

# THE STACKS

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY NEWSLETTER,  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA



SPRING 2012

## *The Transformation of USA Libraries*

The Dean's Corner, Dr. Richard Wood

Some technological advances over the past few decades such as photocopiers, scanners, personal computers, and Microsoft Office Suite changed *how work is done* in academic libraries. Other advances such as microfilm, microfiche, video tapes, and compact discs have changed *what we collect* in academic libraries. Some technologies, however, have fundamentally changed the relationship of students and other users to libraries—as well as the role of the libraries and librarians.

Which technologies have had such a significant impact at USA Libraries?

One answer is that digitization made it possible for publishers and aggregators of journal content such as EBSCO, Elsevier, Lexis-Nexis, Wiley or hundreds of other companies to create full-text databases and license them to USA Libraries. Other significant advances occurred when the Internet allowed USA students and faculty to access those remote licensed databases. Electronic mail, of course, allows database articles to be sent directly to users. Electronic newsletters, blogs, instant messaging and social media have also altered the ways personnel

of USA libraries to communicate with users. USA librarians have also made sure that users have access to these virtual resources from smart phones, as well as wireless networks within the libraries.

Aside from these technological advances, reference and instruction is no longer confined to the physical libraries or classrooms at USA. There is a growing “library” of virtual tours and online guides and tutorials. These are essential for USA distance learners and users who need convenient access to the databases 24x7.

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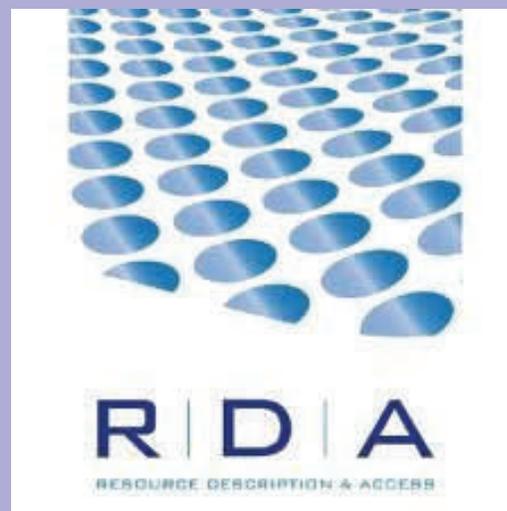
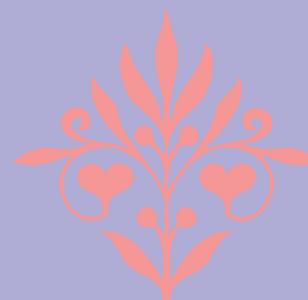
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## *University Library Cataloging Librarians Participate in RDA Workshop*

University Library Cataloging Librarians, Muriel Nero and Vera Finley, are participating in the eight week continuing education workshop, RDA: Resource Description and Access: An Introduction to RDA, FRBR, and Linked Data. Offered by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, this online workshop will

introduce already experienced catalogers to FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records) and FRAD (Functional Requirements for Authority Data) which underlie RDA, as well as introduce the structure of RDA, how to catalog using RDA, and how to create RDA MARC records.

Continued page 5



*The Dean's Corner:  
Transformation (continued)*

We hope, as a result of such technological advances, students and faculty see USA libraries as far more “user centric” than “collection centric.” USA librarians, for example, are also “embedding” themselves in non-library environments such as hospitals, residence halls, and learning communities. Librarians can take iPads or similar devices with them to demonstrate specific databases to students.

So, it may be abundantly clear that the definition of “the library” must change. A student who says “I don’t go to the library anymore, I just use online databases” IS using USA Libraries services. We count database and online catalog searches in the millions every year, so the use of the “libraries” have increased exponentially over the past decade or more.

As a consequence, USA Libraries administration and faculty must think in very **holistic** terms about how students and faculty use our facilities and access virtual resources around the world. USA Libraries are essential components of both the local and global information network. In any case, our role will continue to be one of a full partner in the location, instruction, dissemination, development, and management of the world’s literature and information resources.

Please do not hesitate to send your feedback to [rwood@usouthal.edu](mailto:rwood@usouthal.edu).



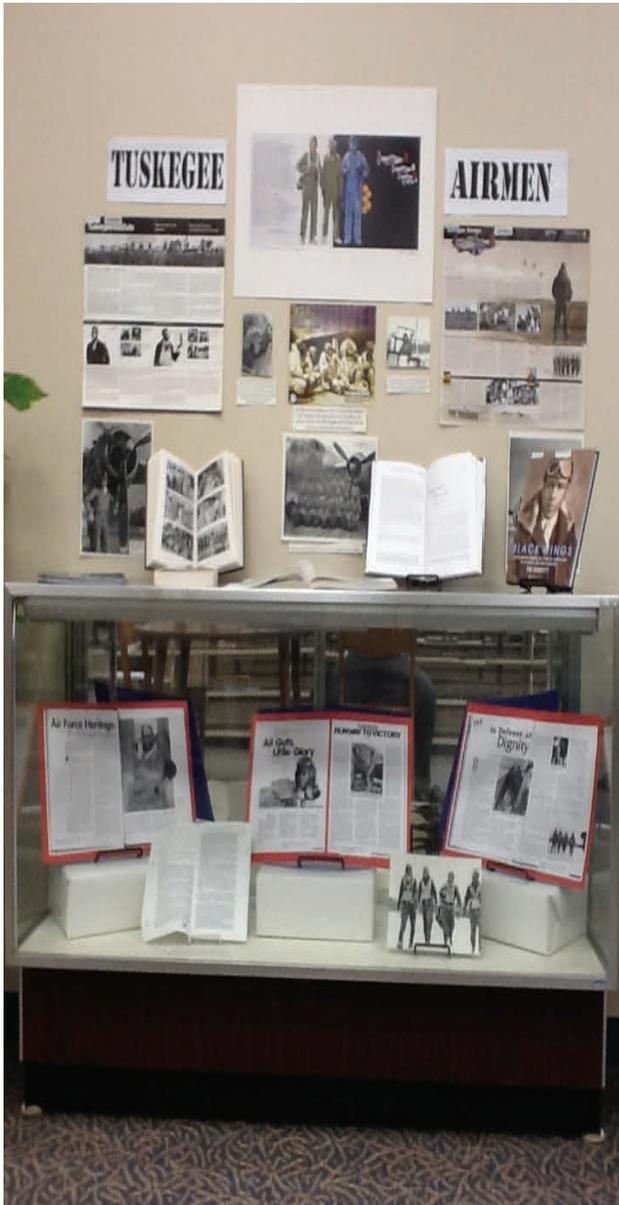
*USA Librarians  
Collaborate on  
Grant-Writing  
Project*

Angela Rand, USABC  
Instruction and Informa-  
tion Services Librarian

University of South Alabama (USA) librarians met on the USA Baldwin County (USABC) campus to collaborate on a grant writing project. Much of the basic grant writing was conducted in an online environment using GoogleDocs, and both face-to-face and Skype videoconference meetings were held. The final meeting on the USABC campus to submit the grant proposal was the culmination of weeks of collaborative writing, editing, and designing the grant proposal. Librarians working on the grant represent University Library, BioMedical Library, Government Documents Library, and the USA Baldwin County Library. The grant proposes a study using mobile tablets in the classroom for students to perform library activities.

Left to right – Muriel Nero, Collection and Information Management Librarian; Elizabeth Rugan, Reference and Instruction Librarian; Paula Webb, Government Documents Librarian; Mary Duffy, Assistant Dean, Library Systems; Kathy Wheeler, Electronic Resources and Reference Librarian; and Angela Rand, USABC Instruction and Information Services Librarian. (not shown - Andrea Wright, Technology Support Librarian; and Amy Prendergast, Instruction Librarian)

## *Tuskegee Airmen and Government Documents*



History was flying high in the Government Documents Department when Paula Webb and Vicki Tate created a display about the Tuskegee Airmen from Alabama. As a tie-in to the recently released movie “[Red Tails](#)”, and in honor of African American History Month (February), the government documents department searched through its collection for resources about the Tuskegee Airmen and the official induction of African Americans into the military during WWII. There were more resources in the collection than expected, including *The Air Force Integrates, Blacks in the Army during World War II* and *Black Americans in the Defense of our Nation*. The Government Documents Department also acquired additional titles to improve the collection. These titles include, *Black Wings: Courageous Stories of African Americans in Aviation and Space History* and *America’s Black Air Pioneer’s 1990-1939*. In addition to creating the display; Vicki and Paula, with the assistance of Kathy Wheeler, also created the Tuskegee Airmen LibGuide, which include

resources not only in the government documents collection but also materials in other collections in the library. This LibGuide has received over 2,000 hits since its publication in January 2012. The GovDocs: Tuskegee Airmen LibGuide was shared with the local and national Federal depository libraries, and has received many emails of thanks from other academic institutions that wanted to link their resources to our Tuskegee Airmen LibGuide, giving the university library credit for its creation.

The Tuskegee Airmen LibGuide is available for everyone to view and use at <http://libguides.southalabama.edu/tuskegee>.

Paula L. Webb, Government Documents Librarian

### *From the USA Archives*

Several small collections have come our way since the last newsletter. In September we received two panoramic photos from Blaine Logan showing groups at Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America conventions, one in Washington, D.C., in 1976, the other in Atlantic City in 1966.

Then, in October, we acquired twelve glass plate

negatives featuring photos taken in the Fruitdale, Alabama area, an unincorporated community in Washington County. The photos include the Fruitdale railroad station, cattle being driven by men on horseback, men standing on a railroad track above flood waters, a milk delivery wagon, and men in a canoe on the Dog River. A month later we were given a small collection

of material related to USA Club Football, including statistics, brochures, and newspaper clippings chronicling the early attempts to bring football to the University of South Alabama.

Last month we picked up eight banker's boxes from the Dauphin Island Property Owners Association, consisting of documents and negatives related to properties on Dauphin Island. That collection remains closed until organized.

Carol Ellis, University Archivist



Masked Mardi  
Gras  
Goers  
1925-1935

### *In the News: University Library Use Increases in Fall 2011*

Since the closing of the Student Center last summer, the Library has seen a significant increase in patron usage of our facilities. We attribute this to more students coming in to study and use our computer lab and newly installed PAWS Reference computers. Additionally, now that the student center is closed, the

library is often the last building open on campus for students.

Specifically, in October 2011, the door count was 47,163 patrons. This was an increase of 46% over the previous October which had a door count of 32,283. Our room usage showed a similar increase.

The statistics for September/October 2011 indicated we booked rooms for a total of 477 hours for an increase of 43% over the same period in 2010. While we hope the student center will reopen soon, we do enjoy this increase in library use.

Paul Hendrix,  
Circulation, IMC, and Reserve  
Supervisor

This newsletter is published irregularly as a service to the University Community.

**Editors (2011-)**

Elizabeth Rugan  
erugan@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

Kathy Wheeler  
kwheeler@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

**CHECK OUT  
OUR BLOG!**

**[HTTP://  
LIBLOG-  
USA.BLOGSPO  
T.COM/](http://liblog-usa.blogspot.com/)**

## *Cataloging Librarians (continued)*

As RDA will replace AACR2 cataloging rules in January 2013, it is important that our catalogers know what is new and different about cataloging with RDA as opposed to AACR2: as Muriel Nero noted, this workshop is "necessary because old cataloging rules are changing and we must keep up with the current cataloging environment [...] this workshop will provide me with a working knowledge of RDA." Head librarian of cataloging and processing, Vera Finley, noted that while the immediate changes once RDA has been implemented will not be noticed by library users, RDA will "completely change the way we do things [...] cataloging systems such as Voyager will have to change and adapt to accommodate this completely new vocabulary."

The workshop is provided completely online and is composed of weekly modules. These modules include readings, worksheets, quizzes, and weekly assignments. Once completed, the librarians will receive a certificate of completion. Thanks to these librarians who are willing to take this course in addition to their already assigned cataloging duties to better serve the University Library and the university community.

Elizabeth Rugan,

Reference and Instruction Librarian

## *Movers and Shakers: University Librarians' Professional Activities*

**Kathy Wheeler** is the current newsletter editor for the Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries, where she serves on the Executive Board.

**Amy Prendergast** had four website reviews published in *CHOICE*.

**Carol Ellis** participated in a Society of American Archivists' webinar entitled "Information Architecture," which explored ways to make web sites more user friendly. In addition, Carol traveled to Athens, Georgia, in early December to solicit a collection of material related to the Alabama Black Belt in the early nineteenth century, and will travel to Clinton, Mississippi, later this month to examine a collection of black and white negatives made by a local man from 1925 to 1955.

**Vera Finley and Muriel Nero** participated in an 8-week continuing education workshop entitled RDA:Resource Description and Access: An Introduction to RDA, FRBR, and Linked Data.

**Muriel Nero, Elizabeth Rugan, Paula Webb, Mary Duffy, Kathy Wheeler, Angela Rand, Andrea Wright, and Amy Prendergast** collaborated in writing a SPARKS! Technology Grant.