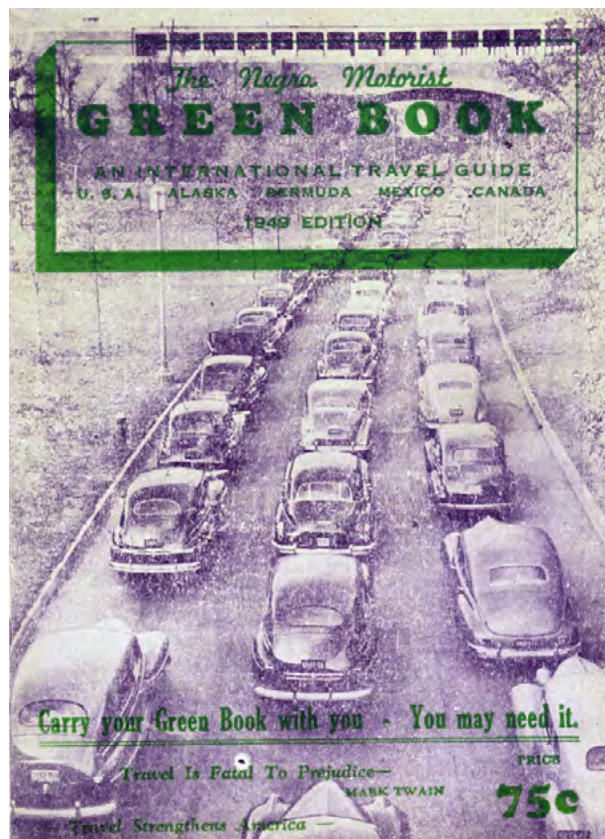
Courtesy of photographer, Ted Russell

Beginning around 1890 and continuing until the late 1960s, white Americans systematically and intentionally drove out black Americans from towns and cities around the United States. Often this was done through intimidation and violence, although some towns passed additional ordinances which banned people of color from owning property or being out after dark. Signs and posters exclaiming that "Only Members of the Caucasian Race" or "Black Men Don't Let Sun Down Catch You ..." were visibly displayed to mark a place as a Sundown Town.

These Sundown Towns ranged from small villages to substantial cities. In some cases, whole counties and some early American suburbs became white-only. Despite the belief that racial segregation existed almost exclusively in the Southern states, most Sundown Towns emerged in the Northern and coastal parts of the country, including California, Oregon, and Connecticut. Additionally, the discrimination was not limited to black Americans. Native Americans, Chinese, Jewish Americans, and Mexicans were also barred from living in and traveling through Sundown Towns after dark.

From 1936 to 1964, Victor H. Green published *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, which provided a list of safe resting spots and eateries for black American motorists and tourists throughout the United States. Word-of-mouth also helped black Americans share useful information with those traveling or in need of specific services. While such “sundown signs” as the ones quoted above were visible markers for many Sundown Towns throughout the country, some towns were not in fact overtly marked, and thus posed an even greater threat to those folks passing through who were not welcome.

Perhaps as shocking as the Sundown Towns themselves is the silence that surrounds them. In his book entitled *Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism*, Jim Loewen suggests that much of this could be the result of shame and embarrassment associated with these practices. He writes of Sundown Towns, “Local historians omit the fact intentionally, knowing that it would reflect badly on their communities if publicized abroad.” It is surprising, though in many ways accurate, that as the Southern states have willingly admitted to their racist history, the North thus far has mostly hidden behind a guise of fairness, while ignoring or silencing a very painful past.



The UofL Women’s Center is hosting an exhibit in Ekstrom West entitled “After Dark: The History of Sundown Towns in Kentucky” from February 9-March 31. The Women’s Center is also hosting a lecture on Sundown Towns, date and time TBA.



[Co-Editors’ Note: **The Kentucky Women’s Book Festival**—on Saturday, March 7 in Ekstrom Library—will feature a luncheon talk by bestselling author Julie Kibler, whose novel, *Calling Me Home*, deals in part with Sundown Towns in 1930s Kentucky.]



Library and Department News

Archives & Special Collections

Congratulations, Rachel!

Rachel Howard was selected for the 2015 Archives Leadership Institute (ALI) Cohort. This program provides advanced leadership training and mentorship for 25 innovative archival leaders, giving them the knowledge and tools to transform the profession in practice, theory and attitude. She will attend a week-long Leadership Intensive in Iowa in mid-June, develop and conduct a practicum-style leadership project, and take part in ongoing discussions, projects, and networking opportunities.

Ekstrom Library Office of the Dean

Development News

The Library is very appreciative of our alumni and friends who believe in what we are doing and support us with gifts of time, talent and treasure. Together we have accomplished so much in 2014 and I know we will continue to build on our progress in 2015. I would like to share some highlights with you.

We have nearly reached our fiscal year goal of \$4 million, raising \$3.8 million to date from bequests, gifts in kind and cash.

Endowments have been created for the following:

- conservation of items in the Archives and Special Collections
- to purchase art books for the Art Library
- to purchase books and electronic databases for the College of Arts & Sciences
- to purchase books and electronic databases – unrestricted

We received many wonderful gifts in kind for Rare Books and Photographic Archives which will enhance our Archives & Special Collections used by students, faculty and researchers around the globe. Additionally,

CONGRATULATIONS, ROBERT!



On January 30th, President James Ramsey honored twenty staff members for their hard work, dedication to students and the university, leadership and public service at the annual Outstanding Performance Awards reception held at the University Club. Robert Churchill II, custodian assigned to Archives & Special Collections in 2013, received one of the awards in the skilled craft/services workers category. Congratulations Robert!

Rare Books was the recipient of a \$30,000 grant to fund conservation of books in the William Marshall Bullitt Collection of Rare Mathematics and Astronomy.

A gift of \$250,000 will be utilized for our first floor renovation due to begin this Summer.

This past year, Library Deans' Club members have enjoyed activities with a focus on Ekstrom Library and the Archives & Special Collections. On April 9, they will tour the Music and Art Libraries to learn more about those collections and how they are utilized by our students. ~Denise Nuehring, Director of Major Gifts

New Position in Art Library

Trish Blair assumed the new position of evening/weekend supervisor for the Bridwell Art Library effective February 6, 2015. The position will significantly enhance the user services of the Art Library by providing a higher level of service during the evenings and weekends, and greater opportunities for creative outreach to the faculty and students in Fine Arts.

Reference & Information Literacy Departments

Anna Marie Explains Changes in Reference

Happy New Year and welcome back! It occurred to me over the break that some of the information about changes in Ekstrom's Reference Department area probably have not been articulated as clearly as they should have been! I hope you'll forgive me. It's kind of a "build-the-plane-while-flying-it" situation. To try to clarify a bit, I've put together some questions and answers. I'm happy to provide more details if you need them. Feel free to e-mail or better yet, stop by my office.

Q: What happened to the Reference Desk?

A: The actual physical piece of furniture known as the Reference Desk has been dismantled by Physical Plant staff.

Q: So since the Reference Desk has been dismantled, where are the reference librarians?

A: Some folks may not have realized that the Reference Department transitioned a year ago to a tiered model of reference service. At that time, we staffed the "outer" desk with reference student assistants who fielded questions. When a question went beyond a known-item-lookup (or KIL as we affectionately call them), the student referred the patron to a reference librarian or professional staff member sitting inside our office suite at a desk we call "The Consult Desk." The idea was to make better use of librarians' time, and have students deal with printer issues and other technology questions that comprised about 60% of the questions being asked at the Reference Desk.

Q: So who's answering the questions now?

A: Well, that depends on the question and the format in which it is asked! We will continue to staff our Consult Desk (852-0433) with librarians, professional staff, and three highly trained student assistants (all upper-level Honors students—see news item below "Peer Research Assistant Program") between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. In addition, questions coming through the Ask-a-Librarian service as well as the chat queues in Ebsco, ProQuest, and WCL will all still be answered by us. Questions coming via phone (852-6747 or 852-6748) will now be answered by the Circulation Department and will be transferred to us as needed. Other public desks are also encouraged to transfer reference questions to us as you did before, except to 852-0433 instead of 852-6747. In-person tech questions that find their way into our office will be gently and kindly re-directed to the new East Side Temporary Service Desk.

Q: East Side Temporary Service Desk? Is that what's sitting where the Browsing Collection used to be?

A: Yes, the new East Side Temporary Service Desk is under the auspices of Margo Smith and the User Services area. It is staffed with students formerly at the Reference Desk, as well as some Media Desk students. Some staff members may also be there from time to time. (I'll be there at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays to get a feel for how questions are being transferred. Come say hi!). Staff will provide technology help, directional assistance, and known-item-lookups.



Alan and Anna at the East Side Temporary Service Desk.

Q: What is the air-speed velocity of an unladen swallow?

A: This would be a question to transfer to Reference, or you could just look here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMxWLuOFyZM&list=RDIMxWLuOFyZM#t=51>

Congratulations, James!

James Manasco attended the Special Libraries Association Leadership Summit, January 21-23, in Baltimore, Maryland (and he's really glad that it wasn't a week later when the big snow hit the East Coast!). While there, he received the SLA Presidential Citation from 2014 President Kate Arnold for his work as chair of the Member Preferences Task Force, in particular for steering this diverse group of members to achieve the challenging task of analyzing and synthesizing material on member preferences, and for producing an excellent final report to guide future developments.

ALA Midwinter

Latisha Reynolds and Fannie Cox attended ALA's Midwinter conference, January 30-February 3.

Peer Research Assistant Program

The Reference and Information Literacy Department would like to (re)-introduce the three inaugural members of our Peer Research Assistant Program. Brian Peel, Tessa Withorn, and Chelsea Cornell are all former Reference student workers and current UofL Honors Program students. Brian is majoring in Humanities with minors in Latin, Greek, and Classical Studies; Tessa is an English major who is currently applying to library schools; and, Chelsea is a Biology major who is planning on attending medical school. As peer research assistants, they will be busy working ten hours per week at our Consult Desk providing in-depth research assistance, serving as floaters in our research instruction classes, staffing events and possibly even going to classes and giving a short presentation on the department's research and instruction services. They will be working on projects, including coding and data analysis, and recently they have been helping create images for our database and LibGuides marketing efforts.

Looking for Maps??

The Reference Department map collection has a new home, thanks to the work of Claudene Sproles, Margo Smith, and Andy Clark (and some really big guys from a moving company). The flat maps are located in the northwest corner of the fourth floor sorting station. Claudene remains the undisputed "Queen of Maps" so if you have questions, she's your go-to person.

Reference Services Review Publishes Article

Rob Detmering, Anna Marie Johnson, Claudene Sproles, Samantha McClellan, and Rosie Linares' article "[Library instruction and information literacy 2013](#)" was published in v. 41, issue 4 of *Reference Services Review*.

Winterfest!

The Ekstrom Learning Commons hosted our successful 3rd annual Winterfest Donuts and Cider Meet-and-Greet. Approximately 120 students came by our table, lured by the donuts. Staff from the the Writing Center, the Reference and IL Department, and the Digital Media Suite were on hand to provide information about helping with research, writing, and digital assignments.

Kornhauser Library

Milestone!

The clearing, withdrawal and relocating of over 2000 print journal titles (approximately 60,000 volumes!) from the off-site location and the third floor of Kornhauser passed a major milestone. The building at 614 Chestnut Street (a.k.a. Area 51) is now EMPTY! The next phase will continue on the third floor and records will continue to be adjusted.

This all sounds simple, right? No way. The journals collection from Kornhauser's second floor was moved to 614 Chestnut Street during the renovation last February and March. Each journal title's record had to be reviewed and a decision made as to whether to keep or discard the title. If the decision to discard was made, that information had to be updated in numerous databases to facilitate searching, and the physical volumes had to be discarded.

There were many stumbling blocks along the way, but the team persevered, called in reinforcements and the project is now well on the way to completion. Betsy Osoffsky, Paul Mattingly and Destiny Minton began the project with help from Felix Garza, Gene Haynes and Vida Vaughn. Kathy Rogers stepped in mid-way and used her superb organizational skills to facilitate progress. Matt Snyder was hired as a temporary to begin work on the third floor journals, but helped immensely in the quest to empty the off-site facility. Matt will continue working, as we move forward on the third floor phase of the project. Angela Ren began working in Technical Services on December 12, starting work at full-speed and helping the department to finish the 614 phase a month ahead of schedule! Special thanks to HSC Physical Plant for removing the discarded volumes for recycling.

Johnson Family Off to a Good Start in the New Year!

The new year started off well for Kathie Johnson and family – they kicked 2014 out, along with all of the negatives of the year (two deaths in the family, a cancer diagnosis, two surgeries, moving one daughter back home, and lots of construction projects). To help things improve, Ron and Kathie spent six glorious days in January on the beach in Cancun, Mexico, where the most effort they expended was picking up towels for the beach and deciding which restaurant for dinner. Kathie says it is very curative for whatever ails you!!! Cancun is a safe and inexpensive (compared to other resort areas) and recommended highly by Kathie, as this was their fourth trip to that locale in the past ten years.

Mary K Dives In!

Mary K. Marlatt is diving head first into the graduate school pool. She is taking two classes this semester, Digital History (how to do history with digital tools) and Women & Medicine, her first attempt at an online course. Lots of reading for both classes, but so far, so good. And to think, she's not even an official grad student (yet)!

KyOne Sends Librarians to London!

Kornhauser has created and sponsors a Virtual Library for all KentuckyOne Health facilities across the state. These include the Saint Joseph Hospitals in the central and eastern part of the state, as well as the western part of the state which includes University Hospital, Jewish Hospital and other KentuckyOne Health facilities. The Virtual Library team—Elizabeth Smigielski, Belinda Yff, Laurie Henderson and Susan Utterback—is visiting each site to introduce and demonstrate the features and value of the site. Elizabeth Smigielski and Laurie Henderson visited Saint Joseph London, Kentucky hospital on February 21 and demonstrated the Virtual Library at a nurse executive meeting. The addition of VL on the hospital's intranet was very well received. They met with the Clinical Nurse Educators and while touring the hospital, Elizabeth and Laurie introduced the site to many of the nurses and other staff, and handed out flyers and pocket cards. Staff members returning to school for additional degrees were especially interested. They also publicized the new UpToDate Anywhere mobile app. The Virtual Library team is working with medical staff coordinators, nursing leadership and ancillary staff leaders, such as Respiratory Therapy and Physical Therapy, to get the word out. Visits to all KentuckyOne Health facilities are being planned.

Law Library

Exhibit Enlightens and Educates

From December 12 through February 3, the Law Library was proud to host the exhibit, "Black Freedom, White Allies & Red Scare: Louisville, 1954," created by the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, in collaboration with University of Louisville Archives & Special Collections, Louisville Free Public Library, and *Courier-Journal* Media. (For more information on this exhibit, see page 8 of the September 2014 issue of *The Owl*



Dr. Cate Fosl discusses the Braden Trial display with first-year law students.
Photo by Alicia Kelso.

<http://owl.library.louisville.edu/2014/Owl0914.pdf>)

Many people from the law school and from the community viewed the exhibit during its seven-week stay. The biggest crowd arrived on January 30, when law professors Jamie Abrams and Laura Rothstein brought their Torts and Property classes in for an "official" visit, which included a talk by Dr. Cate Fosl, Anne Braden's biographer and director of the Anne Braden Institute. Dr. Fosl spoke to the first-year law students about the significance of the trial of Anne and Carl Braden, and the Bradens' place in civil rights history. Prof. Abrams commented that "the students were engaging in great, thoughtful discussion while they reviewed the display and considered its historic and modern relevance."

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The Owl's purpose is to promote communication among the various libraries in the UofL system.

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Opinions expressed in *The Owl* are not necessarily those of the University Libraries or the University of Louisville.



Matt Goldberg, Brittany Sutton, Bethany Poston and Ashley Triplett for being patient, understanding and willing to do what it takes to make our department work. Without them this department would not be here. —**Trish Blair**



Media would like to thank Sheila Birkla, Josh Whitacre, Sahab Bolari and Andy Clark for getting our new Information Desk up and working. Each of them have consistently helped us with the unknown and weird issues and it was greatly appreciated. —**Trish Blair**



Thanks to the East/West desk workgroup for making possible the Temporary Service Desk in the 1st floor lobby of the Ekstrom Library—Trish Blair, Kelly Buckman, Matt Goldberg, Anna Marie Johnson, and Michelle Rodriguez. After planning for several months, the desk opened January 5, 2015. Thanks to Josh Whitacre, Sheila Birkla, and Ashley Triplet for their assistance with technology and scheduling. —**Margo Smith**



I would like to thank Toccara Porter for her outstanding leadership with online instruction, as well as the members of our new online learning team—Kelly Buckman, Sue Finley, Sam McClellan, and Barbara Whitenier—for their collaborative spirit and fresh ideas. —**Rob Detmering**



I would like to thank Sarah Carter and Rosie Linares for their invaluable assistance with piloting the peer teaching observation program. —**Rob Detmering**



Thanks to Karen and Tiffani for arranging the shipment of donated items to Kornhauser Library. It may seem like a small thing to them, but it relieves me of hours of work and I really appreciate it! —**Kathie Johnson**



It takes several people to make a Robotic Retrieval System operate. Thanks to my co-workers in Circulation & Distance Learning who take care of the RRS when I can't be present: Jason Friedman, Rick Jones, Angie Kennedy, Michelle Rodriguez, Nick Sweat, and Steve Whiteside. Many thanks to Andy Clark for his continuous help, but especially, two weeks ago during the last RRS Quarterly PM and repair. Thank you to Dean Bob

Fox for having the cranes repaired! Special thanks to OLT: Weiling Liu, Randy Kuehn, Sheila Birkla, Calvin Miracle, Adam Lawrence, and Sahab Bolhari for their speedy responses to issues and problems when they occur with the RRS. Many thanks to Jessie Roth and Josh Whitacre who get the news out about RRS events. I could not do my job without such wonderful people who give support to the RRS. —*Alice Abbott-Moore*

I want to give a shout out and thank Andy Clark for putting me onto green tea. I recently gave up drinking coffee (after almost 20 years) and he suggested drinking green tea as an alternative. I'm two weeks into my newest health adventure and I have allowed myself one tea bag a day. Needless to say, no caffeine headaches—which is AWESOME! Thanks, Andy!! —*Alice Abbott-Moore*

26th Annual African American Read-In

Monday, February 16, 2015

**1st floor, West Wing, Ekstrom Library
10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.**

Faculty, staff and students will read aloud from books by their favorite African American authors.

The African American Read-In will be held in the Learning Commons of the Ekstrom Library.

To Sign up and schedule your reading time contact:

Joan D'Antoni (502) 852-6857

Joan.dantoni@louisville.edu

Sponsored by:

UofL Commission on Diversity and Racial Equality (CODRE)

UofL English Department

UofL Ekstrom Library



Richard Wright



Zora Neale Hurston



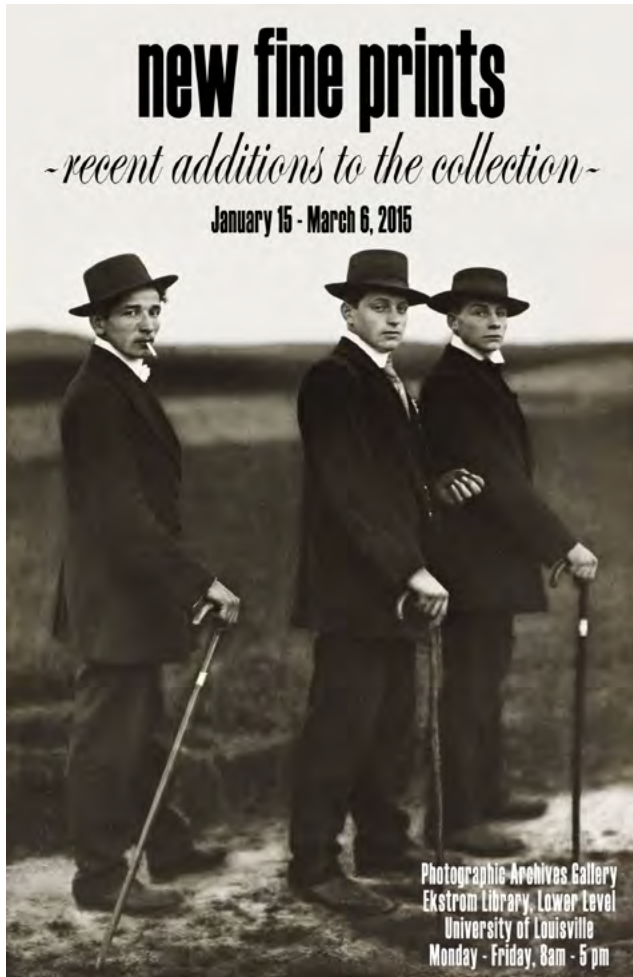
Langston Hughes



Maya Angelou

Library Exhibits

Ekstrom Library



THANK YOU

Heather Fox
Rachel Howard
Anna Marie Johnson
Melissa Laning
Mary K Marlatt
Sara Pickett
Denise Nuehring
Jessie Roth
Alicia Kelso



... for contributing to this issue of The Owl

ACLU of Kentucky

Moving Justice Forward 60 Years
Lee & Joy Pennington Cultural Heritage Gallery
Kain Gallery, Rare Books
January 8-March 31, 2015



After Dark

The History of Sundown Towns in Kentucky
First Floor, West Wing case
February 9 – March 31, 2015

Music Library

First Floor
Music Therapy Day @ UofL

February 28 – March 1, 2015

