Greetings and welcome to the Winter edition of Notes from the Stacks. As the Louisville Spring brings its familiar rains and potential flooding, our libraries remain comfortable, well-lighted spaces, conducive to hunkering down to study and research. I welcome you to come visit and enjoy them yourselves!

In the interests of making our libraries even more conducive to student success, we are excited about Ekstrom Library’s third floor renovation, now in its final preparation and planning stage, with hammers scheduled to swing in May after classes end. The project will provide modernized study space, a new Reading Room, a dedicated graduate student study area and better lighting and wayfinding for students in need of more study areas on campus. Planned for several years, the project received a $500,000 grant by University Administration as part of its student initiatives program, and is heartily endorsed by the Student Government Association. It is scheduled for completion by September 2019.

As we continue to emphasize, the reason for the renovation is clear: enrollment is predicted to grow in the coming years and it is crucial that we support a larger population with a high-quality library experience. Because our footprint and square footage will not grow, we need to make the best use of the space we have. We want to provide students with upgraded study areas and seating so they are supported during times when they really need space in the library. Raising the seat-to-student ratio in our libraries helps UofL’s competitive edge in recruiting new students and retaining current ones.

A large component of the renovation is a proposed Jewish Studies Reading Room in space formerly occupied by the Writing Center. We are currently working with the UofL Jewish Studies program and the local Jewish community of Louisville to raise necessary funds for this project, which will serve to inspire current and future Jewish scholars and recognize this important constituency on campus. Please reach out to Matt Wyatt, Libraries Director of Development (matthew.wyatt@louisville.edu or office: (502) 852-8710, cp: (270) 307-6509), if you’d like more information.

To provide updates to the University community and the public, we have created a website about the project (https://library.louisville.edu/ekstrom/reno3). Please keep up with us through this portal and let us know your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Dean Bob Fox
Streetcar Lines Trace Growth of Louisville as a City

For nearly six decades, streetcars were the primary mode of transportation for the city’s population. Gradually, the Louisville Railway company transitioned to using cheaper and more flexible buses, and, as the nation grew increasingly obsessed with the automobile, streetcars became obsolete. Spurred by a long-time love of the streetcar and its historical impact, historian and journalist Martin E. Biemer has written Louisville Street Railways and How They Shaped the City’s Growth. The book is replete with several hundred photos, illustrations and drawings, many from the University of Louisville Archives and Special Collections (ASC).

Read more: https://wp.me/p1uJ9h-1Dv

Bedpans as objets d’art?

A Kornhauser Library donor’s burgeoning interest in bedpans was initiated by his wife, who had urged him to find a hobby.

Libraries Offers new Digital Tools for Researchers

Ekstrom Library’s Research Assistance and Instruction (RAI) librarians have produced two important digital portals for UofL students. Last year, RAI introduced Research DIY (Discover It Yourself), a collection of basic how-to instructional videos and graphics for undergraduate students just getting comfortable with university-level research. RAI’s new digital offerings is aimed at graduate students and is called the Productive Researcher.

LUMA Wins Very Cool Award

The Louisville Underground Music Archive (LUMA) received a very cool and highly prestigious Advocate Award from the Louisville Music Awards.

Show Some Library Love!

Some of our patrons and workers shared their reasons for loving the libraries! We ran this story on our Library’s news site on Valentine’s Day:

Events

Martin Biemer Streetcar Book Reading

Biemer will discuss his research and read selections from his book on Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 p.m. EDT in the Chao Auditorium on the lower level of the Ekstrom Library on the Belknap Campus of the University of Louisville. (Reminder: this will be the first day of daylight savings time.) Free parking is available on-campus. UofL’s Archives and Special Collections is hosting the event where books can be purchased. Contact ASC for more information: 852-6752.

Exhibit: The Gravures of Alvin Langdon Coburn

Coburn studied and embraced photogravure, a photomechanical process using printer’s ink, and not only supervised the printing but also set up two presses in his London home. He prepared and etched every steel plate, inked them with hand-ground pigments and experimented with various papers before he released a proof to his printer. The photogravures in this exhibition represent three of Coburn’s series, London (1909), New York (1910), and the illustrations to H. G. Wells’ The Door in the Wall (1911). Dates: Feb. 20-March 22. Place: ASC’s Photographic Archives Gallery, Lower Level of Ekstrom Library

All of Us Research Program Brings the Future of Health to Louisville

This week, Kornhauser Health Sciences Library will host the National Institutes of Health’s All of Us Journey, a traveling, hands-on exhibit that raises awareness about the All of Us Research Program. The All of Us Journey will be parked outside 500 S Preston Street on February 28th and March 1st as part of its national tour. The All of Us Research Program aims to speed up health research and medical breakthroughs. To do so, All of Us is asking 1 million volunteers to share different types of health and lifestyle information—information like where they live, what they do, and their family health history. Stop by the exhibit on S. Preston street just outside the library between 9am and 3pm on Thursday, February 28th and Friday, March 1st, to learn more about this research and enrolling in the project. To learn more about the All of Us Research Program in the meantime, please visit JoinAllofUs.org.