

## Polk Library News December 2006 - Issue 35

**From the Director: The Best Possible Resources**  
Pat Wilkinson, [wilkinso@uwosh.edu](mailto:wilkinso@uwosh.edu)



The staff of Polk Library is committed to providing the best possible resources to UW Oshkosh students, faculty and staff. Since 2001 we and the university community have faced great challenges and opportunities in accessing the best educational and research material available. These challenges and opportunities will continue in 2007–2008.

The challenges are well known. Shrinking budgets have hindered the library's ability to purchase online and print resources. For example, Polk Library's total materials budget was \$944,978 in 2001–2002 and is \$888,227 for 2006–2007. Due to "information inflation," the purchasing power of our materials budget has declined approximately \$330,000 from 2001! [This is based on a conservative estimate of price increases of 6% a year.] The positive challenge that the library faces is the continued high demand for a wide range of high quality educational and research material.

In response to these challenges, the staff of the library continues to work with faculty on how best to allocate its funds to provide educational and research material. One part of this effort has been to cancel less-needed print journals, reference materials, online databases and microforms. Another part of this effort was to look at the same content that the library provided in multiple formats. Needless duplication of formats has been virtually eliminated in the library's collection.

Working with faculty, the library has worked to minimize the impact of necessary cancellations. It established the Ingenta Table of Contents service that covers over 30,000 publications. This service allows you to get the current table of contents of important journals or trade publications e-mailed to you, often before they physically arrive in libraries. Now, journal articles from other libraries are delivered to your computer desktop in 3–5 days. If faculty, academic staff and graduate students need an article more quickly, the library will purchase it and deliver it to your desktop in less than 48 hours. In addition to Interlibrary Loan for books and videos, Universal Borrowing allows you to directly check out materials from other UW libraries.

Based on preliminary budget projections for 2007–2008, the library faces a shortfall of over \$100,000 in its collection budgets. This projection assumes a flat budget and an 8% - 12% increase in the cost of journals, books, databases, etc. ***In February 2007, Polk Library will begin working with faculty and departments regarding how best to meet the curricular and research needs of campus in light of this shortfall.*** The library will need to make decisions by mid-May so these decisions can be implemented for 2007–2008.

Polk Library will explore many of the strategies used since 2001 to contain costs and maintain needed access to material. For instance, the library will likely increase the use of high-speed document delivery systems for articles from journals that are expensive, high quality and low-use but important for faculty

and graduate research. In addition, the library will explore new strategies and opportunities such as shifting more of our journal collections from print to online. Many publishers offer an “online only” option for titles that can often save from 5% - 15%. Another option is buying “access” not “ownership” to journal collections. If done properly, this can give campus full-content access to more scholarly journal titles at similar or reduced costs.

One big advantage of moving high quality research materials to the web is that students and faculty are most likely to look for information online. This trend is illustrated with just a couple of use statistics. In 1997–1998 at the introduction of large amounts of full-text online materials, periodicals in print and microform were used 72,000 times. In 2005–2006, the same types of physical materials were used 14,000 times. Yet in 2005 – 2006, there were approximately 800,000 uses of the library's online databases! [See Ron Hardy's [article on the Top Twenty](#).]

In the past ten years, the information world has changed significantly and will change even more dramatically in the next ten. The staff of the library wants to continue to work with campus to provide the best resources possible.



## What Do Students Think of the Reference Room?

Sarah Neises, [neises@uwosh.edu](mailto:neises@uwosh.edu)

In the LibQual survey Polk Library conducted in Spring 2004, students were critical of the library's physical facilities. They expressed the need for more designated areas for both group study and quiet study. To address these concerns, Polk Library began by establishing a new group study room and a new quiet study room, both on 2nd floor North. From Fall 2005 to Fall 2006, the number of people using the group study room increased 150%.

Polk Library's physical facilities have remained largely unchanged over the years. The last major remodeling project was in the late 1980's. Most of the library furniture in the building is from the 1960's. We are beginning to make progress in modernizing the inside of the library. The University Archives & Area Research Center was remodeled in 2005.

We would like our next project to be a remodeling of the Reference Room, 1st Floor South. This is a part of the library that houses 33 computers, current magazines & newspapers, the reference collection, and many study tables. We wanted to know what students wanted to do the most in the Reference Room. We conducted a survey in print and via an online form. We were pleased to have received over 600 responses. Here are their top eight answers:

1. Work individually at a table or carrel
2. Relax and study in a soft comfortable chair
3. Access websites such as D2L, E-Reserves & Titanweb
4. Work or study with classmates

5. Get help with your research from a librarian
6. Use a computer that has Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, etc.
7. Plug a laptop into an open datajack or use wireless access
8. Check e-mail

Comments from students included:

"There should be more areas for groups to work together where they are not bothering the students who are studying alone."

"Have a computer lab where students can meet for group projects that require PowerPoint so that they can be in a computer lab together, yet feel free to talk quietly among the group and not have to worry about disturbing those around."

"I think new carpeting on the entire first floor would be the first thing to do. Then you could put the inside of the library back on the campus tour."

"I just like a place to study because my dorm room can get distracting"

"There should be an easy access to plug in your laptop at each table"

"It would be excellent to have more than the 1 room with computer access to all important programs. . . D2L, email, reserves, titanweb, Microsoft office, etc."

"Get new furniture (especially chairs and bookcases)! What is currently in the reference room is totally uncomfortable and ugly. The room (and most of the library for that matter) looks really dated and terrible. The "retro" look makes the university seem second rate. Modernizing the library would make a big difference in the overall quality of the campus"

"More computers and printers to get reference material. You are always waiting in line for printers."

"More computers that have Microsoft Word on them would be a great addition to the library . . . it is very inconvenient to study at the library and then not be able to work on a typed project"

We took this information and constructed a Laboratory Modernization Grant for an Information Commons, and submitted it to the university in November 2006. There is a new movement in libraries to create areas called Information Commons. These are areas where students can study, collaborate with their fellow students, utilize library research tools, and use available technology to work on research. We believe that the Information Commons model would suit our users well. We would like to see the room remodeled to better accommodate both groups and quiet studiers. We want to increase the number of computers available to students, and provide comfortable furniture. Improving the lighting, flooring and ambience would be a great step forward.

This project is a major remodeling request, but one that we feel would benefit students in all majors and disciplines.

## Polk Library's Top Twenty Databases

Ron Hardy, [hardyr@uwosh.edu](mailto:hardyr@uwosh.edu)



Last year UW Oshkosh students, staff and faculty searched Polk Library's databases over 800,000 times! The library's web resources have become one of the most used library resources on campus. Polk Library provides over 100 online databases and full text journal collections, and most are accessible anywhere on- or off-campus.

The Top Twenty (based on 2005-06 usage):

1. [Academic Search Elite](#) – 166,091 searches
2. [Lexis Nexis Academic](#) – 49,427 searches
3. [JSTOR Full Text Journals](#) – 42,321 articles downloaded
4. [PsycInfo](#) – 40,438 searches
5. [ERIC](#) – 33,471 searches
6. [Humanities Full Text](#) – 29,421 searches
7. [ABI/Inform](#) – 27,274 searches
8. [CINAHL Nursing Plus Full Text](#) – 26,921 searches
9. [Education Full Text](#) – 24,047 searches
10. [Business Source Elite](#) – 20,534 searches
11. [Social Sciences Full Text](#) – 16,365 searches
12. [Proquest Newspapers](#) – 16,124 searches
13. [Criminal Justice Periodicals Index](#) – 14,517 searches
14. [Medline](#) – 14,316 searches
15. [Environmental Sciences and Pollution Management](#) – 14,029 searches
16. [GenderWatch](#) – 12,557 searches
17. [MLA Bibliography Online](#) – 11,721 searches
18. [Health Source Nursing](#) – 11,186 searches
19. [Ethnic Newswatch](#) – 10,309 searches
20. Hoovers Company Records (available through ProQuest) – 9,528 searches



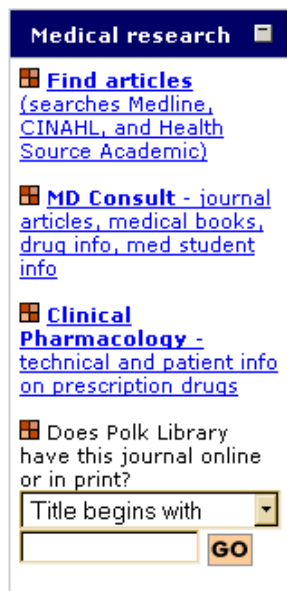
## Get your D2L "Library Resources" Widget Customized Renée Büker, [bukerr@uwosh.edu](mailto:bukerr@uwosh.edu)

If you've used Desire2Learn (D2L) in your classes before, perhaps you've noticed the "Library Resources" widget that automatically appears on your course homepage, giving you and your students links directly to the library homepage, eReserves, and other library sources (see image, above).

Did you know that Polk Library has its very own D2L specialist who can customize this widget just for your class? Contact Renée Büker, Outreach Services Librarian at x7331 or [bukerr@uwosh.edu](mailto:bukerr@uwosh.edu) – she can customize the Library Resources widget for your course to:

- link directly to your course's eReserves page
- include databases specifically helpful for a course research assignment
- allow students to search the catalog or journal list from a search box in the widget
- link to a course page created for your class by another librarian

See some examples of modified widgets below. Do you have any other ideas for making the library widget even more useful for your students? Renée would be happy to explore any other options to link your students to the information they need!



Sample modified library widgets that could be included in a D2L coursepage

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## Photographs from Archives Open House and Awards Ceremony

On October 19th, the University Archives and Area Research Center hosted an open house to celebrate the renovation of the area. At this open house, the Archives also received the Governor's Archives Award for Archival Achievement given by the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board. Ellsworth Brown, director of the Wisconsin Historical Society, presented the award. Below are some photographs from the event.



*left - University faculty and staff, members of the library community, and friends of the Archives mingle at the open house*

*right - More views of the Archives open house*





*left - Pat Wilkinson, library director, makes remarks at the Archives award presentation*



*right - Ellsworth Brown, Wisconsin Historical Society, presents the Governor's Archives Award for Archival Achievement*

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**Let Others Check Out Items for You!**  
Jeanne Foley, [foley@uwosh.edu](mailto:foley@uwosh.edu)



Do you have a student assistant? Wouldn't it be great if they could pick up your library materials, including interlibrary loans, for you?

They can! Are you wondering how to arrange that?

One easy step: print and fill out the Proxy Patron Authorization form below (once a year) and send to Polk Circulation. If you fill out a form this year, circulation staff will send you a reminder next year.

<http://www.uwosh.edu/library/pdf/proxypatron.pdf>

This form is also found on the [library home page](#) by clicking on the "Online Forms" link in the lower right corner of the screen (below the link to Interlibrary Loan).

Without this form, circulation staff cannot check your items out to your assistant. If your well-meaning assistant picks up items on his or her **own** Titancard, there is potential for late fees, invoices and blocked library privileges.

This one step ensures that **you** will get email reminders when your items are due and need to be renewed. Please take advantage of this service.



**Put Some Color in Your Research at Polk Library!**  
Renée Büker, [bukerr@uwosh.edu](mailto:bukerr@uwosh.edu)

On Saturday, October 14, Polk Library staff layered on their warmest colorful clothes and walked in the UW Oshkosh Homecoming Parade. This was their fifth annual entry! The Homecoming theme this year was "Color Conniption", so library staff encouraged parade watchers to "Put Some Color in Your Research at Polk Library". Each staff member wore a different color, matching the title of a book or video in the library collection. Represented were:

- *Revolution in Orange : The Origins of Ukraine's Democratic Breakthrough*  
Main Collection: JN6639.A5 R48 2006
- *Pink Flamingos*  
EMC Audiovisual: PN1997 .P539 2001
- *Green Eggs and Ham*  
EMC Picture Books: Ge
- *Gray's Anatomy*  
Reference : QM23.2 .G73 1989
- *The Red Shoes*  
EMC Audiovisual: PN1997 .R423 1999



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## Renewing Polk Library Books

Jeanne Foley, [foley@uwosh.edu](mailto:foley@uwosh.edu)



Reminder for the end of the semester: Polk Library materials can be renewed in two ways. You can bring them to the Circulation Desk in the library, or you can renew them online. To renew online, see the instructions below. Some restrictions may apply. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Foley at x7315.

To Renew Items Online:

- Go to the library's web page ( <http://www.uwosh.edu/library/> ).
- Select "Your Record" in the upper left box.
- Log into your account with your 16-digit TitanCard number and your last name.
- Select the titles you want to renew.
- Click on the renew button.
- Check the screen to see if all the titles have been renewed. (Important).
- Write the new due date on the card in the pocket inside the book's cover.
- Then log out of your account (top of screen).

Good luck with the remainder of the semester!



**Holiday Stories in the Browsing Room**  
Karen Reiter, [reiter@uwosh.edu](mailto:reiter@uwosh.edu)

The holiday season doesn't seem quite right without stories and carols around the tree and remembrances of years past. It's the perfect time for stories, since it's already a time so full of magic, winter snow, and everything that reminds us that belief is still possible.

Looking for a great holiday read? Warning, have your box of tissues handy. These new tales in the Browsing Room will get everybody into the holiday spirit! Enjoy!

- [Blue Christmas](#), by Mary Kay Andrews
- [Finding Noel](#), by Richard Paul Evans
- [The Great Santa Search](#), by Jeff Guinn
- [Christmas Letters](#), by Debbie Macomber
- [High Heels and Holidays](#), by Kasey Michaels



**Holiday and Interim Hours**  
Jeanne Foley, [foley@uwosh.edu](mailto:foley@uwosh.edu)

**Holiday Schedule: December 16, 2006 - January 1, 2007**

*Polk Library is closed December 24, 25, 31, 2006 and Jan. 1, 2007*

**Building Hours**

Monday - Friday . . . . . 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
Saturday & Sunday . . . . . CLOSED

**Reference Service**

Monday - Friday . . . . . 7:45 AM - 4:30 PM  
Saturday & Sunday . . . . .CLOSED  
or [24/7 Research and Reference Help](#)

**Wisconsin Area Research Center and University Archives**

Dec. 18 - Dec. 22 . . . . . 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon  
. . . . .1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Dec. 25 - Jan. 1 . . . . . CLOSED

**Fall III (Interim): January 2 - January 19, 2007**

*Polk Library is closed on Monday, January 15, 2007.*

**Building Hours**

Monday - Thursday . . . . .7:30 AM - 8:00 PM  
Friday . . . . . 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
Saturday . . . . . Noon - 4:00 PM  
Sunday . . . . . Noon - 8:00 PM

**Reference Service**

Monday - Wednesday . . . . .7:45 AM - 8:00 PM  
Thursday - Friday . . . . .7:45 AM - 4:30 PM  
Saturday . . . . . Noon - 4:00 PM  
Sunday . . . . . Noon - 6:00 PM  
or [24/7 Research and Reference Help](#)

**Wisconsin Area Research Center and University Archives**

Monday - Friday . . . . .9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon  
. . . . . 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Saturday - Sunday . . . . . CLOSED

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**Spotlight on Reference**  
Renée Büker, [bukerr@uwosh.edu](mailto:bukerr@uwosh.edu)



***Guide to U.S. Elections***  
Ref. JK 1967 .C66 2005 v.1-2

This two-volume set from Congressional Quarterly Press contains a wealth of information and statistics about American elections. Volume One begins with a history of elections in the United States, describing the development of the two main political parties in the country, the history of smaller political parties such as the Libertarian Party and the Bull Moose Party, the expansion of voting privileges to African Americans and women, and campaign finance. Volume One then continues with a rich section on presidential elections, including a chronology concisely describing the main issues in each election from George Washington's first election to George W. Bush's reelection; a history of the development of the electoral college system; and statistics from presidential primary returns, popular votes, and electoral votes, all broken down by state. Volume Two of the set provides similar historical and statistical information for congressional elections (both House and Senate) and gubernatorial elections.

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## Staff Highlights

- **Patrick Wilkinson**, Polk Library Director, was recently appointed chair of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) Task Force on the Integration of E-Books. The task force's charge is "...to investigate best models and practices for integrating e-books provided by the Google Library Project, other major book digitization projects, and other commercial suppliers of recent/current e-book titles into the basic services of libraries for the benefit of library users worldwide."
- **Mike Watkins**, government documents, will serve as Chair of the Government Information Roundtable of the Wisconsin Library Association for 2007.
- **Jeanne Foley**, Head of Access Services, presented as part of a panel discussion entitled "Applying Appreciative Inquiry (AI) and other Positive Approaches- Balance At Work: Enforcing Rules while Meeting Human Needs in your Library" at the 2006 Wisconsin Library Association conference in November.

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