



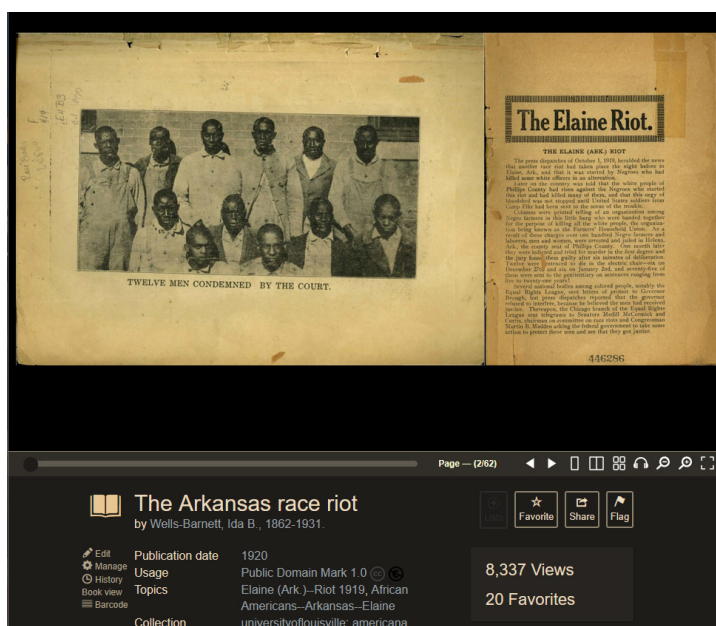
# The Owl

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

## UofL's Collection in the Internet Archive

By Chloe Forsting and Tyler Goldberg

Technical Services, Ekstrom Library



Above: the opening spread of *The Arkansas Race Riot, a.k.a. The Elaine Riot*, by Ida B. Wells. As of February 7, 2025, this document has been viewed over 8,300 times.

there are now quite a few serial items in the collection. One large serial collection added this past year was the UofL yearbooks, done in collaboration with Archives and Special Collections.

Traffic to the site is consistent. *The Arkansas Race Riot* (1920) is the most used title with over 8000 views. Our bibliographic record in WorldCat has been used by over 100 libraries in catalogs worldwide. There are many titles detailing the history of the University of Louisville and its various schools, including a *History of the University of Louisville* (1927), *Our University* (1941), *University of Louisville Security Regulations* (1963), and a very popular 1951-1952 yearbook of the Southern Police Institute.

There have been requests from scholars for some titles, saving travel time for researchers and preserving our print copies by eliminating the need for handling these materials. One example is the *Souvenir and Official Programme of the G.A.R. 29<sup>th</sup> Encampment in Louisville* (1895). Another example is the *Illustrated Catalogue of the Art Department of the Southern Exposition* (1885).

In a 2015 *Owl* article, former Technical Services employee Sarah Frankel introduced readers to UofL's collection in the Internet Archive. At the time of the article, the collection had 60 items. Works relating to Louisville and Kentucky were the focus of the collection, and that hasn't changed. Works that are added must be in the public domain. As we don't want to duplicate the work of other libraries, we try to make sure that no digital copies already exist in either the HathiTrust or the Internet Archive. The collection is maintained by the Technical Services Department, and while the vast majority of items were added by Technical Services, the Law Library has added a few items in the past year.

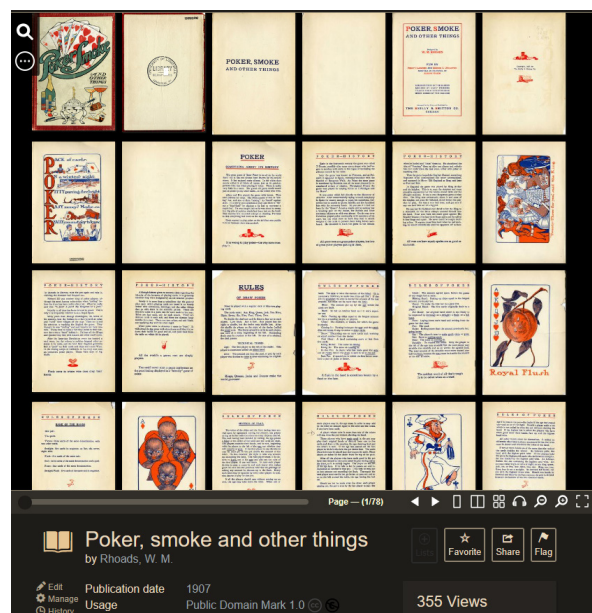
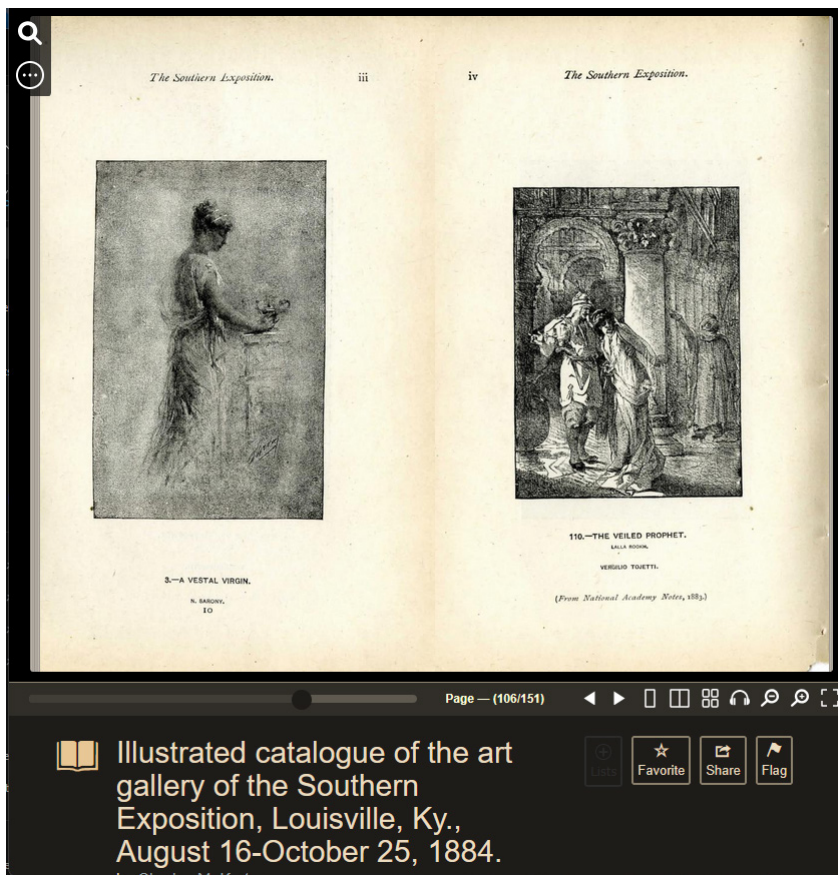
The collection currently boasts 222 items, which are searchable in myriad ways. Many items have been discovered as the Technical Services Department has sorted through older stacks items in order to transfer these materials to the Libraries' storage facilities. Any item that is now in the public domain and not available digitally is considered for the collection. While these are generally monographs,

We have also scanned and uploaded several items published by the National Youth Administration for Kentucky. *How Safe Is Your Home??* (1940) gives especially good advice for the woman in the home. Of course, we aren't sure how many households still use wringer washing machines, but much sound advice can be found in this volume.

While most items are related to Kentucky, there are some treasures that would at best be considered ephemera. *Poker, Smoke and Other Things* (1907) has one of the best covers in the collection. The print copy of the Sunday Chatterbox (1880) is held by only 3 libraries worldwide. Like many of the items in the collection, the photographs are lovely.

Thumbnails of *Poker, Smoke and Other Things*. The cover and interior illustrations make this piece of ephemera worth keeping around. (right)

Our efforts to improve workflow on this project mean we have acquired a fancy new scanner. For people who



care about scanners, up until the middle of last year, the job got done with an old and bulky but eminently reliable Epson Expression 10000 XL machine. The upgrade came by chance, but has proved incredibly useful, speeding up the scanning process dramatically. Not only does the new machine (a [CZUR ET Smart Book Scanner](#), for the curious) have a much smaller footprint, but the process itself is partly automated, and less time is spent cropping and deskewing pages. Our procedures for scanning and maintenance of uploads had to be completely rewritten.

Possibly the greatest advantage of the new scanner is that it does not require the item to be dismantled: its auto-detecting functions can deskew and crop any page that it processes, but it also adjusts for page curvature. This means that items in good condition do not need to be taken apart to get a good, flat image, and we can handle fragile items minimally during the process to guard against further damage. This also means that more items that simply can't be dismantled



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(single copies belonging to Archives and Special Collections, for example) could be easily and legibly scanned with no further harm caused to the volume in question. In short, our new machine is working spectacularly.



*The new setup for dismantling and scanning volumes. Note the big Epson scanner in the corner and compare it to the much slimmer CZUR scanner and mat. (Note: This picture was taken prior to Technical Services moving to their new permanent location.)*

In addition to new technology, efforts have been made to clean up and organize the uploads and their metadata. Some editing of old scans and rescanning of old uploads was in order, as some of the items uploaded were scanned before any procedures were put in place. This inconsistency meant that some otherwise interesting items were poorly cropped, suffered from low image quality, or were in some way incomplete, such as missing blank pages that were crucial to maintaining formatting. Tags on the item page are compared with subject headings in the OCLC record proper and made consistent: part of the uploading process includes creating OCLC records for these digital uploads, including relevant subject headings, and linking them to the records for the original print items. Descriptions have also been updated to provide valuable context to site users and improve searchability within the Archive and online.

On a dourer note, 2024 was a weird year for the Internet Archive. In March, the *Hachette v. Internet Archive* case came to an end in Hachette's favor, meaning that any work that is under copyright can no longer be accessed through the Archive. The Archive appealed, but the verdict remained in place. Copyright law and profit motives are bolstered, for better or for worse. Since the Technical Services project largely focuses on documents in the public domain, this was not a setback to our efforts, but having that restriction imposed on the website was a hit to morale.

The hacking incident in late October 2024 was a different beast. With a lawsuit, at least you know what's coming. Hackers are not so kind. A widespread DDOS attack took down the Archive, Open Library, and the Wayback Machine; exposed sensitive information for 31 million users; replaced the homepage with one of those taunts about how fragile the site infrastructure was; and—most importantly for this article—left us in a lurch. The internet at large freaked out. Anxieties compounded. Granted, server outages are not unknown to the Archive: the site can go down for days. However, this was the first time it had gone down for weeks. Despite this, the Archive did not capitulate. They're a small nonprofit and, understandably, progress was slow: it took until November to let people read the site again, and it wasn't until December that the collection was accessible and Technical Services could resume uploading.

As of this writing, all functionality in the Internet Archive has been restored. According to founder Brewster Kale, the team took the opportunity to examine and update their own security infrastructure. Suffice it to say

the Technical Services Internet Archive project continues. Adding these items to our collection assures the preservation of these materials. The photographs of Louisville and Kentucky from the 19th and early 20th century are particularly interesting. Many of these items are not widely held in print format, and in several cases, we had the only print copy. In the stacks, these titles saw no or little usage. In this collection, they are not only preserved, but they are being used and appreciated. We hope you will take a look at our collection (<https://archive.org/details/universityoflouisville>), and return to see what new items have been added.

# Library and Department News

## Archives & Special Collections and Art Library

### *Researching Louisville's Black Avant-Garde*

The Bridwell Art Library and Archives and Special Collections hosted scholars researching information for the exhibition catalog of the upcoming exhibition, *Louisville's Black Avant-Garde*, scheduled to debut in 2027 at the Speed Art Museum. This exhibit will highlight Black artists involved in the Louisville Art Workshop, a 1960s, Black-led arts collective that was monumental in transforming the art scene in Louisville and launching the careers of artists, most who were excluded from museums and galleries.

Researchers viewed artists' files, manuscript collections, and rare print publications at the Art Library and the Louisville Municipal College records, the Allen R. Hite Institute records in the Archives & Special Collections reading room. At the request of the curators, both libraries pulled together research lists for each topic that also included items from the Jan Carew papers, the Lyman T. Johnson papers, the Speed Museum records, the Louisville Art Workshop records, the Romano Mazzoli papers and the Art Center Association of Louisville historical materials. Artists to be featured in the exhibit include Anna Huddleston, Bob Thompson, Earl J. Hooks, Ed Hamilton, Eugenia V. Dunn, Fred Bond, G.C. Coxe, Greg Ridley, John Simmons, Kenneth V. Young, Robert Carter, Robert L. Douglas, Sam Gilliam, Ted Joans, and William M. Duffy.

The Speed Art Museum has featured individual artists in a mini exhibition series.

The third installment on G.C. Coxe is on display until September 7, 2025. Coxe was one of the first artists to graduate with a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Louisville and was a co-founder of the Louisville Art Workshop (1966-1978). His art focuses on colorful abstract painting, often incorporating 3-D objects such as wooden dowels. He made his own canvases, colors, and frames. For more information: <https://www.speed-museum.org/exhibitions/louisvilles-black-avant-garde-gloucester-caliman-g-c-coxe/>.

*Louisville's Black Avant-Garde* is curated by fari nzinga, former curator of African and Native American collections, with support from Sarah Battle, research curator at the Speed, formerly of the National Gallery of Art, whose oral history research project, *Painting a Legacy: The Black Artistic Community in Louisville, 1950s-1970s*,



Research Team from left to right: *Diallo Simon-Ponte, Melanee Harvey, Earl Hooks, Jr., Sirene Martin, Rebecca VanDiver, Malcolm Queneau, Sarah Battle*



provided a scholarly foundation for the exhibition. Transcripts for the first nineteen interviews are available online at <https://ohc.library.louisville.edu/collections/65>.

### *Juneteenth Cookout*

ASC joined RAI in providing samples of the Libraries' materials at the June 25, 2025 event, held in the Student Activities Center. We all enjoyed sharing the materials. RAI even checked out some books with their "pop-up library."

## **Ekstrom Library** **Research Assistance and Instruction**

### *New Publication on Generative AI*

Amber Willenborg and Tessa Withorn published "Generative AI for College Students: A Collaboratively Developed Online Microcourse on GenAI in the College Classroom" in *Communications in Information Literacy*. Link here: <https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/comminfolit/vol19/iss1/7/>

## **Technical Services**

### *Transfer Project Update*

As you all know, in the spring of 2019, an estimated 260,000 books published before 2000 were removed from the 3rd floor of Ekstrom Library. The books were initially stored in several places, including the RRS and the HDS (High Density Storage). There was no indication made in WMS as to where the books were stored because there were too many and they were randomly stored wherever they could be. Only when they are transferred to either the RRS or HDS (and WMS is updated) are they finally available again to patrons. As we have been going through these books to transfer them to their permanent location, we have been weeding them, buying newer editions, and purchasing newer books on the subjects that need to be updated. A month ago, we finally cleared from the HDS all the books that had been temporarily stored on the shelves in that area. We estimate that there are between 5000-10,000 still temporarily stored in the RRS that still need to be looked at and then weeded or transferred to their permanent location. Progress has been steady, and the end is in sight.

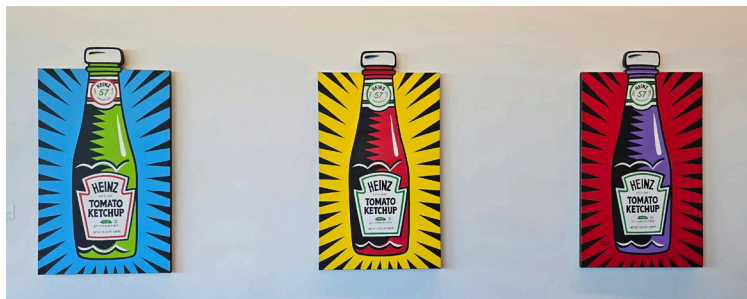
### *Lovely Landscape*

The landscaping outside Technical Services has been completed, and with all this rain, it is now pleasantly green and delightful to look at while enjoying a snack break!

## **Kornhauser Library**

### *Medical Library Association Conference*

Destiny Minton attended her first-ever MLA conference this spring, which was hosted in downtown Pittsburgh at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. MLA is the annual Medical Library Association conference that allows library professionals in the health sciences fields to gather over various beverages and foodstuffs, depending on the time of day, and to fill their carry-ons with as much vendor swag as humanly possible.

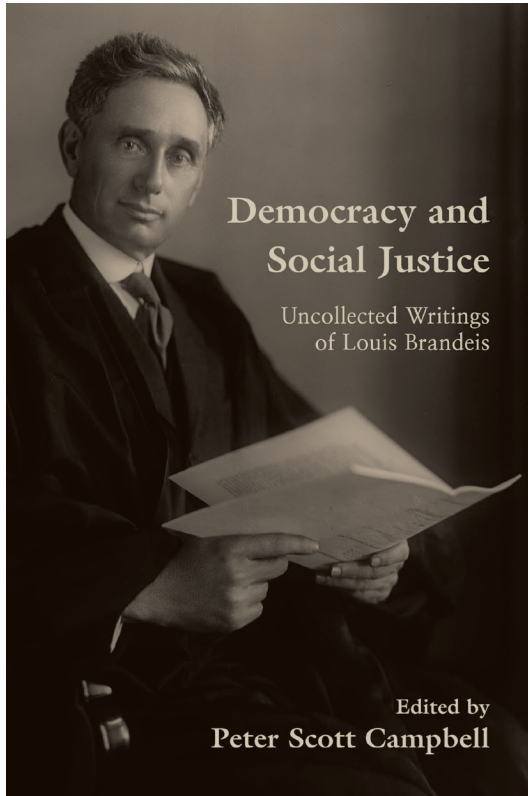


Chad Kamen, Amy Purcell, Heather Fox (ASC), President Gerry Bradley, and Melissa Rothman (RAI) at the Juneteenth Cookout. Photo by Wanda Long

Burton Morris' Heinz Triptych Bottles from the David L. Lawrence Convention Center Public Art Collection. Photo by Destiny Minton



## Law Library



### New Brandeis Anthology Published

Librarian Scott Campbell has published *Democracy and Social Justice*, a collection of previously unanthologized -- and in a couple of cases, unpublished -- writings by Louis D. Brandeis. Many of the articles concern the evils of trusts and monopolies, but other articles deal with labor unions, voting rights, and race discrimination. The book also includes a short memoir Brandeis dictated to his secretary; Scott discovered this gem in the archives at Brandeis University.

### Awards

Interim Law Library Director, Kurt Metzmeier, recently won the *Law Library Journal* Article of the Year Award by the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) for his article "The Short and Troubled History of the Printed State Administrative Codes and Why They Should be Preserved." Congratulations, Director Metzmeier!

Two Law Library faculty members earned the title of Student Champion this year: Interim Library Director Kurt Metzmeier and Electronic Legal Reference Librarian Bailey Eagin. We would like to celebrate them for going "above and beyond" their regular duties to provide meaningful support to students during the academic year. This was Bailey's first full year as a faculty member at the Law

Library, and we're so proud to see her already being recognized as an outstanding member of the university community!

### New to the Collection

If you stop by the Law Library, you may notice some new materials available in our reading room. Our "New & Featured Books" display and our seasonal book display feature recent books on a variety of pertinent subjects. Check out materials such as *Affrilachia: Testimonies*, by Berry, Navies, and Surdam; *An Introduction to Black Studies*, by Eric R. Jackson; *Tar Hollow Trans*, by Stacy Jane Grover; and more! These items are all available for checkout at the Law Library.



Photo by Aiden Stivers



# Library Exhibits

## ASC Picks – selections from our growing collections

Friedman — Kain — Pennington Galleries  
Archives & Special Collections  
Lower Level, Ekstrom Library

Through September 5, 2025

Our team members and student colleagues each have offered an item or two to this space with accompanying personal curatorial notes. The stories told here represent a small fraction of our shared vision for and deep belief in the transformative power of remembering together. We present these selections with the hope that you will continue to join with us in the pursuit of a more representative, more just, more mobilizing, and more connective historical record. And we thank you for your belief and support in these collections — and in us — that make our work at ASC possible.

### Some selections from our Student Assistants:



Captions L to R: *Rear view New Zion Baptist Church at 3330 Southern Ave., 1964.* [1989\_026\_3017]; *Horace Johnson, fisherman, and his 5-month-old daughter, Marjorie Ann, Concordia Parish, Louisiana, 1947.* Photo by Martha McMillan Roberts. [SONJ\_52393]; *Clown School Graduation photographs.* Photo by Pat McDonogh, *Courier-Journal*, May 17, 1992. [CJ\_1992\_05\_17\_PMD]; (Right) *Lemon mobile.* Photo by Pat McDonogh, *Courier-Journal*, June 24, 1987. [CJ\_1987\_06\_24\_PMD\_001]

**Pennington Galley** - Ansel Adams' 1964 World's Fair exhibit prints

**Kain Gallery** - More ASC picks, plus *Courier-Journal* photographs of Photographic Archives, Rare Books, and University Archives employees.