This summer, members of the Nicholls community who wanted to check out the newest book in the Twilight or Harry Potter series found themselves in the same boat as those who wished to read about the most recent medical breakthroughs in *The New England Journal of Medicine* or *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. The situation was much the same for students who needed to make copies of the *New York Times* April 1912 article announcing the sinking of the Titanic, or faculty who wanted to listen to a rare recording of an Amy Beach composition. All these patrons found one slight obstacle in their way—the entrance to Ellender Memorial Library was fenced off, closed due to renovations.

Construction on the library entrance began in May, and is expected to be completed by the beginning of the fall semester. Until that time, patrons can enter the library using the rear, or receiving entrance off of Afton Drive, which has been equipped with a ramp for patrons in wheelchairs or with other physical challenges. The construction to the library's entrance will serve two purposes: it will correct problems introduced by cypress knees, and it will modernize and beautify the library's exterior.

The new entrance, designed by architect Richard Weimer, will be accented by red benches and alternating colored squares of concrete, introducing the school’s colors to patrons. It will also feature three fountains with bubblers (which will match the building façade), and new planters to introduce more greenery to the entrance.

**Below: two views of the construction currently being done to the library entrance. Photos courtesy of Neil Guilbeau.**

The Archives and Special Collections Department recently received a $5,000 donation from the Terrebonne Genealogical Society. The funds will be used to purchase books and materials that will enhance the existing genealogy collection. The Terrebonne Genealogical Society was formed in 1972 as a part of Terrebonne Parish's sesquicentennial celebration. The Society publishes a quarterly, *Terrebonne Life Lines*, as well as several other publications on the history and genealogy of Terrebonne, Lafourche and Assumption parishes. The Society has been a supporter of the Archives for several years, donating both their publications as well as family genealogy collections.
If We Link It, They Will Come

Imagine having at your fingertips, just a couple of clicks away, access to archived documents housed in libraries far away, journal articles in foreign languages, theses and dissertations from other institutions, sound recordings, sheet music, art databases, and historical dictionaries, among other diverse resources—all for free. The number of these open access resources has been increasing at an amazing rate, and many offer outstanding research opportunities.

The Library of Congress hosts some excellent open access projects that offer quality resources that can be helpful to research in history, the arts, literature, and the sciences. A large number of current theses and dissertations may also be accessed for free using the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD), an international repository available online. Retrospective projects have been included in the repository so that users may also find a large number of older theses and dissertations. Obviously, for researchers, this is a boon: Entire full text documents, including multimedia files, are searchable and are available for free.

Moreover, academic institutions and individual thesis authors who participate in NDLTD are able to showcase their research and disseminate it more widely than thesis authors who have their works simply housed on library shelves at their respective institutions. And electronic theses and dissertations allow for the inclusion of audio, visual, interactive, and other multimedia applications, which enhance the quality of scholarship.

Another free source, the Directory of Open Access Journals (called DOAJ) contains titles of free online journals published worldwide. The more these peer-reviewed publications are being deemed as A or A+ grade scholarly journals, the more likely they will be of interest to students, staff and faculty.

Ellender Library is exploring the possibility of incorporating some of these open access resources, which are reliable and consistently updated, in its Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC). Doing so will enable our patrons to find these resources much more easily than they can by surfing the Internet (assuming they knew about them).

Additional access points to these resources through the catalog will also increase the research serendipity of the entire Nicholls community; by connecting more quickly to difficult-to-find open access documents and databases, users will be encouraged to pursue more original avenues of research. Faculty will find useful supplementary materials for their courses, and students will be able to conduct more studies that involve multitasking in various multimedia.

The Importance of Being (Part of) LOUIS

The Library spends more than a hundred thousand dollars annually to keep its shelves stocked with the most current books, medical models, and music. Although this may sound like serious cash to the average library user, this is actually just enough money to allow the Library to own circulating resources that make it possible for students to pursue an education that will make them competitive in an ever-changing global economy. Books and collections of essays, however, make up only a small portion of the literature in a given field or discipline.

Therefore, the Library, in order to supplement its book collection, purchases database packages. These database packages both serve as indexes to make articles searchable, and as access points, allowing for a researcher to download the full text of a desired article or document.

Unfortunately, these databases, such as Academic Search Complete (ASC), JSTOR, and Lexis-Nexis Academic are prohibitively expensive. In fact, if Nicholls had to purchase them itself, the Library would be lucky to have even the smallest database. So how can Ellender Library manage to make accessible some 80 databases? The answer is through what is called a consortia agreement, in our case with a statewide agency named LOUIS (based at LSU). An independent agency, LOUIS serves as the broker between libraries and large vendors like EBSCOHost (the vendor which supplies ASC). LOUIS arranges for libraries to buy as a bulk, in which case vendors apply big discounts to the purchase price. If LOUIS were to disappear, Ellender Library would likely lose between 60 and 90 percent of its online journals (since full text capabilities in any field is dependent on the ownership of any number of pricey databases.

This is the reason librarians across the state held their breath recently when the Louisiana Board of Regents (BOR) announced it would cease to fund LOUIS. Fortunately for students and faculty at Nicholls, as well as for the larger Nicholls community, the BOR recanted and found emergency funding, allowing academic libraries across the state the other two months of LOUIS-supplied databases. What this means for researchers in the Library is that they will be able to continue to both search for and download articles in nursing, business, education, restaurant management, and sports medicine safely. And provided that the BOR once again recognizes the essential nature of LOUIS, users in the Nicholls community will continue to have the kind of access that levels the playing field between universities, regardless of size.
From the Blackboard Jungle to the Book Stacks

Aptitude and placement tests are commonly used to help students choose an academic course or a career path. They can also be used to place adults in careers where they will find both success and satisfaction. In the case of many Library staff members, such tests would have indicated they would be productive and happy as either teachers or librarians. In fact, at Ellender Memorial Library, a number of former teachers have found their second (or third) career. Perhaps this is because of specific personality traits and areas of personal strength—which in this case have steered individuals toward occupations related to academics.

Library Director Carol Mathias, a certified secondary school teacher of history and former History adjunct at Nicholls, points out that “Teachers have a strong belief in public service, a need to interact with others.” As she puts it, “What better environment is there for them than a college academic library?” In fact, the library offers some of them the chance to keep their classroom skills current. Reference librarians Tony Fonseca, Melissa Goldsmith, and Jean-Marc Sens (who has also served as an adjunct in Culinary) are all former teaching faculty who, along with Information Literacy Coordinator Van Viator, each teach classes related to effectively and efficiently using Library resources. These classes stress strengthening research and documentation skills.

Cheryl Adams, Lynette Tamplain, and Lady Pierson are former elementary teachers now working as Library Specialists. They agree that ex-teachers enjoy academic library positions because their classroom skills prove useful to students, who are striving to achieve their academic goals and develop their potential. Tamplain sums up the situation: “Library Specialists with backgrounds in education have found a new niche at Ellender Memorial Library. The job requires intelligence and learned skills, and is not really stressful.”

Other former teachers include Acquisitions staffer Benita Hebert. She was an elementary teacher, and now works in Technical Services, quietly applying her abilities and skills to preparing and maintaining materials for use by library patrons. Danny Gorr, who has taught Spanish (including here at Nicholls), now works in Serials, supporting patrons in research and helping to maintain the library’s collection by preparing materials to be sent to the bindery, which serves to increase the lifespan and availability of print materials. And Debbie Adams, a former secondary social studies, math, and computer science teacher, now works in the Multimedia Department. She finds satisfaction in providing media items and equipment needed for instruction and learning.

The ideas of teaching and learning are central to both teachers and librarians, especially school and academic librarians, since both directly support educational programs. Our librarians find that past teaching experiences makes possible greater academic support.

“So librarianship is a great second career for former teachers. I am especially gratified when a student who has been in the world of work for years comes back to school in order to upgrade their skills base or comes into the Library to research and is interested in learning how to use the databases. They react as if they have just hit the jackpot. Those are the days when you nod your head and say that is why I am here.”

—Lynette Tamplain

Everything Old Is New Again (Book Review)


Douglas Clegg has always been forward-thinking as a writer. His novel *Naomi* (1999) was the first publisher-sponsored e-booklet, with Publishers Weekly calling it “trendsetting [in its] electronic serialization” (Volume 247.51, Dec. 18, 2000, p. 60), and the novella *Purity* (Cemetery Dance, 2000) was made available as a free download. In his re-released novella, *Isis*, he again renews the horror genre, but by looking backwards to the works of Edgar Allan Poe one of his early authored influences, as well as benchmark ghost story authors like M. R. James.

Originally released by Cemetery Dance in the summer of 2006, *Isis* has recently been released in a special hardcover edition by the Vanguard Press imprint of Perseus. The new edition stands out not only for its unique usage of the Garamond 12.5 font setting, but also for its woodcut-reminiscent illustrations supplied by Glenn Chadbourne (of Cemetery Dance, Subterranean Press, and Earthling Press). The effect of the two artistic decisions working together, along with the use of a reddish-brown typeface set against a beige background, gives the text a Victorian feel, with the narration itself revealing a story worthy of Poe and the Gothic Victorians.

The narrator, a young girl named Iris Catherine Villiers (who later takes the name Isis), tells of her relationship with her two brothers, Spencer and Harvard (nicknamed Harvey). The novella chronicles a tragic accident that ultimately causes Harvey’s death, the subsequent guilt felt by Isis, and her attempts to correct the situation by resurrecting her favorite sibling. Peppered with wonderful characters such as a superstitious Cornish gardener and a lascivious governess, the tragedy turns into a dialogue on the afterlife. Nonetheless, *Isis* holds up as mainstream literature, with a touch of the macabre, and the handsome edition will excite bibliophiles.
Library News

Sandi Chauvin’s (Serials) son, Sgt. Jody Stroud, was deployed to Iraq (Mosul) with the Louisiana National Guard out of Lake Charles. He recently visited home on R&R in time for Father’s Day.

Tony Fonseca (Serials) attended the ETD 2010 Conference, hosted by NDITD (Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertation), where he presented the paper, “Taking Your Four-Year Institution to the Next Level: Introducing the ETD Concept at Undergraduate Universities.” He is working on various entries (Red Foxx, Macy Gray, Charles S. Dutton, Charles Mingus, and Godfrey Cambridge), for an encyclopedia of African Americans (Salem Press). He was also named co-editor of Dead Reckonings: A Review of Horror Literature (Hipocampus Press). He had an article on Return-On-Investment strategies for academic libraries accepted by Codex: The Journal of the Louisiana Chapter of the ACRL.

Melissa Goldsmith (Reference/Instruction) began her tenure as President of The Louisiana Chapter of The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL-LLA). She also attended the ETD 2010 Conference, where she presented the paper, “Scholarly Gumbo with Lagniappe: Some Theoretical and Practical Considerations for Creating a Statewide ETD Consortium via a Library Consortium.” She has also recently served as guest editor for Louisiana Libraries.

Neil Guilbeau (Archives) was promoted from Instructor to Assistant Professor, and is now tenure-track.

Jeremy Landry (Automation) was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.

Van Viator (Reference/Instruction) was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor. He has recently published an article titled “Using an Age Old Trick, Breaking Them in Easy: Making the Most of Google to Prepare Students for Searching Library Databases” in Louisiana Libraries. He has also written reviews for Choice and Dead Reckonings: A Review of Horror Literature.

The International Film Club will be screening Tim Burton’s Alice In Wonderland, starring Johnny Depp and Ann Hathaway. Come to Le Bijou in the Student Union on Tuesday, Sept. 7, or Friday, Sept. 10 at 6:30 pm if you’d like to see this entertaining film. To join the Film Club, contact Anke Tonn at 985-448-4633. Membership is $5.00 per year, and buys admission to 7 films.

The Louisiana Chapter of The Association of College and Research Libraries announces its new journal, Codex (http://journal.acrla.org/), a peer-reviewed publication which invites manuscripts in education and/or librarianship. Not a Louisiana librarian? Not to worry. Join ACRL-LLA as an Associate member! Contact Melissa Goldsmith at 985-448-4626 for information.