From the Dean

Exciting things are happening at KU Libraries. Since the beginning of 2008, we have made several appointments that have added significant depths to our staff. These positions include two interim assistant deans, four professional librarians who will work closely with faculty in the humanities and in the social sciences, and several new staff members to serve your informational needs.

Additionally, our new Scholar Services program, led by librarians and technology professionals, launched two KU-based scholarly journals that are accessible to readers and researchers throughout the world. Biodiversity Informatics and back-issues of Latin American Theater Review are now available at journals.ku.edu. You can read more about this initiative on page 2.

Thanks to an increase in our collections budget, we have invested in significant acquisitions to support the learning, teaching and research needs of our faculty and students.

We have completed an external review of the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, and we look forward to exploring new collaborative initiatives with campus partners.

Amid these developments, we continue to strengthen our established programs in Instructional Services, Reference and Research Assistance to advance the pivotal work of the Libraries at the University of Kansas and beyond.

I look forward to the year ahead with confidence.

lorraine j. haricombe
Dean of Libraries

Librarians in Action

by Dylan Sands

KU Librarian Tami Albin has embarked on a mission as ambitious as it is unique: documenting the oral histories of gay, lesbian, bisexual, intersex, queer and transgender people in Kansans.

As director and founder of the grant-funded project, “Under the Rainbow: Oral Histories of GLBTIQ People in Kansas,” Albin is working with the KU Center for Service Learning and students in the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies program to create an online collection telling their stories. The site will be the first of its kind accessible worldwide via KU ScholarWorks.

Albin said the task has only gotten bigger, but that’s a good thing.

“My initial plan was to include a small sampling of these oral histories, but more and more people have come forward wanting to tell their stories,” Albin said. “It’s been really incredible.”

More than 30 students in Milton Wendland’s class, “Studies in Lesbian & Gay Cultures in the United States,” are working with archives housed in the Kenneth Spencer Research Library to create individual projects that will contribute to the database.

“The Midwest, and Kansas in particular, are understood as merely sites of oppression that most LGBT people want to escape from,” Wendland said. “The simple truth, however, is that Kansas and the Midwest are home to millions of LGBT people living a variety of lives.”

Wendland also said that researchers using the Under the Rainbow oral history collection will have instant connections to the under-represented history of GLBTIQ people in Kansas and will see the vast richness of the collections held in KU Libraries.

Service Updates

Get your free copy of The Chronicle online now

Published weekly, The Chronicle of Higher Education is the academic world’s top source of news and information. The online version features daily reports on developments in higher education and regularly updated databases of grant opportunities and job announcements.

The full text of the current issue of The Chronicle is available online every Monday morning, following the Friday print publication. The site also features an archive of more than 12 years of The Chronicle.
Scholar Services Provides New Access To Prestigious Journals

Thanks to a new scholarly publishing initiative from Scholar Services, two KU-based scholarly journals are now freely available online to readers and researchers throughout the world.

*Biodiversity Informatics* and back-issues of *Latin American Theatre Review* can now be found online at journals.ku.edu.

Brian Rosenblum, scholarly digital initiatives librarian at KU, said the online publication of both journals will contribute to the worldwide exchange of research and scholarship, and will raise the visibility of scholarship being published at KU.

“Supporting open access to this content is a way of breaking down some of the barriers to getting this material to as many people as possible, and is an example of the evolving role for academic libraries in delivering content to users,” said Rosenblum.

*Biodiversity Informatics* (BI) is an electronic journal focusing on the analysis of information regarding biological diversity. BI’s partnership with Scholar Services will allow IT professionals to oversee the technical aspects of publishing the journal, while editors focus on developing content.

*Latin American Theatre Review* (*LATR*) is published twice per year by KU’s Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Center of Latin American Studies. It covers all aspects of Latina/o and Latin American theatre and performance and has grown to be one of the premiere scholarly journals in its field. The new online version of *LATR* will provide free access to more than 1,000 scholarly articles, news items, theater schedules and book and performance reviews.

With the launch of these two journals, Scholar Services is poised to provide increasing support for scholarly publishing. To read more, visit Annotations online at www.lib.ku.edu/annotations.

Service Updates Continued

KU library users can access *The Chronicle* through the Information Gateway at infogateway.ku.edu, by clicking on C from the alphabet at the top of the screen to find *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. When using *The Chronicle* from the KU campus, a login is not necessary. When off-campus, log in using your KU Online ID and password.

Springer Monographs Available Electronically

KU Libraries is now providing electronic access to all Springer monographs published from 2005 to the present. Librarians are working to obtain MARC records for the e-books, which will be loaded into the library catalog. Published content is available in all disciplines, but emphasis is in science and technology. For more information, please contact Rachel Miller at rmiller@ku.edu.

New Databases

KU Libraries has added more than nine databases across the arts, sciences and humanities to its A-Z listing in the past few months. The additions include ScienceDirect, available through a shared license with the KU Medical Center. More than 320 serial titles are available from 1999 to the present, bringing the total number of Elsevier titles found online to approximately 460. Be sure to check out the complete list at infogateway.ku.edu.

Spread the word...

Do you know of a KU student who is planning to become a librarian? If so, please let them know about two award opportunities through KU Libraries.

The Rubinstein/Mason award offers $1000 to a student who has been accepted by a graduate program in librarianship. Preference will be given to students whose primary interest is in special collections librarianship. The application deadline is April 14. For more information, see www.lib.ku.edu/awards/rubinsteinmason.shtml.

The Husic Award to Support Librarianship in Less Commonly Taught Languages offers $1200 to a student who has had in-depth study in at least one less commonly taught language (Slavic, Asian, African, Middle Eastern, and Native languages of South or North America, for example) and has been accepted to a graduate program in librarianship. The application deadline is April 1. For more information, please visit lib.ku.edu/linguistics/husic_awards.shtml.

Mark Your Calendar: Michèle Cloonan Talks and Snyder Contest Reception

Michèle Cloonan, dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the Simmons College in Boston, will speak at two free events on Thursday, April 3rd. In her presentation “Libraries and Human Rights: Iraq in the Crossfire,” Cloonan will discuss the devastating effects of war on Iraq’s libraries. That talk, co-sponsored by the KU Libraries and the Hall Center for the Humanities, will be held at 3 pm in Spooner Hall on April 3rd.

Cloonan will also facilitate a discussion on the skills and education of new librarians. This event, created especially for librarians and prospective librarians in the region, will be held from 10-11:30 am in Alderson Auditorium in the Kansas Union.

Come to the the 52nd Annual Snyder Book Collecting Contest Reception to celebrate the student winners with the KU Libraries. The reception is Friday, April 4, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Watson Library.

A cocktail reception and viewing of the collections will begin at 5:30; at 6:30, Dean Lorraine J. Haricombe will award the winners, and Professor Emeritus Robert Collmer of Baylor University, noted collector of John Bunyan’s works, will speak on book collecting. To attend, please RSVP to mbrooke@ku.edu or 864-3601 by April 2.