

# Polk Library Newsletter

Winter 2011



## metamorphosis

MORE SCHOLARLY JOURNALS TAKE FLIGHT AS ONLINE CONTENT

by Ron Hardy



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By:

Communications  
Librarian:  
Joshua Ranger

Communications  
Interns:  
Kim Parsons &  
Amber Bemis

Polk Library will be completing its next step in migrating research materials from print to online format when its last 275 traditional paper subscriptions of scholarly journals will move to online format only. When completed next month, UW Oshkosh students, staff and faculty will have access to 500 individual journal titles online, plus an additional 4,500 scholarly titles made available from publisher databases including Elsevier, Sage, Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford University Press, and the American Chemical Society. These are in addition to 10,000 full text journals included in 100+ subscription databases.

The reason for the move is most likely familiar to everyone; online journals offer vastly improved accessibility. Online journals can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from an office, dorm room, and off-campus locations through our proxy authentication system. Unlike print journals, multiple users can access the same article at the same time in the online environment. Polk Library's "link resolver" can provide users with a citation in one database to the full text of the article in another. Complete online access to scholarly journal content also provides an immediate benefit to the increasing number of distance education courses being taught by UW Oshkosh. Faculty can embed links to the full text of required readings on their D2L course pages or online syllabi.

In acknowledgment of the special skills needed to manage the online content, Polk recently hired an Electronic Resources Librarian (see page 3) who is dedicated to ensuring consistent access to our online information resources.

In addition to the move of scholarly resources to digital formats, Polk Library also supports the casual browsing of traditional magazines and newspapers in Polk 101. Polk continues to receive 150 magazines, newspapers, and trade journals that have more of a "sit down and browse" appeal, such as Psychology Today, Nursing Times, Mother Jones and Astronomy.

For any questions regarding the completion of Polk Library's scholarly journal "metamorphosis" contact me, Ron Hardy, [hardyr@uwosh.edu](mailto:hardyr@uwosh.edu).



by Patrick Wilkinson

It is crunch time for students. The fall session is ending, and students feel the pressure. They have papers and projects to complete and tests for which to study. Where do they turn? Large numbers turn to Polk Library. During the next two weeks, Polk 101 and the rest of the building will be filled with serious looking students working by themselves or in groups. The library provides special help to students during the final week of the session by extending its hours to 24X7, providing free coffee and distributing cookies.

Yet, why do students come to the library and what are they doing? The report, *Balancing Act: How College Students Manage Technology While in the Library during Crunch Time*, gives some interesting preliminary answers to these questions. *Balancing Act* was written by Alison J. Head, PH.D and Michael B. Eisenberg, PH.D for Project Information Literacy.<sup>1</sup>

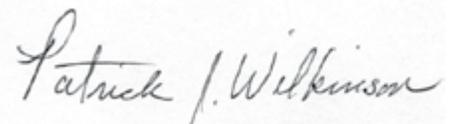
The report, based on interviews with students in the library during finals weeks at ten different campuses across the country, indicates that students especially value the library as a place during this period. They feel the library helps them focus and minimizes distractions. They find the library a reliable place where they have the tools they need to accomplish their work. Also, students like the atmosphere of “common purpose.” The fact that they are studying with their peers seems to be a bonding experience or reinforcement mechanism. One student quoted in the report said it very well. “It’s the vibe of the library that brings me here—everyone is working on something, everyone is getting something done—it spreads through the room.”

The research teams asked students using technology in the library what they were doing the hour before the researchers approached them. The top four answers were checking for new messages (email, Facebook, etc.), preparing assignments for submission, studying for courses, and browsing the internet for personal interests. The researchers found that students seamlessly used their time doing academic work and keeping in touch.

The researchers learned that students generally only used two technology devices at one time. [This was considered light technology use by the study.] Students used a smart phone and a laptop/workstation. They often preferred a library laptop or workstation because library equipment did not have the distracting software that might be on a personal laptop.

What applications did students have open on their primary IT device? The majority had a web browser and a word processor open. A third had e-mail open. Small numbers had media or games open. What were students using with their web browser? The top two sites opened were Facebook (13%) and email (11%). The top two clearly academic sources open were a learning management system (9%) and combined library resources (6%). Google was frequently open (7%).

Of course, there is a good deal more in the study of interests. Some students use Facebook in creative ways in pursuing their academic careers and others look for expert information and lectures from campuses and research institutions around the world. If you are interested on how students use the library and technology in general at crunch time, this is an interesting report.



1 [http://projectinfolit.org/pdfs/PIL\\_Fall2011\\_TechStudy\\_FullReport1.1.pdf](http://projectinfolit.org/pdfs/PIL_Fall2011_TechStudy_FullReport1.1.pdf)

# STAFF PROFILE: Jeffery Brunner



Polk Library is excited to welcome its newest academic staff member, **Jeff Brunner**, Polk's first electronic resources librarian.

Brunner grew up in Kenosha and attended the University of Wisconsin Green Bay. He originally planned to pursue a degree in history education,

Brunner's affinity for libraries started early in his college career. He started out as an intern in the archives department of the UW Green Bay's Cofrin Library. After he completed his internship, he stayed at the library's circulation desk. He quickly came to realize this was the type environment he enjoyed working in.

After graduation, Brunner found a job working in customer service where he developed his leadership and management skills. In 2006, he saw a job posting back at the UWGB library for an interlibrary loan position. He applied and got the job, hoping for a chance to advance in the profession. Brunner attended UW Milwaukee's School of Information Science through their innovative distance education program, earning his degree in 2010. In 2011, when a professional Electronic Resources Librarian position opened up at Polk Library, Brunner did not hesitate to apply.

Brunner's main tasks include organization of the library's digital collections, moving traditional paper journal subscriptions to digital and maintaining the latest database system for digital content collections.

"Enjoying the more technical side of librarianship, I was very excited about the position," said Brunner.

"When people think of libraries, they automatically associate them just with books. This is something that I would like to change," said Brunner. "Libraries have been pushing towards digital content for 20 years, and it is has finally become something that is expected. "

Brunner said that he immediately loved the atmosphere at Polk Library and knew right away that he was aligned with the forward-thinking philosophy the leadership team held.

"Honestly my favorite part of the job is the people I get to work with," said Brunner. "That sounds like something everyone would say, but in this case it is really true."

Describing himself as an "avid gamer," Brunner spends his free time playing both video games and board games. He also enjoys spending time with his 3-year-old daughter. A voracious reader, Brunner now must settle on listening to audio books during his commute from Green Bay.

## Civil War Genealogy Workshop

Saturday, January 7, 2012 | 9:30AM-1:30PM | Reeve Memorial Union Theater

Sponsored by the UW Oshkosh Archives and ARC, UW Oshkosh History Club and the Winnebagoland Genealogical Society

As part of nationwide Civil War sesquicentennial observations, Polk Library's Archives is hosting a workshop on Civil War-era family history research at the Reeve Memorial Union Theater. Presenters will include UW Oshkosh history faculty and archives staff. The cost is \$12 and includes a light meal.

For registration form and complete details see:

<http://www.uwosh.edu/archives/civilwarworkshop.pdf>



## POLK GOES WEST

### LIBRARY STAFF HELP WYOMING TRIBAL COLLEGE

Since 2005, UW Oshkosh has worked with the Wind River Tribal College in Wyoming in a partnership that will advance both institutions' educational offerings. For students at Wind River, UW Oshkosh provides an opportunity to earn credits through a dual enrollment agreement. The tribal college serves primarily nontraditional students from the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone tribes. For UW Oshkosh students, Wind River may offer future opportunities for field courses in the sciences, social work, literature and creative writing.

The relationship grew stronger this past year when two staff members from Polk Library traveled to Wyoming to assist the Wind River Tribal College library with some needed improvements in collection development, cataloging, space planning, preservation and records management.

"They are experiencing some of the same issues we have," said **Ron Hardy**, Head of Collections and Technical Services, "just on a much smaller scale."

Hardy and **Sarah Neises**, Polk's Head of Public Services, first traveled to the Wind River reservation in west central Wyoming in January 2011. Both returned this past summer and Neises traveled a third time in September. They worked with the library to start a weeding project to remove dated and out of scope research materials based on new collection development guidelines Hardy created. Neises helped develop a forthcoming library web presence and trained staff on using their cataloging and circulation systems. The pair also worked with the staff to figure out the best use of the library's limited spaces and on the use of UW Oshkosh's databases to which dual enrollment students would have access.



The Wind River College library under development.

In their off time, Neises and Hardy were introduced to some Arapaho and Shoshone traditions and visited the grave of the Sacajawea, the famed Shoshone guide and interpreter to the Lewis and Clark expedition.



The College is located among the stark beauty of central Wyoming.



# Redesigned Leisure Reading Room

Polk Library is happy to share the new redesigned look of the Leisure Reading Room, located on the second floor.

The Leisure Reading Room was created in 1978 through the efforts of Polk Library Staff and the Future Librarians and Information Researcher (FLAIR) student organization. The room and its collection was created to give students a break from their required course readings by offering books and magazines that they can enjoy in their downtime. Comfortable furniture rounded out the room to provide a place, especially for commuters, to use between classes.

Today FLAIR continues to manage much of the room's operations. The group is responsible for ordering all the new books and magazines for the room, using funding from the Oshkosh Student Association.

Last winter, a broken radiator

flooded water across the room, irreparably damaging the carpeting.

"Luckily no books were damaged in the flood, but the carpeting and furniture needed to be replaced," said Jenna Roberts, FLAIR President.



When insurance covered the cost of the carpet replacement, Polk Library decided to give the aging room a much needed makeover. Over the summer, the room was redesigned to look similar to Polk 101. The new design is more modern and provides

increased space for students to work and enjoy their leisure reading. The new room opened its doors fall 2011.

Another feature of the Leisure Reading Room is a new tool that allows users to browse and search the leisure collection graphically. It is a fun way to interact with the library catalog, especially if you are unsure about what you would like to read next. The system allows users to browse by genre as well as search by title or author (<http://oshlib.wisconsin.edu/leisure/>).

The Leisure Reading Room is one of the most used collections on campus. The room also includes a gaming section with board games provided by the gaming club on campus. With the help of FLAIR, Polk hopes to keep increasing awareness and making the Leisure Reading Room a place that students, staff and commuters use frequently.

## Archives Staff Helping Index Holocaust Records

Following the lead of volunteers around the world, Polk Library archives staff members are contributing to an online index to the records of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The index, known as the World Memory Project, is a joint initiative of the Washington D.C. museum and Ancestry.com. The effort will speed up dramatically the often lengthy process holocaust survivors and their families must go through to locate information on the fate of holocaust victims.

Among the museum's concentration camp records, Red Cross records, transport lists, Jewish community records, and U.S. and European government documents is evidence of individuals' movements, incarcerations and murders.

The project began in May of this year. Since then, more than

2,200 volunteers worldwide have indexed over 780,000 records. These volunteers now include UW Oshkosh Archivist **Joshua Ranger** and Archives Assistant **Jennifer Bumann**. "Since Jen and I are used to looking at older records, it made sense for us to help this important project along," said Ranger, "...although working with Romanian is a bit of a change. Ranger added that the pair will give up a lunch break a week for the cause.

The first datasets became freely searchable online this month, although with Polk Library's subscription to Ancestry.com, University faculty staff and students can explore much more of the enormous genealogical and historical research tool. Go to the Ancestry.com link found in the 'List of Library Search Tools' drop down menu at <http://www.uwosh.edu/library/>.

Once authenticated, a search of Ancestry's card catalog for 'USHMM' will present a list of all the Holocaust databases currently online. As of this time, the database is only an index; Ancestry.com does not provide images of the museum's records. To see the records themselves, individuals must visit in person or request copies. The museum provides these copies for free and hopes to continue to do so indefinitely.

Lisa Yavnai, director of the project was quoted on CNN.com saying the effort "is about restoring the identities of the victims, the people who the Nazis tried to erase. They -- the Nazis -- gave them numbers, and we are giving them back their names, and the public can help us do this."

## NATIONAL USE OF POLK-CREATED TOOL CONTINUES TO GROW

The Related Items Bookshelf, that widget in the library catalog that allows you to “browse” the shelves of Polk Library remotely, has been installed in no fewer than 27 libraries worldwide.

**Maccabee Levine**, Polk’s Head of Library Technology Services, created the application and has shared it with any interested library using the Voyager integrated library system (ILS).

It so impressed the library technology community, that it selected Levine as the winner of the 2010 Elympics award for best add-on code to Israel-based Ex Libris’ multiple products.

Polk beat out submissions from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and the National Library of Finland to win the top prize. Featured in *Library Journal*, the add-on code got many libraries’ attention. Levine has responded to inquiries from Ivy League and international campuses.

The Related Items Bookshelf attempts to reproduce the serendipitous discovery of books one experiences when physically browsing the stacks. Because library call numbers collocate similar subjects together, it is easy for users to miss good books when using the catalog only.

“Most library users have experienced the unexpected discovery of a book when they’ve gone looking for another,” Levine said. “This application allows for that experience while browsing the catalog from home. That’s especially useful for distance education students.”

When a bibliographic record in the catalog is selected, a graphical representation of the “bookshelf” is displayed, allowing the user to move left or right on the shelf through the call numbers, just like walking the stacks.

The system actually improves on the physical experience, as it brings

books from different departments of the library into one uninterrupted call number sequence. And with a simple mouse over you can discover if the book is available for check out or not and get basic bibliographic information without having to go to its own record.

It is this sort of functionality that academic libraries across the country have liked about the product.

Today, libraries as far afield as the University of Texas, West Virginia University, Skidmore College and the Auckland University of Technology have instances of the plug-in running. At all of these locations, UW Oshkosh technology is giving library users, students and faculty a new twist on a traditional library research method.

## GroupFinder: Helping Students Study... Together

When Polk Library staff saw students bringing their own white boards in to identify their study groups, a light bulb went off. The answer was GroupFinder, a new application designed by **David Hieptas**, a UW Oshkosh STEP student, that allows students to easily schedule and organize meetings on campus. Hieptas designed this application in Fall 2010 while working as a STEP Intern for Polk Library. GroupFinder offers reservations for four tables and two study rooms in Polk (each table has been given a name of a famous Wisconsin author, making it easy to find groups of students.) Reserving a space is very easy; users can access the link to Group Finder on the Polk Library homepage. Students can also use a walk-in option if the room is not reserved. Once a space is reserved, other students can locate the group using the application’s schedule available on the traditional website as well as Polk’s new mobile site.

Since the program was released, an average of 4-5 people use the spaces daily. GroupFinder is becoming popular for tutors as it allows them to schedule a quiet place to meet with their students over a full semester.

“My goal when developing this program was to help students succeed in their study habits by giving them a tool to easily access study groups,” said Hieptas, who now works full time as the library’s Web Developer.

The library hopes to increase awareness among faculty, encouraging them to add the resource to their syllabi to encourage greater engagement among students.

## Forgotten Photos Found in Journalism Closet:

### New Views of Black Thursday and Student Life

One of the benefits of moving is finding things you did not know you had lost. This year, as the Journalism Department prepared to move to Sage Hall, staff discovered a small gold mine of historical items dating back to the 1960s and 70s. A number of slides, negatives, films and audio recordings created over forty years ago were found. These items document not only campus history, but also how journalism at the university was taught. Department ADA, Cindy Schultz, called the University Archives at Polk Library to take a look at the materials for preservation.

One of the first things University Archivist **Joshua Ranger** noticed were over 500 photographs documenting the November 21, 1968, “Black Thursday,” protest. On that day, over one hundred African American students occupied President Roger Guiles’ office, demanding the campus become more hospitable to people of color. The photographs were taken by student journalists who printed several in the Quiver yearbook. The remainder, however, have likely not been seen in over 40 years. The photos include scenes of the protestors in the courtroom, Father James Groppi and a support protest held at a Board of Regents meeting the next month.

The same student perspectives can be seen in several photographs of students in their homes. Such unguarded moments of “student life” are rare in the University Archives. These materials were quickly preserved and indexed by archives student intern, **Rita Wahn**. Below are several of Wahn’s favorite pictures from the collection.

Also included in the materials were sound recordings and films about journalism and advertising professions. Several of these items, likely used in class, proved quite rare and were sent to the Wisconsin Historical Society, whose nationally focused mass media collections draw researchers from around the world. One recording, however, would interest a much more local audience. Archives staff found a recording made by Journalism Professor David Lippert during Christmas break 1962/63. On what may have been a new Christmas gift, Lippert recorded his young family on an open reel field recorder as they enjoyed their holiday. David Lippert Sr. died in 1983 but one of his sons still lives in Oshkosh. The recording was digitized by archives staff and given to the Lippert family.



# STAFF NEWS

**RETIREMENTS** - In 2011, Polk Library said good bye to five long-term employees with **Gerald Carpenter**, **Barbara Fahey**, **Karen Reiter**, **Pamela Spaulding** retiring in June and **Roberta Stuemke** retiring in December.

**Michael Watkins** (Government Information) at Polk library joined counterparts nationwide at the Federal Depository Library Conference and Depository Library Council Meeting in October. Polk Library has been a member of the Federal Depository Library Program since 1956. The conference programs included employing social media, collection digitization initiatives, archiving government web sites, and map collection maintenance.

**Joshua Ranger** (University Archivist) attended the 2011 Archives Leadership Institute, sponsored by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Ranger joined a select group of archivists from across the country for a week of intense discussions and lectures from faculty that included Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero, former Society of American Archivists President Peter Gottlieb, and American Library Association President-Elect Maureen Sullivan. Ranger attended the institute with support from UW Oshkosh's Academic Staff Professional Development program.

In October, University Archives and Area Research Center staff celebrated long-time volunteer **Mary Klein** on her 10-year anniversary working in the archives. Klein has been instrumental in several public records projects. She currently finishing up her processing of over 180 cubic feet of Winnebago County Circuit Court records dating from 1848.

## FINALS WEEK LIBRARY HOURS

Friday, December 9	Saturday, December 10	Sunday, December 11	Monday, December 12	Tuesday, December 13	Wednesday, December 14	Thursday, December 15	Friday, December 16
Open 24 Hours	Open 24 Hours	Open 24 Hours	Open 24 Hours	Open 24 Hours	Open 24 Hours	Open 24 Hours	Closed at 4:30 p.m.



FREE COFFEE  
FOR ALL NIGHT OWLS  
STARTING FRIDAY THE 9TH AT 10 P.M.!

LOOK FOR FREE COOKIES ON ONE SURPRISE EVENING!