What’s in this Issue

New Technology and Database Updates:

• **LearningExpress Library** - Check out the latest details concerning the LearningExpress Library. The update makes an already useful online resource even more useful. (page 5)

• **JSTOR** - 20,000 new e-books have been added to JSTOR, in addition to a few new arts & sciences collections that cover everything from social research to Indian Politics. (page 4)

• **Database Trials** - This semester saw the Rohrbach Library trialing several new and intuitive databases, such as Data-Planet, the Point of View Reference Center, and the Film and Music Industry Databases. (page 5)

New Library Art Displays:

• We talked with Amanda Golden about her series of paintings that are on display throughout the library. She told us about some of her artistic inspirations and what she’s trying to say through her art. (page 2)

• Learn more about second floor art display that was put on by digital media art students. Each piece is unique in its own way, and each incorporates some aspect of digital media, be it old iPods, television sets, or projectors. (page 3)

Also, check out:

• It was another successful year for the READ Poster program. Check out some of the more creative and imaginative posters produced this semester. (page 7)

• Join the Rohrbach Library in saying hello to our spring intern Samuel Box, and bidding farewell to our graduate assistant of three semesters Karen Deisher. (pages 2 & 4)
Art Student’s Paintings Dazzle Rohrbach
By Samuel Box

This semester, the library featured a series of paintings by resident KU fine arts major Amanda Golden. The paintings are part of a series called “I am Bunny,” characterized by vibrant colors and atypical character design, and have proven to be delightful eye candy for library-goers.

Golden’s chosen method of painting involves a technique called dry brushing, which, as one might guess, involves painting with a dry brush rather than one soaked in water. Then, using only a small amount of paint, Golden rubs the brush against the canvas instead of doing regular strokes. This gives the artwork a “rough, energetic texture,” and allows viewers to see the different layers of color on the canvas rather than the smoother texture that a wet brush would leave.

The characters Golden has created draw inspiration from anime-style characters and Golden’s self-admitted rejection of realism. Golden claims that her tendency to emulate anime in her work has always been met by resistance or rejection by her professor. Golden is proud of her interests, however, and so she “developed [her] own personal style that still reflects them, but in a more unique, and painterly way.”

Golden says that aside from anime, her main single artistic influence is Jamie Hewett, the main artist behind the popular animated virtual band Gorillaz, who Golden says excels at making things ugly. “Anyone can make a pretty picture. It takes true skill to make things ugly, but still appealing.”

Golden characterizes the message behind her paintings as going against the established norm. Golden says that after years of talking with various artists and art professors, she’s found that “everyone is in love with the idea of gallery painting, art in a clean space surrounded by rich people and intelligent art critics, however, this is not the modern art world.” She says that just by going on the internet, you can find thousands of beautiful and skillfully made pieces of art that concern just about any subject, all without the need of a gallery setting.

The display in the library, titled “I am Bunny,” draws its name from Golden’s blog, where she was known to her Japanese fans as Bunny, which she used as a pseudonym for publishing different paintings and animations. After she graduates, Golden intends to teach English abroad while continuing her artistic career through the internet.

Meet this Semester’s Library Intern
By Karen Deisher

Samuel Box joined the Rohrbach team as the public relations intern for the Spring 2015 semester. Sam, a professional writing major with minors in history and political science, is finishing his last semester as an undergraduate at KU. Following graduation, Sam hopes to get a job in either writing or in politics. However once 2016 hits, he wants to work on a political campaign.

One can normally find Sam downstairs in the Curriculum Materials Centers, working with the club Actors Creating Theatre, or eating cheesy garlic bread from Mama’s Delight. As an intern, Sam’s responsibilities include managing the library’s blog and Facebook account, and creating and advertising READ posters. Sam’s favorite aspect of interning at Rohrbach is the friendly and inviting working environment the library provides. Additionally, Samuel likes that the assignments he completes are not for a grade. Sam’s free-time interests include watching films, engaging in political discussions, growing massive pumpkins, and playing with his incredibly adorable dog, Greta.
Digital Media Studios Artists Electrify The Second Floor

By Robert Jenson

Students in Professor Rebekkeh Palov’s studio arts courses are far more likely to handle soldering iron or a Raspberry Pi than a sable brush loaded with cerulean blue. Palov is a digital artist with a worldwide reputation. Young artists in her classes quickly get the hang of wiring up an Arduino and writing programs in computer languages like Processing and Raspbian, leveraging image-making technology and three-dimensional objects to create challenging, imaginative, mind-blowing works of art.

Five of her FAS 300 series students conceived pieces for Rohrbach Library’s Second Floor atrium area, and during the April 2 free hour, their installations delighted dozens of library visitors. Sam Borden created a pop-up indoor fountain by projecting light that suggested cascading streams and droplets of water against a set of three pillars. Elyse Goodman’s five iPods and a tablet looped a series of images twisted by code that she wrote, while nearby, Curtis Welteroth used three ancient televisions to reprocess images captured at random through our north windows—including, jarringly, a horse-drawn buggy driven by local Wenger Mennonites. Elizabeth Stutenroth’s entrancing piece enabled viewers to interact with a dreamlike video montage by passing their hands near an Arduino. Josh Cox projected images of cirrus clouds moving across a blue sky, by carefully aiming and programming a sophisticated precision projection system that transformed a tiny enclosed ceiling space in the Room 206 computer lab.

Palov’s courses integrate high-level study of digital photography, digital video, web-based art, time-based art and related topics. Her students develop their technical abilities as they refine their artistic vision, and sometimes they get to see how their often complex art plays outside the studio. The five artists who brought their stuff to Rohrbach found happy viewers indeed.

New Arts & Sciences Collections

By Samuel Box

The Rohrbach Library recently added several new collections of scholarly articles to the JSTOR database. The collections are the JSTOR Arts & Sciences X-XIII.

Arts and Sciences X includes at least 125 new titles that cover a broad range of topics including Business and Social Sciences. This collection also features works from newer JSTOR disciplines, including Social Research, Transportation Studies, Natural Resources, Family Advocacy, and Anti-Trust Laws.

Arts & Sciences XI focuses on JSTOR’s coverage of the humanities, and includes scholarly works in major fields such as Literature, History, and Art. Journals in such subjects as Architecture, Music, and classical studies are also included, along with prominent journals like The American Scholar, Bulletin of the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Journal of Moravian History.

Covering the social sciences is Arts and Sciences XI, which consist of subjects that are studied broadly across many fields. Chief among them are Law, political science, and education titles, which are also supplemented by criminal justice, history, sociology, and psychology titles. These titles can be of use to both academic and practitioner users.

The last of the new collections is Arts & Sciences XIII, which adds a new set of journals from a more international background. The subjects include Language and Literature, Art & Art History, Philosophy, and Religion, in addition to complementing the existing content in History, Music, and Classical Studies. The collection has no less than 125 titles, including such notable ones as the Journal of Indian Philosophy, Gregorandum, and Philosophische Rundschau.
We at the Rohrbach Library are pleased to announce that Kutztown University currently has access to JSTOR’s extensive collection of e-books. The PALCI Board of directors announced earlier this month that every library within the PALCI system will take part in this pilot program, which is expected to continue until the end of the semester at the earliest. KU students and faculty now have access to more than 20,000 academic books available on the online JSTOR platform.

The books in the database were all added to the collection based on levels of past use and existing demand. All of the books have been extensively integrated into the system and are cross-searchable, meaning that it’s now far easier to find books that have been cited in academic journals and articles, and vice-versa. Scholarly reviews for the books are also available and easily searchable, making the process of researching on JSTOR all the more easy and streamlined. To use the new service, simply click on the “Books” tab of the JSTOR results page after you’ve searched for something and you’ll see the wide range of books related your search criteria.

JSTOR also saves you the trouble of tediously scouring through a book’s index or table of contents for individual pieces of information by giving you search results that feature not just the book, but the specific chapter that holds the information relevant to your source. From there, you can view any other chapter of the book as you see fit.

Additionally, if you’re not a fan of reading long blocks of text on a computer screen, all of the books are capable of being downloaded and/or printed as a PDF, chapter by chapter.

The program will continue to add books to the program each month that it is in place. The initial pilot program is expected to run through to the end of the Spring 2015 semester, but will continue pass this time if the program is a success. This is all the more reason to take advantage of this service while it is available.

Rohrbach Says Goodbye to a Longtime Grad Assistant

By Samuel Box

This semester, the Rohrbach family will be bidding farewell to one of its beloved members, Karen Deysher. Karen has been a graduate assistant with the library since January 2014. In May, she’ll take those big few steps onto the stage at Schaeffer auditorium to receive her degrees as part of the graduating class of 2015.

She’s performed a wide variety of functions during her time at the library, including creating handouts and Excel documents, creating bulletin boards, designing READ Posters, and helping with library events. Last spring she even helped create and run the Horton Hears KU series. After graduation, Karen wants to take a couple months to focus on enjoying the unemployed life. She plans on binge watching shows she never had time for, reading books she’s always had her eye on, and becoming a master vegetarian chef. She’ll then try to get a job as a community organizer and focus on being a “macro-level social worker.”

“I want to work for a nonprofit organization or something with a progressive cause. I want to help marginalized groups and make sure their rights are being upheld, you know, social justice and stuff.”

Karen certainly won’t have to work too hard to pad her résumé. She’ll be graduating with a master’s degree in social work, and another master’s degree in public administration. She’s also been interning with the Reading Housing Authority, where she helps facilitate counseling with residents and helps with program evaluations.

We at Rohrbach wish Karen the best of luck, and hope she knows that we’ll miss her dearly.
A LearningExpress Library Update
By Samuel Box

The LearningExpress Library (LEL) was recently updated to include a wide range of new features and enhancements. The update included changes to improve performance, navigation, and user friendliness.

The overall layout of the site itself has been altered to make it easier to browse through the various pages, and the search engine was revamped to provide results quicker. The site also was optimized to make pages load faster and its applications, such as the practice tests, run smoother. Additionally, LEL was optimized to be easily accessible on any devices, including phones or tablets, meaning it’s easier than ever to take LEL wherever you go.

Some of the new resources added include:

- 10 new helpful e-books
- Praxis core mathematics and reading practice tests
- Over three dozen high school math practice tests
- A practice exercise that improves critical thinking skills in just 20 minutes per day.

These changes and improvements make the LearningExpress Library an even more invaluable resource than it was before.

R.I.P. This Semester’s Database Trials
By Samuel Box

This semester, the Rohrbach Library trialed several new databases and online resources. Although most of these have since expired, let’s take a brief moment to reexamine those treasured trials that made learning and researching a little bit easier.

There was the film and music industry databases, which gave us unprecedented access to statistics from both industries, and allowed us to view the same industry trends that film and music executives based key business decisions on. There was also DataPlanet, which relied upon billions of data points to create adjustable and downloadable graphs, charts, and visual aids. Accompanying DataPlanet was the Ready Reference Database, which made navigating through these various graphs for specific pieces of information easier than ever. And who could forget the Point of View Research Center, which provided political, journalism, and sociology students alike with multiple perspectives on a wide range of contentious social and political topics.

These databases have now moved on to the great big database directory in the sky, and so we salute them.

New Library Website
By Samuel Box

This semester, the library saw some radical new changes to its main website. In addition to a sleek new design that highlights KU’s school colors, the website has some new tools as well.

One is the new search bar, which has a new design that allows you to easily switch between searching for books, films, journals, databases, and libguides. However, if you just want quick, off the cuff, at a glance, results, punch your query into the OmniSearch bar, and a variety of the resources related to that query that the library has access to will appear. The results page also has a more organized layout for narrowing down your results without needing to launch a separate advance search.

In addition to the Omni search, the homepage now has a twitter feed, optimized drop-down menus, and overall improved functionality that allows for smoother browsing and faster page loading.
The Rohrbach Library completed its 5th year of creating READ posters. Readers took part with a wide variety of books being featured, from classics like *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* to modern hits such as *Paper Towns* and *The Name of the Star*. Each participant posed a unique challenge for the designers of the posters, and each poster promotes the joy of reading in its own, unique way. Check out our Facebook Page to see them all.

**Library Hours**

Sunday .............................................2 p.m.– Midnight
Monday–Thursday ......................7:45 a.m.– Midnight
Friday ................................................7:45 a.m.– 5 p.m.
Saturday ................................................9 a.m.– 5 p.m.

Exceptions can be found on the bulletin board outside the library, on the Library website, or can be obtained by calling 610-683-4481.

**Summer Hours**

Sunday ...............................................................Closed
Monday–Friday  .........................8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Saturday .............................................................Closed.

**How to Reach Us At Rohrbach Library**

- Information Commons Desk: 610-683-4480
- Library Director: 610-683-4484
- Research Help Desk: 610-683-4165
- Curriculum Materials Center: 610-683-4709
- Electronic Databases: 610-683-4168
- Information Literacy Instruction: 610-683-4173
- Interlibrary Loan: 610-683-4158
- Technical Support: 610-683-4167
- Library Systems: 610-683-4166
- Acquisitions/Cataloging: 610-683-4161
- Web Team Coordinator: 610-683-4766

**Other Departments Located in the Library**

- Department of Library Science & Instructional Technology: 610-683-4300
- Tutoring Center: 610-683-4207
- Academic Enrichment: 610-683-4726
- CASA: 610-683-4007

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**Spring 2015 READ Posters**

By Samuel Box and Karen Deisher

The Rohrbach Library completed its 5th year of creating READ posters. Readers took part with a wide variety of books being featured, from classics like *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* to modern hits such as *Paper Towns* and *The Name of the Star*. Each participant posed a unique challenge for the designers of the posters, and each poster promotes the joy of reading in its own, unique way. Check out our Facebook Page to see them all.

Here are some of our favorites from this semester!