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Produced by:
Communications Librarian
Joshua Ranger

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Amazing Products

ANVIL:
STUDENTS WON’T KNOW IT’S GOOD FOR THEM!

Ease your students into learning core information literacy skills with ANVIL, the new online tool from the wizards at Polk! Students watch YouTube videos and then play a short video game. No person under 30 can resist! Add this essential learning outcome to your Quest 1 course!

(page 5)

SEES ALL, KNOWS ALL
SEARCH@UW

From another dimension comes the new Search@UW. It searches books, digitized collections and articles all at the same time! Be amazed at the depth, breadth and speed. Truly something mystical is happening.

(page 2)

AMAZE FRIENDS!
CONFOUND ENEMIES!

THE COMPUTER AVAILABILITY APP IS LIKE X-RAY VISION FOR THE LIBRARY!

Find open computers throughout the library with this scientifically proven application.

(page 5)

AMAZING PRODUCTS
AMAZING LIBRARY!

[Learn more on page 3]
Search@UW is here! After two years of planning and nearly a year of implementation, the new service launched on August 21. Search@UW did not make the headlines on CNN or NPR, but it will make a big difference in the lives of all students, faculty, and staff who use the resources provided by Polk Library.

Before Search@UW, Polk’s resources were scattered in silos across the information landscape. Polk’s physical materials were searchable in one interface; those of other UW libraries in another. Online articles lived in other systems, each with a different look, feel, and logic. Searching the digital collections of Wisconsin’s archival and historical treasures involved even more systems and interfaces. Search@UW makes two bold moves to simplify this fragmented environment. First, it gathers catalog records for virtually all these disparate information resources into a massive database and indexes them for lightning-fast search returns. Then, by leveraging three essential web technologies – one-box search, robust relevance ranking, and post-search facets – it gives users familiar, powerful tools to quickly zero in on relevant results. And all this happens in a single, integrated interface that feels more like Amazon.com than an old-fashioned catalog. Enhanced features like inline Universal Borrowing (UB) in as few as three clicks? Yep, Search@UW has those, too.

**What does Search@UW search?**

The drop-down list of “scopes” tells the story. If you choose the Articles scope, you’ll be searching Polk’s paid online resources. They’re available 24/7, both on- and off-campus, and include journal articles, conference proceedings, reviews, streaming media, e-books, and much more. Books & Media (UW Oshkosh) covers all the physical materials housed in Polk, while Books & Media (UW System) encompasses the physical holdings of the entire UW system, most of which are available for delivery to Polk via Universal Borrowing (UB). UW Digital Collections covers online collections of digital texts, photos, multimedia and more -- including our own institutional repository, Minds@UW-Oshkosh. If you stick with Everything, the default master scope, you’ll search all four collection scopes at once. How big is “everything”? In the old catalog, it meant 400,000 physical items housed in Polk. In Search@UW, it means more than 75 million items and includes virtually every type of information available through Polk, both physical and online. That’s nearly 200 times the resources in the old catalog!

Is anything missing? For now, the UW archives and the Wisconsin Historical Society are not represented. But planning is well under way to pull their collections into Search@UW. Also absent are articles from a small slice of our paid e-journals, since a few publishers do not contribute records to the Search@UW database. On rare occasions, you may need to resort to a vendor database to find a particular article. But Search@UW is nearly always the best place to start — and to finish for that matter. It covers 100% of the top 10,000 journals and 93% of the top 45,000. And, according to a recent study of hundreds of millions of requests, 99.25% of all requests made by patrons are for articles in journals covered by Search@UW.

The Search Experience in Search@UW.

In the old catalog, the recommended search strategy required lots of up-front work. Before you executed a search, you focused it with field selectors (titles, author, etc.), preset...
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR: STRATEGIC FOCUS ON YOU

by Patrick Wilkinson

This is a great edition of Polk Library News. It describes services that the library offers and the achievements of a very talented staff. This edition especially highlights “The Amazing Products” that the library provides.

How does an institution such as Polk Library, which not long ago was mainly known as a big building in the middle of campus with a lot of books, start producing amazing products?

Yes, in some ways it was simply part of the times, but in a fundamental way it was based on a big decision and many choices made by the library approximately five years ago. The big decision was that to serve the educational and research needs of the campus well, the library had to make information technology and our web presence a real strategic priority.

How did we do that? In a period of declining budgets, the library made real choices on how it spent its resources. As positions became open, it reallocated funds into hiring IT professionals and librarians with extra strong technology skills. Parts of library services that were largely print-based saw a reduction in staff. The parts of the library that saw a decrease in staff did an outstanding job of reorganizing while maintaining high quality services.

In addition to staffing, the library put more of its collection monies into electronic resources and started a gradual transition of its recent—and large parts of its older—journal collections to electronic.

There are many fruits coming from this strong emphasis on making information technology, electronic resources, and our web presence a strategic priority in providing educational resources and services to campus. In addition to Search@UW, ANVIL, and the computer availability app to campus, the library as provided these “amazing products” recently:

Course Pages. It automatically creates a library resource page for each course on campus. Instructors have the option to edit as they wish, leave the page as is, or turn off the page.

New Website. This went live a year ago and is continually improved based on user feedback.

GroupFinder. This service allows students to book library study rooms online and set-up study groups.

Easier Universal Borrowing. This is mentioned in the article on Search@UW, and is a significant enhancement to a highly valued service.

In closing, it is important to note that the library does not see technology as an end in itself. It works with users to identify needs that will improve their academic work. Also, it is not the only strategic area the library is working on to enhance the educational and research environment on campus. Support for USP and distance education are high on are list, as well as increasing the funding for collections and library renovations. More on those topics later.

Patrick J. Wilkinson

Starbucks Coffee, Hot Food Options, Simply to Go Sandwiches and Salads, Bottled Beverages, Snacks, Gum and more!

Mi Taza

Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Polk Library
Main Lobby
Polk Library’s partnership with the Wind River Tribal College continued this summer with University Archivist, Joshua Ranger, traveling to Wyoming to provide special collections training to college and reservation personnel. A National Park Service grant provided funding for the visit as well as supplies to better protect the college’s unique historical materials. Ranger discussed details on approaches to archival processing, cataloging, preservation and security activities with members of the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone tribes as well as to other members of the college staff. Before he left, Ranger helped staff create a new archival storage area to better organize and protect the college’s archives and special collections.

The group also discussed possible future collecting opportunities in the community. There is particular interest in dealing with sound and video recordings made with older technologies. Many of these contain valuable stories and examples of Shoshone and Arapaho languages. Ranger encouraged the college to develop the expertise and capacity needed to reformat these sorts of records in-house. “This would provide a valuable service to the community and could encourage people to come forward and donate a copy of the newly digitized recording or even the original itself,” Ranger said.

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ANVIL or Active Instructional Videos on Information Literacy is Polk Library’s homegrown platform for training students on the discovery and use of information. Programmed in-house by Polk’s own web developer, David Hietpas, ANVIL pairs short, on-demand videos with a timed and scored quiz fashioned in the style of popular bar/restaurant computerized trivia contests. Students view the videos assigned by instructors and take the quiz at the end. ANVIL records the score and maintains a leaderboard of top individuals listing them only by their ANVIL nicknames. The scores can also be sent to the professor for review. Scores are incredibly granular, based on 1,000 total points, to encourage friendly competition in class. Students can participate more than once to improve their researching skills as well as their score.

Faculty wishing to include ANVIL in their courses should visit the product’s home page at or contact Ted Mulvey at mulveyt@uwosh.edu and check it out at: uwosh.edu/library/anvil.
As the spring semester drew to a close in May, stressed students were invited to spend their last week on campus at Camp Polkabago, Polk’s newly re-branded all-day and all-night study event. In an effort to provide some comfort and support to our campers, Polk provided distractions, caffeine and on one “surprise night,” our famous free cookies all with a summer camp theme. Students could pick up merit badges by stopping by the different stations on their study breaks. For research and citation help, smiling librarian “counselors” were on hand with their sporty new Camp Polkabago t-shirts. Camp “field day” activities, sponsored by the kinesiology department, had to be canceled due to a poorly timed spring torrent. But, campers, there’s always next year, as Camp Polkabago plans to re-open for a week next May. And this winter look for the Mt. Polk Lodge, with very similar events but still completely different because this time the librarians will wear scarves.

Polkgramming continued over the summer. With most of the students gone in June, staff were invited to console themselves with the traditional observation of PolksGiving, the annual book and media swapping holiday. This June, staff donated their gently used books and video recordings, hoping the famous PolksGiving Thrush would bring them good luck when exchanging them for other people’s cast offs. In the true spirit of PolksGiving, extra materials were donated to the Taycheedah Correctional Institute.

Finally, this fall, Polk Library staff produced its 11th annual Murder Mystery (Polkurder Polkstery?) This year the crime(s) went down in the cell-eat-cell world of biotech research. The Murder Mystery sold out again, with over 60 students racing around Polk Library solving the mystery while learning a few things about library research in the process.

Long a requirement in Wisconsin social studies standards, the use of historical primary sources plays an even larger role in the Common Core State Standards being implemented across Wisconsin and the nation. This summer, working with Oshkosh Area School District (OASD) leaders, Polk Library staff created a week long program to help the district find and capture useful archival materials and artwork for use by 6-9th grade teachers and students.

After teaching an in-service at Oshkosh West High School in the winter on the use of archives in the classroom, University Archivist Joshua Ranger heard from many teachers how difficult and time consuming they find locating appropriate primary source research materials. This is particularly true for ancient and non-American history subjects. Ranger and Vicki Poirier of OASD proposed bringing a small group of teachers to Polk Library over the summer to build an on-line collection of these materials curated specifically for the Oshkosh curriculum.

In daily sessions over one week in August, six teachers visited Polk as a group where they were taught and advised by Polk librarians on locating quality sources for use in the classroom. Polk staff then supported the teachers as they took the needed time to search online archives for reading-level appropriate period documents, photographs, newspapers, works of art, and audio and video materials. Teachers used both freely-available materials and Polk’s licensed resources. Teachers then copied and uploaded the digital files to a district online filing system. The work did not end in August, but the teachers developed a great foundation to build upon. The end result will be one stop shopping for the Oshkosh middle and high school teachers looking to add rich primary source material to their courses. OASD hopes teachers will support each other by uploading assignments and lesson plans that draw on these documents. Combined, these activities will support Common Core requirements for informational textual analysis helping students develop important literacy and critical thinking skills.
limiters (location, format, dates, etc.), and Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT). If you didn’t already have an idea of what materials might be available, you were flying blind. And if your results were off, there was no way to adjust them on the fly. You could only adjust search terms and a few filters, re-execute the search, and hope for the best.

In Search@UW all that filtering happens *after* the initial search. You start with a best-guess set of keywords and hit Search. Immediately, you see a large set of results and (on the left) a list of 4-10 facets that show at a glance what kind of stuff you’ve snagged. If necessary, you quickly adjust keywords and re-submit. Once your results are good enough, you can use those facets to sculpt the results to fit your needs. In the old catalog, focusing the search happened in a near vacuum. In Search@UW, you can turn facets off and on and, in real time, see how that effects your results. Studies show that this approach is far more efficient and intuitive for most users. If you’re a seasoned expert in pre-filtering, have no fear. Search@UW has an Advanced Search interface just for you.

*Four Cool Features*

**Easy access:** Go to our familiar home page [http://uwosh.edu/library](http://uwosh.edu/library), jump into Articles, Books & More tab and start your Search@UW search.

**Inline Universal Borrowing (UB):** In the old catalog, if a book was already checked out at Polk, you had to dive into a different interface, re-do the original search, and submit the UB request. Whew! In Search@UW, if the Polk copy is out, just click the Request tab, select UB Request, and three clicks later, you’re done. Users love it!

**Peer-reviewed in a click:** Need to filter your search to articles from peer-reviewed journals? Look left to the Show Only facet, click Peer-reviewed Journals, and you’re set.

**Expand My Results:** By default, Search@UW shows you only articles you can get in full-text. If you want to include additional results, just click Expand My Results. If you find an article you want, click the Find It tab and use the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) link to order it through ILLiad.

What’s next? Any project this large has a few loose ends. Over the next several months, we’ll be cleaning up catalog records, improving labels in the user interface, and fixing any bugs we discover or you report. We’ll also be looking for ways to make Search@UW even better for you. If you find anything puzzling or broken, or suddenly think of a way to improve the user experience, please write us at libraryfeedback@uwosh.edu. We’d love to hear from you.

For more info on Search@UW, see last winter’s Polk Newsletter article at [http://www.uwosh.edu/library/newsletter/winter](http://www.uwosh.edu/library/newsletter/winter).
Like a promising slugger on a hot streak, Polk’s newest employee has traded the minor leagues for the majors. **Robert Karels**, Polk’s new Electronic Resources Librarian, just joined the UW Oshkosh staff in early September from a position at Harper College, a junior college in Palantine, Illinois. Karels, himself once a student at Harper, was looking for the added challenges and opportunities a full University offers. Although he is a recent graduate of the University of Illinois Library School, Karels spent many years working in libraries as a student or staff member. Working at Harper, University of Northern Illinois and in a Chicagoland public library, Karels found that the career suited him. At Polk, Karels takes the position vacated this summer by Jeff Brunner who left Polk for the newly organized Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS) organization. Like Brunner, Karels is in charge of keeping Polk’s hundreds of journal databases and similar electronic resources accessible and managed. To help him, Karels will be implementing a new management system that will become the model for other universities in System. Karels grew up in the Chicago NW suburbs and finds Oshkosh very similar, culturally, to De Kalb where he finished his undergraduate degree at Northern Illinois. One big difference he found, however, is the cost of living in Oshkosh. “Here,” Karels says, “I have a chance to buy a home.” When he’s not rustling databases or reviewing real estate listings, Karels spends his time working out, enjoying B-movies and trying to find where on his local cable service they hide the Bears’ games. Sigh, we’ll have to work on that.

**STAFF NEWS**

**Jeff Bruner**- Electronic Resources Librarian **Jeff Bruner** left Polk Library for a position with the Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS) organization.

**Paulette Feld** - Desktop Support Technician **Paulette Feld** was appointed to her second three-year term on the Wisconsin Humanities Council. The WHC is an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and supports public programs that engage the people of Wisconsin in the exploration of human cultures, ideas, and values.

**Marissa Finkey** - Information Literacy Coordinator **Marissa Finkey** attended the national LOEX conference in Nashville in May. LOEX is the national professional organization of instruction librarians.

**David Hietpas** - Library Web Developer **David Hietpas** was a conference coordinator and presenter for the 2013 Midwest Plone Symposium, held at UW Oshkosh in June. Hietpas’ presentation, “Tips for New Plone Developers, Integrators and Themers,” was attended by roughly half of the 100 attendees at the meeting. Hietpas was also involved in Plone “Sprints” over four days of the week-long conference. During the sprints, groups of programmers sat down together and made changes to the core Plone software. Hietpas helped in redesigning the core javascript libraries within Plone.

**Maccabee Levine** - Head of Library Technology Services **Maccabee Levine** completed co-chairing a Council of University of Wisconsin Libraries task force that coordinated the implementation of Search@UW across the 14 institutions of the UW System.

**Ted Mulvey** - Information Literacy Librarian **Ted Mulvey** attended the American Library Association conference in Chicago in June. ALA’s summer meeting is one of the largest professional conventions in the United States typically attracting over 25,000 attendees. In addition to attending sessions, Mulvey serve ALA as the Vice Chair of both the Association of College and Research Library’s Academic Trends and Statistics Editorial Board, as well as its Information Literacy Standards Committee.
Polk has four reserve-able rooms for group study or collaboration. Each has hard-wired computers and projectors or wide-screen television monitors. Students can work out presentations, collaborate on documents or watch videos. Our third floor north room features at SMART Board. A room in third south was just added.

of the third floor group study room since Fall 2012 when Polk installed its SMART board. Students and faculty looking for a SMART board to develop or test presentations, simply need to jump onto Polk’s GroupFinder to reserve the space.

Purchased with student technology fees, two KIC-brand rapid scanners have proved so popular that Polk is adding another pair this fall. The machines are the nightmare of photocopier repair men. With full color, resolution up to 600dpi and Google Drive integration, there isn’t a simpler, quicker or free-er way to duplicate articles, chapters, notes or forms.

Popping up in several locations on campus, Kwik-Boost charging stations provide convenient re-charges for phones and tablet computers. Enjoy a comfy chair in our new books section while waiting for your device to come back to life.