Dust Bowl the focus of exhibit, programs at EIU's Booth Library

Oakland Independent
CHARLESTON—"Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone Dry," a national traveling exhibition about the causes and aftermath of the historic Dust Bowl period, will be on display at Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University's Booth Library through Feb. 26.

The exhibition recalls a tragic period in our history—the drought and dust storms that wreaked havoc on the Great Plains in the 1930s—and explores its environmental and cultural consequences. It raises several thought-provoking questions: What caused fertile farms to turn to dust? How did people survive? What lessons can we learn?

"The Dust Bowl was one of the worst man-made ecological disasters in American history. We are proud to have the Booth Library selected to help make the public more aware of this important era," said Allen Lanham, dean of library services.

"This exhibition delves into the history and geography behind the Dust Bowl, but also provides a human element: through the words of the survivors themselves, we learn what it was like to live through such a difficult time. Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone Dry will be accompanied by a series of free library programs, including lectures and film screenings. "

The exhibition and programs feature several overlapping humanities themes: the nature of the connection between humans and nature; the many ways human beings respond to adversity; and how people came to understand and describe their experiences living through the Dust Bowl.

Lanham invites community members and groups to view the exhibit any time the library is open. More details are available at http://library.eiu.edu/exhibits/dustbowl/.

"Dust, Drought and Dreams Gone Dry" was developed by the American Library Association Public Programs Office in collaboration with the libraries of Oklahoma State University and Mount Holyoke College.

The exhibition and tour were made possible in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. "Exploring the Human Endeavor.

Local sponsors of the series are the Tarble Arts Center, Academy of Lifelong Learning and WEIU-TV.

During the spring semester, Booth Library's regular hours will be from 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 1 a.m. Sunday.

For more information on the library, visit the website, www.library.eiu.edu; call 581-6072; or find the library on Facebook or Twitter.

Following is the complete schedule of events:

- Jan. 25 and Jan. 26, 7 p.m., Doudna Fine Arts Center Rectal Hall: two-part film screening of "The Dust Bowl," Ken Burns documentary, presented by Cameron Craig.
- Feb. 10, 4 p.m., Doudna Fine Arts Center Lecture Hall, "Dust Bowl Ballads: Woody Guthrie and the Politics of the Working Class," by J.B. Paires, adjunct professor of music.
- Feb. 16, 4:30 p.m., Witters Conference Room 4440, Booth Library: "Re-capturing the Experiences of Women in the Dust Bowl: The Life and Writings of Caroline Henderson," by Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz, assistant professor of history.
- Feb. 18, 4 p.m., Tarble Arts Center Atrium: film screening of "Les Grâces de la Désolation," featuring the work of cinematographer Gregg Toland of Charleston, presented by Kit Morice, curator of education, Tarble Arts Center.
- Feb. 22, 4:30 p.m., Witters Conference Room 4440, Booth Library: "Dust Bowl Lessons: Soil Conservation Then and Now" by R.J. Allen, Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION
A farmer and his sons walk the farm at the face of a dust storm in Cimarron County, Okla., 1936.

 terrorists January 21, 2016 • OAKLAND INDEPENDENT

Dust Bowl the focus of exhibit, programs at EIU's Booth Library