Fall 2013

ENHANCED ACCESS TO JAPANESE MATERIALS

Starting this fall, Wesleyan students and faculty studying Japan will have access to materials not otherwise accessible to North American institutions. The library has joined the Global ILL Framework (GIF) Project, a reciprocal agreement between North American and Japanese academic libraries and research institutes to provide North American researchers with access to Japanese materials. Access is through our Interlibrary Loan Department and will be particularly useful for students and faculty concentrating on Japanese studies and language resources.

In the past, it has been difficult to access Japanese materials requested by faculty in Asian languages and literatures. By joining the GIF Project we are able to provide access to collections such as CNII Books - 大学図書館の本をさがす, the National Diet Library - 国会図書館, Kyoto University, Digital Library from Meiji Era - 近代デジタルライブラリー, Japanese institutional repositories - 学術機関レポジトリポータル, Keio University and 160 other academic libraries in Japan. This partnership will allow the library to provide more materials in support of research into aspects of Japanese life and culture, and do so more quickly than ever before.

— EUNJOO LEE, HEAD OF ACCESS SERVICES

LIBRARY WEBSITE REDESIGN

Check out the library’s new home page! We’ve completed a significant redesign this summer in order to revise our home page to better meet our library users’ needs. Several factors spurred the library to redesign our home page. First, we incorporated our new Library OneSearch tool into the library website in a way that makes OneSearch the “first stop” for students who are not sure where to find the research materials they need (see related article to learn more about OneSearch). Second, we responded to feedback from students about difficulties they encountered with the previous home page. Third, we designed the site to be agile and easily updated, in order to more easily adapt to the variety and changing formats of today’s library resources.

The redesign process began in January, when we interviewed students about their use of the library website. We continued collecting information throughout the spring and summer, looking at use statistics on our web pages, gathering information from our library staff members, working with the ITS New Media Lab to develop a new design, and finally testing that design with our users and refining it based upon the results.

This process helped us determine that the most important roles of the site are:

• to quickly guide our library users, especially students, to relevant research resources
• to provide clear “how to” information, and
• to more seamlessly provide information about library services.

We also identified that clean, simple page design and avoiding library jargon are critical to our patrons’ success in using the site.

After launching the site in the fall, we made some additional revisions based upon more user feedback, and we will continue to test and adjust throughout the coming semesters.

Take a look at our new site to see how it guides students to Library OneSearch as a starting point for their research, brings our how-to information front and center, pulls together the information and services relevant for each type of library user, and is adaptable over time to the accommodate the library’s varied and ever-changing collection of resources.

— LORI STETERS, SYSTEMS/EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES LIBRARIAN
“founding fathers,” and to keep working for racial and economic justice.

On September 11, the Friends co-sponsored another powerful event, a reading by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Yusef Komunyaka, to celebrate the release of a limited edition of Love in the Time of War, designed and produced by Middletown’s own Robin Price, printer and publisher. Komunyaka began writing these poems when the United States invaded Iraq in 2003. His context later expanded in scope to explore ancient and contemporary, satirical and metaphysical tableaux where love and war converge, culminating in the 25 sonnets of the book. Prior to the reading, Price showed a brief video (https://vimeo.com/75769701) and talked about the making of the silk and aluminum artist’s book. Komunyaka also read from Testimony: A Tribute to Charlie Parker, his libretto for an opera by Sandy Evans, which Wesleyan University Press has just published (upne.com/0819574299.html). This was a wonderful opportunity for the Friends to collaborate with Wesleyan University Press, the Center for African American Studies, Writing at Wesleyan, the English Department, and the Music Department to bring an exciting event to campus.

We hope you will join us for the remaining Friends fall events. On Saturday, November 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Friends will hold their annual book sale in Olin Memorial Library. There will be more than 3,000 donated and ex-libris books for sale, most priced from $1–$5, with some special books priced $10+. The sale will take place during Wesleyan’s Homecoming, so come enjoy the day’s activities and festive atmosphere and leave with some great additions for your home library. If you would like to donate books or volunteer to help with the sale, please email libfriends@wesleyan.edu. If you can’t make the big book sale but are on campus occasionally, browse our small ongoing book sale on the shelf outside Smith Reading Room.

The final event for the fall is a showing of Amaury’s Folly (2011), a film version of Joseph Conrad’s first novel. This is part of the Friends Adaptation Film Series, a collaboration with the Center for Film Studies to explore the translation of literary text to the screen. The screening is Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at 8 p.m. in the Goldsmith Family Cinema.

Thank you to the many Friends who help make these events possible and support other library activities through membership, book donations, attendance at events, and advocacy. If you would like to join the Friends or renew your membership, or would like more information about our: Adopt a Book program or the new Special Collections & Archives student fellowship, please contact libfriends@wesleyan.edu, visit wesleyan.edu/lib/friends, or call 860-685-3897.

— JENNIFER HADLEY,
FRIENDS OF THE WESLEYAN LIBRARY

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LIBRARY ONESEARCH: POWERFUL NEW SEARCH TOOL

In olden days when most of the library's resources were in print, the best way to search for materials was using a combination of the library's catalog and one or more journal indexes. This was cumbersome, however, and it was necessary to select the appropriate indexes—not always easy when researching interdisciplinary topics. Later, as the library provided access to more and more electronic resources, it became more challenging than ever to identify which resources to use in doing interdisciplinary research.

This fall the library premiered a powerful new search tool that solves the problem of identifying the best sources for your research. Library OneSearch allows users to search the library's catalog, most of our electronic resources, WesScholar (Wesleyan's online archive), and many other scholarly sites—all with a single search inquiry. Since OneSearch pulls from many different sources, it is a quick and easy way to get comprehensive search results. These are likely to include results from sources you might not have searched individually, increasing the possibility of serendipitous discoveries that take your research in new directions.

A potential problem, though, is the sheer number of search results possible in OneSearch (Google search results can be similarly problematic). Since OneSearch covers many resources, many of them full text, using more keywords will usually decrease the number and increase the relevance of the results. It is also possible to narrow down a large set of search results using a variety of parameters—publication date, format, discipline, language, and many others.

In general, OneSearch is better for finding sources on a particular topic than for a "known item" search in which you are searching for a specific work or author; for the latter, the library catalog or a subject-specific index may be quicker. For most Wesleyan students and some Wesleyan faculty, however, OneSearch is a useful new tool for finding relevant sources for assignments and research.

— KENDALL HOBBS, OLIN REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

WELCOME AARON SANDOVAL

The library welcomes Aaron Sandoval as the new monographic acquisitions librarian and coordinator of collection development.

Sandoval comes to Wesleyan with a strong, 17-year background in technical services units serving academic libraries. His most recent experience comes from his ten years at the University of Chicago, where he was the supervisor of the Monographic Orders Unit. At Chicago, he worked closely with subject bibliographers to acquire materials in all formats and languages to fulfill the needs of a large research institution.

With this background, he is confident that his experience at Chicago, combined with his strong technical skills, will provide direction to monographic initiatives at Wesleyan.

Sandoval recently received his MLIS degree in library science from Dominican University in Illinois. He received his undergraduate degree in history from UC Santa Barbara and did graduate studies at Boston College in early modern European history with an emphasis on Spain and Latin America.

His academic interests revolve around early modern world history—particularly focusing on the Mediterranean and Latin America—but he also reads widely in Borderland/Chicano studies, religious studies, and literature.

Outside of work, he keeps busy raising five children (11 months to 17 years) with his wife, Lisa, an English professor. He thus tries hard to maintain proper diction at all times, even while cheering on his favorite football (that is, soccer—the real football) teams: Guadalajara, Chicago Fire, and Liverpool. He lives off Lake Quinsigamond in Massachusetts where he hopes to learn how to sail.

— HELEN AIELLO, ACQUISITIONS AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES LIBRARIAN
NEW BOOKS AND TWITTER

The library is constantly acquiring new materials to support the research, education, information, and recreation needs of the Wesleyan community. From beautiful art books to the latest landmark briefs of the Supreme Court, we bring in materials to support all areas of study. We encourage you to visit the New Book shelves in Olin (1st floor, west hall, next to the Interlibrary Loan Office) to see recent arrivals. There you can find fiction, graphic novels, poetry, and much more.

We have recently begun announcing new acquisitions on the library's Twitter feed: @WesLibNews. Follow us on Twitter and search #WesLibNewBook to see the list. Recent additions include the following:

- America's Ranking Among Nations: A Global Perspective of the United States in Graphic Detail (HA214.D86 2013)
- Bug Music: How Insects Gave Us Rhythm and Noise (QL496.5.R68 2013)
- Cambridge Companion to Seamus Heaney (available online)
- The Case of the Poisonous Socks: Tales from Chemistry (QD15.B76 2011)
- Constant Touch: A Global History of the Mobile Phone (TK5870.M6 A437 2013)
- Epigenetics in the Age of Twitter: Pop Culture and Modern Science (QH450.W45 2012)

- The Mind Within the Brain: How We Make Decisions and How Those Decisions Go Wrong (BF448.R43 2013)
- Pumpkin: The Curious History of an American Icon (S8347.O88 2012)
- The Return of the Dapper Men (graphic novel, PN6728.R4938 M33 2010)
- We Shall Not Be Moved: The Jackson Woolworth's Sit-In and the Movement It Inspired (E185.93.M6 O25 2013)
- Well Met: Renaissance Faires and the American Counterculture (GT4603.R83 2012 and online)

Happy reading!

— LINNEA BENTON, CATALOGING ASSISTANT

Check It Out is a publication of the Wesleyan University Libraries that has been published three to four times annually since 1998. Its purpose is to offer timely information on recent developments in library technologies and resources available at Wesleyan to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other Friends of the Wesleyan Library.

Articles are contributed by library staff members, and the publication is edited by Pat Tuly, Caleb T. Winchester University Librarian, ptuly@wesleyan.edu, (860) 685-3887.

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