



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries
Vol. 39, No. 2 ♦ Summer, 2023

The Owl

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

Surprising Nostalgia

Newsletters in a Pre-Email Workplace

By Meg Stewart

Technical Services, Ekstrom Library

IN AUGUST 2022, I was given the task of scanning several boxes of old *Owl* articles that hadn't yet made their way into the digital collection. As a diligent librarian, I organized a spreadsheet to track the 68 articles I needed to scan. To my surprise, as a relatively new faculty member who hadn't previously delved into the library's history, I found myself captivated by the stories and characters depicted in the newsletters of yesteryear. It opened a whole new world where colleagues showed enthusiasm in each other's personal and professional lives. So, let's embark on a journey together as we unravel the enigma of library newsletters! These humble paper creations were the unsung heroes that fostered a sense of community among library staff.

The Curious Beginnings

Before the University Libraries newsletter was known as *The Owl*, there existed a charming publication called *The Ekspress*. Among the oldest newsletters I scanned was Volume 1, Issue 2, dated August 31st, 1986. It featured an article by Stewart L. Thomas, who shared his ice cream flavor preferences and recommended local places to find them in Louisville. The newsletter also included a fascinating anecdote by Dave Reed, revealing how MTV cameras found their way into Ekstrom Library, and a delightful section called "On the Vacation Scene," providing enticing details about university library employees' recent holiday destinations. The meticulously crafted newsletters undoubtedly sparked excitement as they arrived like clockwork in readers' mailboxes, igniting intrigue and unbridled enthusiasm.



The secret weapon of these newsletters was their ability to create a sense of familiarity. No piece of news was too small or insignificant. In *The Owl* (renamed by that time), Volume 10, Issue 2, dated March 1995, we discovered that Mary Margaret Bell had adopted a new

Fostering Familiarity

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Technical Services

The Last Shift . . . we hope!

The project to shift cards in the public catalog was completed on February 1, 1995. A great deal of planning, and work went into the project which was first discussed in 1990. Careful study, testing of procedures, and many subsequent discussions ensued before cards were actually pulled from the cabinets. All computer-generated (OCLC) cards were pulled, the remaining cards measured and shifted, then cabinets were relabeled.

dog named Ben, and they were both enrolled in obedience classes. The newsletters featured exciting announcements that brought changes to the library's operations, such as the introduction of the first two ethernet connections to the Law Library (which we'll delve further into later). But amidst these significant updates, there were also heartwarming birthday and wedding announcements, spotlights on new student workers, accounts of visits to Hong Kong, and even a touch of humor. For instance, the Technical Services department amusingly claimed they were finally done shifting catalog records around, little knowing that almost 20 years later, there would be many more shifts to come (and as luck would have it, we're shifting again right now!).

Captivating Events



Now, let me share more about the captivating events unfolding in the Law Library. In Volume 10, Issue 6, dated August 1995, the Law Library embarked on its first venture into online shopping. To everyone's surprise, not only did they successfully receive their order, but they also decided to spice up their lives by ordering hot sauce. These articles, blending seriousness with a touch of silliness, showcased the need for self-expression even in a professional setting. A colorful cast of characters played their roles, while an audience of readers, I assume, found joy in these stories. Regardless of being housed in different buildings or working for different libraries, there

was a bond that connected the employees of university libraries, offering insight into the vibrant community they were a part of, no matter how indirectly.

The Legacy Lives On

Though email eventually swept the world, the legacy of these beloved newsletters endures. They remind us of a simpler time, when anticipation was palpable, and the thrill of discovery lay within the printed pages. Today, libraries continue to harness the power of newsletters, adapting them to the digital realm while preserving the spirit of connection and mirth. However, as a librarian, I can't help but question: is it the same? The present *Owl* boasts great articles and ways of connecting, but, unintentionally, the ability to connect through email and other digital channels seems to dampen the excitement of a newsletter. We constantly hear about how we're part of the information age, and as information professionals, we appreciate the accessibility and the ability to connect with distant students and busy colleagues. But just like in any relationship, doesn't time make the heart grow fonder? Scanning these newsletters served as a poignant reminder that we are all weighed down by the ceaseless stream of information flooding our offices, and that there was a time when company picnics, buffet tables without pandemic-proof wrappings (see Volume 12, Number 1, February 1997), and moments dedicated to chatting by the water cooler were the norm.



So let us cherish these remnants of the past, for they hold within them the essence of a bygone era—a time when ink met paper, and the bonds of a community were forged through the printed word. If you want to check out these and many other past issues of *The Ekspress* or *The Owl*, <https://owl.library.louisville.edu/>.

Library and Department News

ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

ASC Welcomes New Colleagues

ASC is very pleased to announce two successful new hires in Archives and Special Collections (ASC). **Chad Kamen** will be joining ASC on August 14 as Special Collections Librarian/Curator of the Burroughs Collection. Chad is a recent MLIS graduate of the University of Michigan and has been a research assistant/intern on several projects to make unique collections accessible to diverse audiences.

On August 28, **Nick Shaner** will begin serving as the Barry Bingham, Jr. *Courier-Journal* Photograph Collection Archivist. Nick received his MLIS from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and has most recently been employed as a Project Archivist for the Archives of Appalachia at East Tennessee State University processing a large collection of photographic images from a regional studio.

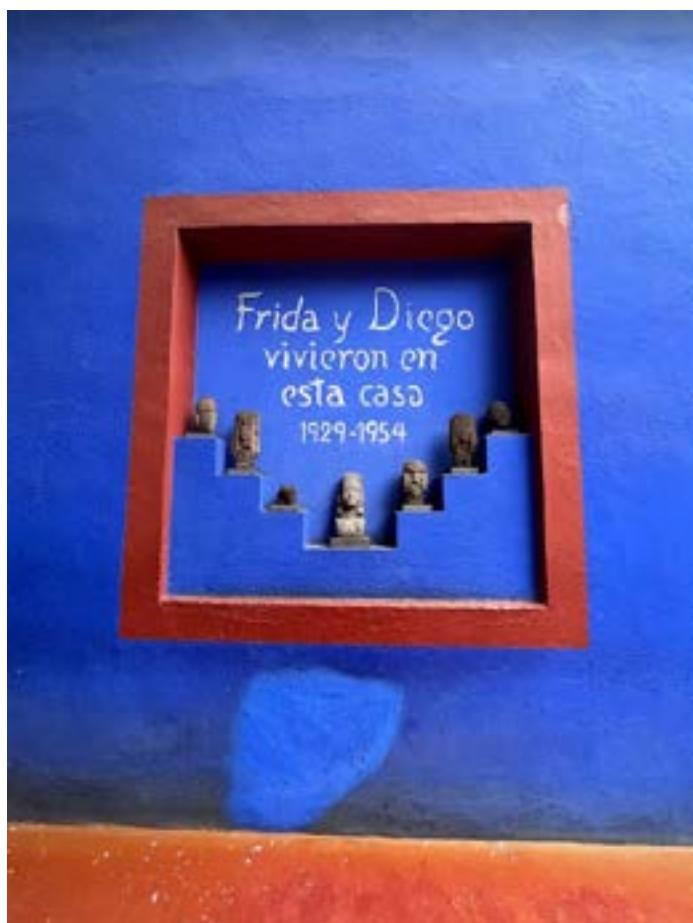
ART LIBRARY

Art Libraries Society of North America Conference

In April, Courtney Stine, Assistant Professor and Director of Bridwell Art Library, attended the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) annual conference in Mexico City, Mexico. At the conference, Professor Stine spoke on a panel about restricted access collections in academic art libraries, sharing a presentation titled “To Restrict or Not to Restrict: Demystifying the Bridwell Art Library’s Rare Book Room.” This panel led to post-conference conversations with other art librarians who manage artists’ book collections about best practices for storage, preservation, and outreach.

While in Mexico City, Stine and other ARLIS/NA attendees participated in a full-day excursion to Teotihuacán, a vast pre-Columbian city home to the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, the Pyramid of the Moon, and the Pyramid of the Sun. After touring the archaeological site, the group gathered for lunch in a cave that previously stored the stones used to build the temple complex. Another highlight was a visit to Casa Azul, now known as the Frida Kahlo Museum, the home where Frida Kahlo grew up and lived with Diego Rivera.

During the conference Awards Ceremony, which she coordinated as the chair of the ARLIS/NA Awards Committee, Stine was presented with the 2023 Worldwide Books Awards publication award for her article [“‘Don’t Use It!’ to ‘Let’s Edit!’: Using Wikipedia to Teach the ARLIS/NA Art, Architecture, and Design Information Competencies”](#) published in *Art Documentation: Journal of the Art Libraries Society of North America*, volume 39, issue 2 (Fall 2020).



EKSTROM LIBRARY

Access & User Services (AUS)

RRS Upgrade

The RRS will receive a long-needed upgrade to the back of the room controls and will be out of service for two weeks, Tuesday, July 11, 2023, through Sunday, July 23. Any questions and/or concerns, please contact Alice Abbott-Moore.

Staff Senate News

"I have been honored and enjoyed my time as your Staff Senator from August 2021 through the end of June 2023. I have learned very much during the past almost two years. I look forward to the senate term of Don Dean and soon-to-be former Staff Senate Chair John Smith, who is going to serve as the libraries' second senate seat, as an at-large senator."

"Please know for future reference that should someone from the libraries want to serve as senator, one can apply at any time, if there is a seat being held by an at-large senator." –Alice Abbott-Moore

Technical Services

In Mourning



The folks in Technical Services are still mourning Joyce's sudden passing. We miss her gentle, quiet, caring personality (and her daily pictures in our Team's page). She was a fine cataloger, a hard worker, and she single-handedly oversaw multiple projects over the years. She had a flair for style and fashion (her all red corduroy outfit is an absolute legend). She was often goofy, making jokes and making people laugh. As the sign on her door reads "Today I feel silly – come in!" Most importantly, she was a valued colleague and friend, and we miss her every day.

Editors' Note:

With Joyce's passing, The Owl Board lost a dear friend and valuable colleague. Joyce served as a news gatherer and was always the first to submit her news. Her interesting and thorough accounts of the happenings

in Technical Services enlightened readers about the many behind-the-scenes tasks taking place in the department.

Many who worked with Joyce may not know that she got her start in libraries as a law student, working at the Law Library in the early 1990s. Her diligence, dependability, sense of humor, and kind spirit made her a vital part of the library. Although she graduated from law school in 1994 and went on to practice for several years, her love for library work never waned. Eventually, she graduated from library school and achieved her goal of becoming a librarian in the department she loved.



The Owl is published four times a year: January-March, April-June, July-September ("Readers' Picks" issue) and October-December. It is an online PDF publication by the University of Louisville Libraries, Louisville, KY 40292.

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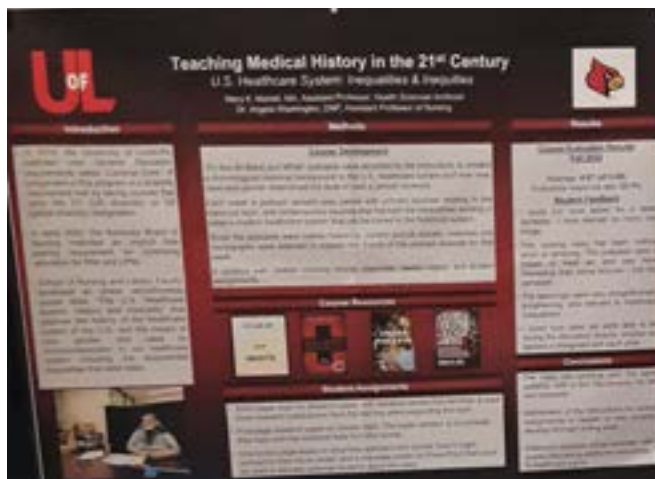
The Owl's purpose is to promote communication among the various libraries in the UofL system.

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

KORNHAUSER LIBRARY

American Association for the History of Medicine Conference

Mary K. Marlatt presented a poster, "Teaching Medical History in the 21st Century," at the American Association for the History of Medicine in Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 11-14. The poster highlighted the use of the podcast "It's Not All Black and White" as the lecture part of the class she has taught the last two semesters with Dr. Angela Calloway Washington of the School of Nursing (Nursing 205). Mary K. and Angela were the hosts of the podcast.



Angela Ren Wins Scholarship to 2023 OVGTSL Conference

"Having studied for two semesters toward an MSLS degree at the University of Kentucky, I was honored with a student scholarship in April 2023 to attend the 2023 Ohio Valley Group of Technical Services Librarians Conference at Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky, on May 17-19. Under the conference theme "Ongoing Challenges, Creative Solutions," the conference opened with the keynote speaker, Crystal Rae Coel, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity for the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University Louisville. Her speech, entitled "The Box: An Ongoing Challenge or a Creative Solution?" focused on how to deal with ongoing challenges and how to change challenges into exciting opportunities. Following her inspirational speech, there were three concurrent sessions with presentations given by librarians from different universities and colleges in the Ohio Valley area and beyond. As a library staff member working in technical services for years who is now exploring relevant theories and their implementations for excellent practice in the near future, I learned a great deal from those empirical and helpful presentations at the conference. The three-day conference was filled with not only presentations, but also visits to interesting local historical sites and social networking with technical services librarians."

"The OVGTSL Scholarship, together with UofL Libraries Travel Fund, offered me such a good opportunity to attend the conference in order to explore technical services in the library field and update my knowledge about related technologies and methods. Here, I want to express my gratitude to my supervisor, Tiffney Gipson Goodwin, and Kornhauser Library Director, Vida Vaughn, for their strong support."

LAW LIBRARY

Renovations

Renovations are underway at the Law Library to replace old flooring and roofing, following months of work to replace parts of the HVAC system. Everyone at the library is looking forward to a safer and more comfortable building . . . sometime soon!

Article: "Debunking Legal Myths"

Kurt Metzmeier wrote a piece published by the Louisville Bar Association debunking legal myths for Law Day, which is May 1. The article is available on [LinkedIn](#).

Article: "Titanic's Wreck and the Law"

Melodie Hawkins wrote a blog post for the 111th anniversary of the sinking of the RMS Titanic examining some legal questions related to the wreck: <https://library.louisville.edu/law/blog/home/Titanics-Wreck-and-the-Law>. (Melodie wrote this post *before* the recent implosion of OceanGate's Titan!)

Farewell to Marian and Erin . . .

Circulation Manager Marian Carlson left the Law Library on June 16 for a new job as Library Director of the LaRue County Public Library. Marian began her new position on June 20. She had been with the Law Library since January 2022.

Electronic Services Librarian Erin Gow left the Law Library on June 30 for a new job as Satellite Librarian at the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Erin had worked at the Law Library since March 2016.

The Law Library wishes Marian and Erin all the best in their new endeavors!

CANDY KUDOS ROUNDUP

Giving Thanks to Our Colleagues!



March 2023

[Nominations](#) for your colleagues who go above and beyond can be found on the Libraries' SharePoint Homepage.

Courtney Shareef, Courtney Stine, Terri Holtze, Mason McCellon, Cecilia Durbin, Heather Fox, and Elizabeth Reilly, **Twix Award** from Anita Hall
Rayanne Turner **Mounds Award** from Tyler Goldberg
Angela Kennedy **LifeSavers Award** from Amber Willenborg
Amie Baltes **3 Musketeers Award** from Ansley Stuart
Jessie Roth **Twix Award** from B. Joyce Graves
Alex Howard **Starburst Award** from Rob Detmering
David King **LifeSavers Award** from Veronica Priest
John Burton **Starburst Award** from Jessie Roth
Rob Detmering, Sarah Drerup, Lidiya Grote, Latisha Reynolds, & Tessa Withorn **3 Musketeers Award** from Courtney Shareef
Courtney Shareef **Starburst Award** from Rob Detmering
Eli Gardner **MilkyWay Award** from Lidiya Grote
Tessa Withorn, Courtney Shareef, Terri Holtze, Hannah Pryor, Chloe Forsting, and Trish Blair **3 Musketeers Award** from Courtney Stine
Tiffney Goodwin-Gipson & Vida Vaughn **LifeSavers Award** from Courtney Stine
Troy Plumer **Starburst Award** from Sahab Bolhari

April 2023

Kevin Bailey **Extra Mile Award** from Delinda
Sarah Tuley-Coleman **LifeSavers Award** from Melissa Laning
Amie Baltes & David King **LifeSavers Award** from Melissa Laning
Stephen Whiteside, Mason McCellon & Christian Grace **Snickers Award** from Matt Goldberg
Claudene Sproles **LifeSavers Award** from Rob Detmering
Delinda Buie & Courtney Stine **3 Musketeers Award** from Latisha Reynolds
David King, Melissa Laning, Jessica Petrey, & Tessa Withorn **3 Musketeers Award** from Amie Baltes
Delinda Buie & Kevin Bailey **3 Musketeers Award** from Carrie Daniels
Angela Ren **LifeSavers Award** from Gina Genova
Sahab Bohari and David King **LifeSavers Award** from Christina Roberts

May 2023

Alice Abbott-Moore, Nicholas Sweat, Jason Friedman, and Rhymond Phan **3 Musketeers Award** from Matthew Goldberg

Lydia McGee **MilkyWay Award** from Angela Walter

Christopher Poche **Extra Award** from Cecilia Durbin

Chloe Forsting **Starburst Award** from Angela Walter

Vy Nguyen **3 Musketeers Award** Angela Walter

Angela Walter **Extra Award** from Melissa Laning

Courtney Shareef **Starburst Award** from Rob Detmering

Rachel Hodge **Starburst Award** from Angela Walter

Alex Howard **Starburst Award** from Rob Detmering



Famous fishing dam in Mercer County, early 1900s. Photo by Archibald Rue, Arthur Ford Collection, 1977_001_117