



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries
Vol. 33, No. 6 • Winter, 2017

The Owl

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

Winter Readers' Picks 2017

*Written and compiled by Christopher Poché,
Ekstrom Library*

The recent total solar eclipse did not interest me very much. And to be honest, I was too paranoid to want to risk my vision to observe it, especially after I read reports of bogus viewing glasses being sold. Yet, the much-anticipated event ended up leading me to a book that I enjoyed immensely. In the excited weeks before the eclipse, Ekstrom Library highlighted a number of books on astronomy in a display in the first-floor lobby, from which I selected Jim Bell's *The Interstellar Age: Inside the Forty-Year Voyager Mission*.

This is a fun-to-read history of the two Voyager space probes that launched in 1977 to take advantage of a rare alignment of the four outer planets of our solar system (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune) and that are now journeying into interstellar space. Bell was a graduate student of planetary science when the probes encountered Jupiter and Saturn, and was allowed access to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He was not a working scientist at the time, and merely assisted the Voyager command crew by getting food and drink, running documents back and forth, and performing other such middling duties; but his inside access enables him to convey the real-time excitement of the data coming in from the Voyagers.

One of my favorite things about reading science books is learning about how scientists know what they know. In this case, I was constantly amazed by how much NASA accomplished with what now seems like primitive technology. Our cell phones are more sophisticated than the computers in the Voyager probes. I was especially tickled by the fact that the probes record data on digital eight-track recorders before transmitting back to earth. When they become full, the tapes are rewound and recorded over again. To this day, Voyager 1, now some 11.7 billion miles away, is recording data about the physical composition of the interstellar medium on these tapes.

The Voyagers are expected to be operational until 2025 when their energy sources run out (the probes' instruments are powered and kept warm in the deep cold of space by spheres of radioactive plutonium). And yet, even when the probes are effectively "dead," they will continue one last mission that can potentially last billions of years: as emissaries of humankind to other intelligent life in the universe, each Voyager carries a copy of the Golden Record, a phonograph record made of gold-plated copper that contains a selection of images, music, and other sounds representative of life on earth. In *Murmurs of Earth: The Voyager*

Interstellar Record, Carl Sagan describes the high aspirations of the Golden Record (right) and the challenges of deciding what to put on it. Given the vastness of space, it is highly unlikely that the Voyagers will ever encounter intelligent life and that the Golden Record will ever be heard, but “it is hard to resist sending out something of ourselves.”

Many thanks to whomever put that astronomy display together, leading me to a book I probably would not have found otherwise. And, of course, thanks to all who have contributed to this column, with an extra shout out to Bethany Poston, who contributes for the first time.

Scott Campbell, Law Library

What are the ethics of adding a book to a library collection if you are pretty sure it is a bootleg copy? I used to think that book bootlegs were a relic of the past, but with the ability of people to create and sell books through Amazon, unauthorized editions of books have proliferated. The problem is that none of the purchase price goes to the authors or their heirs.



A long time ago, I read an article in which Ruth Rendell listed her favorite five British mystery novels. Four of them were fairly well-known, but at the top of the list was a book I had never heard of before: *Tragedy at Law* by Cyril Hare. I really wanted to read it, but it had only been in print sporadically in America, and used copies were prohibitively expensive. Eventually, I found what looked like a new edition at a reasonable price. When I got it, however, I discovered why it was so cheap. It had all the hallmarks of a Create Space bootleg: no publishers’ information, a really ugly clip art cover, and horrible formatting. But once I started reading it, I didn’t care. It may not be the best whodunit I have ever read, but it was a blast all of the same: an engaging mystery and very, very funny. And for a fan of John Mortimer’s *Rumpole*, it had the added bonus of being clearly an inspiration for the television series, as it features an aging lawyer who is little respected by his peers, although he is actually smarter than all of them, and who is continually thwarted by pompous judges who have more dignity than brains. And there is also a formidable female character named Hilda.

When I finished the book, I probably should have just donated it to the Honor Students Council Books and Media Sale, but the book is so rare and has such a unique look at the British legal system, that I decided to add it to the Law Library’s collection. I’m not sure what the legal penalty for doing this is, but cataloging it was its own punishment. (There was, of course, no OCLC record for this edition.) Not only does the stupid thing not have any publisher or copyright information in it, but it doesn’t even have any page numbers. However, I got it done, and it turns out the call number I gave it has placed it right next to our collection of *Rumpole* books, a most fitting home.



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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.

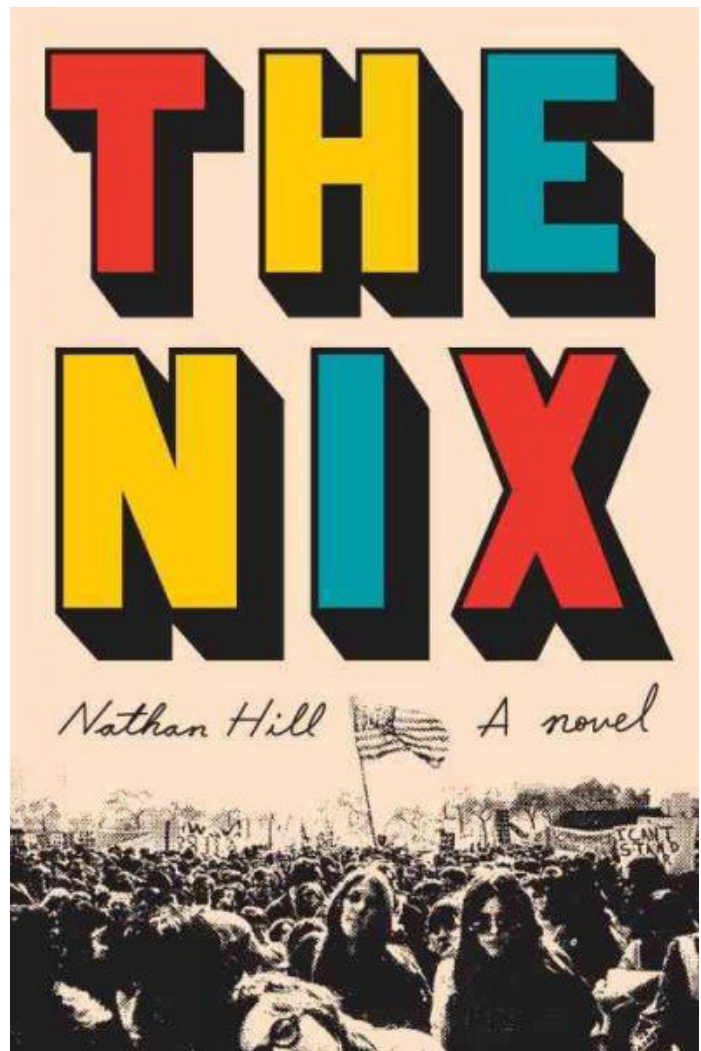
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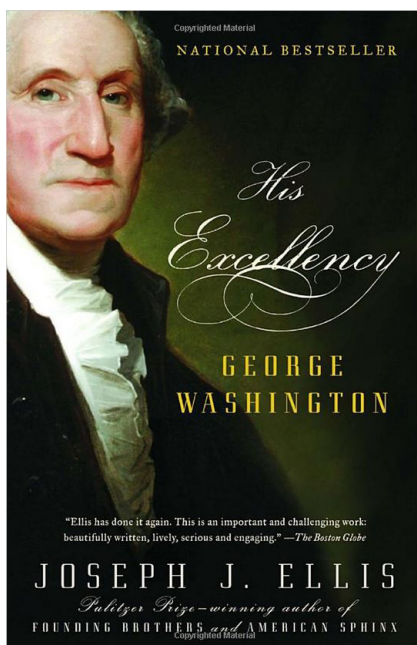
The description on the book flap of *The Nix* by Nathan Hill makes it sound like a drippy story about one man's voyage of self-discovery. And I guess it is at some level, but fortunately it's also so much more than that. A young English professor whose mother left him when he was eleven years old is startled to see his mother on the national news when she assaults an extremely conservative presidential candidate. While the book isn't a comedy *per se*, it is a very funny one. Hill has a richly ironic way of describing everyday phenomena, and the book skewers everything in its path: cable news, online gaming, academia, creative writing workshops, teenage pop stars, Whole Foods, and even the hierarchy of sixth-grade classrooms.

On a whim, I picked up a copy of *Old School* by Tobias Wolff at a book sale without knowing anything about it, other than a familiarity with the author's name. If the dust jacket had been on the book, I probably would have put it back on the table. It turned out to be part of a genre I have pretty much zero interest in: a writer's memoir disguised as novel, and set in a prestigious all-boys boarding school. However, my inner English major responded to the book, and I enjoyed it more than I ever would have been able to predict. The book

is about the author's—excuse me, the narrator's—last year at the school and the effect the arranged visits of three famous authors (Robert Frost, Ayn Rand, and Ernest Hemingway) have on the students and staff. Rand's visit is both horrifying and hilarious, but it is the impending visit by Hemingway that has a dramatic impact on the narrator and one of the teachers. It was interesting to read a novel about a school where all the students seemed to be so obsessed with literature. It was like a Hogwarts where all the students were budding authors instead of wizards.

The above three books were all very good, but the best book I've read this year was Iain Pears' *An Instance of the Fingerpost*. You could call this book a mystery as it revolves around a murder, but it is so much more than that. The book is set in Oxford in the 1600s, about twenty years into the Restoration. The novel is narrated by four different characters (two of whom are based on real people), who give their own versions of the events surrounding the murder of an academic. Rather than being repetitive, there is surprisingly little overlap among the different stories, and, of course, contradictions abound. And while one would think that the four narrators could be considered the lead characters, the serving girl Sarah Blundy, who ends up accused of the crime, emerges from the narratives as the true heroine of the novel. All of the narrators seem to be obsessed with her, and each of them betrays her in a different way. But like the blind men trying to describe an elephant, they are seemingly incapable of truly seeing her, and the question of just who she is becomes the true mystery of the novel.





Mark Dickson, Music Library

I am only honestly reading one book right now, *His Excellency: George Washington* by Joseph J. Ellis. This is part of a much larger American political biography project that will include Adams, Franklin, Madison, Hamilton, Jefferson, and Jay. At my reading pace it may take the next seven years.

My impression of Washington is that he was not the person I imagined from school history. He is fascinating for reasons other than his being the “Father of the Country.” Since having read *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* by Joseph J. Ellis last year, I have learned to stop calling these people “Founding Fathers.” I find that the process of canonizing historical human beings distorts the real lives they led. That we know where they ended up in no way implies that they knew that fate was moving them in that direction. In any case, these lessons are coming to me late in life, but are all the more enriching in the troubling times we now live in.

Robin Harris, Law Library

The Idiot by Elif Batuman

This is a coming-of-age tale set in 1995 about a Turkish-American Harvard freshman named Selin, trying to find her way in the world of intellectuals (and others she meets along the way). Her sarcastic sense of humor is sometimes undercut by her naïve ways, but the book is at times laugh-out-loud funny, and at other times quite sad. There is, if course, a love story, along with lots of traveling, and the ups and downs of developing friendships during college. Although the action in this novel drags a bit at times, the dialogue is always engaging. If you like “campus novels”—especially those that deal with a time before technology overtook every aspect of college life—I recommend *The Idiot*. It is quite long (400 pages) but worth the time and effort. Look for lots of references to linguistics and literature (which Selin is studying), and laugh along as she gets accustomed to the “new thing”—email.

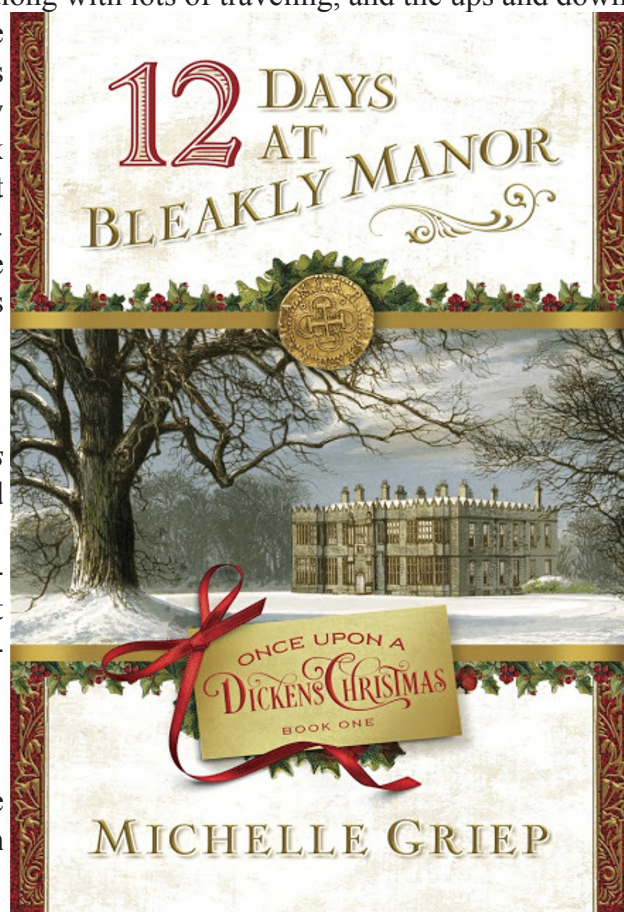
Bethany Poston, Ekstrom Library

Atlas Obscura: An Explorer’s Guide to the World’s Hidden Wonders by Joshua Foer, Dylan Thuras, and Ella Morton

I thoroughly enjoyed this one, getting to visit all the interesting, weird, and beautiful places of the world without leaving the comfort of my home. I’m not much of a traveler, but this book made me want to explore the world.

12 Days at Bleakly Manor by Michelle Griep

A quick read inspired by Charles Dickens, it would be great to read around Christmas, or for a Christmas in July thing.

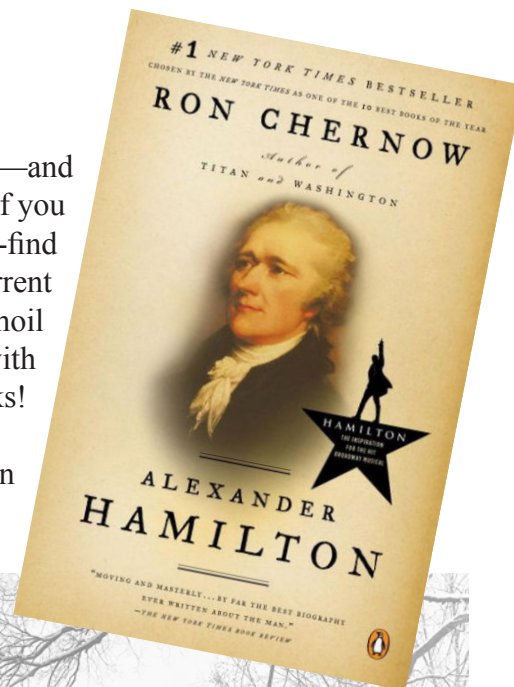


Pam Yeager, Archives & Special Collections

Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow

Or, “The Book Where It Happens.” This is a *long* read—over 800 pages—and it took me over a year to finish it. Well worth the effort to take it on, if you are interested in American history. Amazing use of surely very hard-to-find primary sources. I can’t say I found it exactly comforting in the current political situation, but it was interesting to read just how much turmoil was also present as the founders of American government struggled with and against each other. Not the way it was taught in our history books!

Oh, don’t know if you’ve heard, but there’s a great soundtrack to listen to while reading.



Thank You

Andy Clark
Rob Detmering
Carolyn Dowd
Erin Gow

Melissa Laning
Christopher Poché
Jessie Roth

... for contributing to this issue of The Owl

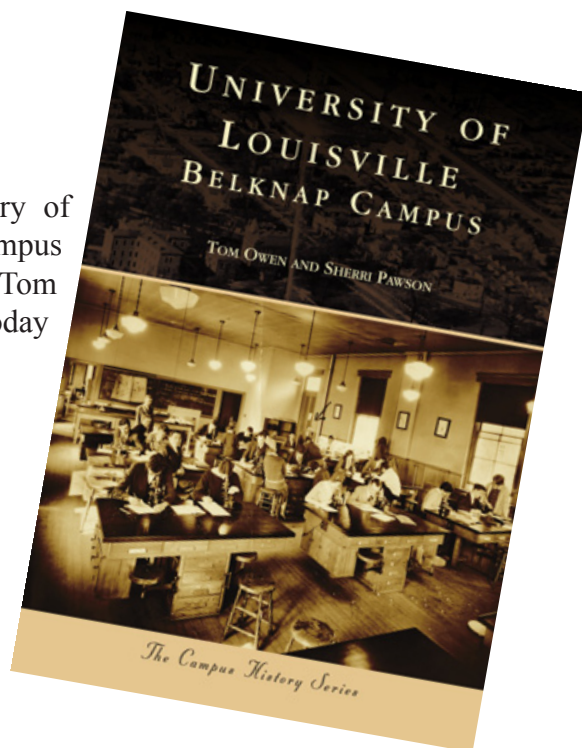
<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/cdm/ref/collection/cs/id/5712>

Library and Department News

ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

University of Louisville: Belknap Campus

Tom Owen and Sherri Pawson have written a history of Belknap Campus as part of Arcadia Publishing's Campus History series. The publish date is December 4, 2017. Tom and Sherri will be talking about the book on the UofL Today with Mark Hebert radio program December 13.



EKSTROM LIBRARY

Office of the Dean

Congratulations!

The following Libraries personnel celebrated historic dates in their employment with UofL. For their service, the University hosted a luncheon to honor them on October 27 at the Brown and Williamson Club.

Kathleen Moore, Circulation/Reserves Manager, Art Library ♣ ♣ ♣ 40 years

Carol Webb, Library Assistant, Technical Services ♣ ♣ ♣ 40 years

Ben King, Supervisor of Shelf Preparation, Technical Services Retired ♣ ♣ ♣ 40 Years

John Burton, Acquisitions Specialist, Technical Services ♣ ♣ ♣ 30 years

Gwendline Chenault, Library Assistant, Kornhauser Library ♣ ♣ ♣ 15 years

Anthony Iles, PAS/Reference Library Assistant, Kornhauser Library ♣ ♣ ♣ 10 Years

Tiffany Gipson, Head of Collections, Kornhauser Library ♣ ♣ ♣ 10 years

Happy Anniversary!

The following employees celebrated work anniversaries in October:

Alice Abbott-Moore ♣ ♣ ♣ 29 years

Jodi Duce ♣ ♣ ♣ 23 years

Colleen Eubank ♣ ♣ ♣ 13 years

Joyce Graves ♣ ♣ ♣ 10 years

Kyna Herzinger ♣ ♣ ♣ 1 year

David Minton ♣ ♣ ♣ 29 years

Betsy Osoffsky ♣ ♣ ♣ 27 years

Amy Purcell ♣ ♣ ♣ 27 years

Farewell. . .

Sarah Carter, Art Library Director, has accepted a position as Art Librarian at Indiana University Bloomington. Her last day at UofL will be December 1, 2017. During her time as director of the Art Library, Sarah implemented policy changes to allow undergraduate students to borrow materials, organized Art+Feminism Wikipedia Edit-a-thon events, and stewarded the library's collection of artists' books. She worked to improve the atmosphere of the library, including steering the design of innovative end caps on the bookshelves. Dean Fox intends to seek authorization to refill the position, but in the meantime, James Procell will expand his responsibilities to include oversight of the Art Library.

Maurini Strub, User Experience/Assessment Librarian, has accepted the position of Director of Library Assessment at the University of Rochester Libraries. Her last day in the office here will be December 22, 2017. Since the time she joined the University Libraries Faculty in March 2013, Maurini has led a number of projects, including the Ekstrom East Building Assessment and the Libraries Student Advisory Board. In addition, she has been the co-developer of the Statistics Repository and collaborated with departments throughout the Libraries on their assessment projects.

A Different Way of Thinking' at Charm City Fringe Festival
You may remember Andy Clark's son Cody. Several years ago Cody worked in the University Libraries' mailroom. He is now living his dream and performing magic in Baltimore, Maryland and getting good reviews! [Read a review of Cody's act](#) at the Charm City Fringe Festival.



Research Assistance & Instruction

Pride Week



RAI participated in Pride Week in late October and early November under the leadership of Fannie Cox, the new library liaison for the LGBT Center. We had a table at the kick-off event at the Red Bard West Plaza on October 30, and Kelly Buckman developed a book display for the first floor of Ekstrom.

Money Smart Week

Fannie Cox led the libraries' participation in Money Smart Week on November 8 and 9 in the Ekstrom Learning Commons. Students were eligible to win up to \$500 in a "finding money for college" scavenger hunt, and staff and faculty were eligible to win a \$100 gift card by participating in at least one financial literacy presentation.

"Find Your Fit"

Sam McClellan, Amber Willenborg, and Rob Detmering are currently participating in a learning community to help develop a new course for the university's "Find Your Fit" quality enhancement plan (QEP). Sam, Amber, and Rob will also provide information literacy support for the course, ECPY 302: Personal and Academic Inquiry, designed specifically for undecided and pre-unit students in the second year. The first sections of the course will be offered in spring 2018.

Fake News

Rob Detmering led a professional development workshop for the Louisville Free Public Library staff on “fake news” and information literacy on November 8.

LAW LIBRARY

Watershed Life: Watersheds, Law, and Public Engagement

A new exhibit examining the legal and environmental aspects of watersheds opened in the Law Library reading room in September. This unique photography exhibit arose out of Professor Tony Arnold’s Water Resources Law and Policy Field-Study Seminar. The display incorporates photos, text, and resources created by third-year law student Carlos Hernandez Ocampo and Tony Arnold, in an effort to engage both the Law School community and the general public in watershed conservation.



Publications

Scott Campbell published “How to Explain to Your Client Why You Lost His Case” in the summer issue of *Green Bag*, a lighthearted legal magazine. This article is a reprint of an 1883 speech by Kentucky lawyer Byron Bacon, which Scott contextualizes with a short introduction and footnotes. http://www.greenbag.org/v20n4/v20n4_articles_bacon_and_campbell.pdf

Kurt Metzmeier wrote a blog post for *Litera Scripta*, the Bounds Law Library Special Collections blog, in October. He provides historical context for an 1820 letter written by Kentucky lawyer George Robertson regarding some difficulties encountered in purchasing books. <https://www.law.ua.edu/specialcollections/2017/10/16/george-robertson-and-book-consumers-in-early-19th-century-kentucky/>



Newton Owen Postcard Collection

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Alice Abbott-Moore

UofL position and department: Robotic Retrieval System Supervisor

Year you started in the UofL Libraries: 1984 as a student assistant; 1988 as a staff member.

Hometown: Louisville, Kentucky

Schools Attended: Jefferson County Public Schools: K-12; Undergraduate-BA: University of Louisville; Graduate: MS-University of Louisville; Graduate-MSLS - University of Kentucky.

Significant Other/Family Members: Jim; my mother and siblings, in-laws, and nieces and nephews and great-nephew; as well as some friends who are my family.

Pets: None right now, but I am in search of something fuzzy.

Unusual previous positions: I haven't held such a position, but my current position is somewhat unusual—how many people who work in a library run a robotic retrieval system?

Zodiac sign: Taurus



Hobbies/Activities: Writing, music, swimming, dancing, outdoors, reading, learning and organizing stuff.

Favorite Books: Many, but my top favorites include: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Dracula* and *The Razor's Edge*; Non-fiction: favorite topics include health, history, nature and spirituality.

Favorite Movies: Hard to choose—there are so many. My favorites include: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Razor's Edge*, *The Godfather*, *Godfather II*, *Rocky* series, *Rambo* series, and *Lonesome Dove*.

Favorite Food: Most food, however, I really enjoy cheese and steak. I am not wild about Braunschweiger or fruitcake.

Favorite Vacation Spot: International: British Isles, Europe; Domestic: Any state—I have enjoyed many trips through the years; repeated trips have included the Carolinas, Colorado and New Mexico.

Robert E. Fox, Jr.
Dean, University Libraries

**cordially invites you
to attend the**

**University Libraries
Holiday Luncheon**

**Thursday, December 14, 2017
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Ekstrom Library- First Floor East**

RSVP BY
December 11, 2017
jessie@louisville.edu
852-6745

Library Exhibits

Archives & Special Collections

Kain Gallery and Lobby Cases

Lower Level, East Wing

'All In!' Louisville and the Great War

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

Through December 22, 2017

Photographic Archives Gallery

"Drive" Photographs by Sarah Lyon

Through December 22, 2017



Isabelle in Studio. 2011, Sarah Lyon



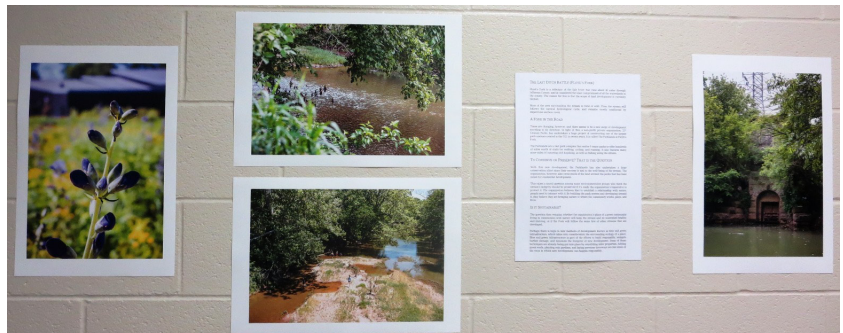
WWI Propaganda (American Library Association), 1918.

Law Library

Reading Room

Watershed Life: Watersheds, Law, and Public Engagement

Through December 15





My thanks to **Sahab Bolhari** for helping me resolve a technical issue with a digitizing station. — Heather Fox



I would like to thank **Sue Finley** for all her hard work on the duplication of subscriptions within the University. Sue has worked with the LFO's to see what subscriptions other departments are paying for that the Library already has subscriptions for. Thanks to Sue's efforts all other departments stopped paying for subscriptions the Library has access to, saving the University money during this difficult budget situation. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication Sue - the LFO's appreciate all your hard work —Karen Nalley



I would like to thank all the staff, faculty, and student assistants in RAI for going above and beyond to support the department during Anna Marie's sabbatical. Whether it was teaching extra classes or taking responsibility for a new project or staying late to help a patron, everyone has contributed their time, energy, and expertise to ensure the high quality of our services. Thank you **Kelly Buckman, Fannie Cox, Justin Erickson, Sue Finley, Latisha Reynolds, Syann Lunsford, Bayne Lutz, Sam McClellan, Sadie Rogers, Josh Whitacre, Barbara Whitener, Amber Willenborg, and Krystal Williamson.** —Rob Detmering



Kathy and Trish would like to thank **Sarah Carter** for her leadership, direction and friendship since she came to UofL Libraries. By just adding a splash of color to the walls and endcaps, she transformed the library from an old forgotten space to a vibrant, colorful, and inviting place for people to come research and study. Her forward thinking approach helped change how we do what we do, such as opening up circulation to all of UofL, going on field trips to neighboring University Art Libraries, using social media as a platform for education and fun, initiating the annual Art + Feminism Wikipedia editing event, getting us an amazing full wall display showcase, and so many other things -- we could go on for quite a while! Her positive attitude and love of food contributed to her creating a work environment that is the truly remarkable.

Thank you Sarah for everything, and best of luck in all your future endeavors. — Kathy Moore and Trish Blair