

# THE STACKS

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY NEWSLETTER,  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA



SPRING 2011

## *Do USA Libraries Still Need to Buy Print?*

The Dean's Corner, Dr. Richard Wood

I am frequently asked this question due to the many articles about the advantages of electronic books (E-books), book digitization projects by Google and others, the growth of the E-book and E-reader industry, etc. The simple answer is that USA Libraries will indeed need to buy both physical books and E-books for many years to come, just as we do for print and electronic journals.

Tens of thousands of scholarly print books continue to be published annually and thousands of them are recommended by the faculty for purchase by USA libraries. Most scholarly books either are NOT available in electronic format at this time, or they are

available only as part of an E-book collection which the libraries cannot afford to purchase. It is important to realize that scholarly titles in the humanities, social sciences, education, and other literature laded disciplines will continue to be published in print format because they are written to be read cover to cover to tell a story, develop a theme or thesis, etc. Readers of such literature tend to prefer print over digital formats because they can flip through the pages to reread—something which seems awkward when using E-readers. Further, E-books and E-readers are still new and not everyone likes reading digitally. Unlike physical books, E-readers

require batteries and lack quality note-taking and highlighting ability—although those abilities are improving rapidly. Many people still like the feel, smell, and touch of books, or the ability to make notes

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## *The Gallery*

University Library Hosts “DepARTmental” Multimedia Art Exhibit

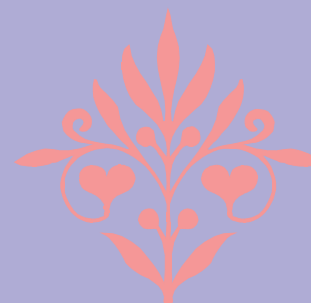
The third floor of the University Library is home to a very special art exhibit: a collection of multimedia works from some of the university's own. The exhibit, “DepARTmental: Department of Education Technologies and Services (1973-2011),” showcases a collection of works from artists working within the Department of Education Technologies and Services. The works include pieces from the personal collec-

tion of the artists, Walter Beckham; Mike Carmichael; Lynda Smith Touart; Frank Vogtner; and Laura Worsham, and showcase works of photography, painting, drawing and mixed media.

The third floor gallery in the University Library provides a space unique to few libraries; one in which students, faculty, staff, and the general public can view and enjoy the rotating art exhibits it holds. *Continued pg. 3*



*Reading Room*  
Lynda Smith Touart



## *The Dean's Corner: E-Books continued*

in the margins and highlight what they regard as significant. In searching for books to support their research in these literature laden fields, students and faculty are still finding the value of going to library stacks and examining books which they want to borrow. That experience cannot be replicated for E-books for now—and may never be possible. The libraries have, after all, developed large print collections over decades, and students and faculty still enjoy the serendipitous nature of searching through print books. So as long as academic libraries continue buying print books, libraries will be needed and cherished.

Nonetheless, USA libraries have been acquiring E-books for more than ten years. Most notably, the libraries have been buying electronic versions of reference books such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, directories, and almanacs for several years. Today, much of this type of information is available freely through the internet. USA libraries' reference collections, consequently, are much smaller than they had been in decades past.

Additionally, it is very important to note the differences in how academic libraries generally acquire print and E-Books. Companies like Amazon have a business plan based on individuals buying (licensing) one title at a time; libraries do not fit that business plan because many students may want to read (download) a title many times over years. Consequently, companies such as ebrary, Springer, and EBSCO, to name a few, have sprung up to re-sell E-book collections by broad subjects or disciplines to academic libraries. Libraries can buy an entire collection or just those in one of the subject categories. These companies allow libraries to "loan" E-books to students and faculty (authorized users) as often they like by signing an unlimited user license. The advantage to libraries is that acquiring E-collections, although initially expensive, is cost-effective. In 2010, USA University Library acquired about 20,000 multi-disciplinary, scholarly E-books with copyright dates between 2005 and 2010 from Springer at an average cost of a little more than \$3.00 each; had we acquired print copies over that period of time instead, the Univer-

sity Library would have spent well over a million dollars.

USA Libraries will continue to assess all aspects of the growing trend in libraries toward buying E-book collections. We have found that buying E-Book collections for scientific, technical, engineering, math, medical and business titles makes sense because their content is made available much quicker than print titles. (E-books do not need to be typeset, printed, and shipped to warehouses and retail outlets like print books do.) Theoretically, we believe that E-books will in time become very popular with highly mobile people like students and faculty because one small e-reader can store or access many titles. If all of a student's textbooks and course material were to become available electronically, for example, the student would not need to lug around heavy print books. Despite some printing and other problems or issues with E-books, students increasingly prefer their convenience and instantaneous access from any Internet accessible workstation, laptop, smart phone, or other device. USA students in the medical, technical, engineering, scientific, computer science, and business disciplines should find it easy to navigate E-books which contain a great deal of factual information. Students can use their indexes or table of contents to find and read specific chapters or sections time and time again whenever they need to do so. But it may be many years until the possible becomes reality.

Dr. Richard Wood

Dean, University Libraries

  
Trusted Content. Instant Answers.



“THE ADVANTAGE  
TO LIBRARIES IS  
THAT ACQUIRING E-  
COLLECTIONS,  
ALTHOUGH  
INITIALLY  
EXPENSIVE, IS  
COST-EFFECTIVE.”

## *The Gallery: continued*

Since its inception in 2003 by Dr. Richard Wood, Dean of the University Libraries, the third floor gallery has hosted 10 to 12 shows each year.

The University Library held the opening reception for the “DepARTmental” collection on January 7 in the Library’s third floor gallery. The collection will remain on display until February 25. The exhibition is free and the public are encouraged to view this special collection during the library’s operating hours.

For information on the 3rd floor gallery and upcoming exhibitions, see

<http://www.southalabama.edu/librarygalleries/about.html>

## *Ellen K. Wilson Receives Excellence in Librarianship Award for the University Libraries, April 2010*

The 2010 recipient for the Excellence in Librarianship Award for the University Libraries is Ellen Knowlton Wilson, Instructional Services Librarian. The Excellence in Librarianship Award committee cited Ellen as making extraordinary contributions to the reference department, the University Library, and the University of South Alabama community. Of particular note are Ellen’s contributions in library instruction design and scheduling, online library tutorials, and her work with the Freshman Seminar instructors.

In addition to Ellen’s contributions to the University, the award committee noted her exemplary work in the profession of Library Science. Ellen serves as Secretary of the Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries and has presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference, the Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference, the USA Research Forum, and the Alabama Library Association Annual Conference. Ellen has also conducted several on-campus PETAL workshops for both university faculty and Mobile County Library Media Specialists.



*Watermelons*  
Walter Beckham

*I Love You*  
Frank Vogtner



Ellen’s numerous service activities include serving as the President of the University Libraries Forum. She also serves on the University Libraries’ Public Relations Committee, as well as the University Writing Committee. Ellen has represented the University Library at JagFest, the HR Benefits Fair, and Student Move-In Day at the dorms.

Elizabeth Rugan  
Reference and Instruction Librarian

“SINCE ITS  
INCEPTION IN 2003  
BY DR. RICHARD  
WOOD, DEAN OF  
THE UNIVERSITY  
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### *New Hires & Retires*

Elizabeth Rugan has recently joined the staff of the University Library as its Instruction and Reference Librarian, Assistant Librarian. Beth has her Masters in Library and Information Science from Louisiana State University. She also holds an M.A. in English from LSU and was a teacher before she came to USA. In addition to her reference duties, Beth will co-design and implement the information literacy program at the University Library.

Welcome Beth!

Dennis Guion, after serving the University Library for 7 years as the Head of Circulation and Reserves, retired in December 2010. The University Library held a retirement party as a cake and cookie filled send-off for Dennis.

Enjoy your retirement Dennis!



## From the USA Archives

The USA Archives recently acquired the following collections: Mobile Bar Association President's Files (1932-2006), The Gaylord Lee Clark Photograph Collection, and the Wladimir Wertelecki Papers. The Mobile Bar Association President's Files (1932-2006) is a large collection organized chronologically by past presidents. These files include bulletins, by-laws, committee reports, membership lists, minutes, financial documents, photographs, and scrapbooks related to the Mobile Bar Association and the Mobile Bar Auxiliary. Among the subjects included in the records are the changes to the city's form of

government, continuing legal education, indigent representation, Law Day, legal aid, the Mobile Hospital Board, political contributions, and zoning (15.75 cubic feet).

The Gaylord Lee Clark Photograph Collection is a photograph collection comprised of twenty-seven original black and white prints depicting various scenes from the John Starke Hunter Plantation, which was located near Selma, Alabama. The images date from about 1894 to circa 1906.

The Wladimir Wertelecki Papers (1980-2001) is a collection from

one of the University's current outstanding faculty members. Dr. Wladimir Wertelecki has been involved in the department of medical genetics at the University of South Alabama since 1974, currently serving as professor and chair. His papers consist of annual reports for the USA College of Medicine, correspondence, course guides, magazines, maps, medical documents, pamphlets, photographs, and a poster. Subjects include USA College of Medicine and genetic defects as well as Wertelecki's work on Cuban health issues (2 cubic feet).

Carol Ellis, University Archivist

"CURRENTLY,  
13,610 [E-BOOK]  
RECORDS HAVE  
BEEN ADDED TO  
SOUTHcat, MAKING  
THEM EASIER TO  
FIND THAN THROUGH  
THE NATIVE  
INTERFACES."



Mobile Mardi Gras Royalty, 1907

Image courtesy of USA Archives,  
Overby Collection

## In the News:

In 2010, the University Library added a large quantity of e-books from Springer, NetLibrary, ACLS, and Ebrary to enhance their electronic book collection. These titles cover a wide variety of disciplines, from the arts and humanities to the sciences, and will give students and faculty immediate access to valuable resources.

Kathy Wheeler and Muriel Nero, in conjunction with Kathi Gradle at the Computer Center, manage the addition of these titles to the catalog, examining the records and mak-

ing any necessary changes before the e-books are added to the collection. Currently, 13,610 records have been added to SOUTHcat, making them easier to find than through the native interfaces.

To access the Library's ebook collection through SOUTHcat, go to <http://library.southalabama.edu/>.

Under Find Books & More, choose SOUTHcat. Once in the catalog, you can search by keyword terms and limit to either University Library Electronic Books or Biomedical

Library Electronic Books. The Library is pleased to make these books available as a complement to its current print collection, and we hope you enjoy having access to book material from your office, home, or wherever you happen to be with your computer.

Kathy Wheeler, Electronic  
Services Librarian

Muriel Nero, Catalog Librarian

This newsletter is published irregularly as a service to the University Community.

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**CHECK OUT  
OUR BLOG!**

**[HTTP://  
LIBLOG-  
USA.BLOGSPO  
T.COM/](http://liblog-usa.blogspot.com/)**

## *News from the Biomedical Library*

USA Biomedical Library's most renowned example of "librarian as activist" came just this past December (2010) when Assistant Director for Collection Management Jie Li and her husband Cai Chu were invited by the Norwegian Nobel Committee to attend the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony in Oslo, Norway to celebrate their friend and fellow activist 2010 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo, who was not present at the ceremony because he is serving an 11-year sentence in China for "inciting subversion to state power." Jie and her husband, Chu, started working with Liu in 2001 when they and a group of Chinese writers formed the Independent Chinese PEN Center (ICPC), an affiliate of the International PEN. Liu and Chu were elected president and vice-president of ICPC in 2003 and worked together to advocate freedom of information, freedom of speech and human rights in China. In 2006, Liu and Chu formed Democratic China, Inc., a non-profit organization supported by the National Endowment for Democracy. The organization publishes a Chinese language journal, *Democratic China Electronic Journal*, a platform for discussing

and debating on China's peaceful transformation to democracy. The journal's principles are democracy, freedom, human rights, rule of law and constitutionalism.

Jie, who has been a librarian with the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library for fourteen years says, "As a librarian, defending freedom of information, freedom of expression and freedom of publication is our responsibility." Access to information in the areas of research, teaching and patient care, and the freedom to use and disseminate that information has always been a passion for faculty and staff at the USA Biomedical Library.

Beverly Rossini  
Outreach/Information Resources Librarian,  
Biomedical Library

## *Movers and Shakers: University Librarians' Professional Activities*

**Ellen Wilson** served on the editorial advisory board for the book "Technology Integration in Higher Education" (IGI Global: 2011), which is edited by three USA faculty members.

**Ellen Wilson** presented a poster, "Citation Analysis of Undergraduate Honors Theses," at the USA Research Forum.

**Ellen Wilson** was elected to a second term as secretary of Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries.

**Ellen Wilson** presented a paper, "Integrating Information Literacy Instruction into an Upper-Division Writing-Intensive Course," at the Alabama Library Association annual meeting in Huntsville.

**Ellen Wilson** presented "Teaching with Web 2.0" as part of the PETAL faculty development offerings.

**Ellen Wilson's** article, "Integrating Information Literacy Instruction into an Upper-Division Writing-Intensive Course," (co-authored with USA political science professor Jeffrey Blankenship) was published in the Fall 2010 (Vol. 58, Number 3) issue of *The Southeastern Librarian*

**Vicki Tate's** article, "GODORT Archives: Preserving Our History," was published in the Summer 2010 (v. 38, Number 2) issue of *Documents to the People*.

**Vicki Tate** serves as the moderator for GOVDOC-L, a listserv based discussion forum about government information and the Federal Depository Library program.

**Vicki Tate's** article, "Notable Government Documents 2009," will be published in the May 15, 2010 (Vol. 135, Number 9) issue of *Library Journal*.

**Vicki Tate** attended the American Librarian Association / GODORT Conferences at both Washington D.C. and Midwinter in San Diego.

**Vera Finley** is serving the community through The Links, Incorporated project involving The Boys and Girls Club in an effort to reduce childhood obesity. This program emphasizes learning healthy eating habits.

**Paula Webb** is organizing and hosting the Brown Bag Series; a series of talks discussing a wide range of topics highlighting Government Documents—topics include Identity Theft Prevention and Healthy Lifestyles.

**Kathy Wheeler** is the current newsletter editor for the Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries, where she serves on the Executive Board.