



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries  
Vol. 33, No. 4 ♦ Summer 2017

# The Owl

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

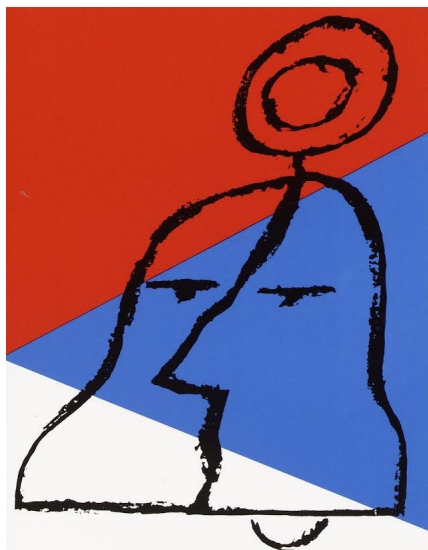
## Summer Readers' Picks 2017

written and compiled by Christopher Poché, Ekstrom Library

Every summer I like to read the **Declaration of Independence** to celebrate the July 4 holiday. I am stirred as much as any American by its beautiful expression of human equality (however complicated its actual legacy in our nation's history has been). And as someone interested in philosophy, logic, and rhetoric, I am impressed by the simplicity and effectiveness of its core argument, which is expressed in clear but deeply meaningful and appropriately solemn language. I would like to take you on a short tour of this immortal document, remarking upon some of what I have found most interesting about not just what it says but *how* it says it.

The Declaration has essentially five parts. The first is a single sentence that announces the document's intent. It reads:

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.



**The Declaration of Independence** *A Study in the History of Political Ideas*  
by Carl L. Becker  
A Vintage Book

The Declaration is intended to explain an event that has already taken place. In *The Declaration of Independence: A Study in the History of Political Ideas*, Carl Becker reminds us that it is not the Declaration itself that *effects* the American Colonies' separation from Great Britain. This was achieved on July 2, 1776, two days before the nation's supposed birthday, when the Continental Congress voted to approve separation.

Right off, this is my favorite part of the Declaration. I love that in announcing a revolution the Founding Fathers were so *reasonable* about it. Shots have already been fired at Lexington and Concord, but the Declaration is a supremely rational expression politely addressed to the good sense of the world.

I don't use that word "supremely" lightly. The second section of the Declaration begins with a series of statements that indicate just how high the rational bar has been set by the document's principal author, Thomas Jefferson (Jefferson's text was revised and approved by a committee that included,

among others, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams). This section begins with the famous phrase “We hold these truths to be self-evident” and goes on to describe a natural-law political theory of government, which is then applied to the strained relationship between the Colonies and Great Britain. Here, self-evident truths are not merely obvious but have an important logical status. These truths are axiomatic and thus can serve as a bedrock foundation for a line of reasoning; and if the reasoning employed on the basis of them is valid, then any conclusion reached is irrefutably true. Jefferson is endeavoring not merely to persuade the world of the rightfulness of the Colonies’ separation from Great Britain but to demonstrate it scientifically.

To apply the term “scientific” to a political text may strike a twenty-first century reader as odd, but an eighteenth-century sense of science is at play here. Furthermore, what is at stake here is demonstration, not experimentation and discovery—the “doing” of science that we usually think of. Wilbur Samuel Howell, in his essay “The Declaration of Independence and Eighteenth Century Logic” (collected in *Poetics, Rhetoric, and Logic: Studies in the Basic Disciplines of Criticism*), examines what it means for an Age of Enlightenment thinker such as Jefferson to demonstrate something scientifically. He identifies the logical text that Jefferson most likely used (William Duncan’s *Elements of Logick*, published in 1748 and contained in Jefferson’s library) and shows how Jefferson’s Declaration conforms to this text’s prescriptions for scientific demonstration. According to Duncan, scientific demonstration must begin with self-evident axioms (as previously described) and proceed through the use of deductively valid syllogisms in order to establish new truths with certainty.

Logicians attempt to restate syllogistic arguments expressed in everyday language into standard forms so that their validity is made more readily apparent. In their studies, both Howell and Becker attempt to restate the Declaration’s argument in clearly syllogistic forms, and I will do the same, rewording Jefferson as simply as I can.

The first premise is the last of the self-evident truths Jefferson provides in his exposition of natural-law theory. It is a universal statement that applies to all governments and peoples:

All governments destructive of people’s rights are governments that may be abolished by right of the people governed.

The second premise proceeds to the particular situation of the Colonies:

The government of the present King of Great Britain is a government destructive of people’s rights.

The conclusion necessarily follows:

The government of the present King of Great Britain is a government that may be abolished by right of the people governed.

*The Owl* is published six times a year as an online PDF publication by the University of Louisville Libraries, Louisville, KY 40292.

There is a combined June-August “summer” issue and a November-January “winter” issue.

Co-Editors: Robin Harris (robin.harris@louisville.edu, 852-6083) and Amy Purcell (apurcell@louisville.edu, 852-1861).

Editorial Board: Matt Goldberg, Anna Marie Johnson, Jessie Roth.

Book Editor: Chris Poché. Layout: Amy Purcell.

© 2017, University of Louisville Libraries. *The Owl on the Web*: <http://owl.library.louisville.edu>

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

Deadline for publication is the 21st of each month preceding publication.

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



This particular syllogism has the following valid form:

All A are B.  
C is an A.  
Therefore, C is a B.

The premise about King George III is not axiomatic. It is a proposition derived from experience, the truth of which must be established. This leads to the third, and by far the longest, section of the Declaration. “To prove this,” writes Jefferson, “let Facts be submitted to a candid world.” What follows is a list of twenty-seven charges leveled against George III: these are the “repeated injuries and usurpations” that deprived the Colonists of their natural rights. I couldn’t begin to go into the details that Jefferson provides, but instead note the rhetorical effectiveness of the list, each charge following the other like successive blows of a hammer.

The fourth section notes that the American Colonies have appealed repeatedly to both the King and the British people for redress of their complaints, only to be ignored or met with more abuse. And so, in the fifth section, it is concluded that the American Colonies must separate from Great Britain and become an independent nation.

In an 1825 letter, Jefferson looks back and reflects upon the purpose of the Declaration of Independence:

When forced, therefore, to resort to arms for redress, an appeal to the tribunal of the world was deemed proper for our justification. This was the object of the Declaration of Independence. Not to find out new principles, or new arguments, never before thought of, not merely to say things which had never been said before; but to place before mankind the common sense of the subject, in terms so plain and firm as to command their assent, and to justify ourselves in the independent stand we are compelled to take. Neither aiming at originality of principle or sentiment, nor yet copied from any particular and previous writing, it was intended to be an expression of the American mind, and to give to that expression the proper tone and spirit called for by the occasion.

That Jefferson succeeded so completely and admirably in these aims is attested to by the document’s enduring relevance, which remains the common sense of the American mind.

\*\*\*

As always, many thanks to those who have contributed to this column. A special thanks to Ashley Triplett, who contributes for the first time. This summer’s column sees three people singing the praises of George Saunders’ new novel, *Lincoln in the Bardo*. I will definitely have to check it out, and perhaps I will chime in this coming winter. Till then, happy reading!

### **Scott Campbell, Law Library**

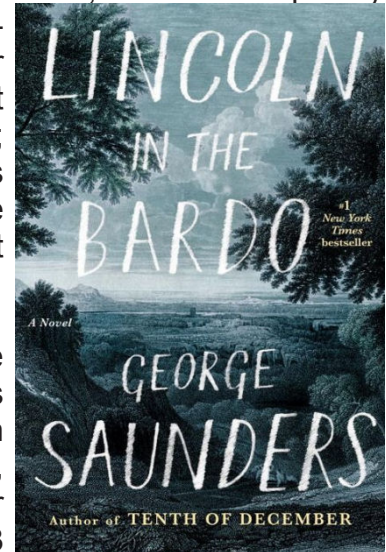
I’m still trying to read books that I bought twenty years ago, so it’s rare that I read anything that might be considered current. This year, however, I did it twice! And by a strange coincidence, both novels were about nineteenth-century America.

***The Underground Railroad*** by Colson Whitehead is a thought-provoking book about two slaves who run away from their Georgia plantation at some unspecified time in the nineteenth century.



What starts out as a traditional escaped-slave story takes a sharp left turn once they get to the underground railroad: an actual locomotive that literally runs underground. The characters stop and stay at various communities that all pose the same question: can one race truly be free when another race holds all the power?

***Lincoln in the Bardo*** by George Saunders is a really difficult book to describe. The easiest way would be to call it a ghost story but that makes it sound like a horror book, which is completely off the mark. The book is about a bunch of spirits who inhabit a cemetery and refuse to leave this mortal coil for various reasons. Their existence is thrown into turmoil one night when the body of President Lincoln's son, Willie, is interred in a crypt. The book has no narration; it is entirely voiced by the ghosts themselves, punctuated by excerpts from various books, many of which I suspect do not really exist. The book is by turns sad, funny, and profane—often on the same page. It is a total blast.

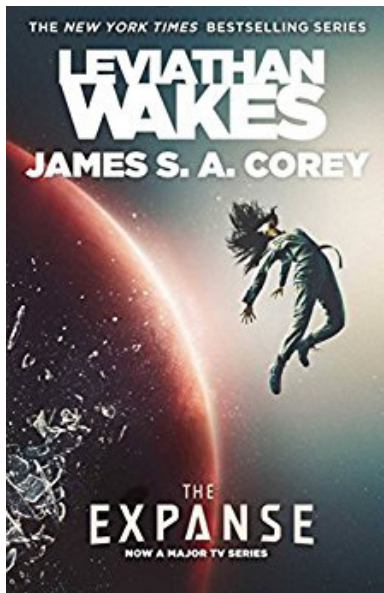


Speaking of blasts, the start of this year's Kentucky Shakespeare Festival in Central Park reminded me of a hidden treasure in Ekstrom's video collection. In the 1970s PBS recorded the funniest adaptation of any Shakespeare play I've ever seen: ***The Taming of the Shrew***, starring Marc Singer of *Beastmaster* fame. (I'm including its call number because the DVD is weirdly hard to find in WMS: DVD PR2832.A23 2002.) It is performed in the manner of a commedia dell'arte with lots of masks, acrobatics, and winks to the audience. There is also an astonishing slapstick scene in which Petruchio is literally throwing Kate around the stage. Oh yeah, and Marc Singer is really good in it, too. It is a little-known gem that should be seen by everyone who loves Shakespeare.

### Mark Dickson, Music Library

***Leviathan Wakes*** (*The Expanse* #1) by James S.A. Corey

My favorite read so far this year, this is the novel that begins the SciFi Channel series and is serialized in book form to a greater extent than the *Game of Thrones* books or tv projects. It is a complex story of working-class Belters (humans born, living, and dying in the Asteroid belt between Mars and Saturn), human Martian colonizers (terraformers with the most advanced military space technology in the solar system), and Earther natives (the wealthiest humans back on Earth and Luna). An event occurs that throws all three factions in disarray. The event could change the course of human history. A war appears imminent.



If you have started the tv series, the book will give you a more full-bodied understanding of the cultures and the agendas at play. If you read the book first, the tv show will fill in behind-the-scenes details that the book doesn't cover directly. Just like *Game of Thrones*. Except star characters aren't killed off left and right. Oh, yeah, the authors have worked closely with George R.R. Martin in writing projects. So, there's that.

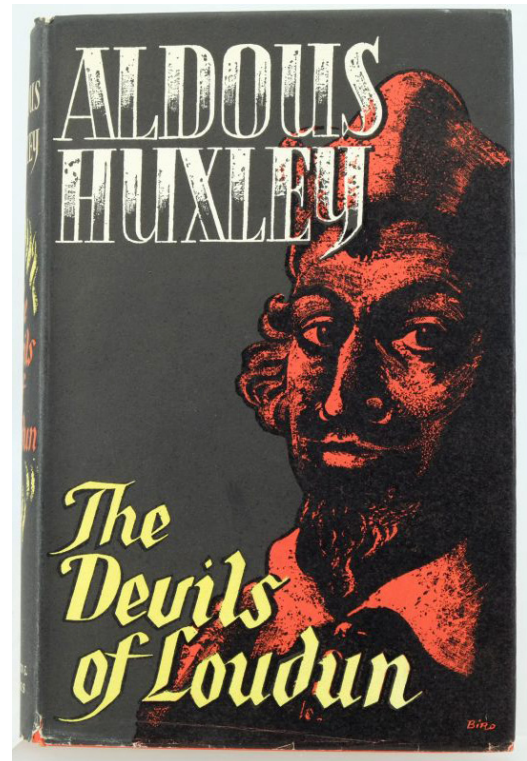
### Carolyn Dowd, Ekstrom Library

Leave it to George Saunders to evoke both Dante and *Tales From the Crypt* in his first novel, *Lincoln in the Bardo*, in which dead souls float/

skim around a graveyard, bemoaning their fates, compulsively telling their stories, crawling into their “sick boxes” at night, and above all refusing to abandon all hope of living again. Saunders, recognized for mastery of the short story form, brings his unique warmth and fondness for human absurdity to this lengthier story, which is often hilarious, occasionally nightmarish, and wrenchingly sad. The narrative centers on the death, by typhoid fever, of Abraham Lincoln’s middle son, Willie, who so loves his father that he refuses, like his other bardo-bound counterparts, to move on to his final destination. Willie’s plight galvanizes the spirits to master their pettiness and help the young child to a better place—to save his death, so to speak. Having demonstrated empathy and moral courage, the spirits are able to leave the wishy-washy wasteland that is their graveyard home, presumably to meet their final reward or punishment. To reveal Lincoln’s sorrow and vast humanity, Saunders has the spirits enter into the president’s mind and cypher his thoughts, musings on life and death, his own haunting by the specter of death in wartime, and the unfathomability of losing his young son. The reader feels the peculiar sorrows of all the characters, whose backgrounds are sketched similarly to those of the souls in the multi-layered Hell of the *Inferno*, but Lincoln’s plight feels biblical. In format, the novel reads like a play, with characters speaking in tweet-length spurts, befitting a short story writer who once said he valued the form for its pith and digestibility. It is a novel for our age.

#### Matthew Goldberg, Ekstrom Library

Instead of my usual boring history books, I tried to find some historical narratives with a wider appeal to write up this time. One of these, *The Devils of Loudun*, is a historical account of a series of supposed demonic possessions and mass hysteria in a small French town in the seventeenth century. Written by Aldous Huxley, who is better known for his poetry, essays, and fiction, including *Brave New World*, the book grapples with quite a bit more than originally meets the eye. Centered on a libertine Catholic priest, Urban Grandier, who supposedly helped the Devil possess a group of nuns at the nearby convent, Huxley explores the cultural and historical forces that would lead to such wild charges. He examines the hysteria and paranoia through the historical context of medieval Catholic dogma, sexual repression, religious fanaticism, and even the psychological aspects of the “possessions.” The resulting trial of Urban Grandier for witchcraft, comportment with the Devil, and other similar crimes, mirrors much of the Salem Witch Trials, which are more familiar to American readers and happened roughly forty years after Grandier’s trial. With a surprising ending and a flair for captivating ruminations on the nature of public and private life at the time, Huxley’s work of history is a fascinating read.



#### Erin Gow, Law Library

I recently read a couple of new books that have been added to the Washer Lounge (which features a collection of popular reading materials) in the Law School (don’t worry, they’re not law related!).

The first was *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders. This book is amazing. Totally unlike anything else I’ve read, and quite bizarre, but also incredibly moving and thought provoking. At first I thought I would struggle with the odd format and narrative style, but the story completely drew me in and turned out to be easy to read. This is probably the sort of book that a person will either



love or hate, since the narration is unusual and the story limited to a single night in one location. There were certainly parts of the story that I didn't care for or that remain somewhat baffling, but overall I was mostly impressed by the skill and creativity of the author, who managed to write about a truly complex subject in a meaningful new way.

The second new book I read was ***Norse Mythology*** by Neil Gaiman. I should probably say that I generally love Gaiman's writing but was largely unfamiliar with Norse myths. Without being an expert on the original stories, I thought this book achieved a nice balance between traditional storytelling and accessibility for modern readers. The entire book creates such a strong sense of place that it seems to provide shape to even the most common characters, such as Loki the trickster, who reminded me strongly of the Coyote in Native American myth but still managed to be unique. The sense of place also coordinates what otherwise might have been jarringly abrupt shifts between stories of creation, justice, and betrayal.

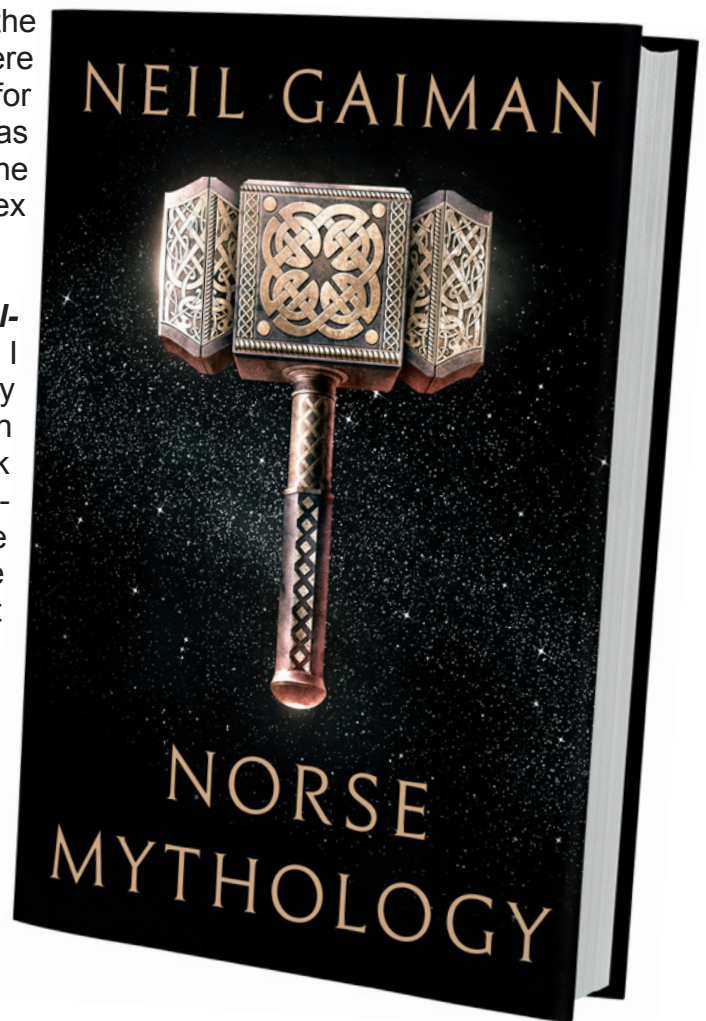
**Robin Harris, Law Library**

***Lafayette in the Somewhat United States*** by Sarah Vowell

Sarah Vowell (known to many NPR listeners) writes about history, but her books certainly are not typical history books. Author of the bestselling *Assassination Vacation* (2005) and *The Wordy Shipmates* (2008), her latest history covers the American Revolution, with Lafayette as the central character. *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States* follows the path set out in Vowell's other books: this time she uses lots of historical sources to praise and lampoon the Marquis de Lafayette, the French aristocrat who, as an ambitious teenager, traveled across the ocean to join a revolution in a place where he had never set foot. Vowell recounts Lafayette's exploits, which included receiving bullet wounds on behalf of the rebellious colonists. Lafayette was named a general in the newborn Continental Army and earned a reputation as George Washington's buddy. His popularity among the people led to the many street names and city parks across the U.S. that bear his name. Having recently read *1776*, David McCullough's excellent "serious history" of the Revolutionary War, I appreciated Sarah Vowell's take on Valley Forge and the rest.

***Between the World and Me*** by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Ta-Nehisi Coates, an award-winning national correspondent for *The Atlantic* and a frequent radio and television commentator, wrote this book as a letter to his fifteen-year-old son. It is a spellbinding and heartbreaking account of race and racism in America. The writing held my attention in a way that few books have, and I recommend it to anyone who wants a clearer picture of why race remains our most intractable issue. I guarantee that you will be moved, and perhaps changed, by this book that Toni Morrison calls "required reading."



***Witness to the Revolution: Radicals, Resisters, Vets, Hippies, and the Year America Lost Its Mind and Found Its Soul* by Clara Bingham**

Clara Bingham's collection of oral history interviews delves into the time period from August 1969 (beginning with Woodstock) through September 1970. Although many Americans see 1968 as the pivotal year in the tumultuous 1960s, Bingham's one hundred interviews with those involved in the events of 1969-1970 show that 1968 was certainly not the end of the change and upheaval. The book begins with a nine-page timeline, demonstrating the scope of what is covered in her well-researched narrative. *Publishers Weekly* observed: "Perhaps the most astonishing part of Bingham's account is the sheer number of memorable events that occurred in this 'school year.'"

**Anna Marie Johnson, Ekstrom Library**

***A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman**

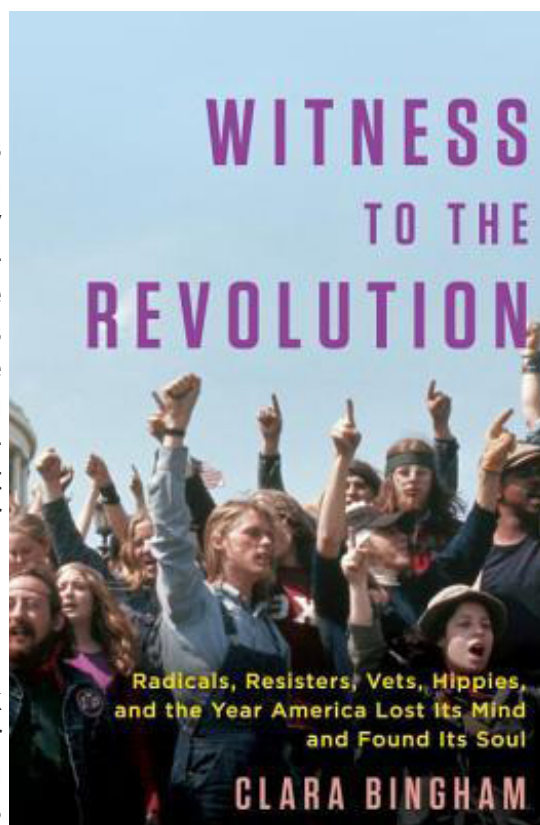
Quirky little book that I found hilarious, as I have a dark sense of humor. Ove is your grumpy neighbor next door who polices his neighborhood to see if people are parking where they shouldn't, driving where they shouldn't, etc. As his story unfolds, we see some of the reasons for his dour and quite depressed mood. (I don't want to give too much away because there is a surprise.) I can see where some might find the story at once too cute or too perfect, but it has an edge to it as well (the aforementioned surprise) that tempered the cuteness for me. I found it to be a very hopeful book about the power of relationships to change us. I especially enjoyed the neighbor family who moves in next door and begins a friendship with Ove despite his best efforts.

***Check out a Librarian* by Johanna E. Tallman**

I pulled this from the RRS because I was testing something in the catalog and because I thought the title was humorous. I ended up reading the whole book (it's a small one) because Ms. Tallman's career spans sort of the golden age of academic librarianship in the United States, from 1928 to 1981. It is filled with history of libraries and amusing anecdotes of patrons and situations (conflicts between reference librarians and catalogers over added-entry cards was my favorite) and ends somewhat bizarrely with a travelogue of Ms. Tallman spending six months in Brazil on a library exchange.

***The Train to Crystal City: FDR's Secret Prisoner Exchange Program and America's Only Family Internment Camp During World War II* by Jan Jarboe Russell**

A recommendation from my mom that I'd put off reading for a couple years. It turned out to be timely, as I was reading during the election season when immigration became such an important topic. It tells the story of the internment camps for Japanese, Germans, and Italians during World War II. According to my uncle, my German grandparents narrowly avoided internment. I was unaware that Japanese-Americans and German-Americans were both returned to their respective countries during the war in prisoner exchanges and that these exchanges included their American-born children who were American citizens. The book tells the story of several of these families and the difficulties they experienced in internment and repatriation. The attitudes and zeitgeist that the author chronicles certainly had resonance with what we are experiencing today.



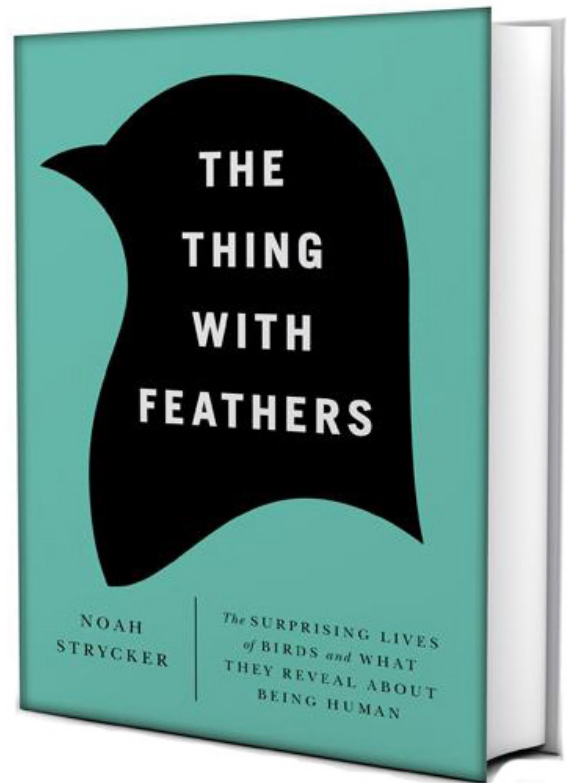
### Ben King, Ekstrom Library

I enjoyed *The Thing with Feathers: The Surprising Lives of Birds and What They Reveal About Being Human* by Noah Strycker. He examines different species of birds and their behavior. For instance, he details how flocks of starlings numbering in the thousands form an intricate display of aerial formation called a murmuration, and none of them run into each other. You can type “murmuration” into YouTube and see them in action.

Another example is the nutcrackers, who can stay up north while other birds fly south for the winter. They bury little pockets of seeds in many different places. Various studies have determined they remember where they buried all these seeds by landmarks. They even recover seeds that have been covered by snow.

Magpies have been known to hold “impromptu funerals.” They have been observed gathering around the body of a dead comrade. They make a raucous noise as a number of them gather at the body of the dead magpie. Then they get quiet. They have been observed gently preening the feathers of the dead magpie. They also have been observed flying off, getting blades of grass, coming back, and laying the grass by the body of the dead magpie. Then they stand there a bit, and one by one they quietly take their leave.

An albatross covers an incredible area while it spends ninety-five percent of its time over the open ocean. Laysan albatrosses will routinely fly two thousand miles up to Alaska just to get a snack for their hungry chicks. I found each chapter about a different bird highly informative and interesting.



### Amy Purcell, Archives & Special Collections

I did not expect to enjoy *A Gentleman from Moscow* by Amor Towles as much as I did. It's a story of Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov, a Russian aristocrat, who was put under house arrest in 1922 at his home, the [Hotel Metropol Moscow](#). His crime – a Bolshevik tribunal believed he wrote a poem with revolutionary overtones. Once I started reading I realized again how much I like Amor Towles. (I have also read his *Rules of Civility* which starts in 1930's NYC.) The Metropol is a grand hotel and is host to a myriad of characters. Alexander is a gentleman with an unshakable optimism. When he is moved from his luxurious rooms to the attic of the hotel, taking only a few select items, he makes the most of it, creating a little haven of sorts. He has become close to several of the employees – the head waiter, the chef and the hotel seamstress to name a few – and these friendships deepen. He makes a new friend, Sofia, a young, serious girl who takes him on adventures all over the hotel and opens his eyes to alternative viewpoints. The book spans over thirty years. And despite his imprisonment, the book does not lag; the hotel is an important landmark in Moscow with equally important patrons, and they bring the outside life, culture and happenings in with them.

And for “the beach:” a couple of guilty-pleasure authors I love are Liane Moriarty and Jodi Picoult. The ‘formula’ for Moriarty’s novels is she starts with a young family or several families who are faced

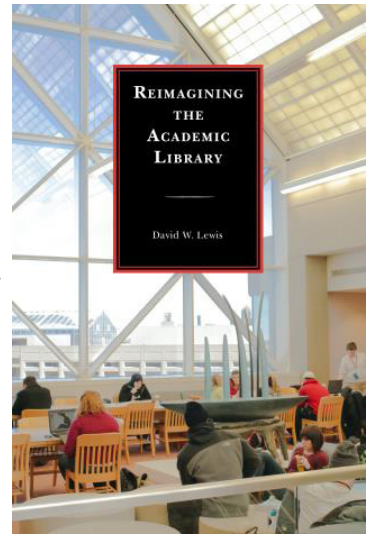


with a big question or situation. You can read about everyday life in Australia. In particular, I liked being pulled into walking along an Australian beach in **Truly Madly Guilty**. Picoult studies issues. In **Small Great Things**, she studies prejudice, race and justice in a story about Ruth Jefferson, a black labor and delivery nurse who faces an emergency situation with a white supremacist couple.

**Ashley Triplett, Ekstrom Library**

***Reimagining the Academic Library***, by David Lewis

Published in 2016, Lewis' book describes how academic libraries are staying relevant in the contemporary digital world. Everything from development, collections, spaces, and imagination is addressed. Lewis describes how academic libraries are changing, then offers a host of ways to adapt and respond to these changes. The two biggest take-aways from this book are how people connect to libraries and academic collections, and how libraries can transform to meet academic needs in the digital age. This book excited me because it really illustrated how we are currently in a period in which the image of the academic library is changing and we get to be a part of that change. Very exciting stuff!



# Library and Department News

## ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

*Welcome, Rebecca!*

Rebecca Pattillo joined ASC on July 3 as Metadata Librarian. She moved to Louisville along with her cat, Mulder, from Indianapolis, where she worked at the Indianapolis Museum of Art and Carmel Clay Historical Society.

## ART LIBRARY

*Gift of Schneider Library Painting to Bridwell Art Library*

Dr. Bruce and Mrs. Martha Miller gifted the Bridwell Art Library an original watercolor painting by UofL graduate Miriam Page, '61. The painting shows then-Schneider Library from the southwest corner, with vibrant plantings all around the building. Conspicuously absent from the rendering is the illuminated head of Minerva, which now graces the wall outside the building's entrance. Page was the president of UofL's Student Art League in 1961, the year the painting was made.

*New French Culture Artists' Books Added to Bridwell Collection*

The Hertz endowment provided funds for the purchase of seven new artists' books this year.

One highlight includes *To Make the Portrait of the Bird*, a book which pairs the translated French poem by Jack Prévert with imagery by Margaret Suchland. The book is a double accordion structure, with Suchland's luscious prints tipped onto the main accordion structure. Vellum pages containing text and commentary are sewn into the valleys. Text and prints are digitally printed, and hand-sewn and bound in hand-dyed Stonehenge paper. The book is housed in a paper-covered drop-spine case.



*To Make the Portrait of the Bird* by Jack Prévert  
with imagery by Margaret Suchland

*You're Invited to the Speed Museum "Art Pause"*

This summer the Art Library staff is making an effort to spend more time at the Speed. We'd love it if you would join us each Thursday at 1 pm.

The idea is to spend about 25 minutes wandering the galleries and see what's showing. This is a super low-stakes gathering, and we're not going to be academic about this. This also isn't a formal tour; we simply wander through the galleries discovering art!



Please email Sarah Carter ([sarah.carter.2@louisville.edu](mailto:sarah.carter.2@louisville.edu)) to be added to the Outlook invitation. This series will run through the end of July, and we'll ask for a more firm RSVP each week so we know who is meeting up.

### *Summer Project – Artist and Information Files*

One summer project we are embarking upon is to re-visit our existing Artist and Information Files and give them a bit of a facelift. Our files represent ephemeral materials (reports, newspaper and magazine articles, exhibition announcements, and other related documents) for artists and topics relating to Louisville, Kentucky, and the surrounding region. We currently have 12 linear feet of Artist Files and 8 linear feet of Information Files.

Our files were hand or type-written on the front of an envelope in many styles and formats. We decided to create a basic look for all files in MLA format and typed into a Word document in which we can manipulate the data for future additions or online searching possibilities.

These files get used by local researchers, like the Speed Museum, whose docents regularly use the files to create talking points for walking tours, or by students researching a local building or artwork owned by the Speed Museum.

The majority of this work so far has been completed by our students, Martina and Blake, who have added this to their existing summer project of inventorying our Book Stacks using WMS. Without them we could not complete these projects. We hope to complete this task by the beginning of the Fall Semester.

## **EKSTROM LIBRARY**

### **Dean's Office**

#### *Community Engagement*

The University Libraries recently submitted its annual report on community activities to the Vice President for Community Engagement. In 2016/17, Libraries faculty and staff led 15 projects, many of them long-standing and valuable contributions that advance the information literacy of individuals in the metro area. Several projects focused on providing job skills for special needs students; others are designed to provide health information to healthcare professionals and the general public; others focus on the cultural life and history of the city. All 15 programs reflect the significant ways that libraries can have a positive impact on our community. More information on Campus Signature Partnerships is available at: <http://louisville.edu/communityengagement/signature-partnership-1>

#### *Bob Fox Begins Term as ASERL President*



**ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES**

Dean of University Libraries Bob Fox recently began a term as President of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries. ASERL <http://www.aserl.org> is composed of the library systems



supporting 38 research universities in 11 states. The organization, headquartered in Atlanta, recently celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and supports a number of initiatives including digital projects, resource sharing, and an active staff development and training program.

### *Happy Anniversary!*

Congratulations to the following individuals who celebrated work anniversaries in May:

#### **MAY 2017**

Gene Haynes	4 years
Liren Liu	9 years
Tom Owen	42 years
Elizabeth Reilly	6 years
Tyler Upton	2 years
Steve Whiteside	21 years



### *Welcome, Matt!*

Matt Wyatt began work as Libraries Director of Development on May 22. He will be working closely with the Dean and library directors to identify fundraising goals.

### *Goodbye, Betsy. . .*

Betsy Sterner left her position as STEM Librarian in Research Assistance & Instruction on July 6. She has accepted a position at Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois. Best wishes to Betsy in her new position.

## **Research Assistance & Instruction**

### *Farewell . . .*

RAI is saying a fond farewell to George Martinez and Betsy Sterner. George is headed back home to California, where he will be working as a Student Success Librarian at California State University, Long Beach. Betsy will be in the Chicagoland area as the Science Librarian at Lewis University. We have enjoyed having both of them with us, and we will miss them! Betsy's last day was July 6; George's is July 15, so please come and say good-bye to him before he leaves!

### *ALA*

Fannie Cox and Samantha McClellan attended the ALA conference in Chicago, from June 22-27.

### *Sabbatical*

Anna Marie Johnson will be on sabbatical from July 1-December 31, 2017. Her sabbatical project involves reading a lot of articles and books about reference and research services and interviewing a number of colleagues around the country as to the future of reference services in academic libraries. She will produce a report for the department (exciting reading that everyone is looking forward to!) and an article for the profession. Rob Detmering will be leading the RAI Department while she is gone and Anna Marie hopes that he will not run screaming from the building by December.



### *LIRT Retreat*

Samantha McClellan is organizing this year's Library Instruction Round Table Retreat which will be held in Ekstrom Library on July 21, 2017. The keynote speaker will be one of UofL's own psychology professors, Dr. Keith Lyle, who is an expert on the subject of memory, a pertinent topic for teaching librarians!

## **LAW LIBRARY**

### *Harry Potter & the Legal World*

June 26, 2017 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original publication of the first Harry Potter novel by author J. K. Rowling. The series quickly became a hit, and over the years has been used to illustrate legal concepts in many subject areas including copyright law, family law, tort law, and legal education. The exhibit currently on display in the Law Library reading room celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Harry Potter, and examines connections between the books and the legal world. (See Exhibits, page 17.)

## **Open Walls 2017**

### **An exhibit of staff and faculty art**

Their roles at UofL may be worlds apart but their creativity brings faculty and staff together in this Great Places to Work art exhibit. June 12-29, 2017

Photos of the 7th annual exhibit sponsored by the Provost Office, Photographic Archives and Communications and Marketing.



# DigiNews

## Digital Collections Update

*By Rachel Howard, Digital Initiatives Librarian*

The [Caufield & Shook Collection](#) is one of Archives and Special Collections' largest, oldest (in terms of date of acquisition, which was in the early days of Photographic Archives), and most-used photographic collections. The photography studio documented a myriad of people, places, and events, in Louisville and the region, throughout much of the twentieth century. More of those images are being made freely available online, thanks to an Archives and Special Collections (ASC)/Web Services collaboration.

The collection includes a daunting array of formats and pre-existing information sources, from notes by researchers using images in earlier exhibits or publications, in print and database format, to the studio's original invoices, filed on thin paper slips arranged alphabetically by client (not numerically by Image Number, as the negatives are arranged). Some of the scans on a shared server date back to the last millennium, and the six-digit Image Numbers and five-digit Invoice Numbers frequently suffer from interposed or missing digits, making it difficult to match a scan to its invoice or other information source.

Despite these challenges, we launched a preliminary digital collection in 2010, and continued to add more images to it until the dedicated metadata position became vacant in early 2016.

How could we speed up the process of getting these images – starting with the ones already scanned – online? In the absence of a Metadata Librarian, or even (at the time) any hope of being able to hire one, I started combining all of the databases into one master database and standardizing the information in them, assisted by Photo Curator Elizabeth Reilly. However, in order to avoid accidentally overwriting one another's work, only one of us could make changes in the database at a time. Since my dream of improved efficiencies also involved having student workers and Imaging Manager Marcy Werner document technical and administrative metadata, such as image size and format while scanning, the need for multiple users to potentially access the database at once was not going to go away after Reilly and I completed our metadata merge.

Enter Web Services - Randy Kuehn and Terri Holtze. On a fairly short timeline, Randy managed to set up the database on a MySQL server, requiring a login for access, pre-populating some portions of fields and some drop-down menus to ensure greater consistency, and providing different levels of permissions for different user groups, as well as the functionality of locking a record in use from being overwritten. Terri

[President Hoover visits Louisville.](#)



tweaked the display to make it more user-friendly, and, with the support of ASC director Carrie Daniels and the inauguration of shorter “summer hours” for the ASC reference desk, we freed up the time for eight ASC colleagues to assist with what we began calling the “metadata blitz.”

To date, 315 additional images have been added to the collection this summer (example - left), and many more are in the works. Although summer hours will come to an end in mid-August, I hope that those who are enjoying this work will continue to contribute, and am pleased that incoming Metadata Librarian Rebecca Pattillo will benefit from this new, improved system as well.





# NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



## **Matt Wyatt**

**UofL position and department:** Director of Development, University Libraries

**Schools Attended:** University of Louisville BA. Political Science

**Significant Other/Family Members:** My wife Andrea and two sons, Christian (23) and Andrew (13)

**Pets:** Emmett (dog), Taco (cat), Bob (bearded dragon)

**Favorite Books:** *The World According to Garp*, John Irving; *Self Reliance*, Ralph Waldo Emerson; *FDR*, Jean Edward Smith; *All The Kings Men*, Robert Penn Warren

**Favorite Movies:** *Anchorman*, *The Shining*, *All The Kings Men*, *Citizen Kane*, *American Beauty*

**Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself:** I'm the Chairman of the Elizabethtown Board of Education and I'm working on a documentary about the Cornbread Mafia.



## **Sahab Bolhari**

**UofL position and department:** Technology Specialist, Office of Libraries Technology

**Hometown:** Tehran, Iran, but I've spent most of my life in Louisville



**Schools Attended:** U of L

**Pets:** Maybe in the future, a Labrador Retriever

**Zodiac sign:** Aquarius

**Hobbies/Activities:** Photography, cars, gaming, watching soccer

**Favorite Books:** *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon

**Favorite Movies:** *Interstellar*, and other space/science movies!

**Favorite Food:** At the moment, Vietnamese Pho

**Favorite Vacation Spot:** A beach town or a cabin/lodge

**Favorite Quote:** "Why is it that countries which we call strong are so powerful in creating wars but are so weak in bringing peace?" - Malala Yousafzai

**Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself:** I used to work as a student assistant in OLT while I was an undergrad.



# Library Exhibits

## Archives & Special Collections

### Kain & Photographic Archives Galleries

#### 'All In!' Louisville and the Great War

an exhibition of vintage photographs, war posters, documents and artifacts from its collections

July 13 – September 29



Left: Armistice Day Parade, Louisville, KY, RG Potter Collection. Right: WWI Propaganda (American Library Association), 1918.



## Law Library

### Reading Room

#### Harry Potter & the Legal World

Celebrating Harry Potter's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

June 15 - September 15



The Harry Potter series has been used to help illustrate legal concepts for years.

