

Polk Library Newsletter

Spring 2016

LIFE IS BUT A STREAM:

Polk deploys a fleet of on-demand films and television



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Video may have killed the radio star but streaming video is now killing the DVD. Mostly. In December, Polk Library added several major streams to its existing video on-demand offerings, acknowledging a trend as true in academia as it is in living rooms nationwide: streaming video is replacing DVDs as the content delivery system of choice. It's a reality known to major players like Netflix that has seen its DVD subscribers plummet 65% in the past four years while its online user numbers explode. Simply put, on-demand video is becoming an expected convenience of daily life...and teaching.

With Polk's on-demand video options, instructors can call up documentary films and television programs, feature films and even archival footage from any networked computer they are teaching from. Students can follow easy links embedded in D2L or library course pages for required viewing. Certainly there are limits to the available titles, and so Polk will continue to purchase DVDs when requested and to build our popular feature film and television collections which are far less represented in the academic streams Polk subscribes to.

With Polk's new Kanopy service, users have access to more than 26,000 films including leading producers such as Psychotherapy.net, New Day Films, California Newsreel, Kino Lorber, PBS, BBC, First Run Features, The Video Project, Media Education Foundation, and Documentary Education Resources on every topic imaginable. Also in Kanopy are select titles from the Criterion feature film collection.

Four Alexander Street Press titles explore American History, African American studies, ethnographic studies as well as the Filmmakers Library Online collection of award-winning documentaries on a broad range of issues important to the study of history, science, business, technology, performing arts, anthropology, psychology, politics, health, and literature.

These new streams add to Polk's existing Films On Demand and PBS Video collections.

While each of these services have their own unique interfaces, Polk is working to add the titles to our catalog so they can be discovered via Search@UW. Films on Demand's 19,000 titles were just added to the catalog in early March. In addition, "Polk Labs" is developing sliders for browsing available films much like the experience in popular streaming services like HBO Now and Netflix. We hope to have this online soon.

In the meantime, browse the native interfaces or look for titles appearing in the catalog and find out just how convenient adding streaming video is to classes and syllabi.



UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
OSHKOSH

LETTER FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR: A new (deputy) sheriff in town

by Sarah Neises



As I assume my role as Interim Library Director, I look forward to encouraging and overseeing Polk's excellent staff as they provide outstanding support to students, staff and faculty. Patrick Wilkinson, who retired in December 2015, infused Polk Library with a strong service ethic and a desire for forward-thinking collection and web development strategies.

Under Pat's leadership, we strategically reorganized and recruited librarians to provide enhanced distance education and information literacy training. We moved aggressively towards eliminating print journals, pursued comprehensive online journal packages, and made faculty and staff book purchases easier. We are continuing to move quickly to provide more video streaming options and electronic books. We will continue the strong traditions and service culture that Pat instilled in our library.

Pat was a strong believer in the value of being part of a cooperative consortium. The UW System Libraries continue to cooperate and find ways to maximize purchasing power and achieve efficiencies through shared technology support. With the UW System under extreme financial pressure, collaboration is one way that UW System libraries can attempt to maintain and expand electronic collections and services, and make resource discovery easier.

We achieved a significant savings this year by entering into a consortial purchase for Elsevier Science Direct. Science Direct is highly used and provides content not duplicated in other resources. With the UW System group we are able to achieve a savings we can use to purchase other resources. In addition, we have added four new video streaming packages in the last month due to very low pricing extended to us by UW Madison.

We provide great benefit to the UW System through our local expertise. Alma, our shared library system, requires significant attention and support. This support is shared throughout the system by librarians and technology staff on distributed campuses. We have several staff members who participate at a high level in the expertise groups, and suggest changes and fixes that benefit the entire system. Polk librarians Crystal Buss, Ron Hardy and Craig Thomas are all heavily invested in the success of the Alma implementation.

It is often difficult for libraries to create innovative web applications, because they may not have staff with programming knowledge, local IT support or hosting abilities. We are fortunate to have a web developer on staff, David Hietpas. He has worked with our librarians to create two applications that can be used by other libraries in the UW System. QuizSmith, an open source quiz application that can be used for information literacy training, has been implemented by UW Stevens Point. It will soon be used at UW La Crosse and hosted here. David created a searchable Circuit Court Records Index that is open source and can be shared with campuses that do not have local web development support.

Being a part of the UW System enables us to continue and expand the ways we support students, faculty and staff. We will greatly miss Pat Wilkinson, but I am confident that we can move forward with our exceptional staff and innovative directions.

SARAH NEISES

A promotional banner for a book sale. On the left, the text "Polk Library Book Sale" is written in a stylized, orange font. In the center, there is an orange silhouette of a deer standing next to a large orange letter "A", which is next to an orange silhouette of an open book. Below the "A" and the book, the text "(buck a book)" is written in orange. On the right side of the banner, the dates and times for the sale are listed: "April 12 7:00_{AM}-10:00_{PM}" and "April 13 7:00_{AM}-1:00_{PM}". The background of the banner is a dark, textured wood grain.

Government Documents Winding Down

In 1956, Helen Wahoski saw a great opportunity. The long serving director of the Oshkosh State College campus library got wind that the Fond du Lac Public Library planned to shed its Federal Depository status and she wanted it. The College in Oshkosh was expanding its educational mission into the liberal arts and Wahoski needed to grow her library collection to support the new curriculum. At that time, each member of Congress could specify one depository for his or her district (this was later expanded to two). With Fond du Lac leaving the program, the 6th Congressional District of Wisconsin would be lacking a depository, thus leaving its citizens without easy access to important government information. Over several months, the deal between the public library and Wahoski was completed and trucks brought the legacy materials to the college's library in Dempsey Hall. Wahoski then began to make selections for new material to be sent by the General Printing Office.

Sixty years later, this adventure comes to an end when Polk Library staff begin to remove the remaining collection after a year and a half of methodically offering the titles out to libraries across the state. This will leave Ripon College's Lane Library as the 6th District's lone repository, but this is not the concern it was in 1956. In truth, the Government Printing Office no longer does much printing. With almost all government publications being produced and shared digitally, there is less and less use for the physical delivery program first developed under the administration of James

Madison. Today, even with fewer and fewer depositories nationwide, citizen access to government information has never been greater. And this includes many legacy documents as well. Scores of digitization efforts have put hundreds of thousands of documents online for historical research.

As Government Information Librarian Mike Watkins winds down his department, he is working with Head of Collections and Technical Services, Ron Hardy and University Archivist, Joshua Ranger to determine which titles of the remaining collection will be added to the main and archival book collections respectively. While other libraries--particularly the Wisconsin Historical Society--have requested specific titles to fill gaps in their collections, most documents have gone unclaimed. Some titles of regional importance or historical items not yet digitized will be considered for continued preservation at Polk while the bulk of the paper collection will be recycled. Faculty, staff and students with suggestions of titles to keep are encouraged to contact Mike Watkins.

Once weeding is underway, Watkins will turn his attention to both the international and state government document collections which are adjacent to the federal collection.

As the Government Information program leaves a vacant space on 3rd South, Polk Library hopes to repurpose it with an expansion of the cramped archives as well as a renovated quiet study area for students.

Last Spring, in an effort to better communicate its policies and updates on new services and collections, Polk Library created the Library Representatives Program. A re-boot of the older liaison program which coordinated departmental book and media purchases, the new program deals with everything but. Each academic program has a representative on the library staff. These reps work to ensure that major library communications are shared directly with faculty in person or via email when appropriate. For each of the past two semesters, the reps have met with most programs at one of the regularly scheduled departmental meetings. These brief conversations include time for faculty and staff to ask questions and provide feedback. These comments are forwarded to appropriate members of the Polk team

to help the library better serve the academic needs of campus.

Beyond the meetings, the library reps are happy to answer questions of faculty members whenever issues come up. Sometimes, it's not obvious who to call among the library's staff on a specific issue. Faculty now know they can always contact their departmental representative to get an answer or to be forwarded to the individual who can assist them.

Polk is interested in extending the program to appropriate non-academic departments as well. If you would like your department to be assigned a library representative please contact Joshua Ranger at ranger@uwosh.edu.

LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVES



Polk Library's first floor gallery has again exploded with color with its newest exhibition of paintings. The work of senior Brian Felten, the collection called "Listen," was created using a variety of tools and techniques. In them, Felten combines abstract flowing lines and shapes of bold colors with more realistic human forms. The colors crash into, flow around and, at times, spill right onto the forms. In his artist statement, Felten reveals that the paintings document the "responsive dynamics" of the body as it interacts with environment, be it physical, cultural or social. As the colors envelope or avoid the figures, Felten, shows that we are never separate from the space we occupy.

Felten is pursuing double degrees in 2D studio art and art education. He is currently student teaching and is looking forward to teaching abroad soon. Visit the first floor north gallery to soak in Felton's collection of eight bold paintings before the end of the semester.

Staff Profile: Joe Pirillo



While he was hired last September, Polk Library's newest instruction librarian will complete his move to Oshkosh this summer. Moving his family from the hamlet of Plymouth, Joe Pirillo will miss a few things of Sheboygan County. Like hills (good for sledding and hiking) and the village's mill pond (fishing, no boat needed). The advantages

of moving to a larger community are not lost on Pirillo, however. Finding tahini sauce, for example, is difficult in rural Sheboygan County.

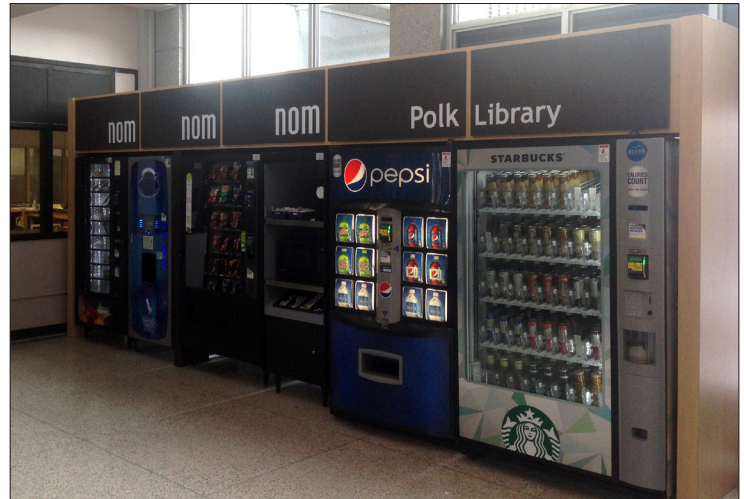
Transitioning from smaller to larger communities is something Joe knows well, however. He grew up in the tiny railroad village of Oelwein, Iowa (Polk's native

Iowan population=3) and then moved to larger Ashland, Oregon for his undergraduate degree. Eventually, he settled into his first career of teaching history in urban Milwaukee. When teaching gave way to librarianship, Joe reset and made house in little Plymouth to work at nearby Lakeland College.

Joe came to Oshkosh an experienced instructor, working as easily with Lakeland's on campus students as he did with their many distance education students. Lakeland's small staff, however, required Pirillo to do many other tasks as well. At Polk, Joe gets to concentrate fully to the instruction of students on a myriad of information literacy concepts and skills. Joe also supervises Polk 101's student workers who are the front-line fielding basic computer application, printing and research questions.

Vending Machines To Answer Student's Needs

Over interim, Polk Library and Dining Services replaced the staffed coffee and snack cart in Polk's lobby with a variety of vending machines. The change was made necessary due to budgetary reasons. For years, Polk subsidized the cart's operating hours as it never made enough in sales to cover its own expenses. Going forward, the library could simply no longer afford this cost. While the offerings and service changes, the machines now allow library patrons access to food and beverages during all of the library's open hours. The previous cart was open only till 1:00PM M-F. An increase in availability was something several respondents requested in the library's 2014 LibQUAL survey. The new vending options include the University's first modern coffee vending machine. The machine can make numerous "coffee house-style" drinks like espresso, lattes, mochas, and hot chocolate, but not at coffee house prices. At 75 cents a cup, it's worth a



try. Visitors will also find sandwiches, burritos and other microwavable options, fresh fruit and standard drinks, snacks and treats.

STAFF NEWS

Jennifer Bumann, longtime *Archives Assistant* LTE was hired as a 0.75 permanent University Staff member. Bumann will expand on her public services and inter-archival lending coordination responsibilities with new projects and roles within the archives department.

Ted Mulvey, *Instruction Librarian*, was made chair of both the Information Literacy Frameworks and Standards Committee, as well as the Statistics and Trends Editorial Board of the Association of College and Research Libraries. In June, Mulvey will end his 3-year term on the Council of UW Libraries' User Services Coordinating Committee.

Sarah Neises, *Interim Library Director*, attended two sessions of the UW Leadership Development Program offered by UW Extension. Sessions addressed strategic leadership and decision making and innovative leadership.

Joe Pirillo, *Instruction Librarian*, is serving on the Wisconsin Association of Academic Libraries' (WAAL) Annual Conference planning committee. This year's conference will be held in Green Lake Wisconsin April 20-22nd. Pirillo is for marketing and social media. Pirillo also serves on WAAL's Information Literacy Committee which recently chose the WAAL Information Literacy award winner from among numerous academic library instruction teams throughout the state.

Joshua Ranger, *University Archivist*, was elected to a three year term on the Wisconsin Humanities Council. Ranger is the second Polk employee in recent years-after Paulette Feld-to be a part of the state's humanities project promotion and funding organization.

Mary Schneider, *Budget Analyst*, assisted the Titan Continuous Improvement committee to improve the University's Search and Screen process.