



Winter 2017

Library Update

~News from the University Libraries~

Message from the Dean



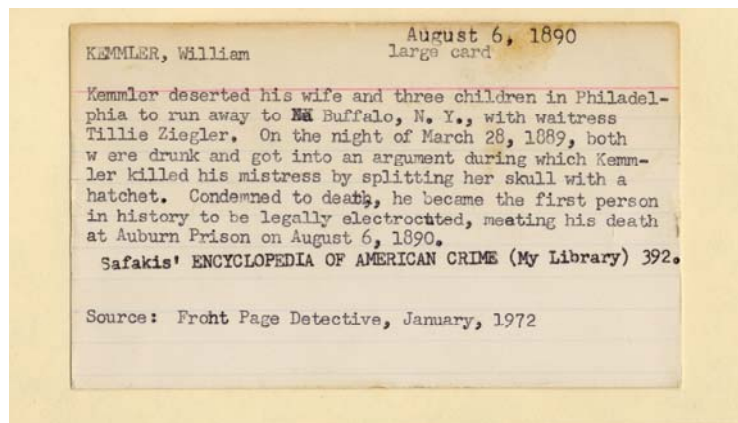
Welcome to the Winter 2017 issue of the University Libraries' newsletter. I am pleased to share with you updates on the Libraries' activities, highlighting our role in supporting, facilitating, and promoting faculty and student scholarship and learning. Of particular note is a grant of \$157,775 received by the Special Collections & Archives Department from the Council on Library and Information Resources to digitize the papers of M. Watt Espy, Jr. These materials document the history of legal executions in the United States from 1608 to 2002, and will be a valuable resource for

scholars worldwide. In this issue you will also read about two presentations in the Libraries' "Campus Conversations in Standish" series. Dr. Victor Asal presented "Criminalizing the LGBTQ Community and the Long Arm of the Religious State," and Dr. David Hochfelder spoke on "98 Acres in Albany: Telling the Social History of Urban Renewal." The Libraries offered programs to students to help them during finals, and participated in the University's orientation events at both the Uptown and Downtown campuses. Mark Wolfe, Curator of Digital Collections, reported on his activities during his recent sabbatical. You will also learn about new resources and many other developments in the University Libraries. Please enjoy catching up on the Libraries' activities, and consider supporting the University Libraries as we continue to help our faculty, staff, and students thrive.

Faculty Grants

Department of Special Collections & Archives Wins Grant to Digitize Materials on U.S. Executions

The M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives was awarded a \$157,775 grant last month to digitize and make freely available via the Web primary source materials that document the history of legal executions in the United States from 1608 in colonial Jamestown to 2002. The grant will support the conversion to digital format of the papers of M. Watt Espy, Jr. The grant was conferred by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). Brian Keough, Head of Special Collections and Archives, will lead the project.



M. Watt Espy, Jr. a native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama and a veteran of the Korean War, verified every legal, government-sanctioned execution in the United States from 1608 to 2002. Prior to Espy's painstaking and extensive research, most scholars estimated that there had been roughly 5,000 people executed in the United States from 1608 to 2002. Espy's research, which he started in 1970 using only his personal resources, verified that there had in fact been over 15,000 executions in the United States during that time period.

The 44 cubic feet of primary source materials and approximately 28,800 index cards (example, *above*) will be made full-text searchable, with information available on individuals executed; their race, gender, crime, method of execution; and Espy's written analyses. The digitized materials will form a first-of-its-kind online database to be called the Digital Archive of Executions in the United States.

CLIR "Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives" grants support innovative, efficient description of large volumes of archival collections that are unknown and inaccessible to scholars, yet contain substantive intellectual value. For further details about other funded projects go to: <http://www.clir.org/hiddencollections/awards/>.

Recent Events

Stress Less During Finals



The Libraries' "Stress Less During Finals" events continue to grow in popularity with students. Throughout final exams last semester, students were sure to experience a little Libraries-sponsored levity here and there with such activities as classic cartoons, jigsaw puzzles, a midnight primal group scream, four late-night coffee breaks, an always welcome visit from the Schenectady-based Therapy Dogs, coloring, and a make-your-own buttons crafts activity. For the buttons crafting activity (above), students cut out images from magazines – Beyoncé, Harley Quinn, Han Solo, and Lin-Manuel

Miranda were the most popular—and with the help of a button press provided by Carol Anne Germain, Subject Librarian for Informatics, Information Studies & Sociology, made buttons like no one else’s. The “Stress Less” offerings were organized by Glen Benedict, Access Services & Information Commons Evening Associate and Amanda Lowe, Outreach and Marketing Librarian.

Mid-Year Involvement Fair



Library staff greeted new and returning students (*left*) at the University’s 3rd Annual Mid-Year Involvement Fair two days after the start of the spring 2017 semester. Deborah Bernard, Carol Anne Germain, Irina Holden, Amanda Lowe, Tyler Norton, Karina Ricker, and Mary Van Ullen conveyed how all the Libraries’ resources and services can help UAlbany’s lifelong learners succeed now and in the future.

Welcome Back from the Dewey Graduate Library

About a week into the spring 2017 semester, librarians, staff, and graduate students at the Dewey Graduate Library set up a table outside the Husted Hall café and extended a “Welcome Back” to returning and new students. They shared information about the Libraries’ one-on-one research sessions, free software classes, abundant online research resources, and areas of expertise of its subject librarians. Trading cards and buttons featuring cartoon portraits of the Dewey Graduate Library’s subject librarians (*lower left*) were a big success. The event was organized by Lauren Puzier, Dewey Graduate Library Reference & Projects Librarian.



Campus Conversations in Standish

The Libraries' "Campus Conversations in Standish" series continues to draw crowds of students, faculty, and staff. The University Libraries launched "Campus Conversations in Standish" in spring 2015 to call attention to University at Albany faculty research and expertise and to connect members of the campus community and beyond in an exchange of ideas and perspectives. "Campus Conversations in Standish" are free and open to the public. They are held in the Patricia and J. Spencer Standish Board Room on the third level of the University at Albany's Science Library.

Rockefeller College's Dr. Victor Asal on Criminalizing the LGBTQ Community



The first "Conversation" of the spring 2017 semester featured Dr. Victor Asal, Chair of the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy's Department of Public Administration, and Associate Professor of Political Science, who presented a talk titled "Criminalizing the LGBTQ Community and the Long Arm of the Religious State." The program's 86 attendees left with an understanding of "othering" and the significant human rights violations being committed in parts of the world against sexual minorities.

History Department's Dr. David Hochfelder on the Human Side of Urban Renewal

Two weeks later, Dr. David Hochfelder, UAlbany Associate Professor of History, addressed a topic close to the Capital District—the building of the Empire State Plaza in the 1960s and the thousands of families it displaced. Titled "98 Acres in Albany: Telling the Social History of Urban Renewal," Dr. Hochfelder described his research to date on how the people of Albany experienced this large-scale urban redevelopment project, one of many that swept the country after World War II. The website for Dr. Hochfelder's ongoing public history research project may be found at: <https://98acresinalbany.wordpress.com>



Emergency Response Training: Saving Books



This is the alarming scenario Karen Kiorpes, Head of Preservation (*left*), presented to library staff at her January workshop, “Five Things You Should Do Right Now: Emergency Response Training 2017”: After a weekend of heavy summer rains, staff discover water pouring onto library stacks. The next day, mold is found growing in thick patches on boxes of archival documents housed temporarily in a basement storage room. And as luck would have it, the Libraries’ Preservation Department is out of town giving a presentation in Las Vegas. Kiorpes then instructed the roughly 40 workshop participants to form emergency response teams, which meant staff had to deal with the situation on their own! Following some written guidelines provided by Kiorpes, the teams attempted to tackle such issues as: How is mold cleaned-up? Should we be taking photographs? Where are those disaster kits, again? Should we put all the damaged books in a freezer? What if it starts raining again? Library staff left the workshop better informed about how to respond to a collections emergency correctly.

Collection Development Intern

Investigating Streaming Video

A few months ago, Gerald Burke, Subject Librarian for Art, English, Music, Philosophy, & Theatre wrote in *Library Update* (summer 2016) about how the University Libraries have been collecting video “relevant to faculty research and instruction” for 30 years. He described how video has changed formats several times since the 1980s and that today, the streaming video format is in high demand.

Identifying reputable businesses and organizations from whom the Libraries can curate a collection of high-quality streaming video is the research project of graduate school intern Emmalyn (Emma) Rogers (*right*). Emma is studying for her master’s at the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa from where she holds a bachelor’s in Foreign Language and Literature. Although Emma has family in New York City, she is impressed with the history, culture, and diversity of the Capital District and with the fact that the University at Albany is one of the largest public research universities in the country. Emma will be honing her investigative skills under the guidance of Mary Van Ullen, Director of Collection Development, until the end of April.



Student Advisory Board



The Student Advisory Board (SAB) advises the University Libraries on services to students, such as the Libraries' website, emerging technologies, new services, facilities, and reference and consultation services. Forty-three undergraduate and graduate students joined the SAB in the fall 2016 semester, including seven who served last year.

The SAB met twice during the fall. The meetings were led by the SAB's faculty co-chairs, Information Literacy Librarians Allison Hosier and Kelsey O'Brien. Deborah Bernard, Director of Public Services; Rebecca Mugridge, Dean of University Libraries; Joyce Rambo, Communications Coordinator; and Mary Van Ullen, Director of Collections attended the meetings as well. The students' comments, concerns, suggestions, and ideas were carefully noted and many are being investigated and implemented, such as evaluating library hours, printing costs, and installing a vending machine in the University Library that dispenses healthy snacks (*left*). At

the end of the semester, the Libraries sent a brief survey to the SAB to assess their experiences. When asked if they would serve on the SAB again, the answers were a resounding "yes." When asked "What is one new thing you learned about the libraries while serving on the Student Advisory Board?" one student wrote, "I didn't realize the full extent of library services—it's really quite impressive how much time and resources everyone spends trying to help out all of the students. We truly appreciate it, even if no one ever mentions it."

If you have a project or an idea that you would like to share with the SAB, please contact the faculty co-chairs of the committee, Allison Hosier, Information Literacy Librarian, at ahosier@albany.edu or Kelsey O'Brien, Information Literacy Librarian, at klobrien@albany.edu.

New Resources

American Antiquarian Society's Historical Periodicals Collection, 1684-1912

By Gerald Burke, Subject Librarian for Art, English, Music, Philosophy & Theatre

The University Libraries recently acquired a new online resource: the American Antiquarian Society's *Historical Periodicals Collection*. The database holds the scanned full-text of more than 6,500 historical periodical titles dating from 1684 to 1912. Subjects covered in the collection reach into every facet of American life, including science, literature, medicine, agriculture, women's fashion, family life, religion, and more.

This database of historical periodicals is chronologically organized into five series:

Series 1: 500 titles dating from 1684 through 1820.

Series 2: More than 1200 periodicals from 1821 to 1837 representing the Jacksonian Democracy era. Its broad scope includes agriculture, entertainment, history, literary criticism, and politics.

Series 3: More than 1,700 titles dating from 1838 through 1852. The themes presented reveal a rapidly growing young nation, where industrialization, the railroads, regional political differences, and life on the western frontier were daily realities.

Series 4: More than 1,100 titles dating from 1853 through 1865. While the Civil War is a focal point of the collection, there is also a diverse record of the continuance of daily life for many Americans, both leading up to and during the war. News from the battlefield can be found, in addition to the usual breadth of subject matter as in other collections.

Series 5: More than 2,500 titles dating from 1866 through 1912. The themes reflect a nation that persevered through a most difficult set of circumstances: a bloody civil war that claimed hundreds of thousands of lives; social turmoil as a result of the end of slavery; and a population rapidly expanding into the Western territories.

The database can be searched collectively or by individual series. For a complete list of the American periodicals included in these collections, please consult this webpage:

<https://www.ebscohost.com/archives/aas-historical-periodicals-collection> or to explore the series thematically consult this page: <https://www.ebscohost.com/archives/aas-thematic-collection>.

News from Special Collections & Archives

Department of Special Collections & Archives Launches New Website

The M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives has upgraded its website (<http://library.albany.edu/archive>) to enhance searching and functionality, and visibility of resources.

The redesign was the byproduct of a 2014-2016 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). Disparate software applications have been integrated under one search box making it possible for users to find student snapshots in the University Archives Photographs collection, browse through archival finding aids, find rare books in the online catalog (Minerva), and locate articles in the student newspaper going back to 1916. The site's new framework promotes good



design practices, reduces maintenance, and enables improved use of screen readers and other assistive technologies. “I would like to commend Greg Wiedeman, University Archivist, for his work on the web design to improve user’s experience, the Library Systems Department for helping us implement the new technologies for the site, and the campus’s Digital Media Department which transferred over 180,000 digital images created over the past 15 plus years,” says Brian Keough, Head of Special Collections & Archives. “We hope that students, faculty, and the general public will better understand what archives are, what services we provide, and the possibilities of research in Special Collections.”

Staff News

Carol Jewell, Serials Copy Cataloger, completed her MFA in Creative Writing (Poetry) from The College of Saint Rose in December 2016, while working full time. Carol has been writing since childhood, “but never pursued it in any kind of formal way” until four and a half years ago when the College of Saint Rose announced their MFA program. She applied and was one of the first students to be accepted. Her poetry has been published in *119 Howl*, *Up the River* and *The Orchards Poetry Journal*. She has read her poetry many times at public poetry readings and plans to do more. Carol is Chair of the United University Profession’s (UUP) Disabilities Rights and Concerns Committee. Last year, she published an article about disability in *The Voice*, the UUP’s official statewide publication. Carol has an AB in Russian Language and Literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an MLS from the University at Albany, and an MS Ed in Teaching English as a Second Language from the University at Albany.



Sabbatical Report: Mark Wolfe



By Mark Wolfe, Curator of Digital Collections

When I was 17 years old, I took my first job as a bagger at the Kroger grocery store in my small hometown in Ohio. It wasn’t long before I was promoted to the seafood shop. Later, I moved to the big city to take a job in a record store, then a security guard job at an art museum. I think you get the story—I’ve worked my entire life while fitting college and graduate school in between the times I was not working. My life for better or worse, has always revolved around a clock nearly every work day since I was in high school, and my sabbatical was not only a respite from my day to day librarian duties at the University at Albany, but a unique opportunity to recharge my life.

Last summer I coordinated with two fellow archivists on a possible panel session at the annual Society of American Archivists (SAA) conference this July, work not included in my original sabbatical

statement of activities. This session idea emerged through committee work I've done on the SAA's Regional Archival Associations Consortium and the upstart organization, ProjectARCC (Archivists Responding to Climate Change). The session includes archivists from across the country, including one from Hawai'i. The panel is entitled, "Document, protect, and mitigate: New perspectives on the role of archives and the natural environment," and addresses the role archivists have played in shaping, documenting, and in some cases, degrading the natural environment, and how archival repositories may be at risk from a changing environment.

After presenting at the 2016 Eastern New York Chapter of the Association of College & Research Libraries (ENY/ACRL) annual conference in Saratoga Springs, I was invited to write an article based on my presentation for the fall 2016 ENY/ACRL newsletter. The article approaches the topic of sustainability in libraries from the perspective of problem-solving. I use the work of Joseph Tainter who dispels the notion that sustainability in the natural environment or in an institutional setting can emerge merely by consuming fewer resources. I use his novel approach to explore complexity and sustainability in the library profession. I aim to have a draft of an extended version of my research project ready for submission to a peer-reviewed journal by this summer.

I also got a paper accepted for "Libraries and Archives in the Anthropocene: A Colloquium, 2017" which is a conference being held at New York University in May. This conference will be unique, because it is the first time that the library or archives professions have themed a conference entirely on environmental sustainability. It will be a great opportunity to discuss environmental issues with like-minded colleagues.

I'm happy to be back at work, and I believe this year is bound to be an exciting one for my Department as well as my opportunities in professional service.

Recent Faculty Publications

Holden, Irina I. "Expanding Instruction Beyond Library Topics: Teaching a First-Year Experience Course on Sustainability." *College & Research Libraries News* 78, no. 2 (2017): 66-69.

Wiedeman, Gregory. "Python for Archivists: Breaking Down Barriers Between Systems." *Practical Technology for Archives*, no. 7 (2017). <https://practicaltechnologyforarchives.org/>.

Recent Faculty Presentations

Wiedeman, Gregory. "No More Finding Aids: A New Frontend for Special Collections & Archives at UAlbany." Paper presented at New England Code4Lib conference, Amherst, MA, December 2016.

Wiedeman, Gregory. "APIs, WARCS, and NPL: How Technology has Created New Opportunities for Historical Research." Paper presented at Researching New York 2016/The Conference on New York State History annual conference, Albany, NY, November 2016.

Wiedeman, Gregory. "Automating Web Archives Records in ArchivesSpace." Workshop delivered at Beyond the Basics ArchivesSpace Skill Share conference, Philadelphia, PA, October 2016.

New Hires/Appointments



Amanda Lowe, was promoted to Outreach and Marketing Librarian on January 12. Lowe was hired at the UAlbany Libraries as Information Commons Evening Coordinator in November 2014 and was promoted to Lending and Access Services Associate in December 2015. She received her BS in English with a minor in Theatre Arts from SUNY Oneonta and her Masters in Library Science from the University at Buffalo

Departures



University Library Shipping & Receiving Supervisor Anthony "Tony" Latham retired at the end of February after 32 years of dedicated service to the University Libraries. Starting on a sunny June day in 1984 he thought he would give this job a few weeks to see if it would work out. He looks forward to fishing, hunting, taking care of grandchildren, and enjoying life with his family.



What They're Saying About Us On Twitter

Loving the new computer chairs in the uptown [@UAlbanyLibs](#) [@ualbany](#)

—June 13, 2015

[#UAlbany](#) Librarians ARE heroes! I was hungry and you fed me! Seriously, more [@UAlbanyLibs](#) [#OpenHouse](#) pics to come!

—October 30, 2015

Minerva in the science library is one of my favorite UAlbany landmarks

—April 19, 2016

THE SCI LIB GOT A HEALTHY VENDING MACHINE THANK YOU [@UAlbanyLibs](#) now I really don't ever have to leave the library lol

—April 20, 2016

Shout out to [@UAlbanyLibs](#)— terrific resource, inter-library loan service, [@UAlbanyHistory](#). Thanks!

—July 26, 2016

Tried the [@UAlbanyLibs](#) chat with a librarian and was pretty impressed !! [#Thumbsup](#) [#Ualbany](#) !

—September 20, 2016

[#UAlbany](#) there are therapy dogs in the lobby of the Science Library!!! superrrrrrr adorableeeeeeeeeee [#instantsmiles](#)

—October 18, 2016

University Libraries—Past and Present

Past

...under construction in 1966



...and Present

Students fueling up for more late-night studying at one of the Libraries' "Coffee for Finals" events in December.



The University at Albany Libraries comprise the University Library, the Science Library, and the Dewey Graduate Library. A member of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the 124 largest, most comprehensive research libraries in North America, the University at Albany Libraries serve the University's students, faculty, and staff to further their academic achievement and success, as well as the citizens of New York State, and scholars and researchers from around the world. For up-to-date information about the University Libraries, visit library.albany.edu.

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