The newsletter of
Ellender Memorial Library
Nicholls State University

New Orleans Musica da Camera Returns to the Library!

Please join us on Wednesday, April 29, 2015, for the return of the New Orleans Musica da Camera as part of Jubilee: A Festival of the Arts and Humanities. A workshop on medieval and other early music will be held at 9:40 a.m. in the Library’s Musical Instruments Collection (Third Floor), followed by a concert performance at 1:50 p.m. in the Library’s Multipurpose Room (Third Floor). All events are free and open to the public. The New Orleans Musica da Camera was founded in 1966, and according to their website, “is the oldest surviving early music organization in the country.” In addition to presentations, Musica da Camera’s co-directors Milton Scheuermann and Thais St. Julien host WWNO’s weekly show “Continuum” which you can catch on Sundays at 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Friendly Reminders

Librarians are available to help with all your research needs, including papers & projects in any subject, as well as general questions. Feel free to email (el.reference@nicholls.edu), phone (x4625) or visit in person on the 2nd floor of the library. We will be happy to help!

Retirements

Sandi Chauvin said goodbye to the Library on December 1, 2014. She had worked at the Library for 17 years in several departments, concluding in Archives.

Robert Bremer worked his last day on February 6, 2015 after approximately 3 years at the Library.

After 32 years in the Cataloging Department, Daisy Guidroz retired on February 19, 2015.

We wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

Now on Display

Library Hours: Mon - Thurs 7:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Fri 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Sat CLOSED; Sun 3 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Note: For changes to the schedule due to holidays, emergency closures, or departmental exceptions, please see the library website or contact 985-448-4654. All patrons are asked to leave the library 15 minutes prior to closing.
Library Re-class Project

Michael Arseneau, Head of Technical Services

Ellender Memorial Library at Nicholls State University decided in September 2011 to reclassify its collection from Dewey to Library of Congress. At first, this process was performed entirely by hand resulting in the reclassification of approximately 600 titles per month out of a collection estimated to be over 200,000 titles in size. Under this rate of progression, the reclassification would take more than twenty years to complete. It was determined in July of 2014 that this was far too slow, and the decision was made to come up with an automated process for this project.

After trial and error with the creation of a custom program and much testing in a Training copy of our catalog, we were ready to “go live” with the automated reclassification in February of 2015. Coordinating with the Circulation staff, who would pull predetermined ranges of books to ease in the process of shifting the stacks, the Technical Services staff began the automated process. Within the first two weeks of running the program, the library re-classed over 1600 bibliographic records, a number that would have taken almost three months of manual processing to achieve. The length of time to complete this project has been reduced from twenty years to no more than four years.

The actual process of reclassification starts with the selection by the Circulation staff of the range of titles to be reclassified. These titles are loaded onto book trucks and brought down to Technical Services. Once there, the Dewey class range is input into the reclassification program, the program is run, and the call numbers are switched from Dewey format to Library of Congress format. At this point, the new call numbers are printed on a laser printer (as compared to the old dot matrix printer that had been used), and the new labels are applied to the re-classed books, covered with a label protector, and returned to Circulation for re-shelving.

This process is being done in smaller batches so that books may still be located on the shelves while the transfer from one classification scheme to another occurs. The program used is completely capable of reclassifying the entire library collection from one class scheme to another all at once. However, should we do this, the entire library would show up in the online catalog with Library of Congress call numbers, while most of the books on the shelves would still have Dewey Decimal call number labels, resulting in the vast majority of the books unable to be located. Doing the reclassification in smaller batches allows us to physically replace the Dewey call number labels with Library of Congress call number labels before re-shelving them.

Baseball Comes to the Archives

Clifton Theriot, Archivist and Head of Special Collections

The Archives and Special Collections department is currently hosting an exhibit of the Evangeline Baseball League. The Evangeline League was a minor league in Louisiana which began in 1934. The league ceased during World War II but resumed in 1946 and lasted until 1957. Some of the towns and teams represented in the exhibit are Abbeville Athletics, Alexandria Aces, Baton Rouge Red Sticks, Crowley Millers, Hammond Berries, Houma Indians, Lafayette Bulls, Lake Charles Skippers, New Iberia Cardinals, and Thibodaux Giants. The exhibit consists of uniforms, signed baseballs, bats, photographs, related documents and newspaper clippings, as well as other memorabilia. The exhibit will be available through the summer and can be viewed in the Library’s Archives, located on the first floor.
Art at Your Fingertips

Van Viator, Head of Research & Instruction

Up until a few years ago, Nicholls’ art students would have to work with tiny slides in the art building or the Library in order to study the masterpieces they were learning about in class. Now, students have access to ARTStor, a database on the Library’s website available to students both on- and off-campus.

ARTStor is a gateway to viewing hundreds of thousands of images, from special collections and fine art from museums the world over, to architecture and fashion photography from various archives. The art featured in ARTStor comes from all eras and is populated by some of the finest art collections in the world. These images are high quality with vivid color, can be enlarged or rotated, and can be downloaded into PowerPoint or saved into your own personal folder in ARTStor.

You will need to create an account using your Nicholls email address, and then the (art) world is your oyster! Once you login, you can browse by geography, classification (e.g. Photography, painting, etc.), collection (e.g. Baltimore Museum of Art, Art Institute of Chicago, etc.) or featured group (e.g. Art and Architecture, periods and cultures or social studies and humanities etc.)

Professors can create folders of their own for their students to access and place dozens of images that can be perused at leisure. Since ARTStor is an image-heavy database, for those assignments requiring full-text scholarly journals on art, we recommend using Art Full Text, which can also be found on the Library’s website listed under “Databases.”

Library News

Conferences + Regional Meetings: William Charron (Tech Services) attended the bi-annual LOUIS System Administrators meeting in January. In March, Hayley Johnson (Government Information) and Sarah Simms (Research / Serials) attended the Louisiana Library Association’s annual conference held this year in Shreveport. They also attended the SELA / ALLA joint conference in Point Clear, AL in April. At both conferences, Johnson and Simms presented posters on grants, collaboration, and personality types. They gave a joint presentation on the “Changing America” traveling exhibit recently hosted at the Library. Johnson gave a presentation on government document reference, and Simms sat on a panel that discussed tenure.

Research Week: John Bourgeois (Research / Access Services) and Helen Thomas (Archives) both presented a brown bag presentation as part of Research Week on March 3, 2014. Bourgeois presented “GIFs and Memes in Instruction,” and Thomas presented “Personal Digital Archiving: How to Preserve Your Digital Files for Future Use.”

Faculty Institute & CAFE: Bourgeois, Johnson, and Simms presented a Faculty Institute session and two CAFÉ presentations on new products and services that the Library offers, as well as an open forum for suggestions and questions from faculty.

Music Recital: On March 24, 2015, the Musical Instruments Collection (third floor) hosted a recital for a bass baritone student and his accompanist. This event was attended by over 30 students, faculty, and staff and was the first lunch recital to sponsor students to give them more opportunities of practicing performance experiences.

Swamp Stomp another great success! The Seventh Annual Swamp Stomp Festival was held March 20—22 and was another great success! Clifton Theriot and Helen Thomas (Archives) hosted a booth on some of the historical artifacts from the Library’s Archives as part of the Tresors du Bayou Education Program.

Recognition: Library staff members Jolene Knight, Donna Lamartina, and April Rome were recognized by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity by their “Yellow Rose Project” for women employees on campus who had “gone above and beyond to help them out, were nice to them, believe in them, and had supported them during their time here at Nicholls.”
Rebuilding an Island, Saving the Coast, Sustaining the Community
Coastal Restoration Exhibit Now on Display

Helen Thomas, Assistant Archivist
All images from the Robert Jones Papers, Nicholls Archives

In 2014, the Archives and Special Collections Department at Ellender Library acquired the papers of Robert “Bob” Jones, a former civil engineer with Terrebonne Parish. Bob Jones, along with a team of engineers and contractors, designed and built one of the first barrier island restoration projects in the United States. This project, along with subsequent coastal restoration efforts and engineering projects taking place in Terrebonne Parish between 1983 and 2004, are detailed in the materials comprising the Robert Jones Papers. Last month, the archives created an exhibit entitled “Rebuilding an Island, Saving the Coast, Sustaining the Community,” explaining the history of our local barrier islands and demonstrating efforts to restore them through a display of archival materials. The exhibit will be on view through April on the first floor of the library.

The barrier island known as Isle Dernière, or “Last Island,” was once located off the coast of Terrebonne Parish. Due to this position, it was able to absorb the impact of storms and spare those inland from more significant destruction. In 1856, a massive hurricane ripped through the coast of Louisiana, making landfall on the coast of Terrebonne Parish. The hurricane was so powerful that it split Last Island into four separate islands: East Island, Trinity Island, Whiskey Island, and Raccoon Island. Now known as the Isles Dernières, the islands have continued to serve as this area’s “first line of defense” against storms. Unfortunately, due to coastal erosion, the islands began to shrink steadily in size over the course of the 20th century.

By the 1970s, environmental scientists had identified the dangers posed by the potential loss of barrier islands and wetlands. Bob Jones, already employed by Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government as a parish engineer, saw the dilemma as an engineering problem, requiring an engineering solution. Along with fellow Terrebonne Parish employee Jim Edmonson, Jones designed a project to restore the height of the dune on East Island using dredged and relocated sand. When the project withstood Hurricane Juan the next year (1986), the parish decided to fund additional projects. With successful models for reconstruction in place, more funding became available for restoration projects in the 1990s, and the plans from Jones’ initial project were adopted as the model for the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Phase I Coastal Protection Strategy.

The exhibit demonstrates the history of Last Island and the development of Jones’ rebuilding projects through archival resources such as diary entries about the Last Island hurricane and high-resolution slide images of the barrier island restoration projects in action. It also shows community involvement in the movement to restore barrier islands, including photographs of billboards and brochures from the Terrebonne Parish barrier island awareness campaign, correspondence and publicity materials from the grassroots advocacy group Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, and information about the further funding and formation of local groups and projects to preserve Louisiana’s coast. The exhibit concludes with a display of descriptions and images from projects involving Nicholls’ own faculty and students, including vegetation planting projects (to reduce erosion), wildlife research, the use of drone technology to map shorelines, and artistic photography featuring barrier islands.

The Robert Jones Papers are currently being processed by archives staff to be made available to researchers. This rich collection of materials would be of interest to any researcher studying the history of barrier islands, coastal restoration efforts, civil engineering, or grassroots advocacy.