



Volume 3, Issue 2
Spring 2006

MARY AND JOHN
GRAY LIBRARY

FROM THE STACKS

NEW ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The Mary and John Gray Library's web site now offers the option to list our electronic resources by subject area. To access the electronic resources, start at the library's home page at <http://library.lamar.edu>, then click the "Electronic Resources" link. After signing in with your barcode number, you may select to list the electronic resources by title or by subject.

The Library has recently added several new resources to its collection, including the following:

Communication and Mass Media Complete provides indexing and abstracts for over six hundred journal in communication, mass media, and related disciplines. Over two hundred of these journals are available full-text. Additionally, *Communication and Mass Media Complete* provides over 2,500 profiles for significant, prolific, and often cited authors.

Current Research @ Lamar University allows users to search for theses and dissertations from Lamar University graduates. Most theses and dissertations completed since 1996 are freely available for download from *Current Research*. Theses and dissertations that are not available for download from *Current Research* are available in the Gray Library. To find dissertations from institutions other than Lamar, use the *Dissertation Abstracts* database.

The Gray Library's electronic resources menu now features a link to the *Directory of Open Access Journals* maintained by the head office of the Lund Universities Libraries. The *Directory*, which is freely available to all at <http://www.doaj.org>, provides access to over two thousand "open access" journals in several disciplines. "Open access" journals are publications made available for free on the internet. The *Directory* only includes quality controlled research journals. For more information, go to <http://www.doaj.org/articles/about>.

Georef, produced by the American Geological Institute, includes records from books, maps, conference papers, reports, and over three thousand journals on geological topics. Coverage of North American geology extends to 1785; coverage of world geology extends back to 1933.

Knovel Library includes a collection of over six hundred books and databases on a variety of scientific topics. The Gray Library subscribes to the life sciences and chemistry sub-set of *Knovel Library* which provides full access to several databases and tables as well as the full text of numerous codes, guides, handbooks, manuals, reference books, and similar sources. Users can search the entire *Knovel Library*, or may limit searches to just our full-text access by selecting the "My Subscription" search option.

For assistance on accessing or using any of the Library's electronic resources, contact the reference desk at 880-1898.

Jeff Lacy
Electronic Services Librarian



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FROM THE DEAN



Dr. Christina Baum
Dean of Library Services

“Room 207 will now become a Listening/Viewing Room for media.”

With Hurricane Rita behind us, the Mary and John Gray Library is moving forward with its renovations! The new roof for the building is scheduled for early April, and when that is completed, the University Reception Center on the eighth floor will be completed as well. The library staff miss the extra “busyness” in the building when a university event is taking place. I think it’s fair to say that the entire campus misses the eighth floor being open.

The staff is currently awaiting new study furniture for the students on the first and second floors of the library. The first part is scheduled to arrive on April 7; the remainder of the furniture will be delivered in approximately three weeks. I have been planning for this since my first day on the job in 2004. Both floors will have all new study tables and chairs which will give a great new look and a much needed updated appearance. There will be a focus on more group study areas as well as different table sizes for various study habits. Overall, the library will gain more study seating space. Four new lounge chairs and a few occasional tables will also be added to the first floor. In the near future I would also like to add a few lamps and select some artwork for the walls on the first floor.

Last year, new comfy lounge chairs and sofas were added to the second floor and we are currently adding some occasional tables. The students really enjoy this

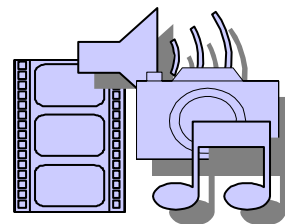
lounge seating and it is in great demand! Both of these floors see a lot of student traffic during the day and evening hours. In fact, we’ve seen an increase of students using both floors since returning from Hurricane Rita. We love it!

We are also in the process of renovating Room 207. Several years ago this room was the Environmental Library but a majority of those materials will be incorporated into the regular stack areas. Room 207 will now become a Listening/Viewing Room for media. These stations have been behind the Reserve Desk, in work space, for years. I want to separate office and study space and give the students a special area to listen to CDs, tapes, records, etc. There will be three fully-equipped stations in this new room. We are also moving all of

the phonograph albums (Yes, they are still used!) from the seventh floor Media Services to Room 207. They will be shelved in easily accessible storage units. This will be a much more personable and attractive space for the students.

Stay tuned for further developments! Great things are happening in the library. Why not come over and check us out?

Christina Baum
Dean of Library Services



PLEASE GIVE TO THE LIBRARY

We invite you to contribute to the Friends of the Library Endowment Fund. The endowment is a permanent fund that provides continuing support for the library and permits purchases not possible under regular budgetary allocations.

To donate to the Friends of the Library Endowment Fund please print a gift form from <http://dept.lamar.edu/advancement/advweb/giftform.asp>. On the form, please note the library as the beneficiary. Mail your donation and the completed form to:

Lamar University Advancement
P. O. Box 10011
Beaumont, TX 77710-0011

The library is truly the heart of the campus. Your gift to the Friends of the Library Endowment Fund will help meet the informational needs of future students and faculty.

Thank you!

STACK INVENTORY—A LIBRARY OPERATION

Stack inventory is a project undertaken by the Gray Library Systems Department staff during 2005. Now that the development phase of the project is completed, Jan Kemp, Assistant Library Dean, announces that the Circulation staff — including Fay Sands, Kirk Smith, Quin Wolters, Sherra Thomas, Pat Ruff and several students — will take over. Circulation staff will be using portable barcode readers to scan the barcode of each book, the barcode readers hold the barcode numbers in memory until they are downloaded into a PC. That

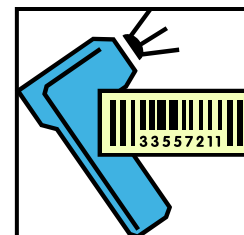
scan file is then formatted and saved to a server share. The server share is accessible to everyone who is working on the project. After the scan files are uploaded to the server share they are then entered into the Library's computer system and compared using an existing database of over 700,000 bibliographic records. A bibliographic record is a standardized file that provides information about each book or other library item in the Gray Library. Resulting reports from this process will list what was scanned, how many

were scanned, what is missing, what is out of order, and unknown or what should not be on the shelf. Examples of "unknown" items could be books received from other libraries and re-shelved in error, or books that have been withdrawn from the collection.

The Circulation Staff is off to a fast start scanning each night, running the reports and reconciling reported problems in the stacks. This will be the first inventory since the Library updated the computer system in 2003-2004.

So if you see a portable barcode scanner being used in the Gray Library stacks, you know that we are taking stock of what is on the shelf. We do this to make the Library easier to use. We can then put books in order and remove from our records those books that cannot be found.

Virginia Allen
Library Systems Coordinator

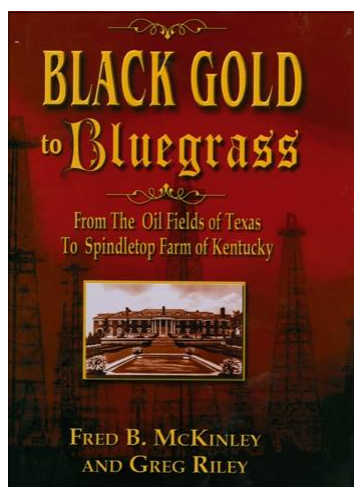


GRAY LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES

The Spring Lecture featured Fred B. McKinley and Greg Riley, authors of **Black Gold to Bluegrass: From The Oil Fields of Texas To Spindletop Farm of Kentucky** (Eakin Press). The lecture was held on April 10, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the John Gray Center Auditorium.

The presentation was accompanied by a color slide show taken from rare 1920s movie clips provided by Yount family descendents and others. A dessert reception and book signing event followed the lecture. The lecture was well attended and enjoyed by many members of the community.

The book traces the life of Frank Yount, a water well driller turned wildcatter, beginning with his partnership with Thomas Peter Lee of Houston, and the forma-



tion of the Yount-Lee Oil Company. Mr. Yount's ties to Beaumont are closely examined throughout the book. Utilizing family manuscripts, oral interviews and company records, the authors show how important this oil company was to this region. This gripping account covers a lot more than oil! The car collection, the Saddlebreds, the violin collection, the Jersey dairy, the construction of the Mildred Building and much more.

Fred McKinley and Greg Riley are both natives of Beaumont and attended Lamar University. Fred currently resides in North Carolina and Greg lives in Cleveland, Texas.

Christina Baum
Dean of Library Services

“The authors have recaptured an important episode in history, the story of Frank Yount and the second Spindletop oil discovery.”

Dr. Ralph Wooster
Professor of History,
Lamar University

“Black Gold to Bluegrass fascinated me from start to finish.”

Gerald H. Narvel,
General Manager,
Spindletop Hall, Inc.
Lexington, Kentucky

WHAT'S HAPPENING

NEW FACES



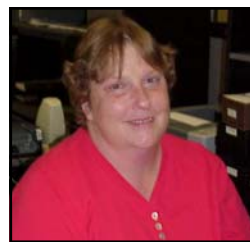
Bobby Clay

Bobby Clay is a Library Assistant in the Periodicals and Reserves Department. Bobby hails from Winnie, Texas, and he earned an Associate of Arts in Social Sciences degree from Lee College in Baytown. Bobby's work experience includes substitute school teaching and serving as an assistant manager at a retail store. His first day at work was February 15, 2006.



Kathryn Smith

Kathryn Smith was born in Lufkin, Texas and graduated from Corrigan-Camden High School. After graduating in 2003, Kathryn moved to Beaumont where she began pursuing a degree in graphic design. Before joining the Library staff in the Acquisitions Department, she worked on the second floor in Periodicals/Reserves as a student assistant. Kathryn has found the atmosphere to be very warm and welcoming and looks forward to working with everyone.



Jenny Narkiewicz

Jenny Narkiewicz has accepted the position of Library Assistant in the Interlibrary Loan Department. Jenny holds the Bachelor of Arts in Journalism degree from the University of Texas, El Paso. Her work experience includes positions as a staff writer at two southeast Texas newspapers, and she has worked for Lamar University twice before. Jenny began working in Interlibrary Loan on March 1, 2006.



Rhonda Volrie

Rhonda Volrie is a Technical Support Analyst Senior in the Library Systems Department. Rhonda holds a Bachelor's of Business Administration degree in Management Information Systems from Lamar University. Rhonda comes to us from the Beaumont Public Library, and she previously worked for Lamar State College in Port Arthur. Rhonda was also a student assistant in the Library Media Services Department while attaining her degree.

IN BRIEF

The Lamar University Staff Awards were held on February 9, 2006 and several of the Library staff received service awards:

Sherri Fitzgerald, Cataloging, 10 years;

Severa Norris, Interlibrary Loan, 15 years;

Charlotte Holliman, Special Collections, 20 years;

Jackie Coleman, Government Documents, 25 years.

Sharon Sanders and **Charlotte Holliman** of the Library served as members of the Staff Awards Committee.

A Distinguished Staff Award went to **Royce McGuire**, Library Administration Office. Royce also serves as Staff Senate President for Lamar University.

Kim Wiley, Systems, was recognized as one the

nominees for the Distinguished Staff Award.

Theresa Storey contributed four entries "Omar Bradley," "Selective Service Act of 1940," and "War Powers Act (World War II)" to the *United States at War* database available from ABC-CLIO.

Virginia Allen made a presentation entitled "Stack Inventory Using Wireless Barcode Readers" at the

SIRSIDynix Superconference in Nashville, TN on March 7, 2006.

Acknowledgment

The Gray Library Window Committee would like to thank the Alumni Office for their assistance with the Class of 1956 display.

IN THE LIBRARY

LIBR 1101: INTRODUCTION TO LIBRARY RESEARCH

Need help with research?

The Gray Library offers LIBR 1101, a one-credit hour course that instructs students in doing research. The course meets one day a week and provides students hands-on experience. The emphasis is not focused on using the Gray Library but information sources of all types. The objectives of the course are to ensure that students understand their information need, that they know how and where to search, that they can critically evaluate information, that they can accomplish a specific purpose with their research, and that they understand the ethical and legal uses of information. The course is taught by library faculty and also allows students to work with that fac-

ulty member on a longer term basis. We will offer four sections in the Fall at the following times: Mondays at 9:05am, Tuesdays at 2:00pm, Wednesdays at 11:15am, and Thursdays at 12:30pm. The Tuesday class will be part of the Psychology Learning Community for the Fall 2006 semester.

If the thought of using the library or doing a research paper frightens you, check us out in the Spring semester. For more information, contact Karen Nichols, Instruction Coordinator, by phone at 880-8131, by e-mail at karen.nichols@lamar.edu, or in person in GL 103.

Karen Nichols,
Library Instruction
Coordinator

NEW HISTORICAL STATISTICS SET

Over the years the *Historical Statistics of the United States* has been one of the best sources for historical data beginning with the colonial times. This title supplements the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* and gathers a variety of statistics from many federal agencies into one resource. The first edition of this title appeared in 1945 and was followed by two more editions in 1960 and finally 1975. The Census Bureau made a decision in the early 1990s not to publish the title any longer. This year Cambridge University Press published the Millennial Edition, a five volume set containing historical data from 1789 to 2000.

This new edition covers every area of United States history; the five parts include: population, work and welfare, economic structure and performance, economic sectors, and government and international relations. These areas are divided into thirty

nine chapters making up over 37,000 data series. Among the new topics found in this title are: American Indians, slavery, outlying areas, poverty, nonprofit organizations, race and ethnicity, and Confederate States of America. Each section is preceded by an updated essay with the quantitative history of the topic.

References include both statistical sources and historical literature. The text also includes over 170 figures including graphs and maps. This is a reference source that will be valuable to business, sociology, history, political science, and criminal justice majors. This new title is located on the first floor in the Reference Collection HA 202 .H57 2006.

Theresa Storey
Documents Librarian

Five @ Fifty



Although the library newsletter usually refrains from publishing personal information about the staff we are making an exception in this issue.

This year the Library will have five faculty/staff celebrating a milestone birthday.

The ladies celebrating their fiftieth birthdays are (pictured left to right):

Ramona Hutchinson, University Archivist

Karen Nichols, Library Instruction Coordinator

Becky Patterson, Library Assistant—Cataloging

Sherri Fitzgerald, Library Supervisor—Cataloging

Sharon Kelley, System Software Analyst—Systems



LAMAR UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S GALLERY EXHIBIT: 83 YEARS OF MORAL QUALITY



University Archives News

"Don't tell me about it – show it to me."

That idea is probably what Lamar University President, Dr. Jimmy Simmons had in mind when he observed early this spring that nowhere on this campus is there a single place honoring the past Lamar University Presidents.

President Simmons's solution to this oversight is the creation a new exhibit of portraits, a University Presidents' Gallery. The location of the Gallery has not been determined, but the theme of this new exhibit is presumably to give one and all an opportunity to view those who changed the nature of what is now Lamar University, gave it character and direction during their tenures. Perhaps the exhibit will inspire some future individual to step up and become part of the history of the institution.

To this purpose, the staff of the University Archives (where Lamar's history is kept), has busily rummaged through nooks and crannies of Lamar University to locate and assemble the group of portraits, performing the necessary housekeeping duties, dusting off gilded frames, touching up paint, cleaning glass covering the portraits.

As the film of dust is cleared from each face, more than the images of these men are emerging. A story bigger than the individual accomplishments of each president, a story that repre-

sents each faculty, staff, and student - past and present - that make up what is truly Lamar University. The real story of the University Presidents' Gallery exhibit is about enduring moral quality.

Enduring moral quality is about the past. We need to invoke our 'heroes', in our case the past presidents, to understand the moral truths that have made Lamar University what it is today. As each president has proven, Lamar University can update

alumni can finally see for themselves and know they are a part of a University where one's conduct, from president on down, extends far beyond the individual.

Mona Hutchinson,
University Archivist

"Nowhere on this campus is there a single place honoring the past Lamar University Presidents."



its policies, revise managerial approaches, improve technology, build new programs and buildings. We now meet all twenty-first century requirements for a successful university. But the University cannot update moral quality; it takes time to emerge.

The moral quality and leadership of eighty-three years of Lamar University's history is given perspective by the new exhibit of the University Presidents' Gallery. The Gallery ties us deeply to our past. By looking at these assembled portraits, generations of Lamar students, staff, faculty, and

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Co-editors:

Theresa Storey
Jeff Lacy

Newsletter Committee:

Theresa Storey, chair
Christina Baum
Ramona Hutchinson
Jan Kemp
Jeff Lacy
Royce McGuire
Kim Wiley

LIBRARY DOORS ARE OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

Although its primary mission is to support the teaching, learning, and research efforts of Lamar students and faculty, the Gray Library also welcomes members of the local community. The services listed below are available free of charge to everyone, regardless of affiliation.

Reference service is open to everyone. The reference desk is staffed at all hours when the library is open, seven days each week. Reference service is also available via e-mail by clicking the "Ask a Librarian" link on the library's home page

at <http://library.lamar.edu>.

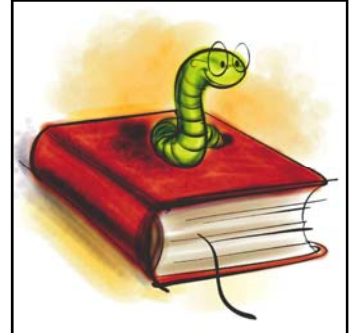
A variety of **full-text electronic databases are available for use on-site** in the library's two computer labs. These resources include the multi-disciplinary database *Academic Search Premier*, which provides online access to more than 4,600 full-text journals and indexes 8,100 journals. Other databases cover specific fields such as business and genealogy.

The **Media Services computer lab** on the seventh floor of the library is open to the public during all hours

when the library is open. The lab offers access to the internet and to a variety of programs, including word processing, spreadsheet, and statistical software.

The library collection, including **books, journals, government documents, and newspapers**, is open to community patrons for use within the library. Borrowing privileges are extended to individuals who join the Friends of the Library for a \$35 annual fee.

Jan Kemp
Assistant Dean of Library Services



Support the library and enjoy borrowing privileges. Join the Friends of the Mary & John Gray Library!

Friends of the Library Membership Form

(Annual Fee \$35)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City : _____

State and Zip: _____

Area Code + Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please mail the completed form and a check for \$35 to:

Friends of the Mary & John Gray Library
PO Box 10021
Lamar University
Beaumont, Texas 77710

Please make check out to the *Lamar Foundation*
If you have any questions, call 409-880-8133. Thank you!



LAMAR UNIVERSITY

A Member of The Texas State University System

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We're on the web at
<http://library.lamar.edu>

Visit your Library!

“The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest men of past centuries.”

**Rene Descartes (1596-1650),
 French philosopher and
 mathematician**



LIBRARY HOURS—SPRING 2006

Regular Hours

Monday through Thursday	7:30 a.m.—12:00mid
Friday	7:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
Sunday	2:00 p.m.—12:00mid

Archives/Special Collection Hours

Monday through Thursday	9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Special Hours

Finals Week	May 2-4	7:00 a.m.—1:00 a.m.	
	May 5	7:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.	
	May 6	10:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.	
	May 7	2:00 p.m.—1:00 a.m.	
	May 8	7:00 a.m.—1:00 a.m.	
	May 9	7:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.	
	Mini-Session	May 10-11	7:30 a.m.—9:00 p.m.
		May 12	7:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
		May 13	10:00 a.m.—7:00p.m.
May 14		2:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.	
May 15-18		7:30 a.m.—9:00 p.m.	
May 19		7:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.	
May 20		10:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.	
May 21		2:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.	
May 22		7:30 a.m.—9:00 p.m.	
May 23-26		8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.	
Intercession Memorial Day Weekend Intercession, continued	May 27-29	Closed	
	May 30	8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.	
	May 31	Regular Hours resume	