

Summer 2010

State News

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2010) "State News," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 58 : Iss. 2 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol58/iss2/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Southeastern Librarian by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.

Rivercenter Hotels, San Antonio, Texas. Scholars from numerous disciplines will meet to share their Popular Culture research and interests.

The Libraries, Archives, Museums, and Popular Culture area is soliciting papers dealing with any aspect of Popular Culture as it pertains to libraries, archives, museums, or research. This year we would particularly like to hear reports about Popular Culture in library education. Other possibilities include descriptions of research collections or exhibits, studies of popular images of libraries or librarians, analyses of social networking or web resources such as *Wikipedia* and *YouTube*, or reports on developments in technical services for collecting popular culture materials.

Papers from graduate students are welcome.

Prospective presenters should send a one-page abstract (electronic preferred) with *full contact information* by **December 15, 2010**, to:

Allen Ellis
Professor of Library Services
W. Frank Steely Library
Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, KY 41099-6101
USA
859-572-5527
FAX: 859-572-5390
E-Mail: ellis@nku.edu

STATE NEWS

GEORGIA

The Value of “Volunteerism”

Story by Erika Ruthman
Cobb County Public Library System

“I get to make a difference,” said Nancy Clark, an East Cobb resident and a Cobb County Public Library System (CCPLS) volunteer.

Clark is one of about 700 library volunteers. Together, the volunteers donated more than nine thousand hours in 2009 to the library, a jump from the more than four thousand hours donated in 2008. Their reasons for volunteering are many and are as different as the individuals.

Their value, according to Alexandra Beswick, Cobb County Public Library System’s Central Library manager, is immeasurable.

“They are part of our family and they help us greatly,” Beswick said.

Volunteers are needed because library staff across Cobb County watched the use of library services spike.

“In 2009 usage at the library was up on all fronts,” Associate Director of Central and Outreach Services Jonathan McKeown said, “circulation, patron count, questions asked, and internet use all increased noticeably.”

McKeown’s observation is most noticeable in the numbers; in 2008, CCPLS staff assisted approximately two million, four hundred thirty-five thousand patrons. In 2009 that number shot up to more than two million, six hundred forty-two thousand according to a 2010 Cobb County Public Library System Monthly-Usage Report. Fortunately, volunteer participation also increased Beswick said, providing reinforcements for community needs.

Volunteers fill duties that sustain the daily library-rhythm such as shelf-reading, book searches, event support, and repairing books just to name a few jobs. What’s more important is that volunteers are ambassadors for the library too, Beswick said.

“[Their work] puts our face out in the community,” she said. “People who volunteer share that [experience] with their friends. They are good proponents for the library.”

Beswick said, volunteers also enjoy the benefits of experience and the camaraderie and some volunteers have even re-invented themselves in the job sector.

Marianne Masciantonio, a library technician at the Central Library since July 2008, agreed that the CCPLS is a positive place to work. She volunteered in 2000 and then again in 2008, in the Central Library's, 'Georgia Room,' where she previously conducted personal genealogy research.

Masciantonio started working in the CCPLS after what she said was a difficult life-transition made easy by the library staff.

"When my husband was laid off, I was a housewife having to transition back into the workforce. I had been working at home for about 14 years," Masciantonio said. "It was difficult to come back after that long break, not because I doubted my ability to do it, but I was worried about other's perception of me. It was scary."

When a part time position opened in the summer of 2008 at the library, Masciantonio applied for and landed the job.

"Because [the staff was] so encouraging ... it was an easy transition as far as coming [back] into a work place. It was a huge relief," she said.

Clark, on the other hand, said that she began volunteering at the library because of her "love for books" so it was a natural pick for her.

For other people such as Marcy Nader, volunteering at the library is a life-long love. She worked in the CCPLS for nearly 20 years, and was the Merchant's Walk manager for six of those years. Nader continues to work at the library, now as a volunteer since August 2008.

By volunteering to shelve books, both Nader and Clark enjoyed the perk of being some of

the first few community members to see the East Cobb Library before it opened to the public in February.

Whether shelving books at a new library or supporting events at existing libraries, there are many volunteering opportunities available in the library and there is something for a variety of interests according to Masciantonio.

Masciantonio said, "Volunteering for the library is a very easy way to get your feet wet, to establish your network, and to prove yourself [without] pressures."

Library volunteers make a difference, not just in the CCPLS, but in the entire community, Beswick said.

"In Cobb County, every library branch represents the county," she said. "We like to provide the same level of service throughout each branch, so that someone from South Cobb can walk into a North Cobb location and can get the same, quality service."

In that respect, Beswick said, the benefits of CCPLS volunteers have a community-wide impact.

KENTUCKY

Northern Kentucky University's Steely Library Unveils Student Plagiarism/copyright Films and Lessons Website

Northern Kentucky University (NKU) film students have collaborated with the school's W. Frank Steely Library to present *Creative Thinking* @ <http://creativethinking.nku.edu>, an instructive copyright and plagiarism website for junior high through freshman college students. Funded by a grant from the Cincinnati Bar Foundation, *Creative Thinking* films, lessons and activities are designed to proactively educate teens about plagiarism and copyright.

NKU faculty and students, University of Louisville and other regional community partners such as CET (Greater Cincinnati Television Educational Foundation), KYVL (Kentucky Virtual Library) and the Campbell County (KY) Public Library coordinated the educational program. Community partners were vital in promoting the *Creative Thinking* website to educators and to an estimated 200,000 students in the Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati region alone. Kentucky statewide and national student-learner potential is even greater, as evidenced by librarians and educators from Philadelphia to Dallas who have contacted us about their use of the site. According to Google™ Analytics statistics, an average 540 unique users per month visited the *Creative Thinking* website during its first year.



“Our *Creative Thinking* website provides films consisting of realistic stories and expert speakers to support the proactive, engaging lessons and student activities,” said John Schlipp, extended collection services librarian and project director. The films also provide on-screen, pop-up graphical questions and statements to inspire students to follow the content. In addition, there are multiple types of assessment tools for teachers to use, including a fun intellectual property personality quiz based on the popular Simpson’s television characters.

National education standards from Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning, the American Association of

School Librarians and the American Library Association’s Information Literacy Assessment guidelines, as well as state standards from Kentucky and Ohio, are incorporated into the curriculum. Listen to a WNKU radio interview for more about *Creative Thinking* here: <http://tiny.cc/frk05>, or see www.publicbroadcasting.net/wnku/news/newsmain?action=search and keyword search: schlipp AND strobel.

MISSISSIPPI

Fourth-annual Festival a Success at Mississippi State University Libraries

Turn-of-the-century melodies were once again brought into modern focus when the Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival returned to Mississippi State University’s Mitchell Memorial Library on March 26th and 27th, 2010. The Festival, sponsored by the MSU Libraries and the Charles H. Templeton, Sr. Music Museum for its fourth year, brought over 250 guests from over 10 states across the country to the Starkville, Mississippi, campus for concerts, intimate talks-at-the-piano, and tours of the Charles H. Templeton, Sr. Music Museum. Daytime Festival events were featured in the Museum, and evening concerts were held in MSU’s historic Lee Hall’s Bettersworth Auditorium.

Nationally known and highly regarded ragtime musicians Frederick Hodges, Carl Sonny Leyond, Adam Swanson, and Terry Waldo entertained and enlightened the Festival attendees with music and insight into the world of ragtime. New York-based musicologist and collector David A. Jasen, in addition to co-coordinating the event, served as Festival master of ceremonies and led in-depth tours and discussions of the Templeton Collection.



Ragtime pianist Adam Swanson entertains during MSU Libraries' 4th Annual Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival. -- Photo by MSU Libraries - Jim Tomlinson.

Prior to the kick-off of the weekend Festival, 18-year-old piano talent Adam Swanson visited local Starkville elementary schools to share his musical passion with students. Hundreds of students experienced Swanson's dynamic piano stylings and listened as he shared with them some of the pieces' history. Swanson's visit with the Starkville schools continues the Festival's annual outreach efforts to bring more attention to the Templeton Collection at MSU Libraries and to take the music of the Collection to where the students are.

The Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival is sponsored annually in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Other sponsors include the Starkville Area Arts Council, Starkville Rotary, and the Starkville Convention & Visitors Bureau.

For more information on Mississippi State University Libraries and on the Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu/>. To explore the vast Charles Templeton Sheet Music, Instrument, and Recordings Collections, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu/templeton/>.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History Completes \$500,000 Film Digitization Project

The Department of Archives and History has completed a half-million-dollar digitization project for one of its most significant and heavily used resources, the WLBT Newsfilm Collection. The collection is an important documentary source on the civil rights movement in the South from 1954 to 1971.

The WLBT Newsfilm Collection was used in the award-winning documentaries *Eyes on the Prize* and *The Murder of Emmett Till*. The collection has also been used by the FBI and the state attorney general's office in civil rights cases. The collection includes footage of such nationally significant events as the arrival of the Freedom Riders, the Capitol Street Boycott, and James Meredith's enrollment at the University of Mississippi, as well as civil rights leaders Stokely Carmichael, Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Martin Luther King.

"Scholars are beginning to use this collection as a source for research on other social and political events of the 1950s and 1960s, such as the Vietnam War, the women's movement, and the space program," said Elaine Owens, whose Image and Sound section handled the digitization project.

The film was shot on location in Jackson and surrounding areas by WLBT news crews and donated to MDAH in 1980. Only about 10 percent of the film and videotapes produced by local broadcast stations 1950–75 survives in public institutions. The vast majority was discarded when the stations transitioned from film to videotape.

MDAH was awarded a \$227,000 Save America's Treasures grant through the U.S. Department of the Interior in 2006 to undertake the project to preserve the film and make access to it easier. The matching

grant required MDAH to provide personnel and facilities as well as additional funds. MDAH staff inspected, cleaned, and repaired the original 16mm film before digitizing a portion of the collection.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History collects and preserves the archival resources of the state, including official government records, books and manuscripts related to Mississippi history, personal papers, newspapers, newsfilm, audio recordings, photographs, and more. These materials are available to the public free of charge at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, on the corner of North and Amite Streets in downtown Jackson. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. For more information call 601-576-6850 or visit www.mdah.state.ms.us.

Headstone Stories: Raising the Dead

Story by Jennifer D. Rose, Public History Coordinator, Sunflower County Library System, Indianola MS

When I became the Public History Coordinator for the Sunflower County Library System in 2008, I came as a recent graduate with grandiose ideas of how I would astound and educate the local community with their own history. It has taken me some time, but I think I accomplished that goal through “Headstone Stories.” As my travels have taken me around the nation, one of the local events I look for are cemetery strolls. A cemetery stroll is a unique and interesting way to teach history and I wanted to bring this unusual teaching strategy to the local community.

After approaching various high school teachers, the local theater group and the city board and cemetery, I found willing partners with the Indianola Academy sixth grade class. Together the teachers and I created an

outline for the project. It needed to be gradable, yet adjustable to accommodate for alterations made during the project. We had to coordinate what knowledge and experience the teachers wanted for the students with what historical materials for research were located in the Sunflower County History Room at the Henry M. Seymour Public Library. Our final plan was an eight paragraph paper concerning the lifetime of the interred, specifically the political atmosphere, the economic and agricultural conditions, and the cultural trends. The students made two visits with their class (some came independently also) to the History Room, utilizing newspapers, Life magazines, microfilm and genealogical books to research these areas for their paper and personal reconstruction.

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, for two hours the students dressed up and represented their deceased by their individual tombstones at the Indianola City Cemetery. The overall response to the event was positive and encouraging. Some remarked that at first they weren’t sure about this “walking around in the cemetery thing,” but were pleasantly surprised at how interesting it transpired. For me it was a success because I was able to realize a professional dream and reintroduce many to their local library, but most importantly, the students enjoyed getting a break from books and numbers and were excited about history.

NORTH CAROLINA

NC State Time Machine Now Available as iPhone App

In addition to covering more sites on campus, the new version of WolfWalk also contains interesting images of student life and special events that have occurred at NC State, from the dramatic civil rights protests on the Brickyard in the 60’s, to early shots of tailgating at the newly opened Carter-Finley Stadium (complete with a VW bus!),

to more recent photos of the Krispy Kreme Challenge that begins and ends each year at the Bell Tower. The new collection also adds photographic images of many of the prominent members of the NC State family for whom the buildings on campus are named.

The materials that form the basis of WolfWalk's database are drawn heavily from the resources of the University Archives in the NCSU Libraries' Special Collections Research Center, a vast array of documents, photos, audio files and other historical materials from the founding of the school up through the present.

According to Greg Raschke, associate director for collections and scholarly communication at the Libraries, "we are delighted to make these materials even more easily available through the iPhone app. As the official repository for the university, our archives have mountains of incredibly interesting material about the history of NC State; the iPhone app and the expanded web version give us a great way to extend the reach of these materials and to give our donors and the people of North Carolina even more value from the history we collect for them."

WolfWalk is available for [free download on the App Store](http://itunes.com/apps/WolfWalk) (<http://itunes.com/apps/WolfWalk>).

The Joyner Visitor Center at NC State also now offers a smartphone tour through the academic and student life areas of main campus for prospective students and their families. The tour--available from [Go Explore](#) as a free download for the iPhone G4--gives prospective students insight on how to succeed in chemistry, where their ENG 101 class will be held, what a residence hall room really looks like, and other key tips on life at the university.

***Historical State* Web Site Provides Easy Time Travel into NC State's Past**

The North Carolina State University Libraries released an enhanced version of its [Historical State](http://historicalstate.lib.ncsu.edu) web site (<http://historicalstate.lib.ncsu.edu>) to make it even easier for students, scholars, alumni, and the community to explore and enjoy the history, personalities, and culture of NC State University.

The University Archives in the NCSU Libraries' Special Collections Research Center holds a vast array of documents, photos, audio files and other historical materials from the founding of the school up through the present. *Historical State* has been available for some time to provide a digital window into everything from the Model T's lined up outside Riddick Field during its construction in 1933, to a 1950 recording of the Alma Mater, to photos of the 1955 cheerleading squad, to the 1968 undergraduate catalog.

Since the site delivers such a unique accumulation of material about the University—information that is invaluable to scholars and fascinating to alumni and to North Carolinians in general—we have now improved the return on investment for the collection by providing easier, more attractive accessibility to users. The new version of the site provides powerful, easy-to-use search and discovery to open up the rich legacy of NC State University.

According to Greg Raschke, associate director for collections and scholarly communication at the Libraries, "as the official repository for the university, our archives have mountains of incredibly interesting material about the history of NC State; this new tool gives us a great way to extend the reach of these materials and to give our donors and the people of North Carolina even more value for the history we collect for them."

The site now brings together—under a single architecture—a diverse set of historical resources, including digitized images, course catalogs, and yearbooks; historic timelines, narratives, and online exhibits; and catalog records of books about NC State University. Patrons can use *Historical State* to explore the development of campus buildings, student life, athletics, and the academic colleges and departments.

In addition, the site's new search allows patrons to search for specific names, dates, and events. This is particularly useful with items such as course catalogs and student yearbooks, where access to information at the page level is required. Users can search seamlessly across the collection and then limit results, through facets, by type, collection, subject, genre, geographic location, and decade. An integrated "page turner" further adds value to these resources, allowing users to easily page through an entire catalog or yearbook. The full text of course catalogs and yearbooks is searchable to allow users to pinpoint pages containing search terms.

The site also features a "comments" function that allows visitors to leave their reactions and share memories, furthering the value and interest for the whole community. Users can also chat in real time with reference staff.

The new *Historical State* was released as part of this year's March 8 Founders Day activities at NC State. The Special Collections Research Center is also providing the historical photos and materials for another innovative "digital time machine" that makes it easy to explore the NC State campus and its history. On Founders Day, the NCSU Libraries' is also launching the new *WolfWalk* mobile campus tour (m.lib.ncsu.edu/wolfwalk). *WolfWalk* is an innovative tool that allows users with mobile devices to give themselves a self-guided historical walk through NC State's main campus. Using location awareness technology on users' smartphones, it detects

their current location and then delivers a tour of nearby buildings and other historically interesting locations at NC State.

Untangling Facebook, Decoding Congress: New Mathematical Method May Help Tame Big Data

Networks permeate modern life, from Facebook to political allegiances. Now University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill mathematicians and colleagues have developed a new technique for examining networks to help identify patterns and see how connections evolve.

A paper describing their research appears in the May 14, 2010 edition of *Science*.

One of the most prominent areas of network science is the study of what's called the "community structure" of a network. But until now, key methods could only detect "communities" (well-connected groups of nodes) in networks that don't change over time and only have one type of connection.

Of course, most networks in real life are more complicated, said Peter J. Mucha, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics in the UNC College of Arts and Sciences and lead author of the paper. The new technique offers the ability to examine networks that vary over time and have multiple kinds of connections.

"It's 'connecting the dots' on steroids," Mucha said. "This method offers new potential for handling a fire hose of information, whether you're looking at an online social network or a real-world web of people or things."

Mucha and his colleagues derived their new method from mathematical principles and applied it to a few example datasets, including the complete historical roll call voting record in the U.S. Senate through 2008, and a set of Facebook profiles from almost 1,700 students at an anonymous

American university including photo tags and housing information. Mucha said their community detection methodology identified some interesting details, including points of historical transition in the Senate and indications of different groups among Facebook users.

"Facebook is a good example of a tangled web of connections," he said.

"Within it, there are groups of people who are more tightly connected to each other than they are to other groups. If you map out every individual 'friend' connection and trace one connection to another, you'll see some clumpiness to that network."

But a more complete analysis of the network would include information about the myriad of different types of connections. For example, by analyzing data such as individuals' profile details, photo tags, Facebook "likes" and recommendations and messages, it might be possible to identify other connections and groups that may be subtle or not explicitly obvious, Mucha said. (The paper in Science did not look at all such information)

The new method divides a network into multiple "slices," with each slice representing the network at one snapshot in time, or a different set of connections between the individuals within it. These slices are then combined and - by using a variety of computer algorithms - analyzed to identify communities.

Mucha's primary interest in network analysis is applying methodologies to real world data, including congressional relationships.

With the new community detection method, researchers should be able to dig deeper to examine the relationships among different groups in dynamic, multiplex data. Identifying community structures in a network might help to model processes and provides a signal about the underlying system, such as legislative polarization or

the influence of various factors and forces, he said.

"Looking at the way legislators vote, it's usually easy to quickly group them into Republicans and Democrats, but that's really just a first pass at the data," he said. "Those legislators might be connected in many ways - the states they represent, who they've received political donations from, their caucuses or committee assignments, even where their offices are located in the building. Combining such information in a meaningful way helps us explore - and potentially make more sense of - legislative data."

Mucha believes another potential application for the new method is modeling the spread of diseases. He plans new research in that area.

Two UNC undergraduates - Thomas Richardson, class of 2008, and Kevin Macon, class of 2010 - are among the paper's co-authors, along with Mason A. Porter of Oxford University and Jukka-Pekka Onnela of Harvard University.

Mucha is also a member of the UNC's Carolina Center for Interdisciplinary Applied Mathematics and the Institute for Advanced Materials, Nanoscience and Technology. His community detection research is supported by a National Science Foundation CAREER Award.

PEOPLE NEWS

FLORIDA

University of Central Florida Libraries

The University of Central Florida (UCF) Libraries is proud to announce the arrival of **Rebecca "Missy" Murphey**, who joined the Libraries Reference Services department faculty in June. Ms. Murphey received her