



*Ce qui se passe...*

The newsletter of

# Ellender Memorial Library

Nicholls State University

volume 5 issue 2

[www.nicholls.edu/library](http://www.nicholls.edu/library)

Spring 2009

## Library Hours

Monday – Thursday

7:30 am – 9:00 pm

Friday

7:30 am – 4:30 pm

Sunday

4:00 pm – 12:00 am

**Note:** For changes to schedule due to holidays or emergency closures, please see the library website. All patrons are asked to leave the library 15 minutes prior to closing. The phone number for library hours is 985-448-4660.

## On the Fly Classes

We offer *On the Fly Classes* in *Research Methods, Literature, Musicology, and Culinary Arts Resources, among others!* Contact *Melissa Goldsmith* at 448-4626 if you have a group of three or more students who would like a session we do not currently offer.

The *Information Literacy* instruction team will also be creating a battery of classes designed to enhance research skills. These sessions will cover everything from understanding how search engines retrieve information, to using Boolean operators correctly, to the more advanced skills like using search histories, thesauri, and standardized subject headings (or descriptors). Classes should be ready by Summer 2009.

## Library Tip 1

Remember to bring your student ID with you when you come to the Library, since it doubles as your library card.

## Nicholls Leads Louisiana Universities in Article Research Volume

According to the database usage statistics over the past decade, Nicholls has taken over as the top user among all state universities of some very important electronic research database packages. The 2008 *EBSCOhost* (the largest database package in the state) stats shows Nicholls with 16.18 percent of the database usage. To get a sense of how high that number is, one need only glance to the second place finisher in that list, LSU, which had 12.34 percent of the total. In raw numbers, in 2008 Nicholls had 541,260 unique *EBSCOHost* article search sessions. LSU had 412,951. In 2007, Nicholls led the state as well, accounting for 17 percent of total usage.

Another database report, the *2008 ProQuest Dissertation Abstracts Usage Reports*, also placed Nicholls on top. Our research usage led the state, with 11.01 percent, or 24,755 unique sessions. By way of comparison, LSU had 18,143 sessions, or 8.07 percent. The 2007 numbers for the same database showed Nicholls second to only Louisiana Tech, 13.42 to 9.26 percent. In that year, Nicholls had 14,833 unique sessions. Yet another database report, the *2008 Gale Usage Report*, shows Nicholls leading the state with that database package, totaling 36,286 sessions, or 16 percent of the state total. By way of comparison, LSU had 31,536 sessions, or 13.9 percent. Nicholls also led the state in the *Gale 2007 Report*, with 16.7 percent (38,632 sessions).

The spike in our research usage can be traced back to September 2006, when numbers in database usage for the database packages noted above skyrocketed. Other database reports show a similar jump beginning in that month. For example, Nicholls' use of WorldCat, a database of library catalogs worldwide, more than doubled between August and September of 2006. Nicholls also went from being one of the lowest users of MathSciNet (an important mathematics database) in 2004, to being, according to the *2008 MathSciNet Usage Report* of total queries, the third largest user in the state (LSU and McNeese ranked higher).

## Upcoming: Beats and Bongos 3

All cats and kittens are welcome to hang out in front of the Student Union on April 20th, for the third annual Beat Poetry Reading and Performance Happening. Readings can be original beat or jazz-influenced pieces, or performances of well-known writers like Kerouac, Burroughs, Lawrence Lipton, or Diane di Prima. Readings of pieces by less famous authors like Rod McKuen and Jim Morrison are also welcome.

Come dressed in your favorite 1960s garb, and feel free to bring your own poems, your best finger snapping talents, and your own bongos, bass, acoustic guitar, or percussions! Readings are scheduled to begin at 1:00 pm in front of the Student Union. If you have any questions, contact **Melissa Goldsmith** (448-4626) or **Tony Fonseca** (448-4675).

## Another Successful Symposium

On October 15, 2008, Ellender Library co-hosted the CAFE's (The Center for Advancement of Faculty Engagement) Second Symposium: Engaging Students Through Popular Culture. The day-long event focused on how faculty, by using popular culture phenomena such as action movies, sports statistics, text messaging, hip hop dancing, *Rolling Stone* magazine, *Second Life*, and *Adult Swim* cartoons could develop strategies for inspiring and motivating students in the classroom. Presenters included Nicholls faculty, and faculty from five other universities. The twelve sessions attracted faculty, students, and members of the larger Nicholls community. Over 100 total participants crowded the halls of Elkins Hall and Ellender Library to discuss innovative methods of teaching.

# Keeping Our Library Free, Fair, and Ethical

As faculty members, academic librarians are honor-bound to advocate for First Amendment rights, since public institutions of higher education are usually held to a high standard when it comes to free speech. As academic librarians, we also often find that we are faced with greater responsibilities when it comes to issues like free speech and freedom of expression. We sometimes have to balance the free flow of ideas with the intricacies of fairness (in information dissemination), copyright infringement, and institutional policies.

The reason we often find ourselves straddling the fence on such issues has to do with all librarians' professional Code of Ethics. This code was articulated by our highest ranking professional organization, the American Library Association (ALA), back on June 28, 1997, when the ALA Council codified general principles to make them clear to both librarians and the general public. These guidelines were intended to aid all involved parties, from librarians and information professionals, to library trustees/boards and higher level administrators, when they are faced with the ethical dilemmas that occur if values conflict. In short, the ALA Code of Ethics "states the values to which [ALA members] are committed, and embodies the ethical responsibilities of the profession in this changing information environment."

Because the Code of Ethics was intended as a group of principles that could be "expressed in broad statements to guide ethical decision making," they are not hard and fast rules which specifically dictate conduct in any given situation. The code was amended recently, on January 22, 2008, but its basic spirit has remained. The following is a word-for-word transcription of the six tenets in the code which address First Amendment issues. These are taken from the American Library Association's website ([www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)):

\* We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.

\* We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources.

\* We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.

\* We respect intellectual property rights and advocate balance between the interests of information users and

rights holders.

\* We do not advance private interests at the expense of library users, colleagues, or our employing institutions.

\* We distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties and do not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions or the provision of access to their information resources.

These guidelines may seem contradictory at times: they advocate total freedom of expression—while also emphasizing that librarians themselves cannot advance their own private agendas if these agendas conflict with the interests of patrons or (in our case) the academic institution. Nonetheless, they clearly embody the fact that censorship is never a black and white issue; rather, issues associated with First Amendment rights typically inhabit a gray area. For academic librarians, such issues always represent a challenge, just as they do for teaching faculty. Sometimes these issues remind us that what is ethical or right may not necessarily also be just and fair, given that we may find ourselves brokering between the interests of students and institutional policy. If nothing else, such moments present us with an opportunity for dialogue, which may lead to policy change, or simply to a better understanding of where our colleagues stand on the issues.

## The Devil We Know (Book Review)

**Martin F. Norden, ed. *The Changing Face of Evil in Film and Television*. Amsterdam; New York: Rodopi, 2007. 791.43653 C362f**

*The Changing Face of Evil in Film and Television* begins admirably, with Norden's introductory remarks on the linguistic power of the word *evil*. He gives examples of historically recent uses of the word to argue that events such as the 9/11 terrorist attacks on The World Trade Center and the Virginia Tech massacre, combined with current trends towards "moving-image" media's becoming the means by which the face of evil is revealed to the public consciousness, have reintroduced the term *evil* into

everyday, secular vocabulary. Having done his research fairly well (though not exhaustively), Norden cites various studies and theorists, and begins a compelling dialogue with the reader about various types of evil, such as what he terms "mundane evil," which results when people lack the courage to act out of their convictions so as to prevent destruction.

Unfortunately, Norden proves to be a better theorist than editor. Readers are to assume that he set out to produce an anthology with a sense of unity, establishing up front that each chapter, although penned by a different author, should examine the face of evil, and that there should be some sense of

chronological evolution. But Norden's editorial attempts at a unified product leaves a good bit to be desired. Despite the diverse approaches taken by the various authors of the book's chapters, the reader gets no clear sense of how the essays and chapters integrate into a whole.

That being said, in the case of this text, the sum of parts is actually better than the whole. Looking at the essays individually, readers will undoubtedly find that many of the discussions of evil stand out as being excellent resources in and of themselves. For any scholar studying how modern films and television series more strongly inform public conceptions about the concept of evil than do religious writings, this book will serve admirably.

# An Open Secret You Should Know About

We've all been there before: we open our browser to the library's webpage, find the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) search box, and type in the name of a topic, such as *Italian cooking*, only to discover that the search engine returns only 21 hits, a disappointing total given the presence of the John Folse Culinary Institute on campus; however, this apparently small results list is more a product of confusion on the researcher's part than it is a measurement of the actual size of the library's collection on the topic.

Understanding the way a library catalog functions is essential for researchers who find themselves faced with the task of ferreting out a comprehensive or specific list of library materials. For starters, our hypothetical researcher should realize that the search produced 21 hits because it was run as a **Keyword Search**. The good news is that there is a way around this problem; it involves understanding the difference between a free text search (such as the ubiquitous **Keyword Search**, or as it is called in our OPAC, the **Word or Phrase Search**), and the standardized language search (which all OPACs call a **Subject Search**).

Both searches look for an exact match in the catalog. The **Subject Search** searches for very specific wording, based not on the text found in the book's title, its chapter titles, or in the publisher's description of the book, but on one of the standardized Subject Headings assigned to the book when it was cataloged. All jargon aside, what a researcher really needs to understand is that a search based on the standardized heading of a topic will find any and all materials on that topic, whether or not the exact phrase *Italian cooking* occurs anywhere in its title, chapter titles, or in the publisher's description. The reason for this is because when a cataloger catalogs a text of any kind, that cataloger assigns standardized headings based on what the text is about, regardless of what wording the author used, or even regardless of what language the title and other descriptive material is written in.

Now for the monkey wrench in the works: the reason most researchers use keyword searching in the first place is because they could never predict how a subject heading for any given subject, including something as simple as *Italian cooking*,

will be standardized. In the case of this example, the standardized subject heading is *cooking, Italian*. If the same researcher were to run a **Subject Search** (instead of a **Word or Phrase Search**) in our OPAC, and type in *cooking, Italian*, the number of hits retrieved more than doubles, totaling 65. This is the most comprehensive list the catalog could possibly produce on the topic.

But there is a way for researchers to "cheat" when they do not know exactly how a subject heading is standardized. Here is the trick: First, run the search as a **Word or Phrase Search**, using the natural language phrase *Italian cooking*. Second, choose any title in the results list which is obviously about your topic, and click on the Details link. This will call up a screen that has two tabs—Item Record and Catalog Record. Hidden (in plain view) in the Catalog Record tab is a list of all the subject headings that were assigned to the text in question. Better yet, these are all linkable, so you won't even have to retype your search!

# The Lyric and the Epic Meet at the Library

Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m.

**Ellender Library Multipurpose Room (Ellender Library, Room 322)**

Reference librarian **Jean-Mark Sens** will host readings by two poets, Louis Bourgeois and Mark Yakich. Bourgeois, a New Orleans native raised in the Slidell/LaCombe area (as well as East New Orleans on Bayou Sauvage), has published translations, fiction, memoirs, poetry and interviews in over two hundred magazines and journals in North America, Europe, and Asia. His recent books include a collection of poems entitled *OLGA* and *The Gar Diaries*. The latter is a fascinating series of stories about the coming of age in South Louisiana toward the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Bourgeois is also the co-founder and editor of *VOX*, an independent experimental literary journal based in Oxford, Mississippi.

Yakich, Associate Professor at Loyola

University, has worked in the European Parliament and has degrees in political science, creative writing, and English. He is the author of three poetry collections: *Unrelated Individuals Forming a Group Waiting to Cross*, *The Making of Collateral Beauty* (winner, Snowbound Chapbook Award, 2006), and *The Importance of Peeling Potatoes in Ukraine*.

Wednesday, April 1, 6:30 p.m.

**Ellender Library Multipurpose Room (Ellender Library, Room 322)**

Sens will host poetry readings by Darrell Bourque and John Gery. Bourque is affiliated with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and has been Louisiana's State Poet Laureate from 2007 to 2008. He has published four books of poems: *Plainsongs*, *The Doors Between Us*, *Burnt Water Suite*, and *The Blue Boat*. Fourteen of his poems are included in Elemore Morgan, Jr.'s retrospective catalog,

*Where Land Meets Sky*. Bourque has recently completed a manuscript, *Call and Response*, with Louisiana poet Jack Bedell, and is finishing a new collection, *In Ordinary Light*.

Gery is a Research Professor at UNO, and is a poet and critic of modern and contemporary poetry, as well as a collaborative translator of poetry. He has received a Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, an Artist Fellowship from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, two Deep South Writers Poetry Awards, and a European Award of the Circle Franz Kafka in Prague. His *The Enemies of Leisure* received a Critic's Choice Award from the San Francisco Review of Books and was named a Best Book of 1995 in poetry by *Publisher's Weekly*. *A Gallery of Ghosts* (2008), his recent poetry collection, is available now from UNO Press.

## Library News

**Sandi Chauvin** (Serials) chaired the Halloween Subcommittee of the Library's Publicity and Public Relations Committee (PaPR), organizing and hosting the Library's Halloween Party and Costume Contest. She has been asked by The Louisiana Library Network (LOUIS) to present two statewide workshops on using the Serials Control module of the SIRSI JAVA Workflows client at McNeese and Southeastern this semester.

**Tony Fonseca** (Serials) will be installed as President of the Louisiana Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL-LA) on July 1, 2009. He has co-authored two articles for *Louisiana Libraries*: "New ACRL-LA Board to Be Project Oriented" (with Jessica Hutchings, McNeese) and "Beats and Bongos: Making the Library the Cultural Center of Academe" (with **Van Viator** and **Melissa Goldsmith**). He also published three encyclopedia entries (Professor Longhair, Missy Elliot, and Freddy Fender) for Salem Press. He recently served as president for the Beta Phi Mu-Beta Zeta Chapter, also serving as Master of Ceremonies for the chapter's 2009 member induction ceremony.

**Melissa Goldsmith** (Reference/Instruction) completed a Nicholls Research Council funded trip to do archival research at UCLA, USC, and the Santa Monica Public Library in California. She has been working on the music of Jim Morrison and the beats of Venice West. Goldsmith has currently published reviews in *Choice* and in *Fontes Artis Musicae* (the journal of the International Association of Music Libraries and Documentation Centers). She presented a workshop on writing book reviews and serving as a book reviews editor at ACRL-LA's Pre-LUC event *Publish and Flourish*. She has been Chair of the By-Laws Committee for ACRL-LA and was just elected President of

the Beta Zeta Chapter of Beta Phi Mu, the international library and information science honor society. **Goldsmith** has co-authored "Beats and Bongos: Making the Library the Cultural Center of Academe" (with **Fonseca** and **Viator**) in *Louisiana Libraries*.

**Neil Guilbeau** (Archives), working with **William Charron** (Documents), has created and posted the Ellender Library Virtual Tour [[www.nicholls.edu/apps/library/virtual\\_tour/](http://www.nicholls.edu/apps/library/virtual_tour/)].

**Van Viator** (Reference/Instruction) co-authored "Beats and Bongos: Making the Library the Cultural Center of Academe" (with **Fonseca** and **Goldsmith**) in *Louisiana Libraries*.

### Library Tip 2

WebFeat, one of the recent innovations added to the Library's arsenal of EBSCOHost databases, is in theory a step forward in article research: it allows for simultaneous searching of each and every Library database. In practice, it is in no way an effective replacement for using research skills to determine which databases will most likely contain articles in a given discipline. Like any new software product, it has limitations. For example, it is unable to accurately search some non-EBSCOHost database packages, such as JSTOR, Lexis-Nexis, and GaleNet, more often than not producing irrelevant hits from those database packages. WebFeat is still an excellent place to start if you have absolutely no idea which database will most effectively return relevant and useful hits on a search. To keep abreast of which databases work best for each discipline, you can also click on the Arranged by Subject Area link on our databases page:

[www.nicholls.edu/library/database.htm](http://www.nicholls.edu/library/database.htm)

## Upcoming Events

*The Beats and Bongos Performance Happening* will be a "happening" event again this year (see page 1 of this issue). For those of you new to the Library's annual event, it is an opportunity to read poetry to music, in a setting reminiscent of the 1950s and 1960s beat poetry happenings. It will feature poems by beat writers like Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Gregory Corso, and Lawrence Lipton (the author most responsible for chronicling the phenomenon). Participants are also welcome to read their own beat poetry. Folksingers, jazz musicians, and people interested in music improvisation are also welcome. This event is a laid-back experience—no previous background in poetry or music is required. Just bring an open mind and your willingness to explore the sounds of the beats.

The Publicity and Public Relations Committee (PaPR) is just beginning to make plans for its *Second Annual Faculty Tiki Party* this year. It will likely take place in early or mid April. The Tiki Party offers the food and atmosphere of the Pacific—Polynesia (Hawaii) and Oceania. The purpose of the Faculty Tiki Party is to both reach out to teaching faculty and celebrate the library's rapport with them. Former and current library staff (including student workers) also are acknowledged for their support of collection development, research, information literacy, and fun/educational library sponsored events. Get ready to luau and say "Aloha!"

## Your Books Needed



Cleaning out your office, or shelves at home? Remember that the **Friends of Ellender Memorial Library** are collecting books for a fund-raiser on Thursday, April 23rd from 7:30 am until 8:00 pm, and Friday, April 24th, from 7:30 am until 12:00 pm. If you are interested in helping with the book sale by giving the Friends Group your unwanted novels, short story collections, books of poetry, biographies, histories, and other works of nonfiction, please bring your donation to the Multimedia Room, on the first floor of the library. A special preview of the Book Sale will be available for Friends of the Library members on April 22nd.

## Join the Ellender Library Friends Group!

The Friends of Ellender Memorial Library Membership Meeting and Luncheon is scheduled for **Thursday, March 5, 2009** in the Plantation Room of the Student Union. The luncheon will be held from 12:00 until 1:15 pm. A \$25.00 individual membership in the Friends of Ellender Memorial Library includes a reservation to the Friends Library Fund Raising Luncheon. The annual membership form is available in the Library and through the Office of the Library Director.

Lunch will be followed by a brief membership meeting and a short informational program about Nicholls students' and faculty's leading the state in article research volume over the last two years (see article on page 1 of this issue). Please show your support for the Library by joining, or renewing your membership today. Call 448-4646 if you have any questions.

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