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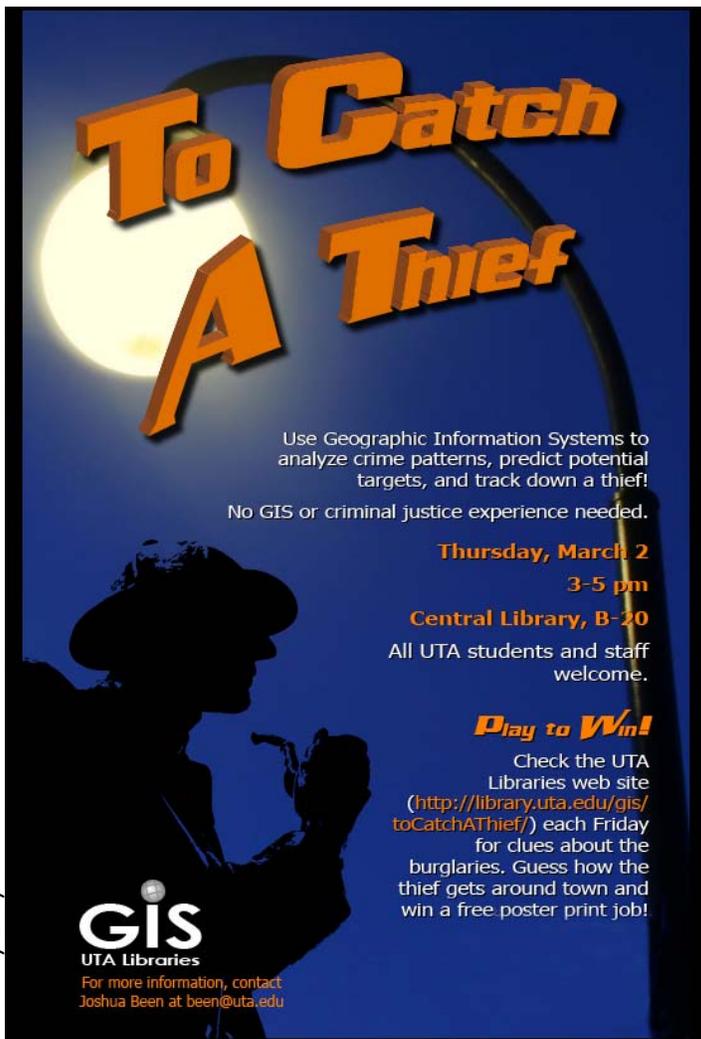
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UTA LIBRARIES

Volume 3, Issue 2

To Catch a Thief: A New GIS Workshop



Poster by Evelyn Barker

Josh Been, UTA Geographical Information Systems Librarian, recently designed a new workshop with a unique feature—a mystery contest. It is open to UTA faculty, staff, and students.

Each Friday during the month of February (Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24), Josh will release evidence online about ongoing fictitious burglaries in northern Tarrant County. Check library.uta.edu/gis/toCatchAThief to see the evidence. The bur-

glar(s) might strike once or even twice during the week. Eye witnesses might report a seemingly irrelevant piece of information which might be critical.

Participants are challenged to figure out the means of transportation taken by the burglar during the burglaries. Correct answers will be entered in a random drawing during the workshop, held on March 2. The deadline to guess is midnight (CST) on March 1. The winner will receive one free poster-sized print job by the Library's Digital Media Studio.

The workshop will use state-of-the-art GIS (geographic information systems) to analyze crime patterns and predict potential targets, and try to track down the burglar. This is a hands-on workshop with no GIS or criminal justice experience required.

—Josh Been

Connections

Top Academic Library Trends

The two Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Presidential Candidates were asked to identify the top academic library issues for the next two years at the “meet the candidates” luncheon at MidWinter in San Antonio. Listening to both of these candidates lured me away from precise notes. Here, then, is a summary of what I remembered to record:

Cynthia Steinhoff, Director of the Anne Arundel Community College Library, identified these:

- Advocacy to administrations for the library’s existence on campus.

- Scholarly communication
- Learning to manage technology better
- Staying familiar with trends and technology through professional development
- The place of information literacy in our organizations
- Library as Place, including how we appear to our distance learners
- The changing nature of our student populations
- Legislative issues affecting higher education and issues that affect us indirectly, such as Inform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA) and the issues facing school libraries.
- The current higher education business model for distance education. Often student services, including library resources, are not included in revenue stream considerations.
- Empowering and enabling front line librarians to be effective library advocates on campuses, outside of the library.

Julie Todaro, Dean of Library Services at Austin Community College, concentrated her comments on these three topics:

—Karen Hopkins

ALA Association of College and Research Libraries’ Blog

Have you had a chance to look at ACRLog, the official blog of ACRL at www.acrlblog.org/?

This blog “aims to discuss the issues of the day in the field of academic librarianship.” As of the end of January, the top five discussions have been (1) worth reading with 46 posts,

(2) technology issues, with 39 posts, (3) information ethics, with 23 posts, (4) libraries and learning with 20 posts, and (5) with thirteen posts each, conference blogging, higher education, and professional development. The blog also has links to ACE HENA (American Council on Education’s newsletter *Higher Education and National Affairs*), *Inside Higher*

Ed, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *Wired Campus Blog* (from the *Chronicle*).

—Karen Hopkins

Th' first thing to have in a libry is a shelf. Fr'm time to time this can be decorated with lithrachure. But th' shelf is th' main thing. — "Books" in *Mr Dooley Says*. Finley Peter Dunne (1867-1936)

New Exhibit in Central



After viewing the exhibit, a UTA student became excited about purchasing a flash drive.

The idea for the current exhibit on the first floor was developed by the Marketing Implementation Planning Team—Tommie Wingfield, chair; Suzanne Beckett; Evelyn Barker; Josh Dugdale; and Diane Shepelwich. The intention of the exhibit is to encourage students to be more mindful of the use of resources and to

consider using alternatives to printing. In conjunction with the exhibit, each branch library is holding a drawing for a flash drive to be given to a UTA student.

The creation of the exhibit involved several people including Kris Swenson who pro-

vided some of the visuals, Burt King and Diane Shepelwich who put it all together, and Elizabeth Swift, Kathleen Marquez-Houston, and Suzanne Becket who diligently helped crumple paper.

—Diane Shepelwich

Contributors to the February Issue

- Josh Been
- Josh Dugdale
- Karen Hopkins
- Phuong Le
- Mark Mustacchio
- Bill Pinkerton
- Diane Shepelwich
- UTA Libraries Staff Association
- UTA Libraries Staff Association Entertainment Committee
- C.D. Walter
- Lea Worcester

Connections

Celebration—New Dugdale Arrival



Marie Irwin, Josh Dugdale, and Ramona Holmes

On January 24th, Digital Library Services held a celebration for the anticipated new arrival in the Dugdale family.

While she was expected on February 9th, Meryn Sophia Dugdale arrived a little early at 3:34 PM on Thursday, February 2. She is 19.5 in. long and weighs 7 lbs. 11 oz. Both mom and baby are doing great.



Josh and Erica Dugdale

...and the winner of the January Library Staff Contest is

“... it would be difficult for a user to accidentally press all three at once on a standard keyboard.”

Michael Hang in Library Systems!

Michael and others knew that David J. Bradley developed Ctrl-Alt-Delete to restart computers without powering them down. He selected the combination because it would be difficult for a user to accidentally press all three at once



on a standard keyboard.

The three-key combination is used by Microsoft Windows operating systems. In some

(Windows 95 and 98) the combination gives a list of running programs and in others (Windows 2000 and Windows XP) the user can choose to reboot the computer, see the task list, or password protect the computer.

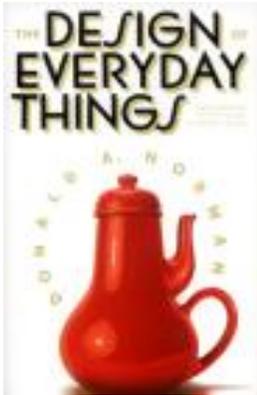
—Lea Worcester

C.D.'s Picks

Science for Everyone

The Design of Everyday Things

Donald A. Norman
SEL Books: TS 171.4 .N67
1990



Take a look at the lovely teapot on this book cover. What's wrong with this picture?

This book has a simple thesis: that useful objects can be designed with aesthetics in mind, but ultimately must be designed to perform its function well. If this sounds as though it goes without saying, think about the many objects in your life that seem more complicated than maybe they ought.

Dr. Norman has a background in both engineering and social sciences, and is currently a Professor of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, Psychology, and Cognitive Science at Northwestern Univer-

sity. He tackles the problem of useful design from many perspectives.

I recommend this book for anyone who designs anything—from a rocket ship hatch to a computer game to paper pamphlet to a door knob. The idea is for the designer to flip around his or her perspective of the object, to think about it completely from the user's perspective.

Too often users blame themselves when an item is difficult to use. According to the author, if an object is difficult to use for many users, the design itself is a failure. He makes a compelling case.

Now, how do we get all those designers to read this book?

(Note: For those wanting more information about Dr. Norman and usability in general, visit www.jnd.org.)

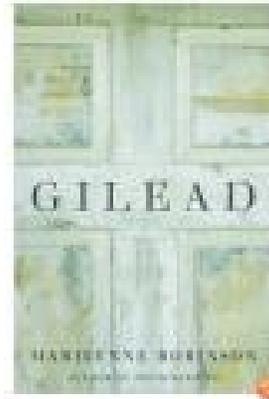
On the Lighter Side

Non-scientific reading available from UTA Libraries

Gilead

Marilynne Robinson
Central Books: PS3568.O3125
G55 2004

If you're in the mood for action-packed suspense, do not pick up Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead*.



If, on the other hand, you seek solace—a quiet afternoon reclining in the sun by a babbling brook, enjoying the distant sound of children laughing while pondering life's deep questions—I recommend *Gilead*.

The book has no discernable plot. In fact, it is written like a memoir. I'd venture to say it is one—a fictional memoir. (Not to be confused with a fictionalized memoir, such as the one that has recently shattered the press into a million little pieces.) What I mean to say is that narrator John Ames is fictional.

Which isn't to say the story line is aimless. Ostensibly, it's a

Continued on page 6

Connections

Saying Goodbye—Ginny Pinkerton and Fern Mayhugh

Ginny Pinkerton— January 26, 2006

Ginny was born in Big Spring, Texas, and earned an education degree at UTA in 1971. She started to work at UTA in 1985 after her three children were in school.

She has many interests including running, riding her bike, swimming and nature.



She would like to work on genealogy and family history as well as travel in her retirement. She and her husband Bill will spend the month of

February in New Zealand where they will visit the *Lord of the Rings* scenery. The trip's highlight will be the five day Milford Track out of Queenstown, South Island, one of the premiere hikes in the entire world.

C.D.s Picks (cont.)

“... the most beautiful abilities of the human spirit are to love and to forgive.”

letter from a dying man to his young son, attempting to convey ideas he would have passed along in person had he lived long enough to do so.

During the course of the narrative, we learn much not only of John Ames and his son, but of Ames's father and grandfather, who were also preachers, but with widely differing ideas about theology. The grandfather is a fascinating character—a fiery abolitionist willing to fight, quite literally, for the

freedom of slaves. His son (our narrator's father), as a result of his experiences during the Civil War, becomes an equally passionate pacifist.

But the storyline that moved me most, that showed me the true mettle of John Ames, is the preacher's relationship with Jack, the son of his longtime friend and his own namesake. Jack is the thorn in John's side, the person he most struggles to love, and can't help but dislike. Jack's mocking disbelief

and questionable morality irritate our hero to no end. How John transcends this difficulty is the true miracle of the story.

In my opinion, the most beautiful abilities of the human spirit are to love and to forgive. John Ames, a quiet man living in a small Iowa town and loving life with a startling fierceness, is one of the most beautiful spirits I've ever encountered in a work of literature.

—C.D. Walter

February Professional Forum

February 15, 10:30-12:00 Central Library Parlor

Topics: *Podcasting in Libraries*, presented by Lea Worcester

To Catch a Thief, presented by Joshua Been

Saying Goodbye—Ginny Pinkerton and Fern Mayhugh (cont.)



Fern Mayhugh— January 27, 2006

Fern is looking forward to spending time with her youngest grandson, Devin. Her interests include reading, traveling by RV and volunteering.

She intends on continuing to have lunch and visit with her many friends at Central Library.

—Phuong Le

Above: Patty Grubaugh, Bobbie Johnson, and Fern Mayhugh

Retirement Reception Photos



Above: Gerald Saxon, Evelyn Barker, Kevin Robbins, Scott Holmes, Jonathan Scott, and Mark Cook enjoy the January 26 reception in Ginny's honor.

Right: Fern Mayhugh and her family at the January 27th celebration.



Connections

Fiesta de Salsa—Library Staff Event



**Fiesta
de Salsa**
Thursday, February 16th
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Central Library Atrium

Have a great salsa recipe?
Enter the salsa contest!

You are invited to a winter fiesta with food and fun.
Enjoy fajitas and sample the entries in the salsa contest.
Look for more information on food and contest in your e-mail.

Fiesta de Salsa Contest

Salsa Quiz.

1. Do you dream about your favorite salsa recipe?
2. Was your first word *salsa*?
3. Do you grow your own peppers because the ones in the store just aren't hot enough?
4. Do people bring a bag of tortilla chips when they visit you?
5. Can you correctly pronounce *chipotle*?

6. Do you USE chipotle peppers?

If you answer yes to any of the questions, you may want to enter UTA Libraries' Fiesta de Salsa Contest.

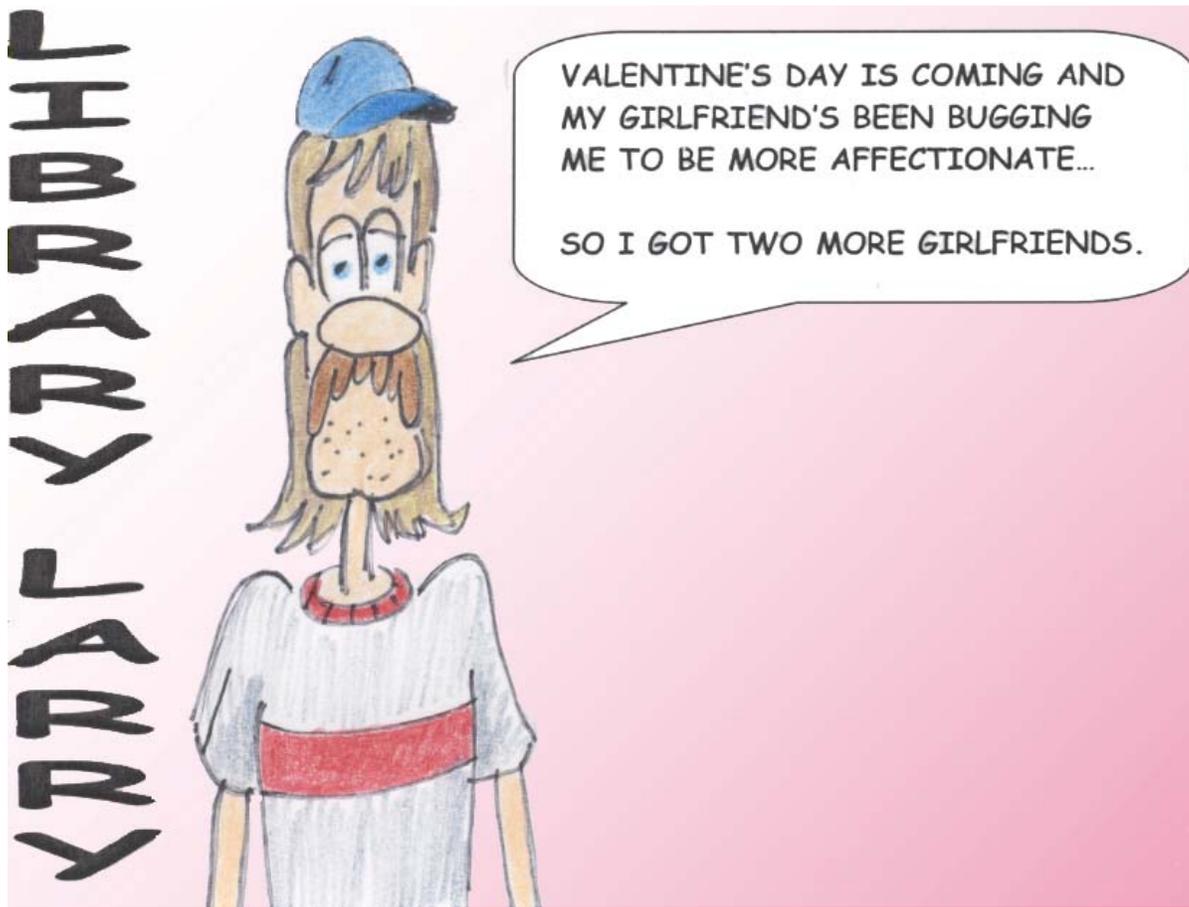
You can enter the salsa contest by posting a reply in the library staff suggestion box topic *Salsa Contest Signup for Fiesta de Salsa*, or informing an LSA Entertainment Com-

mittee member (so we can estimate the correct amount of bragging rights to dole out!). First prize is a gift certificate for a meal at Mijos.

LSA Entertainment Committee
Donna Kelly, Lea Worcester,
Anne Mitchell, Diane Turner,
and Charlotte LeBlanc

Share your favorite salsa recipe! To have your recipe printed in the March issue of Connections, send your recipe to Lea Worcester at lworcester@uta.edu.

Library Larry



Mark Mustacchio

Co-Worker Appreciation Day



"CO-WORKER APPRECIATION DAY"

See LSA Officers to buy Flowers

Josie Murdock
Charlotte LeBlanc
Bonnie Dreitner
Darras Blevins

The LSA is now taking orders for carnations as part of our Valentine's fund raiser. The carnations will be sold at \$2 each and will have a gift card to go along with it. Orders will be taken through February 10 and the carnations will be delivered on February 14. Feel free to buy carnations for that special someone or for that great co-worker(s)! Please see Bonnie, Charlotte, Darras or Josie to purchase the carnations. Many thanks in advance!

—Library Staff Association
Josie Murdock, Charlotte Le Blanc,
Bonnie Dreitner, and Darras Blevins

UTA

Libraries

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Connections is the library staff newsletter published the first week of each month. The newsletter introduces new staff members, highlights departments, reports on library staff events, and is a forum for items of interest.

Suggestions and contributions are welcome. Please contact:

Lea Worcester, Editor

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lworcester@uta.edu

February 2006

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
Black History Month		1 Census Date	2	3	4 5
6	7	8	9	10	11 12 Lincoln's Birthday
13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Maverick Brand Launching	16 11:20-1:00 Fiesta de Salsa—Parlor.	17	18 19
20 President's Day	21	22 12:10-1:00 Focus on Faculty, David Keens—Parlor Washington's Birthday Engineers Week	23	24	25 26
27	28				

Connections is archived online at:

<http://libraries.uta.edu/connections/index.htm>