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Collections Connections
Western Kentucky University Libraries & Kentucky Museum Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 2

Spring 1999

A History of Our Website

Led by Cindy Etkin, our former Government Information and Law Coordinator, University Libraries and Kentucky Museum made its World Wide Web debute in 1995. Two years later, Dean Michael Binder appointed a Web Site Working Group chaired by Ruth Kinnersley, Coordinator of Access Services, to bring a newly designed Homepage to the screen of our patrons. The original six buttons changed into links broken down to three columns, making more information available on the first page.

Propelled by the recent explosion of new and innovative technology, the Web Site Working Group (WSWG), now co-chaired by Haiwang Yuan, Web Site and Virtual Library Coordinator, along with Ruth Kinnersley, found it necessary to redesign the Libraries and Museum Homepage. The three columns of links were growing to a point where finding information was not as easy as it had been. Like a child, it began to outgrow its own clothes. We needed to find ways to address the problem while at the same time keeping the Homepage as user-friendly as it was meant to be. After months of hard work, blessed with the support from the Dean, the Department heads and the faculty and staff, our WSWG has been able to give our Homepage a newer design and look, made possible by new developments in web technology.

While sharing some common characteristics with the Western Online Homepage in color scheme and quick link layout, our new design at www.wku.edu/Library maintains an identity of its own. Apart from a banner with a line-up of the Libraries and Museum buildings in the shades of foliage and vegetation, a left-hand column features a list of links to ready information such as Ask Us, Library Hours, TOPCAT, WKU Search Engine, Libraries Web Index and the popular Electronic Databases. We plan to make this column available on each of our major web pages.

Another change, ironically, seems to be a reversal to our original Homepage: the three columns are broken up into categories again, this time eight instead of six. A fundamental difference, however, is made by the JavaScript technology. Instead of buttons that led to more layers of pages and columns of links that threaten to grow too long, now what we have is eight drop-down menus that display all the links on the same page at your choice. This third generation of our Homepage is built upon the success of the first and second generations and yet incorporates the advantages of the two into one: making access to information easy and fast.

More important than access is content. Not only did we add such new pages as the Dean's "Welcome Message", Strategic Long Range Plan, Frequently Asked Questions, Suggestion Box, University Archives and new exhibits in the Kentucky Museum, we also revised pages like

Workshop Schedules and Faculty/Staff pages to make them more up-to-date and accessible. The Web Site Working Group is engaged in more than half a dozen new projects and the task of keeping information on our web pages current. In addition, we are creating pages to celebrate the Southern Kentucky Festival of Books and National Library Week in April.

The completion of the Homepage is just the beginning--the beginning of a process of making our web pages more user friendly, informative and interesting. An online Satisfaction Survey is now accessible from our site. Please visit us and continue to contribute your invaluable feedback.

~Haiwang Yuan and Michael Binder

Southern Kentucky Festival of Books

Please join us at the Southern Kentucky Festival of Books at the Warren County Convention Center April 16-18! The festival is a three day literary celebration organized by WKU Libraries, the Bowling Green Public Library, and Barnes & Noble Booksellers. Scheduled during National Library Week, the goal of the Southern Kentucky Festival of Books is to promote literacy in the region and the encourage the love of books.

R. L. Stine, author of the #1 best-selling children's book series, Goosebumps, will be featured at the festival, along with award-winning producer, director, and screen writer, John Carpenter. A few other high profile literary figures, like Richard Taylor, the newly designated "Poet Laureate" of Kentucky will be attending the festival. Scholarly authors will be in attendance too, like Dr. James Haskins, the highly acclaimed author from the University of Florida. Some 75 other local, regional, and nationally known authors, to numerous to mention, are also expected at the festival - your favorite might be among them! Come and find out!

Governor Paul E. Patton has agreed to serve as the event's honorary chairperson, and schedule permitting, he will be on hand during some of the activities. The Southern Kentucky Festival of Books has been designed to be a family event. Celebrity readings, demonstrations, panel discussions, and a number of Antiquarian Book Dealers will be on hand at the festival to provide plenty of activities of interest to both children and adults.

Many children's activities are planned for the festival. Nearly every children's author indicated a willingness to do storytelling, readings, etc. for the young people. There will also be a range of hands-on activities for children: making bookmarks, book making, button creation, coloring sheets, goody bags, and even photo opportunities with one of the eight costumed characters that will be on hand to interact with the children (including the Cat in the Hat, Garfield, etc.).

The festival is likely to be remembered as one of the foremost educational and cultural events in the region. In order to encourage students to Read! Learn! and Connect!, the theme of National Library Week this year, the Southern Kentucky Festival of Books has sponsored a number of contests in the area schools. Grades K-3 are to design a book cover; grades 4-6 are to write an essay of 300 words on "Reading is..."; grades 7-8 are to write a 500 word essay using the same

theme; and grades 9-12 are to write poetry. Winners in the various categories will receive prizes, and their work will be published in a festival tabloid! They will also have an opportunity to have "Lunch with R. L. Stine. All this in addition to bringing nearly 80 high quality authors, all of whom are willing to do readings, panel presentations, and book signings as a way to encourage interest in reading.

Scheduled for 7:00-9:00 p.m. Friday, April 16, is a "Meet the Authors" cocktail party and fund raiser hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Gary Ransdell. Tickets for this event can be purchased for $30.00 per person or $50.00 per couple.

Saturday, April 17, continues the Southern Kentucky Festival of Books and offers numerous special programs and book signings to expand everyones literary horizons. From 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. many authors, such as children's author, Marcia Thornton Jones (Godzilla Ate my Homework, Double Trouble Monsters, etc.); historian Ted F. Belue (A sketch of the Life and Character of Daniel Boone), and Marianne Walker (Margaret Mitchell and John Marsh; the Love Story Behind Gone with the Wind) will be on hand at the Bowling Green/Warren County Convention Center to sell, sign, or discuss their literary work. This event is free and open to the public. On Saturday afternoon, children are invited to "Lunch with R. L. Stine," a children's fundraiser at 11:30 a.m.; the cost is $10.00 per child. Saturday evening's events include a "Barbecue and Bluegrass" family event and fundraiser at Lost River Cave Valley from 6:30-9:00 p.m.. Tickets for this event can be purchased for $10.00 per person or $25.00 per family.

Sunday April 18, concludes the Southern Kentucky Festival of Books. Those who missed Saturday's opportunity to meet and speak with critically acclaimed novelists will certainly want to take advantage of this last opportunity to do so . Book signings and other special programs involving these authors will be held from Noon-5:00 p.m. Any proceeds from the book festival and all related activities will benefit: WKU Libraries, Bowling Green Public Libraries, and Barnes and Nobles' "First Book" project.

We encourage you to attend! Events and activities are still being added daily as we go to press, so please tune into one of our media related sponsors for updates on events. These sponsors include: WBKO-TV, Daily News, WKCT, WBVR, 103.7 "The Point," and Country 95. For more information or to volunteer to help, contact Earlene Chelf, Book Festival Director at Western (502) 745-5263; Natalie Hinkle, Barnes & Noble (502) 746-9779; or Alisa Carmichael at the Public Library (502) 781-4882.

~Elisabeth Knight and Darla Bressler

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Kentucky Library Acquires 1000th Broadside

The Kentucky Library announces the acquisition and cataloging of its 1000th broadside. Its 1000th what? A broadside is a term librarians use for a one-sided printed piece; they have been used for hundreds of years to make political announcements, advertise events, state personal beliefs, and make literary statements. The Kentucky Library's broadside collection features a wide array of subjects, ranging from announcements for dances, parties, circuses, political speeches, and religious events to poetry, political invective, and store advertisements. Each broadside is painstakingly cataloged to give it as many access points as possible. All references to people, communities, and counties are indexed as well as general subjects. The index to the first 1000 Kentucky Library broadsides contains over 8000 subject entries.

Selecting the broadside that would bear the significant number "1000" was difficult. Weighing the pretty illustrations of one broadside against the significant content of another was no easy task. The only definitive criteria was that the piece had to be from Kentucky and preferably from the South-central region. The broadside chosen is actually fairly small, measuring only 27.5 x 10 centimeters. It is an "extra" published by the Kentucky Standard, a Bowling Green newspaper that was printed in the mid-1850s by R. J. Smith. The Kentucky Library owns only five copies of this newspaper.

The Kentucky Standard issued this "extra" on June 20, 1854 to announce the Bowling Green "appearance...in a most destructive form" of the dreaded disease cholera. It lists three victims who "all died within the space of ten hours" and "a young lad by the name of John Beck, [who] was attacked, and survived only eight hours." The broadside characterizes the disease as "a type...to baffle all medical skill. Our physicians and citizens generally deserve all praise for their unrelenting attention to the sick."

As was common throughout cholera-stricken river towns in the South, Bowling Green citizens vacated the town during the epidemic. The broadside noted that "many of our citizens have quit the place and others are leaving." It also advised people "to abstain from eating fruits of every kind, and especially to exercise discretion and moderation in dieting," as "the cause of the first

case of cholera is attributed to imprudent and immoderate eating." The broadside also issued a call for Bowling Green's denizens to congregate at the Courthouse the next day at 8:00 a.m. "to consider the health of the town and to devise means for removing filth, and purifying the air."

At the bottom of the broadside, the editor noted that there would be "no paper on Saturday", because "our hands...like many others left the place...to get a little fresh air." Also near the bottom, the editor provided the following public service announcement: "the Ladies of the Presbyterian Church have deferred their Fair until next fall" due to the epidemic.

The Kentucky Library faculty and staff appreciate the generosity of Thomas N. Moody of Franklin, who donated this broadside. He has given numerous items to all areas of the Kentucky Building, and we acknowledge his effort to preserve Kentucky's history. Some might view Broadside 1000 as a stained, folded, yellowing sheet of paper; we call it a treasure.

~ Jonathan Jeffrey

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Topcat II: A New Endeavor

TOPCAT, WKU Libraries' online catalog since 1992, will be converted to a state of the art library management system over the summer that will transform the way local and remote users access the Libraries' collections. By August 1999, TOPCAT's outdated mainframe-based system, NOTIS, will be replaced by a cutting edge client-server system, Endeavor Voyager.

The "new TOPCAT" will have a graphical user interface operating in a familiar Windows environment. It will be accessible through standard Web browsers such as Netscape and Internet Explorer. The new Web-based TOPCAT will enable users to "point and click" to navigate between bibliographic records and seamlessly link to Internet resources cited in those records.

Using the new TOPCAT to locate materials held in the Libraries' collections will be easier and more flexible. Searching can be done by keyword, author, title, subject, call number, date and format. Retrieved records can be selected and marked to print, e-mail or download.

Endeavor Voyager has been funded by the Council on Postsecondary Education as the common library management system for the emerging Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual Library (CVL). By July 2000, all of Kentucky's public universities and colleges will implement the Endeavor Voyager system. With our expected August 1999 implementation, WKU Libraries will be among the first group of the public comprehensive universities (Eastern Kentucky, Kentucky State and Morehead) to offer the new library system.

By the July 2000 implementation of the CVL Endeavor Voyager library system, the new TOPCAT will enable users to simultaneously search any or all the collections of the libraries of Kentucky's eight public universities and 28 community and technical colleges.

Stay tuned for Commonwealth Virtual Library developments in future issues of *Collections and Connections*!

~ Elaine Moore

Jonesville Artwork on Exhibit

Several watercolors by regional artist Ivan Wilson help document the homes, businesses, and inhabitants of Jonesville, a former African-American community in Bowling Green. Located on the edge of the WKU campus approximately where Diddle Arena and Smith Stadium are now located, Jonesville was demolished as part of urban renewal efforts in the 1950s and 1960s. The paintings will be on display through the summer.

~ Sandy Staebell

Civil War Re-enactment

A Civil War encampment was held on the front lawn of the Kentucky Building February 6, 1999 in association with the Kentucky Museum's exhibit "A Kind of Nobility: The Kentucky Orphan Brigade" sponsored by FIRSTAR, which opened February 2nd.

Men came from over 33 different Kentucky counties to enlist in the confederate army and the First Kentucky Brigade departed from Bowling Green in 1862. Because the state of Kentucky sided with the Union, none of these soldiers were permitted to enter the state again until after the Civil War ended, hence the name, the Orphan Brigade.

Civil War re-enactors portrayed the officers and enlisted men who served in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 9th Kentucky Infantry regiments during the Civil War. Tents were set up and campfires lit while the men drilled, watched the execution of a deserter, listened to Civil War political speakers vie for office, and participated as the camp chaplain led a religious revival. Saxton's Coronet Band entertained the crowds with period music, while Tim Parson took old-fashioned wet plate photos. The Orphan Brigade exhibit of memorabilia will be at the museum through July 31, 1999.

~Beth Knight

Documenting the Spirit!

Scrapbooks, photographs, diaries, letters, publications, class rings, and pennants all enhance our understanding of Western and its predecessor institutions. From alumni closets and attics, each new piece of the history of Potter College for Young Ladies, Ogden College, the Training Schools, College High, and the Bowling Green Business University gives us a more complete view of our heritage.

During the May dedication of the Gordon Ford College of Business, University Archives will open a Bowling Green Business University (BU) case exhibit in the lobby of Grise Hall. Western's relationship with the BU dates back to 1884 when the institutions were both part of the Southern Normal School and Business College. After more than fifty years of independence, they were reunited in 1963. The exhibit will provide a permanent location for exploring the social and educational life of business education in Bowling Green.

We are still in search of issues of various publications like the BUWKY and T'N'T [Toppers 'n Towers]. Photographs of student events and popular gathering places, like Boots and Saddle, University Inn, Van's, and the Goal Post are needed.

Please contact Sue Lynn Stone, University Archivist, at 745-4793 if you have items to donate.

~Sue Lynn Stone

Read! Learn! Connect! @ the Library!

On March 26, 1999, Mayor Eldon Renaud and Judge Executive Michael Buchanon will officially declare April 11-17 as National Library Week in Bowling Green and Warren County. In celebration of National Library Week 1999, WKU's University Libraries and The Kentucky Museum will sponsor "Read! Learn! Connect! @ the Library," a week of special programs to be held April 12-18. The calendar of events for this week-long celebration reveals diverse opportunities for literary growth and fun.

Monday, April 12, the first day of WKU's celebration, will feature "Reading & Relating," a program of storytelling, reading, and discussion, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the WKU Active Day Center, Room 150, Jones-Jaggers Hall. Monday evening, the WKU Cultural Enhancement Committee will sponsor a lecture by Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer and historian, Doris Kearns Goodwin, in the Van Meter Auditorium at 8:00 p.m. This lecture is free and open to the public.

Tuesday, April 13, will feature the Twelfth Annual Western Authors' Reception from 1:00-2:30 p.m. at the Faculty House. This reception recognizes WKU faculty members who have

contributed to scholarship within their disciplines through scholarly publication. The highlight of this reception is the presentation of the Faculty Library Award.

Wednesday, April 14, again offers participants of WKU's Active Day Center more Reading & Relating activities from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Room 150, Jones-Jaggers Hall.

Thursday, April 15, brings storytelling and related activities to participants of the Campus Child Care Center from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Room 150 of Jones-Jaggers Hall. The Glasgow Campus Library is featuring an Open House from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoon. Visitors will enjoy refreshments and a drawing for door prizes. Thursday evening from 7:00-9:00 p.m., Haiwang Yuan will present his popular Electronic Research Workshop, "Internet Browsing and Searching" in Room 116 at the WKU South Campus. Call (502) 745-6115 or visit the web site at web.reference@wku.edu to pre-register.

Friday, April 16, features "Library Palooza" at the Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center Plaza from 12:00-1:30 p.m. Music for the concert will be provided by Tweak, and door prizes will be awarded.

~Darla Bressler

Stray Daily News Issues Filmed

These headlines are from issues of Bowling Green's Daily News, which the Kentucky Library will soon have microfilmed for posterity: "For Kukluxing, Fourteen Men from the Galloways Mill Country [Warren County] Are Being Tried," (3 July 1899); "Two Desperate Prisoners Form a Bold and Sensational Plan to Escape from the County Jail," (21 Dec. 1930); "5,000 People Witnessed the Twin Unveiling of Monuments Yesterday at Fairview Cemetery," (28 Sept. 1908); "College Street Bridge Burned by Mob, Denhardt's Life Threatened," (12 Feb. 1915).

Historians use newspapers in interpreting community history. Without them these histories rest strictly on government documents, cultural analysis and oral tradition. The newspaper adds written commentary, advertising, society happenings, hard news, gossip, and features. They flesh out the skeleton of chronologies. "Newspapers chronicle the day to day events in a community's life." said Connie Mills, Kentucky Library coordinator. "In a sense they are the town's diary."

Many patrons who visit the Kentucky Library are dismayed that Bowling Green does not have a continuous newspaper available for research. Many of these people are genealogists searching for obituaries or other information related to their kin. Students use newspapers in completing assignments related to local history and how Bowling Green reacted to national events. Still others are serious researchers mining these information lodes for just the right quote or story for their articles or books. Although the Kentucky Library owns a number of Bowling Green newspapers, it does not have a significant run of any except the Daily News which is available on microfilm from December 1920 through 1979, the Times-Journal from 1920-1942, and the

Bowling Green Messenger from 1910-1918. Helm Cravens Library owns the Daily News from 1980 to the present.

In order to help alleviate this problem, the Kentucky Library will have approximately 100 stray issues of the Daily News from 1886 to 1920 microfilmed. Presently the deteriorating condition of the papers does not allow for public use. These issues have dribbled in one or two at a time for the last sixty years. Local history reveals that Bowling Green's newspaper office burned in the 1920s and with it a great deal of Bowling Green's recorded history went up in smoke. The Kentucky Library continues to solicit donations of any pre-1920 Bowling Green newspapers for the collection. Every newspaper represents a piece of the local history puzzle; every found issue makes the picture clearer. Next year the Library has committed to microfilm stray issues of other Bowling Green titles.

Preparing the newspapers for microfilming is tedious work due to their fragile condition. The serials librarian cleans each issue and flattens it prior to repairing major tears. The Micrographics unit of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives in Frankfort will microfilm the papers.

~ Jonathan Jeffrey

Japanese Clothing on Display at the Kentucky Museum

During the next few months visitors to the Kentucky Museum can view two exquisite kimonos and obi as well as a pair of tabi (split-toed socks) and zori (sandals). This attire offers clues to Japan's past, as clothing in Japan evolved over hundreds of years. Today, kimonos and obi continue to hold an important place in Japanese society, typically representing the wearer's social status and upbringing, and many young women attend kimono school in order to learn how to wear such garments correctly.

Traditionally, a mother gave her oldest daughter some of her kimonos when the daughter married. The obi and kimonos in this exhibit were ordered from a maker in Kyoto, since the donor, Miko Muragachi, was the second daughter. They are, in the words of the donor, a blend of old and new ideas. One of the kimonos features rather contemporary designs produced using the wax resist dye process, and the other has chrysanthemums accented with gold and silver thread. The obi were woven in the Nishijin Textile District of Kyoto, a place famous for its brocade obi.

These garments represent a bridge to old and modern Japan. More specifically, they symbolize the recent ties between the sister cities of Bowling Green, Kentucky and Kawinishi, Japan, and the efforts of the donor, Mrs. Muragachi, to help establish the relationship. In April 1997, she donated this clothing in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the city of Bowling Green. Mrs. Muragachi also made her gift as a way to honor her mother's memory.

~ Sandy Staebell