

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Fall 2023

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

Orphan Train Collection

Alice Bullis Ayler, CSU Alum, was one of the last children to ride the “orphan trains” that ran from 1854-1929. During that time large cities on the East coast were experiencing huge populations of homeless children. In the late 1920s, an estimated 30,000 homeless children lived on the streets of New York begging, eating out of garbage cans and sleeping in alleys. Just think Oliver Twist and you get the idea.

One man, Charles Brace an American Philanthropist, believed removing homeless children from their street environment in over crowded cities and placing them with “morally upright” farm families was a good path to providing them with a better life.

With the need for workers in the developing Western and Midwestern states, he proposed sending homeless children to those communities in hopes of finding them work or families. In 1854 the Children's Aid Society, founded by Brace, mounted its first large-scale expedition by train to the Midwest.

While the program was deemed largely a success, it began to decline in the rising face of criticism about the lack of oversight and vetting of placement homes. Many states also passed laws im-



Orphan Train

posing hefty fees for the placement of out-of-state children within their borders to ensure in-state needy children took priority. It is estimated that 200,000 children traveled west in search of new homes before the program finally ended in 1929.

Alice, the oldest of five siblings, was eleven when she rode the train west. Alice recalled being orphaned at age nine. Prior to that, she lived in a tent with her mother and siblings in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York, surviving on berries and stagnant water.

When the children were discovered by the Children's Aid Society, Alice was sent to Goodhue Estate for girls while her younger siblings went to a different orphanage. In her memoir Alice remembers, “When they separated us, the boys were crying and pleading, don't go away.” Alice felt the acute pain of that separation for over 40 years before she was reunited with all but one of her siblings.

Before riding the rails west, railroads and charities provided discount fares, new clothes, bibles and other sundries to the children for their jour-

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When they separated us, the boys were crying and pleading, don't go away.

Orphan Train Collection Continued...

ney. Alice said most of the girls were given a doll and the boys were given a spinning top. Alice Ayler's collection includes the new dress and doll she was given before riding the train west.

After a year at Goodhue Estate, where Alice was taught good manners and how to do house work, she was transported on an orphan train to Marion, Kansas. Too old to be adopted, she moved from family to family, "a hired hand without pay." Alice described the verbal and psychological abuse she endured being told she had "bad blood" because of her unfortunate circumstances.

By the time Alice was 17, she had endured enough and petitioned the courts for her independence. Gaining her freedom allowed her to move out on her own supporting herself working at J.C. Penny's. Eventually, Alice married her high school sweetheart when she was 20 and moved to Oklahoma City, in 1950, where they had a son and adopted a daughter.

In 1973, Alice earned a B.A. with a double major, sociology and psychology from then Central State University (CSU). She continued on doing graduate work at CSU, earning a master's degree in education in 1977. Alice worked for many years as a psychometrist and psychologist for the Oklahoma City public school system.

During her later years, Alice devoted most of her time to gathering and preserving information for the Orphan Train Heritage Society founded in 1986, at Springdale Arkansas. To raise awareness about the orphan trains Alice spoke at local schools and conferences sharing her story. In 1998, Alice was awarded the Freedom Foundation Medal for her work and contributions to the Society.

For more information about the Alice Bullis Ayler's collection email [Nicole Willard](mailto:NicoleWillard@uco.edu) or visit [About the Collection - Orphan Train Collection - LibGuides at University of Central Oklahoma Library \(uco.edu\)](https://www.uco.edu/libguides/orphan-train-collection)

LIBRARY REPORT

Artificial intelligence (AI) has been in the news since the first ChatGPT prototype launched in Nov. of 2022, and quickly went viral on social media as users shared examples of how it could be used. At an unheard-of rate, the chatbot had over a million users within five days.

While this powerful tool has stirred up considerable debate for its potential to produce as much benefit to society as harm, libraries cannot afford to overlook its value in helping students. We must resist the knee jerk reaction to ban these tools and instead help students learn how to use them in a productive way.

So exactly what is ChatGPT and have you tried using it? ChatGPT, which stands for Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer, is a large language model-based chatbot developed by OpenAI. This chatbot is proving machines can indeed "learn" the complexities of human language and even more remarkable, human interaction.

Trying it is simple, easy and free. By going to openai.com you can quickly create an account. Once logged in you are given a choice of using ChatGPT or API. OpenAI refers to their flagship language model with a conversational interface, as ChatGPT. API allows you to integrated OpenAI models into your applications or business.

ChatGPT does come with some tips for getting started telling you to, "Ask away to help you learn, write code, brainstorm

together and much more." It also warns not to share sensitive information and probably most important, to check the facts in the answers ChatGPT provides. They state, "While we have safeguards, ChatGPT may give you inaccurate information. It's not intended to give advice." One other caveat, the information ChatGPT provides is up-to-date as of its last training cut-off in January 2022. So, it does not have access to current events or developments that occurred after that date.

Libraries are exploring how they can incorporate Generative AI to help students achieve their goals. One way is to use ChatGPT to create intelligent tutoring systems capable of providing personalized assistance to students at their point of need. This would enable librarians to deliver tailored, authoritative content and recommendations to users without compromising core values.

As we move forward at an ever more rapid pace, AI will continue to evolve and improve shaping our world in exciting and unexpected ways. To learn more about AI the library has established an [AI Guide](#) with resources and tools for you to explore.



*Nicole Willard,
Senior Dir. Chambers Library*



Friends of Chambers Library
University of Central Oklahoma

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Library Hours

Monday - Thursday

7:30am - 2:00am

Friday

7:30am - 6:00pm

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10:00am - 6:00pm

Sunday

12:00pm - 2:00am

Max Chambers Library

100 N. University Dr.

Campus Box 192

Edmond, Oklahoma 73034

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thank those who support the Friends
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Exhibits

Passport to Peru

On Sept. 5, the Chambers Library hosted the Fall 2023, Passport to Peru kickoff event on the first floor. Aisa Pessagno-Delboy, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor in the Modern Languages department, gave a fascinating portrayal of Mario Vargas Llosa, a Peruvian novelist, journalist, essayist and former politician who in 2010 won the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Also included was the unveiling of the Library's Peruvian Book Display. The library adds new books on the selected country or region to the main collection each year.

During the fall we display these books on a shelf just inside the east entrance of the library. These books covering Peru are available for check-out. After the event yummy Peruvian treats were served by Marina Abanto Deserts.

Each fall the Passport UCO Program selects a country or region to study with the mission to inspire

unity and understanding in the global community while providing entertaining and educational events.

For more information contact, Michelle Brym, Ph.D., professor of geography and Passport UCO coordinator, mbrym@uco.edu.



*Asia Pessagno-Delboy, Ph.D.
presenting on Mario Vargas Llosa*

Drumming Up Wealth



Drumming Up Wealth exhibit

In tribute to Native American Heritage month the Chambers Library, Archives & Special Collections presented the exhibit "Drumming Up Wealth." The display focused on primary sources from the A.A.

(Jack) Drummond Collection. Drummond was an Oklahoma cattle, oil and landman in Osage County and later near Madill, during the 1920-30s.

On Nov. 9, in association with the exhibit, Bloomberg investigative reporter Rachel Adams-Heard gave a presentation about her research into the Drummond Collection. Adams-Heard was working on a story about the Osage Nation, which ultimately lead to the creation of her award-winning podcast, [In Trust](#). This fascinating 10-part podcast series is the story of a system that moved wealth from Native hands to White ones.

Drumming Up Wealth continued...

Zooming in from Houston to a live audience of about 40 people and another 46 online, Rachel shared her journey in uncovering this story.

Several emeritus faculty in the audience had great questions making for a lively and informative session. Refreshments, sponsored by FOL were served after the presentation.

The Chambers Library, Archives & Special Collections seeks to provide opportunities for students to experience learning through direct engagement with primary source materials.

Exhibits like this provide a deeper look into the documented history of events putting them in clearer context. Highlighting this collection brought awareness to the past transgressions and

continued struggle of the Osage Nation to regain their lost land.

For more information about the Drummond Collection visit: <https://library.uco.edu/drumming-up-wealth>



Bloomberg Reporter, Rachel Adams-Heard, presented from Houston via Zoom

1970s Here and Queer

In honor of LGBTQ+ month the Archives & Special Collections presented, "1970s Here and Queer," examining the geographical evolution of 3rd spaces for queer communities in the OKC Metro during the 1970s. Brooke Lefler, archives specialist and Museum Studies graduate student, presented her research on the shifting spaces queer communities have occupied in the OKC Metro area.

Indicating we know a lot about what happened in the Gay community from the 1980s on, Lefler said little has been written about what it was like before the 1980s. In her research Lefler discovered many gay-friendly spaces downtown were destroyed during the urban renewal period of the mid-1960s. She shared, "With the disappearance of safe spaces downtown, queer gathering spaces moved uptown." Lefler has turned a different lens on the collections in the Archives & Special Collections and has

brought light to materials in our holding that have illuminated her research.

While Lefler recognizes there are still gaps in the existing archival record, she is confident as acceptance broadens, elders will share and, "our understanding of the past will grow." Third spaces play

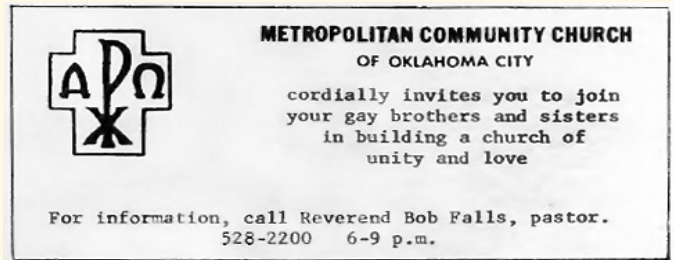


Library Archives Specialist and Graduate Student, Brooke Lefler, presenting her research on 3rd spaces in 1970s OKC

1970s Here and Queer continued...

a crucial role in society by fostering a sense of belonging, and promoting inclusivity. They contribute to the well-being of communities by providing avenues for people to connect, share ideas and build relationships.

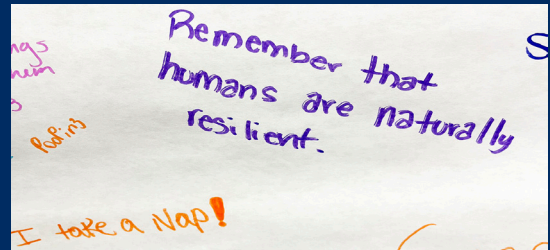
An engaged group of LGBTQ+ students had some great questions for Brooke that have her considering additional research paths. Refreshments were served after the presentation provided by FOL.



Metropolitan Community Church was a 3rd space the LGBTQ+ Community could safely gather in 1970s OKC

How Do You Overcome Your Challenges?

During the first two weeks of the semester we asked students to tell us how they overcome challenges. Some of the answers were funny and others more thoughtful. Students always enjoy sharing their thoughts with these interactive displays.



BOOK SALES

NEW FOL BOOK SHELVES

Once a year from 2003 to 2015 the library held a 3-day book sale event. This was the library's annual fundraiser. In a good year Friends of the Library(FOL) might raise \$3,000. However, these numbers kept dwindling every year and when including the staff time that went into the sale, margins were even smaller. So, after 2015, we stopped having the once a year, 3-day book sale. Now we have six different avenues for selling donated items that are not added to the library's collections. With these changes we now raise five times the amount we used during the 3-day book sale.

Often during the 3-day book sales we heard comments like, there are some real gems but you must wade through a lot of junk to find them. So, we responded by wading through the junk to find all the gems. We then rescued a small 3-tiered bookshelf from surplus and put it on the 1st floor with the gems for sale. We were hesitant to invest in nice shelving until we knew it would be profitable. We placed a small sign above the cart saying books for sale.

After five years the little shelf was still going strong providing a modest weekly income for FOL. Now a proven revenue stream it seemed time to upgrade the shelf.

Now we have beautiful floating shelves with signage clearly indicating these sale shelves support FOL. Since we made that upgrade in Oct. our sales have more than doubled. The shelves are now a stronger revenue stream for FOL. Any items purchased off these shelves goes to support activities of the Friends of the Library group. Come to the library and shop our shelf of gems and support the library at the same time.



*New FOL Bookshelves
1st floor next to south elevators*

INNOVATION STUDIO SPOTLIGHT

Happy birthday, Innovation Studio! Five years ago, in November of 2018, the Studio was launched. It has been an exciting time, and we look forward to many more productive years to come!

Sadly, with time passing comes unwelcome change. One of the Studio's two long-time employees, Cody Roberts, resigned in June. Then, just two months later, Luci Seem retired. This has meant that Emerging and Immersive Technology Librarian Karl Siewert has been the sole full-time employee for the past few months. Fortunately, though, they were able to hire some additional student workers, so the Studio desk has been well-staffed. Also, Luci's open position was posted in October, and Karl will be interviewing candidates very soon.

One of Karl's main objectives since starting in July of 2022, was to increase awareness of the Studio across campus. Their efforts have included working closely with the Library's social media manager, establishing monthly Open House events, organizing a Maker Space Working Group in partnership with multiple campus departments, and addressing various groups around campus such as Staff Senate. It's gratifying to look at usage statistics and find a substantial increase. 3D printing alone has more than doubled. The Studio received 377 print requests in the 12 months

from October 2022-September 2023, compared to 150 in the prior 12 months, and 171 in the 12 before that!

A great partnership opportunity came to the Studio from the UCO Theater Department this summer. For their Fall production of August: Osage County, faculty member Devin Scheef was designing the largest set ever built in Mitchell Hall, a three-story framed house! Ordinarily, Professor Scheef builds a model of the set by hand for the crew to use as a reference, but this time he reached out to the Studio to ask about the possibility of 3D printing all or part of the model instead. It turns out that Vectorworks, the software he uses to create his designs, can export 3D models fairly easily, so over the course of several weeks the Studio printed the entire set in 1/12 scale. Not only that, but Karl and Devin learned that a third party software called Twinmotion allows for importing Vectorworks models into virtual reality. They were able to bring up the entire set in a VR environment, allowing the viewer to "walk around" inside the set as if they were on stage!



3D printed model of set design for the production of August: Osage County

Other projects created in the Studio this semester have included:

- Board game parts for a Sociology class
- Oversized polyhedral dice printed with Greek characters for a learning game
- A partial skull of a Nile crocodile for a faculty member in the Biology department
- A replacement part for a broken music stand
- Human anatomical models for demonstrating medical procedures
- Table decorations for the African Student Association

As always, there were a few less-academic projects as well. We hope that the sonic screwdrivers, dice towers, whale sharks and cookie cutters bring our patrons as much joy as they bring us when we're able to make them!



3D printed statue

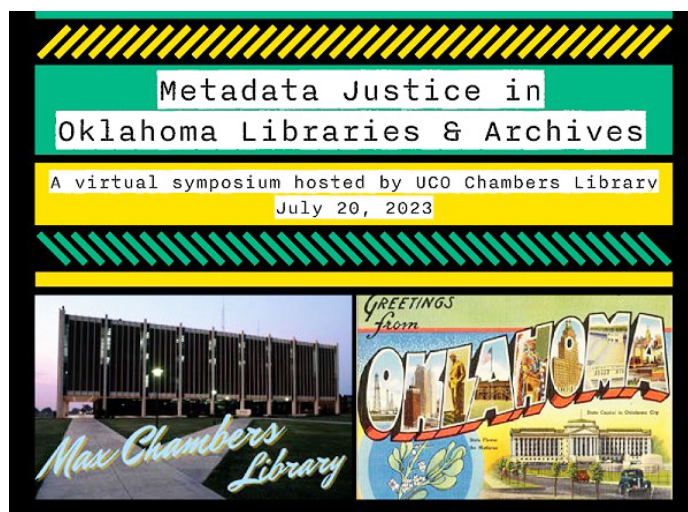
AROUND THE LIBRARY

Metadata Justice Symposium

In July, the second annual Metadata Justice in Oklahoma Libraries & Archives Symposium was hosted on Zoom. This symposium organized by the Chambers Library, sets UCO apart from other institutions as it is the first of its kind in the library and archive professions. The symposium serves as a platform where librarians and archivists can share strategies on how to improve access to library materials by or about members of historically overlooked communities.

The keynote was given by CEO of Thick Descriptions, Suzette Chang, whose goal is to disrupt traditional methods of education with anthropology. Suzette challenged attendees to consider how politeness and courtesy both help and hinder the work to create metadata that is inclusive.

Last year, the symposium was the recipient of OLA's Ruth Brown Memorial Award, given to encourage and recognize programming that address issues of social concern as they impact libraries. The symposium was well attended with 229 participants. For more information- Look for the symposium to be held again next summer.



AROUND THE LIBRARY CONTINUED...

Stress Paws

The library partnered again this semester with the Center for Counseling and Well Being to bring the H.A.L.O. certified doggies and their owners to The Max every Thursday from 3-5 p.m. It is the most popular event we hold in the library. It gives students an opportunity to de-stress with these furry friends.



Hank, Stress Paws Therapy Dog in his rain gear

Student Involvement Fair

The Library participated in the Student Involvement Fair during Stampede Week in August. The table was in a great location, the weather was mild, and the students came out in droves. We gave away chip clips with the library logo attached to a list of top ten things to know about the library, the schedule of Research and Learning workshops, the ever-popular stickers and candy.



Habib Tabatabai and Nicole Sump-Crethar working the table helping a student

Metro Library

To bring attention to banned book week, in Sept. the Edmond Public Library was here signing up students for Metro Library cards. Any person with a UCO ID can get a one-year Metro Library card no matter where they live. We work closely with the Edmond Public Library to ensure as little overlap in our collections as possible. They will be in the library again Tuesday evening during finals week.



Jessica Burch and colleague from the Metropolitan Library

Mindfulness Movement Series

Ed Cunliff and Chez Redmond led mindfulness movement practices that included meditation, body scanning, yoga, tai chi and qi gong. The class was held at noon on Wednesdays in October. Mindfulness is the practice of present awareness that helps reduce stress, anxiety, and mind wandering that can impede daily activities and interrupt focus. Participants could join in person at the library or via Zoom. Ed and Chez will be back during finals week to offer students an opportunity to de-stress during a hectic time a year.



Homecoming Week

The library took 6th place in the Homecoming Decorating Contest! There were so many great entries this year they had to expand the places. In past years they have only awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. The theme this year was Rock N Roll 'Chos. The Library is always a winner in any decorating contest. Congratulations to the members of the decorating committee.



Tech Express

The Library now has a station in the Nigh University Center on the second floor just south of the food court in the Tech Express. Our services have expanded making it easier for students to use the library. Library materials can be returned to this location and a librarian is stationed there on Mon. Tues. and Wed. from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. to help students with any of their research needs. Stop by and get assistance from an information expert.



Jean Longo, Librarian III, Coordinator Undergraduate Research Services

STAFF IN THE NEWS



Heather Scheele-Clark

Heather has been working to improve her archival skills. She passed the Digital Archives Specialist Certification last May, awarded by the Society of American Archivists. In June, she followed up by earning her Archival Certification from the Academy of Certified Archivists. The real big news, Heather is having a baby in January! Congratulations Heather on achieving these milestones.



Heather Scheele-Clark,
Archives Specialist

Karl Siewert

Karl published a chapter in the newly released book, *Trans and Gender Diverse Voices in LIS*. Karl is currently working on another chapter for the title, *Grabbing Tea: Queer Conversations on Identity and Libraries*, for Litwin Books & Library Juice Press. Congratulations Karl and thanks for contributing your thoughts to help inform the profession.



Karl Siewert, Emerging and Immersive
Technology Librarian

Lee Anne Paris

A busy woman, Lee Anne Paris, presented in Portuguese no less, at a conference in Brazil in October. In November she presented at the Oklahoma Women in Higher Education Conference this time in English. The topic "Building Blocks: A Scaffolded Approach to Developing and Enhancing Women Leaders," which she co-presented with Dr. Stephanie Baird. Lee Anne also serves as an adviser for the Academic Leadership Fellows group of the Educator's Leadership Academy. In her spare time Lee Anne serves as a senator on Staff Senate, as a member of UCO's Higher Learning Commission's writing team and represents the library on the University Assessment Committee. Thank you, Lee Anne, for all your great leadership!



Director of Research and User Engagement,
Dr. Lee Anne Paris, presents at a conference

Kaitlyn Palone

Kaitlyn along with some of her colleagues developed a presentation on the creation of the Tribal Nations in Oklahoma Metadata Database, which they presented at the Metadata Justice Symposium in July, and again in Oct. at the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums.

In addition, Kaitlyn was asked to participate in the Community Archive Workshop (CAW) Training of Trainers a project of the Association of Moving Images Archivists with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library services. The overall goal is to address problems of obsolescence in audio-visual collections. On Nov. 18, Kaitlyn along with community volunteers will

be processing items from the Church Studio Archive in Tulsa. Kaitlyn is a busy professional as she also serves as a senator on Staff Senate. Thanks for all your hard work Kaitlyn!



Kaitlyn Palone, Librarian II, Metadata and Cataloging

Nicole Willard

Nicole presented at the Golden Broncho's Breakfast during Homecoming week. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of alumni who graduated in 1973, she reminded them what happened that year.

That year there was the Watergate Scandal, passage of Roe vs. Wade, and the Endangered Species Act. The Six Million Dollar man premiered on ABC and the Battle of the Sexes tennis match played out between Billy Jean King and Bobby Rigs of which King won.

It was also the year the Bic disposable lighter was invented as well as fiber optics. The first mobile phone debuted that year and The Sting won the Best

Picture Oscar. The soundtrack to life that year was Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree, by Tony Orlando and Dawn, which was the number one song of the year.

More importantly, then CSU won the Homecoming game beating the Cameron Aggies 18-10.

About 100 alumni enjoyed the walk down memory lane. Thanks Nicole for engaging with some of our most valued alumni the Golden Bronchos.



Nicole Willard, Senior Dir. Chambers Library

STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Noah Dunlap

Noah Dunlap serves on the Stacks Management team in the library working for Siobhan Murray. Noah's nominator described him as extremely dependable, hardworking, and welcoming. He comes to work with a positive attitude every day and seeks out opportunities to help others. He gets projects completed with his dedication to the department and motivates others at the same time. Murray said Noah will be greatly missed throughout the library when he graduates this semester. We are excited to see what great thing he will accomplish. Congratulations Noah and thank you for your service to the library.



NEW LIBRARY HOURS IN 2024

Starting Tuesday, January 16, 2024

MONDAY - THURSDAY

7:30 A.M. - 12:15 A.M.

SATURDAY

10 A.M. - 6 P.M.

FRIDAY

7:30 A.M. - 6 P.M.

SUNDAY

NOON - 12:15 A.M.



285,045

**FULL TEXT DOWNLOADS
FROM E-RESOURCES**



3,307

**CHECKOUTS OF
EQUIPMENT**



540,417

WEBSITE PAGEVIEWS



19,951

**CHECKOUTS OF
PHYSICAL MATERIALS**



3,118

INTERLIBRARY LOANS

CHAMBERS LIBRARY

YEAR IN REVIEW

Each year Chambers Library serves thousands of students, faculty, staff and community members. Here's a closer look at what we were up to in the 2022-2023 academic year.

RESEARCH & LEARNING

INSTRUCTION SESSIONS

119 IN LIBRARY / VIRTUAL

**41 AROUND
CAMPUS**

RESEARCH

120 IN LIBRARY / VIRTUAL

**365 INTERACTIONS
AROUND CAMPUS**



**318,901
LIBRARY
VISITORS**

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

**7,002 QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY PEER
CONSULTANTS & LIBRARIANS**

**TEXT
MESSAGE**



46

EMAIL



204

PHONE



453

**IN-
PERSON**



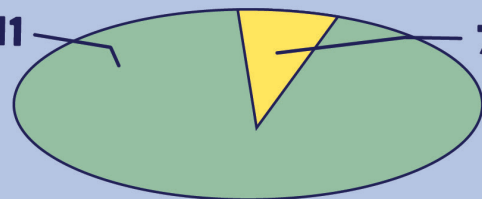
5,870

NEW MATERIALS

498,351 ITEMS ADDED TO THE COLLECTION

490,811

7,540



PHYSICAL ITEMS



E RESOURCES

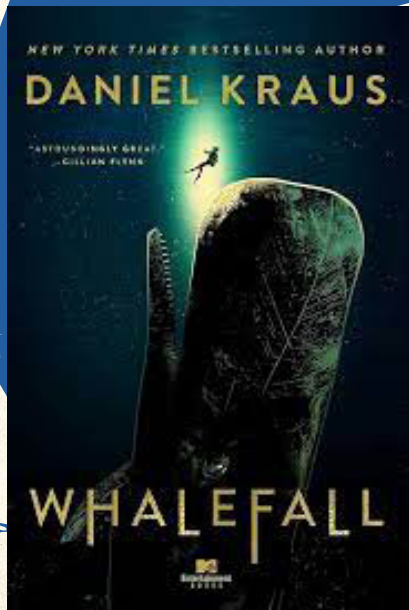
Book Reviews



Title: **Whalefall**

Author: Daniel Kraus

Reviewer: Jean Longo



Full of guilt and remorse a teenage boy embarks on a dangerous journey to retrieve his father's remains. Jay is going on this dive alone, something his father, Mitt Gardiner, a local legend, and master diver would frown upon. The adventure does not bode well as there is a crowd of people and the Coast Guard at the usual entry point causing him to enter the water at the most dangerous beach. This story is an exciting read with chapters titled with a pressure gauge reading or a year describing incidents that accumulated to make Jay leave home at a young age. Starting at 3000 psi with weight in his pockets his first encounter is with a dark thick kelp forest. Kraus's description of the underwater environment is memorizing and the incident of getting tangled up with a giant squid and swallowed by a sperm whale is terrifying. I am not one to read horror stories, but I could not stop reading this one.

CHAMBER OF BOOKS STORE

We are excited for you to check out our online bookstore, the Chamber of Books! Shop from anywhere you have an internet connection. To start shopping you can scan the QR Code with your phone or go to library.uco.edu and scroll down to the *Chamber of Books Store* button on the right side of the screen. We want to hear from you about what you like and don't like.

To provide feedback please email us at chamberofbooks@uco.edu.



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SHOP NOW

Friends of Chambers Library
University of Central Oklahoma
Max Chambers Library
Campus Box 192
100 N. University Dr.
Edmond, OK 73034

Happy Holidays

Fall 2023 Intersession Hours

December 17, 2023 - January 14, 2024

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday Closed

Closed

Dec. 20 - Jan. 5 (Winter Break)

Jan. 15, 2024 (MLK Day)

Mar. 18-23, 2024 (Spring Break)

Mar. 31, 2024 (Open from Noon - 12:15 a.m.)