The demise of reading has been greatly exaggerated—well, o.k. perhaps we’re a biased sample, but this issue of the Readers’ Picks has more contributors than I’ve had in recent years. Hooray! Thanks to all who contributed (including Dean Rader!), there is a wide variety of reading tastes represented!

What do science fiction, religion, and the Middle East have to do with each other? Nothing, actually, but they happen to represent my reading interests over the past six months for some reason. It started with Leslie Farison loaning me her copy of *The Expected One*. (I wholeheartedly recommend this, but Leslie does a wonderful job describing it AND she actually traveled to where the book takes place—how cool is that? See her entry below.) Online, that book was compared to *The Da Vinci Code* (Ekstrom PS 3552 .R685434 D3 2003), a book I had long avoided reading due to the hype surrounding it, but found that its thriller pace was perfect to read in small chunks (the only type of reading time I have anymore!). Those were followed by a wonderful recommendation from Vicki Niehaus called *Salvation on Sand Mountain* by Dennis Covington (Ekstrom BX 7990 .H6 C68 1995). Part ethnography, part investigative reporting, part memoir, this book moved me. It begins with the trial of a preacher accused of attempting to murder his wife with poisonous snakes. The book is an extension of the author’s coverage of that trial for *The New York Times*, his subsequent interest in snake handling, and finally his search for his own roots. The ending is probably the most beautiful that I have ever read.

Keeping with the theme of religion and recommendations from Vicki, I also read *The Year of Living Biblically* by A.J. Jacobs (Ekstrom Browsing BS 511.3 .J33 2007). Jacobs is a writer for *Esquire* magazine who decides to try to live the Bible literally for one year. He spends eight months devoted to the Old Testament because it is larger and because he is Jewish, but he also spends four months delving into the New Testament. He visits communities of believers who live out parts of the Bible literally, including fundamentalist Christians and ultra-Orthodox Jews. He grows his beard, wears white clothes, carries a staff, and gets stares on the subway in New York City where he lives. He visits Jerusalem, spends time with a shepherd and snake handlers. There is an entry for each day of the year—some are incredibly funny; some are profound. Although he remains an agnostic, Jacobs finds himself changed at the end of the year in ways that he couldn’t have anticipated.
In keeping with this theme, I also read *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson (Ekstrom Browsing PS 3568 .O3125 G55 2004). Glenda Neely and I discussed this book and we came to the conclusion that it is probably best read in short sessions and isn’t the best book for listening to all the way through. It is very slow moving, but that’s also its greatest strength in my estimation. It is a meditation of sorts and contains some incredible insights about God, forgiveness, grace and relationships. It is essentially the story of the prodigal son told by the older son—although it isn’t that obvious in the book and of course, that story is a story about God’s grace. This multi-layering is what intrigued me, and I assume part of why this book won the Grasmeyer Award in 2006.

I took a hiatus from religion to read some science fiction including *Gate to Women’s Country* by Sheri Tepper (Ekstrom PS 3570 .E673 G38 1998) which was a long-ago Reader’s Pick from Scott Campbell. This post-apocalyptic dystopian novel made me uncomfortable—many parts of it could be construed as male-bashing, but in the end, I decided it still had much to recommend it. The characters were more type than anything else, but the ideas were intriguing as was Tepper’s re-writing of part of the Greek plays about the Trojan wars.

In trolling online for others’ opinions of the Tepper book, I discovered some folks saying that they preferred *Glory Season* by David Brin (Ekstrom PS3552 .R4825 G56 1993). The world that Brin creates is detailed, to the point where I found myself beginning to use the jargon the characters use: “smuggy” as an epithet for example. In a nutshell, humans left earth and created a world where men are a minority, where men and women are receptive to sexual advances at the opposite times of the year, where clones are considered the norm and “varlings” or “summer children” (boys and girls created the normal way) are looked down upon because they are unpredictable. Maia is one of these variant children (although she is a twin) and the novel follows her as she sets out at 15 to find her “niche” which is the life-path for any non-clone. Unfortunately, the ending doesn’t quite do justice, but Brin says in the afterward that this is neither a utopia nor dystopia, but rather an exploration of how a society might try to create a very stable, but self-sustaining world.

Finally, I explored a bit of the Middle East by reading *The Places in Between* by Rory Stewart (Ekstrom Browsing DS 352 .S74 2006). This is the diary of a Scotsman who walks across Afghanistan shortly after the fall of the Taliban in 2002, relying on the hospitality of the people he encounters who take him in every night along the way and feed him despite their own poverty in many cases. Stewart doesn’t romanticize his walk at all—he is often wet and very cold. (He does this in the middle of winter!) He gets dysentery, has rocks thrown at him and his dog, and the people he encounters are often suspicious and hostile. However the descriptions of the places he passes through are gorgeous and compelling and he is well-versed in the history of the place and its peoples.

I read two books about the experiences of Iranian women: *Journey from the Land of No* by Roya Hakakian (Ekstrom Browsing E 184.15 H35 2004) and *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi (Ekstrom PN6747.S245 P4713 2003). Satrapi’s book is the book-in-common for UofL this fall and tells the moving story in graphic novel format of an Iranian Muslim woman coming of age during the Cultural Revolution whose parents eventually send her out of the country to Europe. Hakakian’s book shares a lot of similarities to *Persepolis* with one stark exception: Hakakian was one of Iran’s 100,000 Jews. This fact complicates an already complicated situation, although Hakakian tells it with humor, grace, and of course, sadness as she and many of her family eventually leave the country as well.

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Michel Atlas, Kornhauser Library
I loved *Free Food for Millionaires* by Min Jin Lee (Ekstrom Browsing PS3612 .E346 F74 2007). It’s my favorite genre, immigrant fiction, this time the story of a young Korean woman, a Princeton graduate from Queens, trying to find her place in New York.

Gwendline Chenault, Ekstrom Library
My summer knock-out read is *One Drop: My Father’s Hidden Life—A Story of Race and Family Secrets* by Bliss Broyard (Ekstrom Browsing PS3552 .R79154 Z46 2007). This is an investigative memoir about her father’s life, his ancestry and historical events from slavery through the Jim Crow and Reconstruction eras, the Republican and Democratic Parties, the Ku Klux Klan and more. Anatole Broyard was a well-respected book critic, editor for *The New York Times* and an essayist for its *Book Review*. After his death in 1990, his family arranged a memorial reception at a suburban Connecticut yacht club. The club claimed to have no black members. Mr. Broyard’s mixed racial lineage was not known until after his death. It is one of the best documented books I’ve read on the subject of passing. Ms. Broyard discovered much about her father, his ancestry and herself and was introduced to Broyards of every hue. It’s a wild ride so strap yourself in securely. It is quite a revelation of race matters.

Cheryl Crane, Ekstrom Library
*Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett (Ekstrom PS3566 .A7756 B4 2001) features an unusual setting and preposterous plot, pulled off by exquisite writing and endearing characters. I cried when this book ended!

Leslie Farison, Ekstrom Library
“History is not what happened. History is what was written down.” — Ellie Katz
*The Expected One* by (Ekstrom Browsing PS3613.C4936 E97 2006). Two thousand years ago, Mary Magdalene hid a set of scrolls in the rocky wilds of the French Pyrenees, scrolls that contained her own version of the events and characters of the New Testament. These sacred scrolls could only be uncovered by a special seeker, one who fulfills the ancient prophecy of the Expected One. When journalist Maureen Pascal begins the research for a new book, she steps into an ancient mystery. Ultimately, she, and the reader, come face to face with Jesus Christ, Mary Magdalene, John the Baptist, Judas, and Salome in the pages of a new gospel, the life of Jesus told by Mary Magdalene. As she becomes more deeply immersed in the secret cultures of Southwest France, a long-buried family secret comes to light, and it begins to appear as if the eerie prophecy of the Expected One may indeed be fulfilled.

My mother loved this book and gave me a copy to keep. This book makes one think beyond what many of us have been raised to believe and some of the possibilities are intriguing. Most people will find the plot a bit of a stretch, but there is some interesting history about the politics of the early Christian movement. I never knew of the Cathars, an early group of Christians who found disfavor with Rome. They were the only Christian group targeted by the Crusades. They were a dominant and prosperous culture until “close to a million people were slaughtered by papal forces.”

In April, my mother and I took a trip to the Languedoc region of France, the setting for most of *The Expected One* and the location in which Mary Magdalene is reported to have spent the latter part of her life. We visited many of the places in the book including Rennes-le-Château, Arques and the Cathar castles.

Sarah Jent, Ekstrom Library
her youth as an immigrant growing up in Michigan in the 1970s and 80s. Many of her vividly described memories revolve around food. 


_Kabul Beauty School_ by Deborah Rodriguez (Ekstrom Browsing HQ1735.6 .R63 2007). The fascinating memoir of a woman who travels to Afghanistan to open a beauty school.

**Robin Harris, Law Library**

Because 2008 has been so packed with information about 1968 and the significance of that year in our country’s history, I have been reading nonfiction, fiction, and pop culture books related to the Sixties in general and to 1968 in particular. Here are my top picks in those three categories.

_At Canaan’s Edge: America in the King Years, 1965 – 1968_, by Taylor Branch (Ekstrom Browsing E185.615.B67 2006). The final book in the trilogy that historian Taylor Branch has written about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., this is no boring historical tome. Painstakingly researched and beautifully written, this book brings Dr. King and his colleagues, followers, and enemies to life in a fascinating way. The narrative portion of the book is over 700 pages, but it is well worth the time. It also contains 24 pages of photographs and 200+ pages of notes, a bibliography and an index.

_Four Spirits_, by Sena Jeter Naslund (Ekstrom Browsing PS3564.A827F68 2003). Although this was a second reading for me, I found this novel centered on the church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963 even better the second time around. A word of warning: read carefully and pay close attention to each character as she or he comes into the story, or you may lose some of the tale’s nuances. I admit to being an avid fan of U of L’s own Dr. Naslund, who grew up in Birmingham in the Sixties and remembers the bombing and the unrest of her hometown. Her intimate knowledge of the time and place informs the novel and makes it an unforgettable read. This is my favorite of her works.

_Girls Like Us: Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Carly Simon and the Journey of a Generation_, by Sheila Weller (Ekstrom Browsing ML400.W35 2008). Just one look at the title of this book (and the cover, with its colorful and famous renderings of each of the superstar “girls”) should tell you enough about its content to know whether you want to read 500+ pages about blasting through the glass ceiling. The underlying premise of author Sheila Weller is that, taken together, King, Mitchell and Simon represent a generation of women and that through their music and their trend-setting ways, fundamentally changed the music business and the culture at large. This is actually a triple biography, with the life each of the women receiving detailed treatment. If you are interested in feminism, music, and fashion and the way these three very different women forged a new path, this may be the ideal summer read for you.

**Mary Marlatt, Kornhauser Library**

A series I enjoy is Catherine Coulter’s FBI Mystery Series. There are seven at Ekstrom. _Blindside_ is PS 3564 .A843 B58 2003 – I’m sure the others are close by. The books feature an FBI unit, so some characters are recurring, but different characters are highlighted in each book. There are 11 books in this series so far (in no particular order): _Hemlock Bay, Riptide, Eleventh Hour, Tailspin, The Cove, The Maze, The Target, The Edge, Blindside, Blowout, Point Blank_, and _Double Take_. Good beach reads – or, considering gas prices, backyard reads!
Vicki Niehaus, Ekstrom Library

The Candy Bombers: The Untold Story of the Berlin Airlift and America’s Finest Hour by Andrei Cherny (Ekstrom DD881 .C495 2008). This true account of American efforts in the Berlin airlift is set in an election year against the spectre of WWII, with themes of human kindness and redemption. There are some interesting parallels to our times. The book offers a captivating and very readable account of events, with judicious use of statistics and the details of political intrigue. I found myself gasping out loud a couple of times.

I think this is a good book to read when times are hard. It reminded me that $4+/gallon gas is not the worst problem you can have. I was very touched by the bravery and fortitude of the people of Berlin, who endured years of severe deprivation and uncertainty but still held out for freedom.

Reasons to Believe: One Man’s Journey Among the Evangelicals and the Faith He Left Behind by John Marks (Ekstrom BR 1642.U6 R43 2008). A compelling and illuminating read; Louisville’s Southeast Christian Church is featured several times. From the Publisher’s Weekly review: “Marks’ first work of nonfiction began as a segment that he produced for 60 Minutes on the Left Behind phenomenon. During the research, a devout evangelical Christian couple made a deep impression on him, leaving him with the question of whether he would be left behind when Christ returns on Judgment Day. The problem gnawed at him. After getting laid off from 60 Minutes, the novelist (The Wall; War Torn) embarked on a two-year quest to uncover the wellsprings of America’s most popular religion. While this memoir of longing and doubt treads some of the same territory explored by atheists such as Sam Harris, it is the first that doesn’t simply reject the evangelical worldview. Marks discovers much that is positive, especially in the way churches rallied to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina. What makes this book most compelling, however, are the ways in which Marks allows his interviewees to engage him as a potential convert. He is so sympathetic to them that until the very last page it is uncertain whether he will decide to abandon his secular life. In the end, Marks gives us a stunning glimpse of American evangelicalism in all its variety.”

An Angel at My Table (DVD--Ekstrom Media Collection PR9639.3.F7 Z463 1992). This biography of Janet Frame, one of New Zealand’s most celebrated poets and novelists, is a trilogy on one disc. Set aside a block of time to watch this because, at 158 minutes, you are going on a long and often harrowing journey through her life. We meet Janet as a shy, awkward child with a creative soul. Later misdiagnosed as schizophrenic, she spent eight years in a psychiatric hospital. She endured over 200 electroshock treatments and was nearly “lobotomized by careless physicians who took no time to understand that she was merely awkward and shy and suffered from little more than routine depression.” This film is “a journey into a writer’s mind, exploring the power of imagination as a mechanism of survival and self-defense,” says an Amazon.com review. Ekstrom Library also holds eleven of Frame’s books, including her autobiography, novels and poetry.

Amy Purcell, Ekstrom Library

I recently picked out three random books to take on vacation. Coincidentally, all three had war veterans in them. War veterans have been on my mind because this fall photographer Gordon Baer returns to UofL with the exhibit “One Cost of War,” to be installed in the Kain Gallery, Rare Books. To quote Delinda, this is “an exhibit of photographs and plaster representations of limbs lost by American servicemen and women fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq. Their losses of hands, feet, arms and legs will impact the veterans throughout the remainder of their lifetimes.” This recurring theme brings home the sad fact that there are many war veterans. And two of the books were about either
mining or mountain people and I have recently visited Appalshop for the first time. While there, we went on a driving
tour of the area and saw several of the mines. Our tour guide was from the area.

*Eat the Document* by Dana Spiotta. (Ekstrom Browsing PS3619 .P566 E18 2006). Cool story of a couple of activists who had a demonstration go wrong in the early 70s and they have to go underground, severing all ties to friends, family, and each other. The book is written in the late 90s but goes back to the 70s some to explain what happened. This is Spiotta’s second book. I plan to read the first, *Lightning Field* (Ekstrom Stacks PS3619 .P566 L54 2001), which was a *New York Times* notable book.

*Sister Mine* by Tawni O’Dell (Ekstrom Browsing PS3565 .D428 S57 200). The story takes place in a small Pennsylvania mining town. The characters in the book are very loyal to the mines despite all the dangerous aspects of mining. The intrigue in this book centers on the reappearance of a long-lost sister. O’Dell has a light, humorous style which is perfect for “beach books.” The library holds two of her other books, which I plan to read as well.


Hannelore Rader, Dean, University Libraries

Here are my recent favorites: *Arms of Deliverance* by Tricia Goyer (Ekstrom PS3607.O94 A89 2006), *The Candy Bomber* by Andrei Charney (Ekstrom DD881 .C495 2008) and *Berlin* by Pierre Frei (Ekstrom PT2666.R3592 O5513 2005), translated from the original German version.

Jamie Saunders, Ekstrom Library

I just finished reading *The Ultimate Cheapskate’s Road Map to True Riches: A Practical (and Fun) Guide to Enjoying Life More by Spending Less* by Jeff Yeager (Ekstrom Browsing HG179 .Y43 2008). In light of the current bleak economy and ever-rising gas prices, I found this book to be most informative, and even entertaining. He offers quite sensible advice on ways to cut back on everyday spending, and to build long-term savings.

Raymond Slaughter, Ekstrom Library

For those who like a mysterious adventure and research combined, *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostava (Ekstrom PS3611. O74927 H57 2005) is recommended. A young woman is following and studying her father’s research on the history of Dracula. Little does she know just how dangerous that kind of research is until her father suddenly disappears. As she travels searching for her father, danger seems to follow her. There is plenty of adventure, mystery, suspense, and some horror to go around.

Sue Grafton’s *E Is for Evidence* (Ekstrom PS 3557 .R13 E2 1988) is a great read for those who love good detective stories. Kinsey Millhone is a private investigator who is somehow set up and framed for arson. A large sum of money appears in her bank account; she cannot explain it and the police suspect a payoff. Now Kinsey has to go snooping around to find out the truth to clear her name before she ends up in jail for the crime. Danger, adventure, and mystery are a great combination in this story.

Virginia Smith, Law Library

*Water Street* by Crystal Wilkinson (Ekstrom PS3573. I44184 W38 2002). I had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Wilkinson at the Kentucky Women’s Book Festival this past February. While she is an award-winning Affrilachian poet, *Water Street* proves that she is equally adept at writing prose. Her collection of interweaving short stories is full of colorful characters and is set in a small Kentucky town outside of Lexington.

*The Venus Week: Discover the Powerful Secret of Your Cycle at Any Age* by Rebecca Booth, M.D. (Ekstrom Browsing RG159 .B663 2008). Dr. Booth, a founding practitioner of Women First, recently published this book which encompasses much of what
she’s learned and observed in her Louisville practice during the past 20 years. The first half reveals all that you ever wanted to know and more about a woman’s reproductive cycle. In the second half, she provides tips to women of all ages for maximizing what she refers to as our one precious “Venus week.” What I’m enjoying most about the book is her ability to describe complex medical concepts in a way that a layperson like me can understand through her use of mythology and metaphors. Her holistic approach to women’s wellness is really quite revolutionary.

Barbara Whitener, Ekstrom Library
A Thread of Grace by Mary Doria Russell (Ekstrom Browsing PS3568. U76678 T48 2005) is about the resistance movement in Italy after the fall of Mussolini. Amazon.com says that it is “the kind of book that you will find yourself haunted by long after finishing the last page.”

The Demon Under the Microscope: From Battlefield Hospitals to Nazi Labs, One Doctor’s Heroic Search for the World’s First Miracle Drug by Thomas Hager (Ekstrom RM666. S9 H34 2006). The miracle drug was sulfa and the story fascinating.

This Republic of Suffering by Drew Gilpin Faust (Ekstrom E468.9 .F385 2008). Many books have been written about the American Civil War. Every general has been written about and every battle memorialized. This is a different view of the American Civil War. “Beginning with individuals’ confrontation with death and dying, the book explores how those experiences transformed society, culture, and politics in what became a broader republic of shared suffering” (page xv).


Lindbergh by A. Scott Berg (Ekstrom RRS TL540 .L5 B49 1998) is a well-written account of an amazing life.

Tales from the White Hart by Arthur C. Clarke (not owned by UofL and unfortunately out of print, though used copies of the paperback are plentiful). The White Hart is a pub in London that attracts a variety of people but primarily scientists. One scientist is Harry Purvis and he always has a story to tell. The regulars in the pub are never sure how much truth the stories contain and are skeptical. But Harry remains undaunted and tells each story with enthusiasm, earnestness and always a bit of humor.

Come celebrate the latest addition to the University of Louisville’s rare books collection

A series of six manuscript letters from illustrator Arthur Rackham to his first bibliographer Eric A. Osborne

Honoring George T. McWhorter, Curator, Edgar Rice Burroughs Collection

Exhibition and Reception
Lower Level, Ekstrom Library
Thursday, August 28, 2008
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

George T. McWhorter came to the University of Louisville as the Libraries' first rare books curator in 1971. Over the course of his career, he has developed and donated significant collections, including internationally known collections of Edgar Rice Burroughs, Arthur Rackham, and Isak Dinesen. George wrote a feature on Rackham in the October 2004 issue of The Owl.(http://owl.library.louisville.edu/index2004.htm).
From the Dean of Libraries . . .

By Hannelore Rader, Dean, University of Louisville Libraries

The Faculty Senate Committee on Libraries (FSCOL) met on March 31, April 28 and June 2. The group discussed the new Cardiovascular Center, the Brown Forman Center, the Post-B.A. Premedical Program, the Ph.D. in Physics, the B.S. in Atmospheric Science and the MA in Anthropology. In addition, the group discussed issues related to library funding for new programs.

On April 3 the Library Associates Board, under the leadership of its new chair Nathaniel Green, met to discuss the search for a new development director for the libraries, a possible partnership between the libraries and the Chamber of Commerce, the new Honor with Books program, and the next Library Associates event, which was held May 15 and hosted by Mary Ellen Stottman. Much appreciation went to Traci Simonsen for her leadership and management of the Library Associates Board.

The Libraries’ new development director is Cheryl Crane, who assumed her new duties on May 27.

The Government Documents Section of the Kentucky Library Association held their meeting in the Libraries on April 4.

On April 7 and 8, I along with 300 other participants attended the national meeting of the Coalition of Networked Information (CNI) in Minneapolis. Daniel Atkins from the University of Michigan received the 2008 Paul Evan Peters Award and gave the opening plenary session entitled “Leadership in the Age of Cyber-infrastructure-Enabled Discovery and Learning.” Thirty-five project briefings provided a realistic summary of current digital activities in higher education.

The Kentucky Virtual Library Council met on April 11 in Frankfort and received reports from its Voyager Work Group, the Independent Schools Group, the Portal Work Group, and the Information Literacy and Outreach Group. The Council discussed KYVL’s strategic planning, the Second Life Consortium and various new workgroups.

On April 23, I along with 50 others attended the JSTOR Forum held in Louisville. The Forum addressed collaboration and community-based initiatives related to multi-disciplinary international scholarly journal collections managed by JSTOR, ARTSTOR, PORTICO and ALUKA.

April 25-26 I attended a scholarly symposium on the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) History, Accomplishments and Future Developments held at Columbia University in New York to honor and celebrate the career of Duane Webster, Executive Director of ARL.

May 7-9, I represented the Libraries at SAMM08 (SOLINET Annual Membership Meeting) in Atlanta. We discussed the partnership initiative between SOLINET and PALINET, the future of bibliographic control, and the civil rights digital library. Michael Stephens from the Dominican University in Illinois spoke about “The Transformed Library: Trends, Tools and Transparency.” Scott Peacock, executive chef of Watershed (a restaurant in Decatur, Georgia), discussed his new cookbook *The Gift of Southern Cooking: Recipes and Revelations from Two Southern Chefs*. Karen Schneider from the College Center for Library Automation in Tallahassee, Florida spoke about “Sustainable 2.0: Marketing and Strategy for blogs and Social Software.” In addition to the presentations there were several opportunities for discussion.

On May 13, I attended the 10th anniversary celebration of the Young Library at the University of Kentucky.

*continued on page 11*
Melissa Laning’s column based on her idea for a new employee spotlight debuts in this issue. She sent each new employee a list of questions and asked each to pick four or five questions to answer. It’s meant to be fun and light and to allow everyone a chance to know a few interesting tidbits about their new co-workers. The frequency of the column will vary depending on the number of new hires.

Name: Cheryl Crane
Preferred nickname if you have one: Nope, although I’m always open to recommendations
UofL position and department: Director of Development, University Libraries (advancement/libraries)
Home Town (or other places you have lived): I have lived in Wilmington, Delaware; Antioch, California; Corpus Christi and Houston, Texas; Seattle, Washington; Denver and Edwards, Colorado, but I consider Louisville home. I graduated from Eastern High School and my parents, brother, and a couple aunts live here. I am currently moving into my 22nd home—so I’d like to stay put for a while!
Significant other/family members: Matt Sperr—husband, Catalina aka Katie—daughter (2½ years old)
Pet: Cleo, a big furry border collie/retriever mix
Unusual previous jobs: I worked with a refugee resettlement agency in Denver. As a contracted resettlement site with the U.S. State Department and the United Nations, I was privileged to work with people from all over the world who were escaping life-threatening circumstances and starting over in the U.S. I even got my accreditation to practice basic immigration law. A truly amazing experience!
Favorite quote: “But I was always coming here. I was never not coming here. This was never not going to happen.” —Elizabeth Gilbert, Eat. Pray. Love.
Anything else you want to tell us? My family and I just moved here from Edwards, Colorado in the Central Rockies where it snows 10 months out of the year! We are so excited to be in Louisville and to get to know the wonderful people here.

Name: Rachael Elrod
Preferred nickname if you have one: Rach
UofL position and department: Stacks Maintenance
Schools attended: Union College - freshman year, Campbellsville University - B.S. in Psychology and Sociology, University of Louisville - M.Ed. in Counseling Psychology, and the University of Kentucky - MLS in progress.
Unusual previous jobs: I worked at a cemetery in Campbellsville one semester as a telemarketer. I did volunteer work at the library at the Royal Air Force Base in Lakenheath, England.
Hobbies/activities: guitar, piano, singing, hiking, yoga, photography and being a political junkie.
Favorite music groups: Troubadours of Divine Bliss, Dar Williams, Nine Inch Nails, Radiohead and Loretta Lynn.
Favorite foods: Mexican!
Favorite quote: “And the best thing you’ve ever done for me is to help me take my life less seriously. It’s only life after all.” — Indigo Girls
Anything else you want to tell us? I bake pies!
Liren Liu came to the USA from China in 1993 after she finished her undergraduate studies. She first went to the City College of New York for her graduate study and worked in New York City for four years. Then she moved to Philadelphia in 1999 and lived there until 2005. Currently Liren is living with her family in Louisville. Liren’s husband, Chi Li, is a faculty member at the UofL Medical School. They have two kids, Catherine and Oliver. Liren’s family enjoys swimming all year around. Sometimes Catherine plays piano, which is a delightful moment for Liren.

Christopher J. Poché
Preferred nickname if you have one: Pocket (that’s what my last name means in French)
UofL position and department: Library Assistant, Current Periodicals and Microforms
Home town (or other places you have lived): New Orleans, Louisiana.
Pet: Two cats: Sophia and Sebastian
Schools Attended: St. Pius X Grade School (Louisville); St. Xavier High School (Louisville); Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio); University of Louisville
Unusual previous jobs: I “worked” in an antiques shop in Florence, Italy. I was “paid” with drinks. It’s a weird story – ask me about it sometime.
Favorite books: Anything by James Thurber and Franz Kafka (they are the yin and the yang of my mind); Dante: The Divine Comedy
Favorite movies: The Indiana Jones and Monty Python movies, Amadeus, A Man for All Seasons
Favorite music groups: Beatles, Velvet Underground, Bob Dylan, Daniel Johnston, and that Mozart guy
Favorite quote: “There is no enemy more dangerous and treacherous to its adversary than the fool to himself.” — Giambattista Vico

Toccara Porter
Preferred nickname (if you have one): None
U of L position and dept: Diversity Resident Librarian / Ekstrom Reference Dept.
Home town: Louisville, KY
Pets: My mother has a very handsome Boston Terrier named Teddy (technically I’m the pet owner).
Unusual previous positions: Working in a public library.
Hobbies/activities: Watching The Twilight Zone.
My favorite joke: What did the ocean say to the boat? Nothing, it just waved!

Danny Pruitt
UofL position and department: Course Reserves Library Assistant, Circulation
Pet: Hugo (dog)
Schools attended: Valley High School, University of Louisville
Unusual previous jobs: Louisville Free Public Library
Zodiac sign: Sagittarius
Favorite Foods: Korean, Italian, Chinese

Name: Emily Symonds
UofL position and department: Metadata Librarian, Digital Initiatives
Home town: I was born in St. Louis, but I grew up in Fairfax and Clifton, Virginia; Anchorage, Alaska; and Tuscaloosa and Gadsden, Alabama. I also lived in Greensboro, North Carolina, and Bloomington, Indiana. Most recently, I was in Terre Haute, Indiana.
Schools attended: George Mason University; University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Indiana University
Unusual previous jobs: In college I worked at a copy and mail center. I’m great at packing boxes and clearing photocopier jams. I’ve also been a weekend copy-editor at a daily newspaper and a freelance writer for local auto and healthcare publications, even though I was not an auto or healthcare expert.
Zodiac sign: Libra
Favorite books: The Evidence Against Her, Robb Forman Dew; A Bigamist’s Daughter, Alice McDermott; Collected Sonnets, Edna St. Vincent Millay; Housekeeping, Marilynne Robinson

Dean Rader continued:

152nd ARL Membership Meeting
From May 20 – May 23, I attended the 152nd ARL Membership meeting in Coral Gables, Florida at the Biltmore Hotel. As usual, the conference began with committee meetings, followed by topical briefings such as library publishing, copyright issues, and special collections in the 21st century.

The membership meeting featured a keynote address by Peter McPherson, President of NASULGC (National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges) who discussed “Institutional Strategies Supporting E-Scholarship and Multidisciplinary Research.” A social event at the home of University of Miami’s President, Donna Shalala, featured a Cuban theme.

Other programs featured Christine Borgman from the University of California, who spoke about “Disciplines, Documents and Data,” Diane Harley also from the University of California, who discussed “Assessing Quality in the Digital Environment,” and John Wilbanks from MIT who addressed “Institutional Libraries: Hubs of the Research Web.”

The program session, “Profiles of Collaboration,” featured information about the U.S. National Virtual Observatory, the Bamboo Planning Project, and “Opportunities of the NSF DataNet Solicitation: A Status Report from the Field.”

During the last day of the meeting “The Future of “Bibliographic Control,” and “Lessons from Open Source Strategies in the Academy” were discussed.

As usual, the ARL meeting was a most valuable educational experience and provided an excellent opportunity for productive discussions as well as for sharing information.
Art Library
In April, Jim Waldron, Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court, District of New Jersey, came to the Art Library to look at the papers of artist Romuald Kraus. Kraus taught art at U of L from 1947 until 1954.

Why was the New Jersey court clerk interested in the Kraus papers? Because in the mid-1930s, Kraus sculpted a statue of Justice for the New Jersey Courthouse which created a huge controversy when it was installed. Using the Kraus papers, Mr. Waldron was able to find all he wanted and more for the presentation being given by the Court Historical Society and for a permanent display at the courthouse.

Jim Waldron sent his information to Judith Resnick, law professor from Yale, who is writing a book entitled Representing Justice: Adjudication's Rise and Fall as Seen From Renaissance Iconography to Twenty First Century Courthouses. The Kraus sculpture will be featured in her book, along with a photograph from the Kraus papers.

None of this would have happened if the Kraus collection hadn’t been included in For Love of Learning.

Office of the Dean
Welcome, French Interns
The Libraries will host two French interns this year: Clair Grison and Belén Gimard. They will be working in the libraries from July 1 – 24.

Clair Grison
Claire is assigned to Kornhauser Circulation and Interlibrary Loan. She writes and speaks English very well, has worked as an interpreter, enjoys competitive sports and music and was an honors student in math, physics, chemistry and biology. Her areas of interest are paleontology, research and teaching. She has traveled to Ireland and is computer literate.

Belén Gimard
Belén is assigned to Media Resources, Technical Services, Stacks Maintenance and Circulation. She is a sophomore in the College of Corporate Communications, travels regularly to Spain, and plans a career in Public Relations. Belén worked summers as an intern with a printing office and with a communications agency marketing and developing prospects. She is computer literate with experience in public relations.

Personnel
Effective August 1, 2008 Anna Marie Johnson and Rae Helton will assume temporary responsibilities in Ekstrom Library Public Services due to the retirement of Mildred Franks.

Anna Marie Johnson will become Interim Head of the Ekstrom Library Reference Department and continue in her role as Coordinator of Information Literacy.
Rae Helton, Coordinator, The Learning Commons, will assume Mildred’s responsibilities for Circulation, ILL and Reserves on an interim basis.

Resignations
Aaron Rosenblum, Library Assistant in Media Resources resigned June 13, 2008. Aaron will be going to library school in Montreal, Canada.

Tatiana Akram resigned her position as Secretary II in the dean’s office, effective July 3, 2008.

KULS
As many of you already know, the Kentucky Union List of Serials will no longer be administered at the University of Louisville, as of the end of September 30, 2008. After that, the Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives will integrate the services of the Kentucky Union List of Serials into KDLA’s work. The UofL Libraries managed this project for more than 30 years.

As of October 1, 2008, Allen Ashman’s primary assignment will be in Special Collections doing preservation planning and archival processing. He will also continue to use his expertise in Technical Services, assisting with several projects, including ETDs and Marcive.

As of July 1, 2008, Linda Clark took the position in Serials Acquisitions recently vacated by Chris Poché. Technical Services is very pleased to be able to utilize her experience working with serials records.

Pat Meyer will be retiring from the University of Louisville on July 17, 2008, after 23 years of dedicated service.

Many thanks to Tyler Goldberg for overseeing the transition of the KULS staff.

Office of Libraries Technology

Voyager Upgrade
Upgrade to Voyager version 7.0: This will be a typical upgrade to the next full version of Voyager. As in the past, we are scheduled to be down for a full week, but also like in the past the upgrade may be finished early.
Schedule: Monday through Friday, August 4 through August 8, 2008, all week or until announced.
Not available: Cataloging, Acquisitions, and Circulation.
Note: As in the past, Minerva will be available by continuous OPAC. With the new server and the experience of using the new process for continuous OPAC, we don’t expect any problems with Minerva’s availability.

MS Office 2007
A series of training sessions on Microsoft Office 2007 began June 24 (see announcements, emails). MS Office 2003 suite will be upgraded to version 2007 this fall (sometime around the Voyager upgrade).

MetaLib (SearchExpress) Upgrade
MetaLib (Search Express) has been upgraded to version 4. New features of this version include faceted search and better integration with SFX.

SFX Toolbar
SFX Toolbar is now being tested. Currently it works only with Internet Explorer. Ex Libris says a version for Firefox is under development.

New PCs
With year-end money, about fifty new PCs and printers were purchased. PCs in Instructional Lab 1 (W102) will be upgraded with the new PCs. Old PCs in Lab 1 will be used to upgrade those in CLC. Other older PCs in different areas and broken printers will be upgraded this summer.
**SharePoint**
The University’s IT Department is working on the implementation of Microsoft’s SharePoint to replace the DocuShare system. OLT will migrate the Libraries’ Intranet to SharePoint and ask for your input when the planning process begins.

**Reference**
Glenda Neely attended the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California in late June. She is on the Business Reference & Services Section (BRASS) Program Committee, and members have been working together for 18 months to produce it. The title is, “Bull’s Eye! Targeting the Right Consumer with Market Research.” Speakers were Jack Kyser, Los Angeles Economic Development Corp., TokyoPop, a grass roots marketing firm for Manga, Dr. Stevina Evuleoche, Professor of Marketing at California State University, East Bay, and Glenda’s colleague Wendy Diamond, Business Reference Librarian at CSU, Chico, who spoke about demographic and consumer marketing resources for target marketing.

*Mildred Franks in Kentucky Libraries*
Glenda Neely writes about Mildred Franks, who is retiring from U of L after many years of service in the Reference Department, in her “Spotlight” column for the upcoming issue of *Kentucky Libraries*, v. 72, no. 3 (Summer 2008).

**Special Collections**
*Champions 4 Her*
Sarah Frankel, Karen Nalley and Amy Purcell participated in the Champions 4 Her 5K Walk/Run on June 21. They were on Brian Buford’s team, “Trek the Trail Superstars.” Amy had been working with UofL’s Get Healthy Now and the Women’s Center to create posters of all the UofL Champions 4 Her. Thanks to Jami Allen who hung the exhibit. Delinda Buie, Special Collections, and Robin Harris, Law Library, are featured in the exhibit.

**Goodbye, Mildred!**

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*Invitation to Reception Honoring Professor Mildred Miles Franks*
Accomplishing the Impossible

On April 26, 2008, I ran in the Kentucky Derby Festival Mini-marathon. I finished 13.1 miles in 2 hours, 12 minutes and 7 seconds. Running a half-marathon is something that thousands of people do several times a year, but for me, it was the greatest achievement of my life. Why? Because I really didn’t think I could do it.

In the fall of 2007, I was feeling pretty good. I had made changes to my lifestyle which had made me healthier, happier and stronger. But I had this strange desire to push myself beyond my limits. I wasn’t even sure what that would entail, so I thought about something impossible, something I knew I could never do. That’s where the mini-marathon came in.

I was never a runner. In fact, I had never even run before; I had never really tried. It just didn’t seem like fun to me: being out of breath, in pain, not able to talk. It just didn’t appeal to me at all. This is why I think I pursued it.

I did some research and found out that you actually have to learn to run. You can’t just take off one day not being prepared; you will quit. You have to learn proper form, breathing, and how to pace yourself. You need good supportive shoes, the style of which depends on how your foot hits the ground as you stride. I never knew there was so much to this!

I found a 10-week training program that started me out running just a few minutes at a time (Week one: walk four minutes, run two, repeat five times). The idea was to build up to running 30 minutes straight. It took me 13 weeks, but I completed it. In January 2008, I began a training program specifically for the mini-marathon, which included the Triple Crown of Running races (a 5K, 10K and 10-miler). Those were three of the coldest days of my life. That’s another thing you learn about running; the value of layering and wearing the right clothing material!

I wasn’t able to follow the training program exactly but I did try to run 4-5 days a week and follow the mileage as closely as possible. There were good days and bad days, lots of muscle aches, pains, tears, and sweat. But if it wasn’t for this program, there is no way I could’ve finished 13.1 miles! The Triple Crown races really help you get a feel for what racing is like.

When April 26 finally rolled around, it was like a dream, like I wasn’t really there. The old Sarah wouldn’t have been there. But she was gone and this Sarah had taken over. And she wasn’t taking no for an answer. I didn’t want a lot of pressure; I just wanted to finish the race and run as much of it as possible. I had only myself to prove anything to.

The race started at 7:30 a.m. and there were 12,000 other runners out there. There’s something about running in races with other people that really motivates me, more than running on the treadmill. It’s so much more exciting and enjoyable to be outside with people who are after the same thing you are. Not to mention the crowds of people cheering you on. There were times when I felt like stopping or slowing down and someone would say “Keep going! You’re almost there!” There was a giant crowd waiting for us as we flooded Churchill Downs between miles 8 and 9. At mile 12, someone held a sign that said “The end is near!” which made me chuckle, but also gave me that extra boost to finish it out.
My parents were standing on the sidelines when I crossed mile 13 and seeing their faces and hearing their voices call my name moved me to tears. I picked up the pace and finished the last leg of the race sprinting, arms pumping and flying across the finish line to meet the rest of my family and friends. I had done it. All that hard work had paid off and I felt such an amazing sense of accomplishment, one that I could never fully describe. I even finished well before I had predicted myself to. It was a lot to take in, but I have no regrets.

I have not yet decided what I will do next year. Will I run the mini again? Or will I be going after the next impossible thing, whatever that may be? All I know is that after this, I feel like anything is possible.

For more info, check out these links:
http://www.louisvilletriplecrown.com/
http://www.derbystivalmarathon.com/
http://www.runnersworld.com
http://www.fleetfeetlouisville.com

Ekstrom Library now has recycling! Two bins have been added: one on the north side of the elevators in the East Lobby and one in the entryway of the West Lobby. Each bin has two compartments, one labelled “Bottles and Cans” for plastics and aluminum, and one labelled “White Paper.” Food or trash still needs to go in a trash bin.

Thanks to Andy Clark and the dock team, the recyclables will be collected and delivered to one of the Metro recycling centers on a regular basis.

Now you can enjoy the convenience of being able to do the right thing with your recyclables without having to haul them home!
The following is a partial list of libraries faculty publications over the past year.


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**Libraries Faculty Publications 2007-2008**
“Thank you to everyone for welcoming me so warmly and helping to make my transition so smooth. I am so excited to be working with such a talented group of people doing incredible things to make this university great.

“Second, thank you so, so much to Traci Simonsen for being a huge support as I humbly attempt to fill her position. She has paved the road for success within the libraries in gold, and I will work so hard to make you all proud.” —Cheryl Crane

“Thanks to Weiling Liu and Amy Purcell, who, on separate projects, provided technical solutions. Their expertise is greatly appreciated!” —Rachel Howard

“I would like to thank everyone in the library for being so wonderful to me since I have been diagnosed with cancer. Thanks for all the cards and visits. Special thanks to Julie Schwerer for setting up the frozen food order from Schwan’s, which was a blessing to me and my family during and after my two initial surgeries. Thank you, Vivian Harrison, for coping with my time sheets. Thank you Tyler and Melissa, for your help with payroll issues. I will always remember your kindness.” —Marette Irwin

I would like to say thank you to Regina Brown, Physical Plant. Whenever I see her in the morning, she is always busy but takes the time to chat for a minute. She’s always pleasant with that beautiful smile. I can come into Ekstrom some mornings, just feeling like I don’t want to be at work, and Regina can lift me up by being pleasant and always having a kind word. I don’t know Regina personally but she seems to be a wonderful person, and I want to say “THANK YOU” FOR BEING WHO YOU ARE!!!” —Pat Moss

“Thank You to Trish Blair, Sheila Birkla, Jamie Saunders and Calvin Miracle for loaning us fans during the annual April heat-wave.” —Vicki Niehaus

“Reference folks wish to thank Mildred Franks for her rich knowledge base as a reference librarian, her capable and steady leadership, her respect for the library and information profession, and her extensive experience over her four decades, some of which she has shared with us. We will miss you greatly, so stay in touch!” —Reference Dept., Ekstrom Library

“I would like to thank Alice Abbott-Moore, Carrie Daniels, and Rachel Howard for doing presentations on the digital collections and the Robotic Retrieval System for JCPS students participating in the Student Technology Leadership program. The coordinator of the program felt that the library was a major highlight of the group’s visit to campus.” —Latisha Reynolds

“Thanks to everyone for making Ekstrom a terrific a place to work. Special thanks to the students and staff of Media Resources. See you all next time.” —Aaron Rosenblum

“I would like to recognize the shipping/receiving area students assistants and the dean’s office student assistant, Jenna Williams, for their outstanding contributions to the office and shipping/receiving areas. Our student assistants Kyle Amyx, Charles Todd, Robert Harrison, Jackson Reid, Mihai Spin, Shawn Firchau, Chad Haggard and Charles Hickey have provided excellent library support with manual labor, mail operations, and with the handling of book donation pick ups from KDLA, UK, and other various donations coming to Ekstrom or going to the Music and Kornhauser libraries. Jenna has provided office support for the dean’s office staff and has been very helpful with various projects, routine office duties, and various needed tasks. Jenna also was involved with the moving of a donation of 28 boxes of books and journals from the Carmichael Building on the Health Sciences Campus, and delivering them to Kornhauser.
“Kyle, Robert, Jackson, Mihai, Shawn, and Chad played a key role in unloading 508 boxes of books onto 12 pallets, (about 20,500 books) from the Louisville Free Public Library and delivering them to the Technical Services department to be processed.

These student assistants all deserve high praises for what they have done over this past year.” —Raymond Slaughter

Thank you to everyone at the libraries for your support of the Data Divas for Saturday’s Champions 4 Her 5K. The team raised close to $450 for the event, which supports women’s and children’s organizations in Louisville. Vivian Harrison and Virginia Smith were the team’s top fundraisers. Our team successfully completed the 5K on Saturday at Waterfront Park and saw some of the Libraries’ Champions 4 Her recognized at the Festival.

Thanks again from The Data Divas:
Emily Symonds, Michel Atlas, Fannie Cox, Carrie Daniels, Vivian Harrison, Rae Helton, Melissa Laning, Weiling Liu, Sue Raymond, Jill Sherman, Traci Simonsen, Virginia Smith

Selected Tools for Effectively Managing and Sharing Information

Weiling Liu attended the 23rd annual Computers in Libraries in March, 2008, and learned about some cool tools. She shared them along with some other tools, at a peer-sharing session in May. The PowerPoint is on the Intranet at http://staff.library.louisville.edu/ulf. Here are some selected tools for your quick reference:

For meeting time poll:
- Doodle (http://doodle.ch/main.html) — A quick and easy way to find a time that everyone in your group is available.
- http://timeanddate.com/ — a world clock and more…

For editing a PDF file:
- http://pdfhammer.com/ — a website that allows you to edit your PDF files online for free.

For document sharing:
- http://www.box.net — Store files of any format. Free (lite account, 1GB) and cost (individual account, 5GB, etc.).
- Slideshare.com — a way to share your presentations with the world. Let your ideas reach a broad audience. Share publicly or privately. Add audio to create a webinar.

For creating your own toolbar:
- Conduit.com — A Browser toolbar generator.

For getting RSS into your email:
- SendMeRss — Have RSS feeds sent to your email (for example, GroupWise).

For online bookmarking:
- Del.icio.us.com — Easy bookmarking and sharing for websites or blogs, etc.
- Addthis.com — Easy bookmarking and sharing for websites or blogs, etc.
Library Exhibits

Ekstrom Library

East Lobby – Media Resources
Tarzan Around the World
Seven posters from various Tarzan movies, 1936-1957
Courtesy of the Burroughs Memorial Collection

New Wing First Floor Display Cases
Evolution of the University Libraries
and
19th century caricatures: Vanity Fair, a Weekly Show of Political, Social and Literary Wares

Lower Level Lobby
Special Collections
Photographic Archives Gallery
Images of Louisville
With guest curator Donna Neary, Executive Director, Kentucky Heritage Council. This exhibit is based on Louisville by James C. Anderson and Donna M. Neary (F 459 .L8 A73 2001). The exhibit coincides with the National Council on Public History’s annual meeting held April 10-13, 2008 in Louisville.
March 24 – July 25, 2008

Andrew Stern: Photographs
Andrew Stern’s photographs documenting the eastern Kentucky coalfields in the early 1960’s and again in the spring of 2008 when he returned to the area after more than 35 years. Social documentary photographs by Milton Rogovin will be on display on the Ekstrom Library’s first floor at the same time.
August 25 – October 24, 2008

Kain Rare Books Gallery
The Raymond F. Bossmeyer Collection
A selection of rare books collected over a span of 75 years by Louisville attorney and civic leader Raymond F. Bossmeyer. The Bossmeyer Collection, which he has donated over the past several years, includes choice Orientalia, examples of book arts, and 18th century literature.
July 10 – September 26, 2008

Music Library

First Floor
Works of Peter Lieberson
Winner of the 2008 Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition

Third Floor
Recent Additions From the Collection of William M. Kearns
Through August 2008