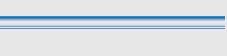


# LIBRARY LETTERS

James A. Michener Library • Howard M. Skinner Music Library  
University of Northern Colorado Libraries[Libraries Home](#) [Give](#) [Friends of the Libraries](#) [Book Sale](#)

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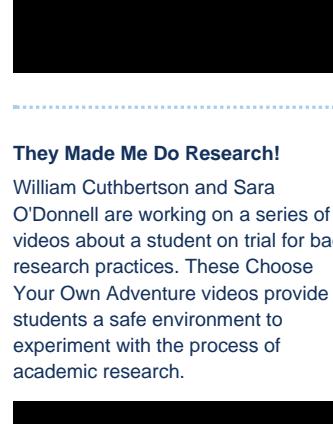
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## Aspiration Board in Michener Library

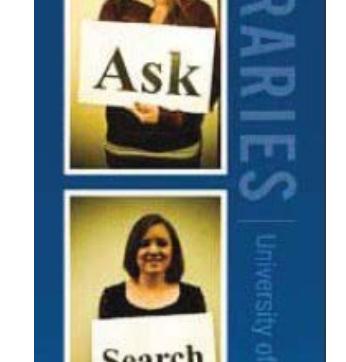
An "aspiration board," sponsored by the School of Art and Design and the Higher Learning Commission Communication Committee, was erected in Michener Library. Students were asked to publicly share with the campus community their "goals, dreams, and aspirations" through the display.



## New Library Videos

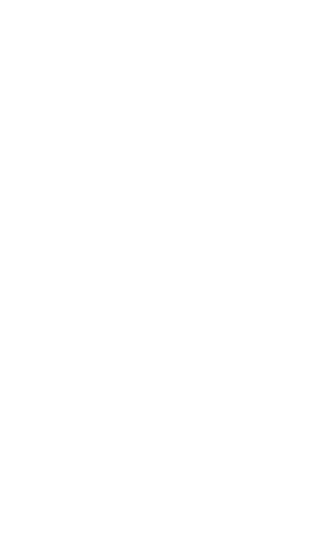
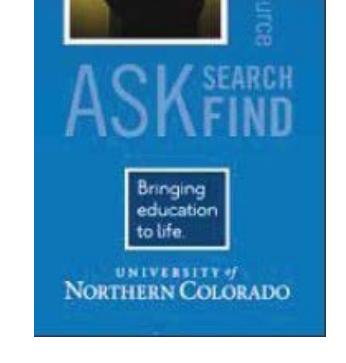
### Sunday Research Blues?

Sara O'Donnell and Stephanie Wiegand created this video with the help of some of Michener Libraries' student employees to promote online library research assistance for students who just keep putting off that research paper.



### They Made Me Do Research!

William Cuthbertson and Sara O'Donnell are working on a series of videos about a student on trial for bad research practices. These Choose Your Own Adventure videos provide students a safe environment to experiment with the process of academic research.



## Saving Time With Demand Driven Acquisition

Librarians work to provide comprehensive collections of materials to meet their user's needs, but the explosion in information in all formats makes this goal increasingly challenging. Historically, cooperative lending systems such as interlibrary loan and Colorado's Prospector courier service have supplemented local print collections, but the time lag attached to a physical delivery is a barrier for today's college students. Now, "just-in-time" methods of providing materials are helping libraries meet the expectations of college students who have never known life without the World Wide Web. Robust, sophisticated software applications make this instantaneous, just-in-time access method possible, and a critical mass of books are now available in user-friendly electronic formats.

To librarians this "just in time" method of acquiring library materials is dubbed "Demand-Driven Acquisition" (DDA) or "Patron-Driven Acquisition." In a nutshell, it gives library users greater access to resources by expanding the titles available and then using their specific selections to trigger access to the electronic books. The DDA process is seamless for the patron. Information for a set of pre-selected, electronic books appears in the catalog in the same manner as books that have already been purchased and added to the collection. Users are able to access the electronic book and a pre-specified number of uses of a title will trigger the actual purchase of these books. Thus, the choices have multiplied for the patron and the collection more closely matches user needs. Business Librarian Kendra Spahr is an enthusiastic adopter of DDA: "It gives the business students and faculty the most immediate access to the widest possible selection of business-related electronic books."

DDA does not replace hands-on selection of both print and electronic books by subject librarians. But DDA can be considered one more tool among many in the "librarians' toolbox" to provide materials to meet student and faculty needs.

## "In Kind" Donations Provide Crucial Support for Libraries

The University Libraries has always relied on the generosity of donors who give both general and specialized "in-kind" gifts such as books, scores, manuscripts, or unique papers to enrich the collections and provide other support to the Libraries. Recently, the Archival Services Department received three important new research collections that were gifted by various donors. The John Hayes tapes, given by David and Karen Groseclose, were created by James Michener biographer John Hayes and contain several hours of interviews with Michener and his associates. Paul Stewart, founder of Denver's Black American West Museum, has donated an extensive collection of books dealing with African-American history, with an emphasis on African-Americans in the West, in sports, and in local history. Bob Larson, UNC emeritus professor of History, also gave the department books and papers which provide invaluable documentation about university and faculty history.

Donations of general materials such as books and DVDs also play a significant role in growing library holdings and supporting the general collections. These general donations undergo a rigorous process of evaluation for inclusion in the Libraries' collections. Those not added to the collections are passed on to the Friends of the UNC Libraries. The Friends solicit additional donations and sponsor the book sale that occurs at Michener Library on the first Wednesday of each month during the school year. Proceeds from the Friends' sales are funneled back to the Libraries to provide valuable support.

The Libraries recognizes donors in a variety of ways, including book plates placed in donated books that are added to the collections. We wish to thank our donors and supporters for their contributions, which are vital for helping us fulfill our mission as the University's information source.

## Assessment Guides Continuous Improvement

Assessment is an ongoing activity at institutions of higher learning. The University Libraries, like other academic units on campus, is using assessment to improve student learning and patron services. Assessment of student learning and library services guides our continual improvement. To that end, faculty of the University Libraries participated in a course in the assessment of student learning outcomes through the Assessment Leadership Institute, an opportunity organized by UNC's Office of Assessment via its participation in the Higher Learning Commission's Assessment Academy. Five members of the Libraries faculty attended 'train the trainer' sessions. They then tailored the information and lessons for student learning assessment in libraries by organizing workshops for Libraries faculty and administrators.

Furthermore, several assessment projects are currently being conducted at the University Libraries concerning topics such as student learning and library services. A collaboration between librarians in the Library Research Services and Instructional Services Departments is examining student outcomes in course-integrated librarian instruction sessions. Another project undertaken by two instruction librarians is measuring the effect of student perceptions of active learning, as compared to the traditional lecture model, on actual learning. Other assessment projects are occurring for the purpose of evaluating services, student knowledge of services, and the need for new services in specific areas. These include a usability study involving incoming freshman and their abilities to use basic library resources and services, a marketing reach survey of library research help services for students, an evaluation of channels of communication between students and the Libraries, focus groups studying the knowledge and need for knowledge of graduate students in the area of copyright, and a collaboration between Libraries faculty and other university personnel in an assessment of Michener Library as space as it contributes to student success.

## Documentaries Narrated by Michener Now Available Online

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, James A. Michener worked closely with his good friend Ed Pizek's film production company, Emlen House Films to narrate a series of documentary films produced for PBS. The films focused on a wide variety of topics, such as the experiences of African-Americans and women in athletics, a historical and cultural look at Poland, and the rapidly changing world of the South Pacific. The documentaries contain interesting interviews conducted by Michener, including in-depth discussions on the transformation of the American South with a young Bill Clinton and the lack of opportunities for African-Americans with noted sociologist Harry Edwards. The Emlen House films aired on PBS stations soon after their creation, but there has been little to no access since the 1980s.

Working with both the Pizek family and the Copernicus Society of America, a charitable organization founded by Ed Pizek, the University of Northern Colorado was gifted the entire collection of Emlen House films in 1999. The materials transferred to the Archival Services Department consisted of over 100 16mm film canisters and 60 video cassette tapes. The collection of films has become an integral component of the James A. Michener Special Collections, but they were difficult for researchers to use due to the format. In an effort to make them widely accessible, the majority of the films were recently digitized and the digital films were made available online. They can now be freely accessed through the library catalog. Simply search for Emlen House and select the streaming media version of the film.

## Congratulations to Our Graduating Student Employees!



Alexis Hebner, Amber Bekkali, Amelia Pompey, Ben Parrish, Brent Sutherland, Chelea Findlay, Derek Rodriguez, Edith Munoz, Feza Ngandu, Francisco Vargas, Holly Borrero, Ilan Abrah, Ivanna Vdovich, and Jenny Roddam.

The faculty and staff of Michener and Skinner Libraries thank you for your hard work and dedication and wish you the best as you move on to the next stage of life.

## New Partnership with High Plains Library District

In a new partnership with the local High Plains Library District, UNC students and employees who also have High Plains library cards may request items from High Plains and pick them up at Michener Library. These items can also be returned to the University Libraries, providing a time-saving and convenient service for campus patrons who may find it difficult to travel to a High Plains branch location.

Moreover, UNC students and employees will be able to get a High Plains library card at Michener Library, which they can immediately use to request books or other items. High Plains cards give users access to collections not available through the University Libraries, including popular e-books and audio e-books through the OverDrive and OneClick Digital services, e-magazines via the Zinio library, and online music from Freegal Music.

## Children's Book Drive

The University Libraries service project for 2014 was a book drive benefiting ABC Child Development Centers in Greeley. The idea for the project began when Annie Epperson, Head of Library Research Services, heard a friend who works at ABC say, "We don't have enough books!"

That's all it took to inspire Libraries faculty and staff to start collecting books. In December, Libraries representatives Kalen May, Colleen Stewart, and Epperson delivered the books to the central location of ABC, where director Lacey Rubick gratefully received them. The collection included board books, easy readers, and bi-lingual and multicultural books reflecting the diversity of the community.



Children and staff of ABC Child Development Center were pleased to receive books donated by University Libraries personnel.

## New Digital Content

University of Northern Colorado Libraries faculty and staff have been busy adding new content to [Digital UNC](#), the Libraries' digital repository housing University materials and faculty and student research. In recent months, the following collections have been added or expanded:

- [The Annie McCowan Diaries](#), written by a professor of Elementary Education and prolific textbook author,

- [The Athletics Collection](#), featuring images of various sporting groups and events from throughout the University's history,

- [The George Willard Frasier Diaries](#), written by the former university president during and after his tenure,

- [The Mari Michener Scrapbook](#), chronicling the early years of James Michener's third wife in 1930's California,

- [The Tessa Dalton Collection](#), featuring images taken during James Michener's travels across the country while conducting research for his novel Centennial,

- [Master's theses](#) dating back to the 1910's.

Upcoming collections include the entire run of the student newspapers *The Crucible* and *The Mirror*, spanning the years 1892 to the present. Check the repository often, as new materials are added on a continual basis.

## COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND COMPLIMENTS

Contact the Libraries' Administration via email, telephone, or postal mail with your ideas for *Library Letters*.

- Email: [Helen.Reed@unco.edu](mailto:Helen.Reed@unco.edu)

- Phone: 970-351-2601

- Address: Campus Box 48

- Greeley, CO 80639

## CONTACT THE FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO LIBRARIES

- Phone: 970-351-2601

- [Friends of the UNC Libraries website](#)

- [Give to the Libraries](#)

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