10-2013

Issue Number 35, October 2013

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Booth Library

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Recommended Citation
Bell, David and Booth Library, "Issue Number 35, October 2013" (2013). NoteBooth. 34.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/lib_notebooth/34

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Literature of Prescription: Charlotte Perkins Gilman and "The Yellow Wall-Paper"

Stop by Booth Library this semester as we examine a 19th-century writer's challenge to the medical profession and the complex relationship between science and society. Artist and writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman was discouraged by her doctor from pursuing a career in order to preserve her health. Gilman rejected this idea in a terrifying short story titled “The Yellow Wall-Paper.” The famous tale served as an indictment of the medical profession and the social conventions restricting women's professional and creative opportunities.

*Literature of Prescription* is Booth Library’s latest in our long standing tradition of presenting in-depth, thought-provoking exhibitions. We hope these events inspire our community with new ideas and ignite discussion and further exploration of the many topics upon which they touch. *Literature of Prescription* encompasses several subject areas — among them are feminism, psychology, literature, history, medicine, and even interior design. We hope that the library’s supporting exhibits provide inroads to further insights in these and many other areas of scholarship.

Faculty and staff from the EIU departments of English, art, women's studies, the Counseling Center, and, of course, the library, contributed to the creation of this event and its exhibits.

The public is invited to attend all programs in this series. The events began in late September and will continue through the second of November. Events yet to come include *Prescribing Reproduction: Abortion, Female Monthly Pills and Tacit Acceptance in the late 19th Century* to be presented by Jeannie Ludlow, Coordinator of Women’s Studies, and a book discussion on the work that inspired this exhibition hosted by librarian Janice Derr.

Please see below for a list of upcoming presentation dates, times, and locations. Program booklets containing detailed information about this exhibition are available at the library entrances and at all library service desks.

The traveling portion of the exhibit was produced by the Exhibition Program of the National Library of Medicine, the world’s largest medical library.

Q. Why is there a bedroom in the library?

A. This bedroom exhibit represents the room in which the protagonist of *The Yellow Wall-Paper* stayed as she underwent the “rest cure” — 19th century medicine’s misguided answer to mental health issues in women. Check out the exhibits throughout the library for more information on this so-called cure and many other topics related to the story and its fascinating author, Charlotte Perkins Gilman.
Our Institutional Repository “Keeps” Growing!
Brings Worldwide Recognition and Access to EIU’s Research Output


With a few computer keystrokes, these and thousands of other materials can be accessed in The Keep. The Keep, administered by Booth Library, is the institutional repository for Eastern Illinois University. The electronic, open-access database is accessible through the library’s website.

Since it launched in early 2012, nearly 30,000 documents have been added to the database, and those materials have been downloaded more than 100,000 times. The Keep is the second largest academic repository in Illinois and among the largest in the Midwest. And it's growing every day.

The Keep is different than other library databases because it focuses on materials generated on campus or of local interest.

Allen Lanham, dean of library services, said: "The Keep is an integral part of providing worldwide access to locally produced information and research, especially by Eastern faculty but also for worthy projects throughout our region. We want to promote the best work of east central Illinois."

"We try to include what we think will have an impact historically," said Todd Bruns, institutional repository librarian at Booth Library. This includes information and images from EIU exhibits, conferences, video lectures, podcasts, posters, brochures, newsletters and press releases, as well as hundreds of photos and documents from University Archives.

Many EIU faculty and students contribute their research, papers and masters theses by creating a "Selected Works" page in The Keep. Bruns continues to recruit more faculty members to post their documents this fall.

"It's a really good tool, and it's a way for faculty to promote their work," Bruns said. In fact, for several months the most downloaded item in the database was a locally written master's thesis about wind turbines, he said. People doing research on a particular subject often are directed to The Keep after they conduct a search on a web browser such as Google.

"The Keep helps me to make connections with a global audience," said Betsy Pudliner, former assistant professor of hospitality management at EIU. "Because of the ability to upload work and create a place to enhance my own online digital portfolio, I have been able to reach a far greater field of audience than just here in the United States."

In addition to individual faculty research, special collections in The Keep include Warbler yearbooks, past library exhibits and a plant inventory from Wesley Whiteside's Botanical Garden, among many others. One popular collection highlights materials from the EIU theatre arts department.

Programs and photos for productions performed by EIU theatre from 1940 to today have been scanned into The Keep. "Although primarily from the files of the theatre arts department, these documents were found everywhere - on people's laptops, file drawers and desks," Bruns said. "We've put them all in one spot, and it's searchable. The theatre arts department is ecstatic."

Future collections will include photographs and programs from the 56-year history of the Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan and editions from the 98-year history of The Daily Eastern News student newspaper.

The Journal of Collective Bargaining, a national publication of the National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions, also is housed in The Keep. The publication's editor is EIU Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Jeff Cross.

The journal's access numbers "exploded" once it was added to the EIU repository, Bruns said.

While Bruns oversees the development of The Keep, many library staff members help with gathering materials, conducting research, and providing computer and programming help. In addition, student assistants spend dozens of hours per week scanning materials for addition to the database. "One of the college deans said we're essentially building a second library here - an all-electronic library," Bruns said. "Like any library, it takes a lot of resources. This is paying off."

The Keep has received download requests from all 50 states and 135 countries around the world, from Fiji to the United Kingdom.

"EIU's name is getting out there in a different way," Bruns said. "We've extended the university's reach immensely."

For more information about The Keep, email thekeep@eiu.edu, call Bruns at 581-8381 or access the repository.

This story was originally published on the Booth Library website.
Welcome to New Librarians

Steve Brantley started in August as the new Head of Reference Services at Booth Library. Steve relocated to Charleston from the University of Illinois at Chicago where he was a Reference and Instruction Librarian and the Liaison to the School of Fine Arts and the department of Theatre and Music. Steve has an MLS and an MA in Film and Media Studies from Indiana University which he received in 2000. Steve’s research interests include information seeking behavior in libraries and information literacy instruction.

“I am excited to be a part of the dynamic faculty here at Booth and Eastern and I have been very impressed with the caliber people and the level of services provided here. I look forward to many enriching and successful projects with my new colleagues.”

Alyson Vaaler joined the Booth Library faculty in August. She serves as a circulation librarian, supervising the library and employees during the evening. Alyson recently graduated from University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee with a Master of Library and Information Science and a Master of Arts in Music History and Literature. In Milwaukee, Alyson worked in circulation at UW-Milwaukee’s Golda Meir Library and the at the Oconomowoc Public Library. Alyson also holds a BA in music history from UW-Madison.

We also welcome Janice Derr, former evening librarian, to a new faculty position at Booth Library. She began her duties this semester as an Assistant Professor and business librarian in the Reference Services department.

Alexander Street Videos

Thanks to a new database at Booth Library, faculty, staff and students now have access to hundreds of videos that stream online. Through the library’s partnership with the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI), the library added to its collection videos produced by Alexander Street Press in the areas of American history, counseling, dance, ethnography and LGBT studies. The video collections include content that’s online exclusively through Alexander Street Press from partners such as The History Channel, Bullfrog, Chronoscope, Universal Newsreel, United News and more. Also included are documentaries and series from PBS. A majority of the videos cover American history, including documentaries, newsreels and never-before-published archival footage. Eastern faculty members may find these videos useful to supplement teaching materials, illustrate a lecture or include in online courses. Students may use the videos as part of their research or include snippets of videos as part of a multimedia presentation. The collections are easily searchable by topic, and include real-time transcripts and an easy-to-use menu to create custom clips of portions of videos. These videos may be used just like any other educational video, with the added bonus of being able to view them anytime from almost anywhere. For more information about the video collection, contact your subject librarian or call the library reference desk at 581-6072.

Database of the Issue: Oxford Islamic Studies

Through the end of 2014, Booth Library patrons may access Oxford Islamic Studies Online through Booth Library’s website. This database is an "authoritative, dynamic resource [that] brings together the best current scholarship in the field … to foster a more accurate and informed understanding of the Islamic world. Oxford Islamic Studies Online features reference content and commentary by renowned scholars in areas such as global Islamic history, concepts, people, practices, politics and culture, and is regularly updated…”

Access to this resource is provided as part of the Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys series. For more information on this event, please see the story on page four.
Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys

A Reading and Discussion Series

Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys is a nationwide scholar-led reading and discussion program for public audiences. Booth Library is one of 125 libraries and state humanities councils across the country selected to participate in the project, which seeks to familiarize public audiences in the United States with the people, places, history, faith and cultures of Muslims in the United States and around the world. In addition to receiving access to Oxford Islamic Studies Online (see page 3 for more information on this database), Booth Library will host a five-part discussion series on the theme "Pathways of Faith" during the spring 2014 semester.

Books in the series are The Children of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity, Islam by F.E. Peters; Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction by Jonathan A.C. Brown; The Story of the Qur’an: Its History and Place in Muslim Life by Ingrid Mattson; The Art of Hajj by Venetia Porter, and A Rumi Anthology edited and translated by Reynold A. Nicholson. Scholars for the series are Brian Mann, assistant professor of history, and Jay Shinde, assistant professor of accountancy. For more information and to register, email Kirstin Duffin, project director, at kduffin@eiu.edu or visit the library webpage.

Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys has been made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in cooperation with the American Library Association.

Try-It Illinois

Try-It! Illinois 2013, the fourteenth annual statewide database trial, sponsored by Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the Illinois State Library is currently underway. Try-It! Illinois offers library users of more than 5,000 Illinois libraries the opportunity to survey and evaluate a wide variety of electronic resources. Thanks to the partnerships between the Illinois State Library and the participating electronic resource vendors, there is no charge for accessing these databases during Try-It! Illinois.

To access the trial databases, go to the library homepage and click on Try-It! Illinois under “InfoBooth: Library News.” Click on the “instructions” 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. The trial ends on November 30, 2013.

Revolutionary Decade: Reflections on the 1960s

Fall 2014 Exhibition Call for Presenters

In the fall semester of 2014, Booth Library will host a major exhibition and event series on the achievements, tragedies, triumphs, extraordinary personalities, and everyday lives of average people during what was arguably one of the most turbulent and eventful decades of the 20th century, the 1960s. The library will present exhibits exploring aspects of this fascinating decade as Americans experienced it, including developments in the worlds of music, literature, visual arts, science and technology, politics and social movements. We are seeking scholars from all disciplines interested in presenting perspectives on the 1960s through the eyes of their profession or field of study. If you are interested in participating or proposing a program for this exhibition, please contact David Bell at dsbell@eiu.edu or 581-7547.