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Spring 2010: David vs. Goliath

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Focus

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David (Skyriver) vs. Goliath (OCLC)

Not many years before I began working in libraries, the late Fred Kilgour embarked on what became one of the fundamental changes in library access and services.

Before Fred, there was the staid Melville Dewey, the humorless Charles Cutter, a galaxy of 3 x 5 cards, and a myriad of incessantly clacking typewriters creating catalog cards out of those 3 x 5s. For scores of years, that's just the way it was in libraries.

But Fred Kilgour took librarians' collective breaths away with his unsettling notion of automating cataloging while paving the way for removing card-based catalogs. Kilgour's Ohio College Library Center, located in Dublin, Ohio, eventually became the Online Computer Library Center or OCLC for short.

Since 1972 (Kilgour incorporated the entity in 1967), OCLC has been the only game in town. When it appeared, librarians the world over wrung their hands and hyper-ventilated to near vertigo. OCLC was a stupid idea; it wouldn't work; it would make a mess of everything, and no one would be able to use it.

And for about half a year, the naysayers appeared to be exactly right. OCLC struggled, pitched, waffled, but finally righted itself. And a funny thing happened on the way to that Cutter table. It, and the card catalog, got tossed into the dustbin of library history.

What goes around comes around, and David grew into Goliath. OCLC got bigger, costs soared, and

pretty soon, Goliath found itself trying to do everything any library wanted to do.

Goliath (OCLC) is now used in more than 70,000 libraries and more than 80 countries. Goliath had a good business model and for the better part of three decades, no one could touch it. Until now.

SkyRiver, a modern day David, embarked upon a cataloging service of its own. SkyRiver's owner is also the owner of Innovative Interfaces, Inc, the same company that makes our online catalog. We have had thirty successful, complaint-free years with Innovative. When SkyRiver approached us about trying its new service, we did with some trepidation, but also a great deal of excitement.

At just over 12 months old, SkyRiver is in the same place that OCLC was nearly 40 years ago. Naysayers are aplenty, not the least of which is Goliath. SkyRiver is

now the parvenu, offering similar cataloging services as OCLC to many of the same libraries, and enticing many with the promise of lower costs.

Like most academics, we're eager to see change in the workplace, but, again like most academics, in your workplace not ours. Change is never easy, and we make this change knowing that the road ahead might be bumpy. It also means we'll have to change the way we do some things, initially anyway. But we're an innovative group, pun intended. It helps, too, that some savings may accrue our way as well.

We hope the new David can, if not bring the old Goliath down, at least make it remember its early days. Competition is good, even for libraries. And change isn't always bad, even for academics.

Mark Y. Herring
Dean of Library Services

It's Now A Tradition: Spring Egg Hunt

After reviewing all previous event evaluations and listening to students' comments, Committee 2010, Library Outreach planned new and different events for this year's outreach activities.

First, partnering with the Council of Student Leaders, we offered Exam Survival Kits to students on both fall and spring semester study days. We provided food packets, candy, and basic office supply giveaways. The Council of Student Leaders offered take-home bags

with macaroni and cheese, candy, and noodle packets. The students seemed to really appreciate the gifts, as everything went quickly, as well as the short break from studying.

Second, on April 1, 2010, Dacus Library became prime hunting ground. Approximately, 300 plastic eggs were scattered throughout the building.

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The Correspondence of Mr. & Mrs. Kinard



Gina White

Dr. James Pinckney Kinard was a devoted and much loved Winthrop professor for over 40 years, Winthrop's second president from 1928 to 1934, and after retirement, President Emeritus until his death in

1951. He and Mrs. Kinard kept up quite a fascinating correspondence while they were engaged. These letters are located in the Winthrop Archives and give a glimpse into their lives, life at Winthrop, and courtship rituals in the late 19th Century.

Kinard was born on July 17, 1864 in Kinard, South Carolina, to John Martin and Lavinia Rook Kinard. His father died on a Civil War battlefield in Virginia when Kinard was just three months old.

He attended Newberry Male Academy and Newberry College before winning a scholarship to The Citadel. Kinard graduated in 1886 with the first class to finish at The Citadel after the Civil War. He taught at the Newberry Male Academy and other schools after graduation, but longed for further study in English literature.

Eventually, Kinard entered Johns Hopkins University in 1891, where he received his Ph.D. in philosophy in 1895. He returned to South Carolina to take a position as professor of English and literature at Winthrop College. He left Winthrop briefly to become president of Anderson College (1914-1916) and superintendent of Newberry City Schools (1916-1917).

He returned to Winthrop in 1917 as dean and professor of psychology and education. Later, he humorously referred to his brief absence from Winthrop as a "moment of mental aberration."

Dr. Kinard continued in that position until the death of David Bancroft Johnson, Winthrop's founder and first president, in 1928. He became Winthrop's second president and served until his retirement in 1934.

The position of president of Winthrop was not one that he actively sought. Kinard told the Board of Trustees that he would serve until an appropriate person was found. He served for six years, during the harshest part of the Great Depression. At the time of his retirement, Kinard was named President Emeritus, the only Winthrop president to be given this title, and served in that capacity until the time of his death in 1951.

Lee Wicker Kinard was born in Virginia on January 28, 1872. She graduated from Peabody Normal College with an education degree. She came to South Carolina as a high school teacher in Abbeville in 1893. Winthrop hired her as an instructor of history in 1895. There she met her future husband. Their engagement was announced in January of 1897.

The rules for Winthrop faculty in place at the time did not allow engaged couples to teach at the same school, so the future Mrs. Kinard went back home to Farmville, Virginia. They had decided that they wanted to spend their honeymoon bicycling through the English countryside.

The two had very different personalities. She was vivacious, outdoorsy, and something of a rebel. He was gentle, quiet, and scholarly. Quite the romantic, Kinard wanted Lee to marry in June of 1898 and make the journey to Europe for several weeks that summer. He planned how he could save \$500 for the expenses and, once there, travel mostly by bicycle to save money.

However, Lee was a little more practical. She felt they needed to save enough money before they married to ensure they could pay for the trip and live comfortably after their marriage.

Eventually, they married on June 29, 1899, two and a half years after their engagement. The Kinards were married for over 50 years and had four children, James, Jr., Lavinia, Nell, and Katherine. Mrs. Kinard traveled widely after her husband's death—at the age of 80, she boarded a freighter for South Africa, Malaya, and India—alone. Her year-long trip included a camping trip in the Kruger Game Preserve and visits to Victoria Falls and Lake Nyasa.

Tragically, Mrs. Kinard and her daughter Lavinia died in a house fire in Charlotte in January of 1963, about a week short of her 91st birthday. At the time of her death, Mrs. Kinard had been engaged to teach a Shakespeare course at the University of Hawaii.

Following are a few excerpts from the Mr. and Mrs. Kinard's correspondence which is located in Winthrop's Louise Pettus Archives:

James P. Kinard to Lee Wicker
December 12, 1897

... And so, my sweetheart is in Richmond; and I was directing my thoughts to Farmville, but I doubt not they found you. You poor child! to forget your ticket and your money. You see now how much you need me, don't you dear? I hope you will always feel that you need me, dear. I think that men object to the "new woman" largely because it robs Othello of his occupation. ...

December 19, 1897

... I have been thinking and scheming a good deal during the last week or two, and I have reached the conclusion that we ought to sail for London (!) the last week in June. Now, my love, you will think I am a queer sort of creature, to get you out

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All eggs contained candy, some with Dacus flash drives. There were ten 'prize' eggs, each with a note to come to the reference desk for the prize 'too big to fit in the egg'. Prizes ranged from a Dacus Library tote bag to a copy of *The Torch is Passed*, a history of Winthrop University.

The doors opened at 8:00 am to a group of students, albeit a small one (but check back in five years when we anticipate a crowd lining up overnight). The students were laughing and giggling as they hunted for the eggs.

By 8:15, one of the flash drive eggs had been found, and by 8:20, the first prize egg was located. Throughout the morning, students were walk-

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of the nation, and then to deliberately set to work to get you back into it again. But I have never been satisfied with my own decision on the matter. I think it a great pity that two persons who wish to go abroad as much as we do should give up the only chance they will probably have—certainly for many years. I feel the old world calling us, and if you are willing to submit to what it will cost us, we will answer the call. I am not good at "figgers", but I shall try to show you what we can do. . . . by saving \$100 per month from Jan. till June, we shall have \$500 to go to England. . . .

December 24, 1897

... Yes, sweet, there is a "risk" in our trip. This it was that frightened me off last summer. You are the better judge in these matters. My poor Farm-like nature is ever running to having a "good time." You are soberer and more thoughtful and must keep me in check. . . .

Gina Price White
Head of Louise Pettus Archives



Egg Hiding on Bookshelf

ing up and down the rows of books looking for eggs, which had all been found by 11:00 am. Around lunchtime, the reference desk received an Instant Message from a student pleading for hints to locate eggs. (Fortunately we had held back a few eggs, so she was able to get one.) She

thanked us profusely for sponsoring the event, saying how much she had missed egg hunts and how difficult it was to find any fun events for "big kids." She also promised that next year she would arrive earlier.

Other students also thanked us for the event and stated that "It was fun." One student commented that she much appreciated a morning event, since they were very rare on campus and she had to leave campus early to get to work.

Overall, it was a fun event for the students and for the sponsor, Committee 2010, Library Outreach. Next year's egg hunt promises to be bigger and better.

Susan Silverman
Head of Public Services

Meet Robert Ryals

Meet Robert Ryals, Dacus Library's newest Reference Librarian.

Robert came to us from Florida State University as Curator in the Claude Pepper Library, after relocating to Fort Mill, SC, with his wife.

With a MA in History and a MLIS, both from Florida State University, his main interests include history in the Colonial American Era, archival preservation, and genealogical research.

Interestingly enough, it was a search for his family roots which first drew Robert to Winthrop University. He came to Dacus Library to research his grandmother, who graduated from Winthrop College in 1924.

Then, impassioned by his interests in archival work and preservation, Robert soon began volunteering in the Louise Pettus Archives in June 2009.

Not long after, Robert officially became a member of the Dacus family as a part-time Reference Librarian, which became full-time in April 2010. With his good humor



Robert Ryals

and unwavering dedication to his work, Robert Ryals will certainly enrich the future of Dacus Library and Winthrop University's students.

"I feel very happy to be at Winthrop and Dacus Library. As a Reference Librarian, I feel it is my professional responsibility to provide all patrons with the best service possible to facilitate the highest quality learning experience," said Robert.

Kaitlynn Burdette
Serials Technical Assistant

Art 4 Books A Success

Dacus Library at Winthrop University held its second Art 4 Books, an arts and craft festival, on December 1, 2009.

The festival, featuring a variety of arts and crafts from local artisans, is a fundraising event for the library and one of its three development outreaches.

This season's event showcased such items as sweet grass baskets, woodworking, jewelry, handmade baby items, pottery and much more.

The festival also included a silent auction of framed artwork created by Winthrop's President, Dr. Anthony DiGiorgio.

The second Art 4 Books had more vendors and shoppers than the event held last spring, and proved to be a resounding success for Dacus and the participating artists and crafters.



A good number of vendors and shoppers turned out for the library's second Art 4 Books event

Active People

Pat Ballard, monographs cataloging, has been awarded a research grant, *Cataloging the Rutledge Visual Resource Center Video Collection for the Enhancement of Classroom Instruction in the Department of Fine Arts and Design: Phase Two*. Pat and Sally Brown (RVRC) will begin their work in June 2010.

Pam Garrison, library specialist, database management and cataloging, reports that through the support of Dacus Library faculty and staff, she has raised \$555 for the March of Dimes Campaign.

Bob Gorman and **David Weeks**, reference, received the "**Sporting News-Society for American Baseball Research award**" for their book chronicling fan deaths at baseball parks. They will be honored at a conference in August, 2010.

Andrew Johnston and **Gina White**, archives, recently sponsored a

display for the annual Alumni Weekend, held May 14-15, 2010. Their display featured memorabilia and pictures spotlighting Winthrop history and various graduating classes. They remained on hand to answer questions about the display.

Jackie McFadden, government documents, was recently honored for her work on the Marsh Tacky Horse bill when CN2 filmed their segment of *Hometown Heroes* on March 1, 2010. Wes Hayes and Gary Simrill stopped by at this event to recognize and thank Jackie for her work.

Spiro Shetuni, database management, attended the Music Library Association (MLA) Conference in San Diego, California, from March 20-24, 2010.

Nancy White, circulation, attended the Access Services Conference at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, from November

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*Linda Walrod, Co-Editor
Kaitlin Burdette, Co-Editor
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11-13, 2009. Nancy also attended a PASCAL meeting at Midlands Technical College in Columbia, South Carolina, on December 11, 2009.

Several faculty and staff from Dacus Library attended the Circuit Riders Workshop "Legal Research for Non-Law Librarians" that was held at Dacus Library on May 28, 2010. The *Circuit Riders Outreach Program* is a series of workshops, designed to teach public and academic librarians about the legal research process, and the resources available to their patrons.