11-2009

Issue Number 30, November 2009

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Booth Library

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Recommended Citation
Bell, David and Booth Library, 'Issue Number 30, November 2009' (2009). NoteBooth. 25.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/lib_notebooth/25

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Digital Postcard and Theater Program Projects Now Online

Two digital scanning projects undertaken by Booth Library faculty and staff are now available online. The Booth Library Postcard Collection contains over 4300 historical postcards documenting the rich history of Illinois communities. Exterior and interior images of schools, institutes, colleges, universities, and libraries are the focus of the collection. In addition, photographs of students and teachers are included when available. The postcard collection was developed in conjunction with the Art and Architecture in Illinois Libraries project resident at Booth Library. It was funded by the LSTA program of the Illinois State Library in 2006 and 2009 and by Eastern Illinois University. Though the focus of the collection is on Illinois, images from other states and nations are included when available.

The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan collection contains almost 250 theater programs from the Little Theatre’s fifty-plus year history. This collection documents not only the fascinating life of the theater itself, but the surrounding community that has supported it throughout the years. Both collections are accessible through the Digital Collections link on the Booth Library homepage.

Lumpkin and Price Materials Enhance Booth’s Collection

During the summer and fall, Booth Library received two large donations of personal libraries. The Lumpkin family donated around 1800 books and over 100 postcards from their local family home. The books cover a wide range of subjects including travel, politics, business, gardening, and cooking. Literary works are also well represented in the collection. There are several major author sets and a significant number of first edition books.

Approximately 2000 books and videos from the collections of former journalism professor Howard Price have also been added. This collection’s primary subject focus is baseball. Its many rare and unique titles are a great enrichment to Booth Library’s holdings in this subject area. Other materials in the Price collection include books on football and other sports, travel books, popular culture, and books about popular musicians. Materials from both collections which could not be added to Booth’s collection will be offered to other libraries in Illinois and/or offered for sale in our annual April book sale. Proceeds from the book sale are used to enhance library collections. Booth Library greatly appreciates the generosity of the Lumpkin and Price families.
In 1997, British author J.K. Rowling introduced the world to Harry Potter and a literary phenomenon was born. Millions of readers have followed Harry to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry where he discovers his heritage, encounters new plants and animals, and perfects his magical abilities. Although a fantasy story, the magic in the Harry Potter books is partially based on Renaissance traditions that played an important role in the development of Western science, including alchemy, astrology, and natural philosophy. Incorporating the work of several 15th- and 16th-century thinkers, the seven-part series examines important ethical topics such as the desire for knowledge, the effects of prejudice, and the responsibility that comes with power. This exhibition, using materials from the National Library of Medicine, explores Harry Potter's world and its roots in Renaissance magic, science, and medicine.

In addition to the six-panel national traveling exhibition, Booth Library hosted a number of scheduled events and supporting exhibits. These programs and displays provide additional insights and analysis of the world created by Rowling and its parallels in human history. Both have shaped the world we live in today. We hope everyone in the community has enjoyed the fascinating combination of history and imagination that comprises Harry Potter's World. The exhibit leaves the library on November 14.

Upcoming Exhibitions
Upcoming Booth Library exhibits include Normal Schools in the Fall of 2010 and Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World in the spring semester of 2011. Further information is available on the library website under the Exhibits link. Presenters, exhibitors and other participants are always welcome. To get involved in either of these events, please contact Peggy Manley at 581-6061 or pamanley@eiu.edu.
On Monday, October 5, approximately 80 Neoga 6th graders, teachers and chaperones visited Booth Library to do research on topics in earth and life science. Dr. Daniel Carter, Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education, worked with the Neoga school district and various departments at EIU to provide a great day on the EIU campus. During the week prior to the event, students from Carter’s Block I class learned about print and online resources in Booth that elementary students might use to complete their projects. Then on Monday, they worked with their assigned elementary student groups to investigate those topics. The students also participated in other science-focused activities on campus.

Neoga Sixth-Graders Visit Ballenger Teachers Center

Try-It Illinois Database Evaluation

The tenth annual statewide database trial, Try-It! Illinois, is now underway. Sponsored by the Illinois State Library, Try-It! Illinois offers library users of the more than 5,000 ILLINET member libraries the opportunity to survey and evaluate a wide variety of electronic resources.

To access the trial databases, go to the library homepage at www.library.eiu.edu and click on Try-It! Illinois under “InfoBooth: Library News.” Click on the red text link to get the login and password by entering your library ID number. Then use the login and password, along with your ZIP code, to access the database trials.

Spring Storytime!

The Ballenger Teachers Center in Booth Library would like to welcome children ages 3-7, who are accompanied by an adult, to Saturday Morning Storytime. This free weekend program encourages children to broaden their creativity with timeless stories and fun craft projects. For more information, call 217-581-8442. Spring semester storytimes will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturdays, February 6 through March 6.
On June 11, 2009, four Booth Library faculty and staff members traveled to Champaign to attend the Illinois Fire Services Institute Burn Simulation and Recovery Workshop. Sponsored by the Preservation Working Group of CARLI (Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois), the all-day workshop included presentations on emergency and disaster preparedness, as well as a hands-on introduction to salvage and recovery of library materials in the aftermath of a fire or other disaster. Withdrawn library books were subjected to fire and water, giving participants real life practice in making disaster-related salvage decisions.

In conjunction with the Lincoln Bicentennial and the 2009 Embarras Valley Film Festival (EVFF), Booth Library will stage an exhibit entitled: “Abraham Lincoln in Film and Television.” The exhibit will feature images of various fictionalized portrayals of Lincoln on the big screen and in television productions. Also included will be images from some of the important Lincoln documentaries. Highlighted, as well, will be Lincoln’s connection to the Civil War and to Coles County. The exhibit will be placed in Booth Library’s south lobby during the second week of November.