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UTA LIBRARIES

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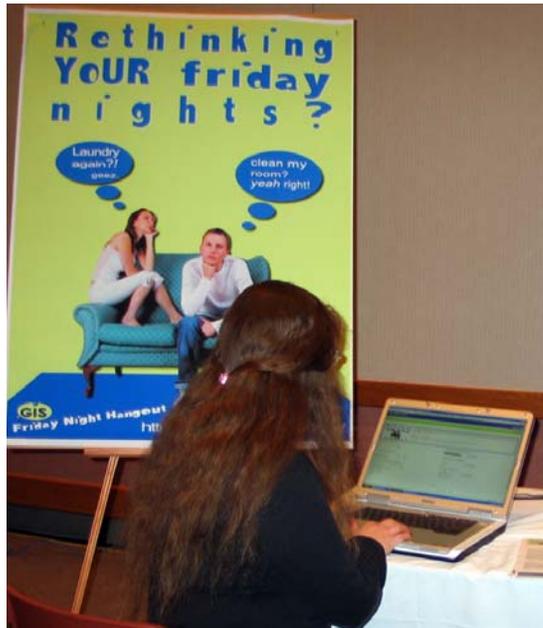
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2005 UTA Library Tech Fair Demo

During UTA Tech Fair 2005, the UTA Libraries: GIS Program showcased an application called *Friday Night Hangouts*. In six hours, over 50 people added themselves to the *Friday Night Hangouts* database to find out where they should hang out on Friday night. You can take a look at where everyone's hanging out at the webpage <<http://gis.uta.edu/fridaynight>>. Heck—if you would like, you can



UTA student Brandie Perry rethinking her Friday nights at UTA Tech Fair 2005.

even fill out the quick online form and add yourself to the map. Just grab a handful of popcorn first as it takes approximately 60 seconds to process.

**Web Mapping & Geographic Information Systems**

“Yes,” I say emphatically at least once a week to students. “Yes, there is a difference between web mapping and Geographic Information Systems.”

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) includes the organization, analysis, and viewing of geospatial data. Web mapping using the big three mapping interfaces (Google Maps, Windows Local Live, and Yahoo! Maps) is a really cool way of viewing geospatial data, but the full power of a GIS application is still necessary to analyze and organize geospatial data.

GIS Analysts create the datasets we all enjoy via the three

big mapping interfaces mentioned above.

**Let's Take a Look Under the Hood**

UTA Libraries: GIS Program developed *Friday Night Hangouts* to demonstrate how the full power of GIS analysis can be harnessed while still using popular web mapping interfaces to view results. For this project we used Google Maps as the map

viewer and ArcGIS as the GIS software performing the analysis.

After you fill out the form (*and you really ought to give it a try...*) the automated ArcGIS application analyzes the input. The application:

1. Computes a *weighted average* which ranks all of the 1033 Census Block Groups in Tarrant County based on the criteria users

# Connections

## Staff Members Attend RFID Workshop at University of North Texas

### What is RFID?

As explained on the Frequently Asked Questions page of the web site for the *RFID Journal*, Radio Frequency Identification, or RFID, is a generic term for technologies that use radio waves to automatically identify individual items. RFID has been evolving into a more effective, convenient, and cost-efficient technology since World War II. American companies, especially those in the automotive, packaging and handling, and retail industries, began to integrate RFID technology into the structure of their businesses in the late 1990s. In 2000, several libraries around the world announced their intent to integrate RFID technology into their library systems, pioneering its use for contemporary library functions.<sup>1</sup>

### Source:

1. RFID: A brief bibliography. *American Library Association Library Fact Sheet Number 25*. <http://www.ala.org/ala/alalibrary/libraryfactsheet/>

Sue Sappington, Bob Samson, and Heather Scalf attended a workshop sponsored by National Information Standards Organization (NISO) in October entitled *RFID Technologies: Standards and Integration in the Information Environment*. This workshop was part of an ongoing effort at NISO to create standards for RFID, or Radio Frequency Identification, in libraries and information centers. Librarians were present from various places across the country, including California, Arkansas, and New Jersey, as well as multiple representatives from Texas libraries. Presenters included engineers involved in the development and promulgation of RFID technologies, legal representatives of the Electronic Frontier Foundation and librarians from several libraries who have had successful RFID implementations.

The technical presenters provided a predominantly non-technical group with the framework already created in the industry for standards and varying application methods. While RFID has major application to the manufacturing industry and warehousing and distribution, there was a lot of information that is pertinent to

the adaptation of this technology for libraries.

The highlights of the conference were presentations by library users of RFID technology. Louise Levy Schaper from the Fayetteville, Arkansas Public Library (2005 Gale/LJ Library of the Year!) outlined the three-year process that led her library to open its new facility with RFID as its backbone. Described as a “slightly off-grid” RFID system by Ms. Schaper, the results at one year indicate a 26% increase in check outs with no staff increases and a 43% self-check rate. Frisco Public Library director Ron Heezen described his experience at the Omaha Public Library where he worked with Deloitte and Touche to create a web site that libraries could use to do cost analysis of installing RFID in their buildings. Vatican librarian Paola Manoni described the recently completed effort to install Pergamon RFID as part of the Vatican Library’s cultural heritage management program. Even with only a small portion of the collection tagged, they are already realizing time savings with regard to locating material.

While the most obvious pay-

off would seem to be in the self-check use of RFID technology, both Heezen and Manoni described the value from a collection management and collection development perspective. Having RFID allows the library to do inventory much more quickly and efficiently and also allows the library to recover costs from books previously believed to be lost. It also drastically reduces patron dissatisfaction because the items have been verified to be in location much more frequently than is possible with current time and manpower constraints.

The controversial aspects of RFID were not overlooked. Dierdre Mulligan from the UC Berkeley Law School, Boalt Hall, spoke eloquently of privacy concerns based on read range and patron data that could be associated with the chip. She stressed that standards for RFID in libraries should include encryption and management at the library level of a minimum of data collection from the item, such as a random unique identifier rather than standard bibliographic information. Her colleague at the Electronic Frontier Federation, Lee Tien, described in some detail the level of information that it is possi-

## From the Archives: Hair Over Ears Causes Accidents

It seems as if people have always found new and different hair styles shocking. In 1920, the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* reprinted the following *New York Times-Chicago Tribune* article:

### **Hair Over Ears Accident Cause Say Lawmakers**

Chicago, Dec. 20. "Cottie garages," the puffs of hair women and girls wear over their ears, and "sickle hooks", the stiffly plastered hair drawn down around the temples, are engaging

the serious attention of Chicago aldermen. Alderman Timothy Hogan started the trouble. He is strong for an ordinance against women ambushing their ears.

"A law on this subject is an absolute necessity," says Hogan.

"Girls cannot hear the honk of a motor. I have no doubt a large percentage of automobile accidents are due to the present style of hair dressing."

Alderman Jenson agreed on this point and wants to forbid the

wearing of "sickle hooks" on their foreheads.

Other aldermen told of seeing flappers crossing streets amidst motors and street cars, powdering their noses, utterly oblivious to their danger or the blistering profanity of truck drivers.<sup>1</sup>

### **Source**

1. "Hair Over Ears Accident Cause Say Lawmakers." *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, December 20, 1920, page 4.

"A law on this subject is an absolute necessity," says Hogan.

## New Faces



Elaine Malanga  
Administrative Assistant  
Central Library

I'm originally from New York and have 2 cats (Kate and Allie).

This is my second position at UTA. Previously I worked for the Social Work Masters Program Director.

## Staff Members Attend RFID Workshop (cont.)

ble for the RFID chip to contain and reveal about patrons if not carefully guarded. He felt that standards should also address to some degree a "civic hygiene" that would prevent the development of a surveillance infrastructure associated with RFID.

In total, this was a very worthwhile two-day endeavor. Pat Harris, Executive Director of NISO, left us all with encouragement to get involved in the process of developing standards and interoperability. She reminded us that RFID will become what those involved create.

### **Additional Information**

Presentations from the conference may be viewed at <http://www.txcdk.org/rfid/activities.php?detail=9#9> by selecting the presenter's name. (Simply cancel the password screen when it comes up as the presentation is opening.)

—Heather Scalf

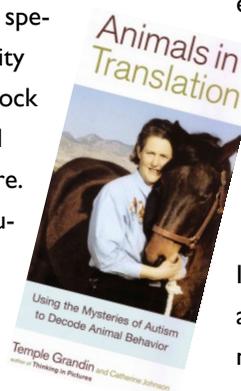
## Connections

### C.D.'s Picks

*“This fascinating book compares and contrasts the animal mind with the human mind.”*

**Science for Everyone**  
**Animals in Translation : Using the Mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior.** Temple Grandin and Catherine Johnson  
 QL751 .G73 2005

Temple Grandin has a Ph.D. in animal science and is renowned as a specialist in facility design, livestock handling, and animal welfare. She is also autistic.



This fascinating book compares and contrasts the animal mind with the human mind. Surprisingly enough, a human brain differs little from a mammalian brain in substance, yet it performs many functions that other mammals cannot perform. Why that is so is both a compelling mystery and a scientific challenge.

I looked forward every night to keeping my date with Dr. Grandin. This book is enjoyable not only for the information one gains but for the sheer pleasure of reading its prose. The author's voice is refreshingly straight-forward—open and honest. I had heard

her on several television and radio interviews, and her voice was clear in my mind as I was reading.

This book would appeal to several different types of readers—people interested in autism, people who love or study animals, people who are interested in how the mind works, and people who are interested in biology (both human and animal). I found it interesting on all counts.

I definitely recommend it to anyone who owns or is planning to own a pet. Dr. Grandin emphasizes the importance of pet owners understanding more than simply how to physically care for their pets; she claims that owners have a responsibility as the animal's caregiver to consider its emotional and psychological needs when making decisions about its welfare.

#### On the lighter side

Non-scientific reading available from UTA Libraries

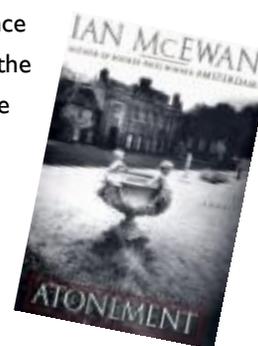
**Atonement: A Novel.** Ian McEwan

Central: PR6063.C4 A88 2002

I'm recommending this novel with some reservations. I feel certain that at least some read-

ers will not like it. I'll try to explain what I mean, so that those who will dislike it can ignore it, and those who will love it can plunge in.

This is a philosophical novel—confronting ideas and plumbing the depths of its characters' psyches. It can be slow moving, but generally compels one forward. Once reaching the end, some may consider the ending bleak.



Indeed, I am ambivalent about the book. It does what all great fiction does, produces a mirror, and what the reader sees reflected has largely to do with what is projected by the reader. In that way, reading it was uncomfortable, producing images one doesn't necessarily want to face.

On the other hand, I found myself intrigued by the brilliance of the book; it is complex and nuanced. It plays with interesting ideas about the nature of perspective and memory. It explores the borderlands between fact and fiction, reality and imagination, and between truth and decep-

## Exhibits in UTA Libraries

- *Digital Media Studio*. The current UTA Libraries' exhibit at the E. H. Hereford University Center is designed to look like a '50s diner. This is the final exhibit in UTA Libraries' semester-long series about library locations and services at the UC.
- *Einstein's Miracle Year*. Two flat showcases in Central Library offer a timeline of Einstein's life and related events in world history.
- *Historic Maps*. Currently Special Collections is displaying a selection of historic maps. In early December they will feature *A New Dimension – The Photography of Cirrus Bonneau and Ana Beaulac*. The content of the Bonneau and Beaulac Photograph Collection reflects Cirrus' and Ana's interest in cemeteries. The majority of the cemeteries they visited are in Texas, but burial grounds in New Mexico, Mexico, California, Kentucky, New York, Tennessee, and Washington, D.C., are also included. A second major focus of Cirrus' and Ana's cameras is images of Fort Worth buildings, street-scapes, and events.<sup>1</sup>
- *Legends of the Red Planet: Mars in Fact and Fiction*. The exhibit showcases Science and Engineering Library's books about the red planet. In addition, a printable bibliography is available at <[http://libraries.uta.edu/sel/exhibits/mars\\_bib.htm](http://libraries.uta.edu/sel/exhibits/mars_bib.htm)>. The bibliography offers additional information on Mars and resources on such controversial subjects as the "Face on Mars" and the possibility that there is evidence on microbial life on the planet.
- *Lost Architecture*. Architecture and Fine Arts Library is hosting a display of photos and information on hotels, Victorian mansions, churches, and commercial buildings throughout the United States that have been demolished, razed or otherwise lost.

### Source

1. McClurkin, Brenda S. 2006. *A New Dimension – The Photography of Cirrus Bonneau and Ana Beaulac*. *Compass Rose* 10, no. 1.

## C.D.'s Picks (cont.)

tion. I find these philosophical meanderings enjoyable, despite the fact that they can also be discomfiting.

The entire book is well-written and thoughtful, but it is the coda that launches it into an entirely different category of book. It is in this coda that we

begin to question everything we just read, and revisit it with a new perspective. It makes us want to re-read the novel, and the re-reading evokes a near heart-breaking poignancy. It is this coda that makes us question the very nature of reality. It is disturbing, unsettling, and wickedly brilliant.

It makes me want to rush out and get everything written by Ian McEwan.

UTA Libraries also has McEwan's newest novel, *Saturday* (Central: PR6063.C4 S27 2005). See if you can get it before I do.

—C.D. Walter

# Connections

## Leaders of the Information Age

*“ . . . the library profession helped to usher in the Information Age.”*

The advent of the Information Age has sent every profession through major transformations as technology has put information at everyone’s fingertips. The practice of medicine has changed with doctors and nurses now consulting electronic information resources to confirm treatments and medications. Inventories of products are managed electronically, tracking product shipments and matching schedules with “just in time” deliveries at warehouses and stores. No profession has been untouched by the developments in information technology.

From the beginning, librarians have been on the front lines of the Information Age as advances in computer technology changed library landscapes and enabled the volume of information to explode. The need to organize, access and locate vast amounts of information pushed computers onto the desktops of librarians before most people even knew about personal computers, let alone having one in their homes. As information needs grew in other professions, librarians were drawn into hospitals, law offices, corporations, and government agencies to establish libraries and information centers focusing on the specific

information requirements of their organizations.

### **Pioneering Librarians**

Behind the scenes, the library profession helped to usher in the Information Age. The electronic book catalogs and databases that we all take for granted wouldn’t exist if it weren’t for librarians developing a systematic approach for organizing and describing information so a computer could manipulate it. The MARC system (MACHINE READABLE CATALOGING) was developed at the Library of Congress in the early 1970s, paving the way for the organization of information in a standardized, electronic format.

At the National Library of Medicine and at NASA scientific and technical information facilities, librarians worked with software programmers to develop the structure and content architecture of databases. Information Scientists studied retrieval algorithms and human behavior to improve search results and electronic design interfaces. Over the years the early databases matured into Internet-hosted resources such as PubMed (<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/>) and NASA Scientific & Technical Information (STI) (<http://www.sti.nasa.gov/STI-public-homepage.html>). During the

1980s, as the ARPANET evolved into the Internet, librarians around the world seized the opportunity to establish electronic networks and cooperatives for communicating and sharing information with colleagues and researchers. Today librarians are leading the way in testing popular search engines and evaluating the content of Google, Yahoo! and others.

### **Librarians and Beyond**

One impact of the Information Age on the library and information profession has been the expansion of educational parameters and the degrees librarians earn, the places they work, and the titles they call themselves. Many students in graduate library schools earn a Master of Library Science (MLS). But there are also degrees called Master of Information Science (MIS), Master in Communication and Information Studies (MCIS) while still others degree titles include words like “Informatics” or “Knowledge.”

The job titles of librarians and the work they do depend heavily on their work environment. Librarians carry such titles as Information Specialist, Information Navigator, and Informationists. Those working in an academic or subject specific environment often be-

Continued on page 7

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## Leaders of the Information Age (cont.)

come topic specialists in areas such as medical, legal, or business in addition to operating high-tech information commons, virtual libraries, or competitive intelligence teams. All librarians, from elementary school media librarians to medical informationists to public reference librarians, are dedicated to teaching information literacy and improving everyone's understanding and ability to access and utilize information.

### Knowledgeable and Connected

Professional networking and global connections are key components of the library world. Librarians are very helpful, friendly folks who love to share what they know. They've always maintained informal networks of colleagues, and as the Internet expanded, so did the reach of their networks. In today's connected environment if a librar-

ian is stumped by someone's question there are hundreds of colleagues around the globe ready and willing to help. A university librarian from Kansas, for example, can ask a corporate librarian in Sweden where they found a particular solution to a business question and in the process share this knowledge with a virtual community of colleagues. And every day information frontiers are explored as librarians blaze new trails with podcasting, RSS feeds, blogs, videophones, and Dspace activities.

### Information is Our Business

A word of advice. Whatever situation you are facing in school, at work or home, remember that knowledge is power. Knowledge comes from information, and librarians are experts at locating the best information. Whether you need information for a research paper, a job search,

details about overseas travel, or healthcare questions for your doctor, be sure to ask a librarian for help. Even if you've searched the Internet and think you've found the answers, asking a librarian to review and confirm your search strategy is a wise decision. After all, at the library, information is our business. Our only business.

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*“And every day information frontiers are explored as librarians blaze new trails with podcasting, RSS feeds, blogs, videophones, and Dspace activities.”*

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## Contributors to the December Issue

- Evelyn Barker
- Heather Scalf
- Josh Been
- C.D. Walter
- Brenda McClurkin
- Lea Worcester
- Elaine Malanga
- Mark Mustacchio

## Connections

### Familiar Films: December Library Staff Contest



Movies help us get into the spirit of the holiday season. Whether they are familiar oldies or new releases, watching them with friends and family is a special holiday tradition for many people. This month's library staff challenge is to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate while trying to guess the title of the following holiday films from their famous lines:

1. Oh, please don't ask why, no one quite knows the reason. It could be, perhaps, that his shoes were too tight. Or maybe his head wasn't screwed on just right. But I think that the best reason of all may have been that his heart was two sizes too small.
2. In spite of my outward appearance, I shall try to run a neat inn.
3. I'm gonna give you a little advice Claire. Scrape 'em off. You wanna save somebody? Save yourself.
4. You'll shoot your eye out, kid.
5. Teacher says every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings.
6. Your Honor, every one of these letters is addressed to Santa Claus. The Post Office has delivered them. Therefore the Post Office Department, a branch of the Federal Government, recognizes this man Kris Kringle to be the one and only Santa Claus.
7. Happy birthday!
8. Come out and relax on a farm, open holidays only.
9. We've got to find Jack! There's only 365 days left until next Halloween!
10. (*singing*) He's Mister White Christmas, he's Mister Snow. He's Mr. Icicle, he's Mister 10 below.
11. Didn't I ever tell you about Bumbles? Bumbles bounce!
12. I took a shower washing every body part with actual soap; including all my major crevices; including in between my toes and in my belly button which I never did before but sort of enjoyed.

To enter the contest, send your answer to Lea Worcester at [lworcester@uta.edu](mailto:lworcester@uta.edu) with *Contest* in the subject line by December 22. The winner will be determined by putting the entries in a hat and randomly drawing a name. The prize is a gift basket with hot chocolate and microwave popcorn packet to enjoy while watching your favorite holiday shows.—Evelyn Barker & Lea Worcester

### Winner of the November Library Staff Challenge

Connections' November challenge to library staff was to translate a group of IM terms. The responses included:

- LRF—little rubber feet
- YYSSW—yeah yeah sure sure whatever
- CB—call back; chat brat
- RFL? —ready for lunch?; rolling on the floor laughing?

A quick look at an online acronym dictionary such as Acronym Finder at <http://www.acronymfinder.com> reveals a variety of terms for the same set of letters. For the most part, common usage

within a group determines the meaning. Consequently, all of the replies could be considered correct.

The winner of this month's contest is Charlotte LeBlanc in Access Services! Many thanks to everyone that entered the contest.



**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:

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lworcester@uta.edu

**December 2005**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
			1	2 Last day of classes	3 4 Finals →
5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remem- brance Day Finals	8 3:00-5:00. UTA Fac- ulty and Staff Holiday Reception—UC	9	10 Commencement Ceremonies 11 →
12 First day of classes for Winter Session	13	14	15	16	17 18
19	20 2:00-4:00 p.m. Library Staff Meeting—Parlor	21 Winter begins	22	23	24 25 Christmas
26	27	28 Christmas Holidays	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

**Connections is archived online at:**

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