



Colorado
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Stay Connected

A newsletter for library friends & supporters

THE 4-H ROUND-UP



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ISSUE 6

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From the Dean

In celebration of Colorado State University's ninety plus years of participation in the National Western Stock Show and Colorado's agricultural heritage, this issue of *Stay Connected* features articles on 4-H clubs, Cooperative Extension, CSU's Colorado Agricultural Archive, and even advice from Dr. Book on how to preserve Colorado history posters.

As families move off the farms and ranches to Denver and other parts of the country for work, the importance of preserving records and photographs that document the agrarian way of life grows. Through the Colorado Agricultural Archive, the library has promised to organize, house, and preserve these priceless collections for future generations. In the past five years, we have dramatically increased the scope and the accessibility of our archival collections. As you will read, we are continuing on with our promise through various projects, exhibits, and digitization efforts.

The CSU Archives is always looking for donations of historic records about farm and ranch life in Colorado, CSU history, and related topics. Photographs, journals, and letters tell the story of real people and make history come alive for everyone. If you are in Fort Collins, come to visit, and if you have collections to share, just let us know.

Catherine

Catherine Murray-Rust
Colorado State University Libraries

THE 4-H CLUB ROUND-UP

A Library Collection Highlights Colorado State University's Contribution to the National Western Stock Show

When the Colorado Cooperative Extension was founded in 1914 as Colorado State University's outreach division, it went far to fulfill CSU's goal as a land-grant institution supporting the livelihood of the state's rural citizens. Information about better farming and homemaking flowed from the University through Cooperative Extension to those who might benefit from innovations in agriculture and home management. In addition, Extension agents organized clubs for aspiring boys and girls who wanted to learn the skills needed to make farm life successful. It was five years after this beginning, in 1919,

that Extension became involved with the National Western Stock Show through the organization of youth exhibits and shows. What eventually became known as the 4-H Round-Up has been a Stock Show mainstay ever since.

In fact, it is one of the Round-Up's many highlights that has long linked Colorado State University Cooperative Extension and the National Western Stock Show. The Catch-A-Calf Event began in conjunction with Extension in 1935, on a Tuesday evening when sixteen 4-H boys were put in the ring to catch ten calves. According to



A participant and her award winning calf at the 1954 National Western Stock Show. From the Records of the Colorado Cooperative Extension. CSU Libraries Colorado Agricultural Archive.

Mr. Jack Carberry, a newspaper reporter, the contest went as follows: “The calves are turned loose. The boys go after them. The rules provide that a boy must catch a calf, tie it and then place a halter on it. Then the calf is his.” These ten calves, donated by prominent Denver citizens such as Mr. and Mrs. Claude K. Boettcher, went to ten lucky, fleet-footed boys that night, to be fed for a year and brought back in 1936 for judging.

It is perhaps events such as the Catch-A-Calf Contest and others at the 4-H Round-Up that prompted William M. Jardine, Secretary of Agriculture from 1925 to 1929, to state in 1935 that “[t]he Four-H clubs are going to save American farming.” When asked to elaborate, Jardine described the smiling faces of stockmen that he saw at the National Western Stock Show that year and attributed the phenomenon to a confidence in the future—a future represented by the boys and girls in 4-H clubs across the state. The growth of these 4-H clubs was a direct result of the cooperation between Extension and Colorado State University.

4-H and Cooperative Extension have continued to thrive in Colorado. So has the 4-H Round-Up and the Catch-A-Calf Contest. The event grew to be very popular in the years after it began in 1935 and in 1974, it was opened up to 4-H girls. Now, both boys and girls compete to catch one of forty



Agricultural team demonstrating “The Making of Rope for Ranch Use” at the 1936 National Western Stock Show. From the Records of the Colorado Cooperative Extension. CSU Libraries Colorado Agricultural Archive.



Bob Dorsey, of Eaton, Colorado with his reserve champion Angus fat calf in the Junior Show at the 1950 National Western. From the Records of the Colorado Cooperative Extension. CSU Libraries Colorado Agricultural Archive.

calves, which they will feed and house in order to be judged for quality in next year’s show. This year, the Catch-A-Calf Contest took place on January 19th and 20th.

Photos representing decades of calves and 4-H owners can be found in the Colorado Agricultural Archive’s Records of the Colorado Cooperative Extension, housed within the Archives and Special Collections Department in the CSU Libraries. 4-H Round-Up scrapbooks from as early as 1925 can also be found in this extensive collection. In addition to these priceless photos and artifacts, the State Extension Director’s records as well as annual reports from almost all Colorado counties dating back to 1913 are all a part of this collection.

CSU Libraries invites researchers to view this collection to discover the rich tradition linking CSU and the National Western Stock Show. Photos from this collection are currently on display in the First National Bank Gallery of the Morgan Library through February 29. For research queries, please contact Archives and Special Collections in the CSU Libraries at 970.491.1844 or specialcollections@library.colostate.edu.

—By Ashley Large, Project Archivist for the Colorado Agricultural Archive

The Extension Collection @ a Glance

Housed within the Colorado Agricultural Archive, the Records of the Colorado Cooperative Extension include:

- 480 linear feet of records, correspondence files, annual reports, photographs, and artifacts that document the college-sponsored outreach programs since their beginnings in Colorado.
- 4-H Round-Up scrapbooks dating from 1925 to 1978, containing photographs, narratives, and paper ephemera about the activities of 4-H kids at the National Western Stock Show.
- State Extension Director’s records form the bulk of the collection. They contain correspondence, reports, photographs, clippings, scrapbooks, and artifacts dating to Extension’s early years.
- Annual reports from almost all Colorado counties dating back to 1913. Each report contains information about the activities of the county agent for that year. Charts, maps, circulars, fliers, clippings, photographs, as well as narrative written in the agent’s own words figure heavily into these reports. Individual farmers are often mentioned by name.
- The Papers of Glenn E. Wilson, Jr., a former county and regional agent, form a small part of the collection and include correspondence, reports, and other records that illuminate a life dedicated to the Extension mission.

Pay us a visit in room 202 of Morgan Library, Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. or on the web at <http://lib.colostate.edu/archives/agriculture/>.

Join Us!

2007/2008 Calendar of Upcoming Events

The Lilla B. Morgan Memorial
Fund Presents

Art in Morgan Library

*Images of the 4-H Round-Up:
CSU's Contribution to the
National Western Stock Show*
January 22–February 29

*The Very Near and the Very Far:
Recent Works By Emeritus Faculty
Joel Rutstein & Community
Member Ann Wilmsen*
March 7–April 4
Opening Reception on Friday, March 7
at 5:30 p.m.

*Accidental Vestments:
Collaborative Works by Graduate
Students & Faculty of the MFA
programs at CSU*
April/May
Opening Reception TBD

All exhibits are located in the First National Bank Gallery on the first floor of Morgan Library. Free and open to the public. Because CSU Libraries serves as a center for research and learning, Art in Morgan Library aims to enhance the experience of the CSU campus through showcasing the work of CSU students, faculty, and community. Support for this series is gratefully provided by the Lilla B. Morgan Memorial Fund. Ideas for future exhibits are welcome. Please contact Judea Franck at 970.491.5712 or Judea.Franck@Colostate.edu.



"Bobcat Ridge," by Ann Wilmsen. The painting will be included in the upcoming March exhibition.

Beyond the Glass: A Student Discovers the Meaning of Archival Research

I was an archive virgin. Until last spring archives was a mystery. It was the room in the library with glass walls where those who were admitted through its portal wore gloves to explore rare and arcane materials. While my old vision has some merit, the reality of the archive extends far beyond glimpses of sacred and rare objects.

Last spring I received my initiation into the world of archives when I took History 502, Archive Management, taught by Nancy Freeman. Between the readings and field trips, I was given a bird's eye view of archive management, techniques, styles and problems facing archivists in both the public and private spheres. Sandwiched into the structure of History 502 was a practicum. While only thirty-five hours, it seemed like a huge drain of time from my hectic schedule. But the reality is that once I started the practicum, I felt that it was worth every moment as it put into practice all the theory discussed in class and then some.

I completed my practicum with the Colorado Agricultural Archive of CSU Libraries. My work site was located at the Archives Annex, which is a storage facility located off of Lake Street at the south end of campus. Along with a fellow classmate, I worked with the Records of the National Western

Stock Show. We processed the collection: re-folding and re-boxing materials; updating the inventory; researching items, such as oversized glass phonograph records; making decisions about items to be de-accessioned, such as duplicated copies of films; and organizing the collection into series. All of this work resulted in a "finding aid," giving the archive and researchers a clear guide to the contents of that particular collection.

What did I learn from this process? I gained an intellectual understanding of the materials and was able to organize them in a meaningful way to provide and improve access to these historical documents. The archive is more than the glass room. It takes a lot of behind the scenes work and most of all patience to make these archival records accessible to patrons.

My experience also gave me a good working knowledge of the field. Though the class and practicum have ended, I continue to work with the Colorado Agriculture Archive as a volunteer to gain more experience and expertise with an end goal of a career in archives. But it's not all work and no play—it can be fun to open a box that has been in storage for decades and find a cache of historical gems, such as the deposit receipt for a 1970s Stones concert at Hughes Stadium that I discovered recently in the Records of the Board of Governors.

—By Roxana X, student volunteer for the
Colorado Agricultural Archive



As a volunteer for the Colorado Agricultural Archive, Roxana is currently working on processing the Records of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association.

Cultivating Research: Updates from the Colorado Agricultural Archive

The Colorado Agricultural Archive owes its origin to a discussion in 1979 between James E. Hansen II, a young history professor at Colorado State University, and John Stencel, president of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. A few years earlier, Dr. Hansen had created the CSU Archives by gathering together in one location many important records documenting the history of the university. With the rapid decline in the number of family farms in the state, Stencel was concerned that succeeding generations of Coloradans would have little knowledge of their agrarian heritage. The idea for an agricultural archive was born, and with the assistance of grant funding, Hansen began surveying and collecting the records of agricultural organizations throughout Colorado. The archive served as a training ground for graduate students in Hansen's archival methods classes, as documents and photographs were inventoried, enclosed in protective housing, and organized for accessibility to researchers.

In 2004, the Agricultural Archive was transferred from the History Department to the CSU Libraries, and the work of processing collections accelerated. Finding aids (guides that describe the collections and include inventories of their contents) are now available on the Internet, and researchers from throughout the world have access to this information. This past year, Project Archivist Ashley Large has made great strides in processing the Records of Colorado Cooperative Extension, the largest of the agricultural collections with more than 300 boxes of documents. Current plans call for the digitization of selected county agent reports from this collection, which will soon make thousands of pages of historic documents and photographs available online.

As agricultural organizations become aware of our efforts to preserve their history, we have seen an increase in gifts of records to the archive. In November, the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA), the oldest state cattlemen's organization in the nation, donated 229 linear feet of their historic records. We also received materials dating back to 1919 from a CCA county affiliate, the Gilpin-Jefferson Livestock Association, and we look forward to preserving the historic documents of other CCA county affiliates as well. In the Colorado Agricultural Archive, a wide variety of materials concerning agricultural topics await the researcher, from flower growing research to sugar beet farming techniques, dairy promotion and bison ranching. With a little advance notice, these agricultural collections are available for access in the reading room of the Archives and Special Collections Department at Morgan Library.

For information on preserving your agricultural documents or questions about accessing records of the Colorado Agricultural Archive, please contact Linda Meyer at 970.491.4692 or Linda.Meyer@Colostate.edu.

—By Linda Meyer, Archivist for CSU's Colorado Agricultural Archive

Preserving the Past for the Future: Quick Tips for Making a Planned Gift

Back in great-grandpa's day, planning a financial gift before his death may have been as simple as telling the family where he had hidden the tin can that held most of his life's savings. Or it may have been as sophisticated as preparing a formal will to ensure that his prized bull goes to Cousin Lily, rather than Cousin Joe—not because Lily's the better rancher, but because she raised that bull from a calf and she deserves him!

Today, the reasons for planning a financial gift may be the same, but the type of gift(s) and how each are structured are definitely different. Below are just a few quick tips on how you can prepare for the future now.

In Your 20s and 30s...

Younger people may want to name a charitable organization, such as Colorado State University Foundation, as beneficiary of a retirement plan or make a generous gift by making a bank account payable on death (POD) to the CSU Foundation.

In Your 30s and 40s...

Purchasing a life insurance policy and naming CSU as owner and beneficiary allows you to fund a significant gift with minimal immediate expense—and future premium payments are tax-deductible.

In Your 50s and Beyond...

Retirement requires financial adjustments, and charitable planning can be included in this process.

We are Happy to Help Anytime!

A bequest in your will or revocable living trust makes sense at any age. Contact the Office of Gift Planning if we can assist in choosing a gift that meets your needs to support CSU's land-grant legacy long into the future. If you would like to discuss your planned giving opportunities contact Bill Sheets at 970.491.4679, bsheets@ua.colostate.edu; or Marianne Blackwell at 970.491.7862, mblackwell@ua.colostate.edu. Or access our resourceful website at www.plannedgiving.colostate.edu.

—By Donna R. Gallup



Child with Calf. From the Records of the Colorado Cooperative Extension. CSU Libraries Colorado Agricultural Archive.

Nurture the Moment of Discover

Archival collections—the letters, journals, photographs, maps and records of those who have participated in or witnessed events of equipped to support a great research university. Here at Colorado State University Libraries, we take special pride in being able to b Colorado community, a chance to study these important materials. Through archives, we offer the opportunity to investigate history, t innovative discoveries were revealed and critical decisions were made. Little else compares with the thrill of holding history in one's unique experience that is so essential to research.

Specifically, donations to our three named archives—the Colorado Agricultural Archive, the Water Resources Archive, and the Uni tions for researcher access; the creation of virtual and physical exhibits to enhance understanding of materials; and the continued pre



SUPPORT ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL C

of the past—are the collections that define a research library serving the students and faculty of CSU, as well as the entire community. To come as close as we can to living in the moment of when history is made in your hands. Your support will help us continue to provide this service.

University Archive—support acquiring and processing collections and the preservation of collections for future use.

“My passion for history has always been driven by my love for people—learning an individual’s story and his or her accomplishments and how everyone influences the broader historical narrative. I initially wanted to work in the museum field; however, after working in CSU Archives and Special Collections for one year as a graduate student, I experienced the thrill of using original documents for research and felt pulled towards a different career path. My passion found its perfect compliment in the archival profession.”

—Colleen McCorkell (pictured left) is now a project archivist for the University Archive.

Attention: Contributions can also include donations of materials to support the development of archival collections in the subject areas of agriculture, water resources development, or Colorado State University. The Archives and Special Collections Department accepts materials that represent both individual and organizational achievements. If you or someone you know has materials that may help in the development of a specific collection or archive, please contact the department at 970.491.1844.

Examples of historically valuable material:

- Articles of incorporation, charters, bylaws, meeting minutes
- Correspondence and letters
- Diaries, journals, memoirs, reminiscences
- Films, videotapes, audiotapes
- Handbooks, maps, survey drawings
- Photographs, albums, slides
- Reports, data, manuscripts, planning documents
- Scrapbooks and memorabilia
- Speeches, lectures, presentations

Yes! I want to Support Colorado State University Libraries!

Enclosed is my/our check payable to the Colorado State University Foundation for a gift of:

\$50.00 \$100.00 \$500.00 \$1870.00* Other \$ _____

Name _____

This gift is from me my spouse & me my partner & me.
Spouse's/Partner's Full Name: _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Home Phone _____

Email _____

Home Work

Charge this gift of \$ _____ to my/our

VISA MasterCard American Express

Card Number _____

Expires ____/____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Please apply this gift to:

- \$ _____ Colorado Agricultural Archive Fund (56023)
- \$ _____ University Archive Fund (58213)
- \$ _____ Water Resources Archive Fund (53023)
- \$ _____ Library Collection Enhancement Fund (General) (58513)

A matching gift form is enclosed.

Additional Information (check all that apply):

Please send me information on making a planned gift.

**Please return this form with your gift to:
Colorado State University Foundation,
P. O. Box 1870, Fort Collins, CO 80522-1870**

*A gift of \$1,000 or more entitles you to a personalized message stone. Please fill out the boxes below with your message. (Two lines of 14 characters, including spaces. Please print in uppercase. No punctuation except “-” and “&”)

Yes! I want to join Friends of Colorado State University Libraries!

Enclosed is my/our check payable to the Colorado State University
Foundation for a gift of:

- \$50.00 (Basic) \$100.00 (Donor)
 \$250.00 (Supporter) \$500.00 (Patron)
 \$1,000.00 (Cornerstone)*

Name _____

This gift is from me my spouse & me my partner & me.

Spouse's/Partner's Full Name: _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Home Phone _____

Email _____

Home Work

Charge this gift of \$ _____ to my/our

VISA MasterCard American Express

Card Number _____

Expires ____/____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

I am joining *Friends* at the Donor/Supporter/ Patron/ Cornerstone level, but I would like to opt out of membership benefits above the Basic level (with the exception of a message stone) so that all of my membership dollars are a charitable contribution to the *Friends* program.

Additional Information (check all that apply):

- Please send me information on making a planned gift.
 Please send me information on engraving a personalized message stone on the walls of Morgan Library. (For gifts of \$1,000 or more to any library fund.)*

**Please return this form with your gift to:
Colorado State University Foundation,
P. O. Box 1870, Fort Collins, CO 80522-1870**

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AMONG FRIENDS

An Evening with Acclaimed Author Jane Hamilton

This past November, Friends of the CSU Libraries welcomed campus and community members to an evening with acclaimed author Jane Hamilton at the Reader's Cove bookstore in Fort Collins. During an evening filled with laughter and wit, Hamilton thrilled the audience by reading from her newest work, *Laura Rider's Masterpiece*. The novel is a self-described satire set, like Hamilton's other works, in a small Wisconsin town. Inhabited by delicious characters, Hamilton's work is both funny and poignant.

As one audience member noted, "Her characters are just so real with such tangible wants and dreams. I can't help but feel like they seem, at least in part, to possess a piece of all of us."

After the reading, Hamilton answered questions for audience members. She described how she finds much of her inspiration from people she meets in her own walk of life and that her novels are in many ways an investigation of characters she comes to love.

The evening concluded with Hamilton autographing books for audience members. Autographed copies of *When Madeline Was Young* are still available at the Reader's Cove. *Laura Rider's Masterpiece* will be available in May 2009.



Jane Hamilton delivers poignant humor for audience members at the Reader's Cove bookstore while reading from her newest work. Photo by Mac McNeil.

Thanks to you...

CSU Libraries had an exciting year of fostering research, learning, and discovery. From improving the library building to enhancing access to technology and growing cutting-edge collections, your support has made a great deal possible in 2007. Visit our Web site (<http://lib.colostate.edu/develop/2007thanks.html>) to hear students tell stories of appreciation for all you make possible in their own words.

Friends members can visit <http://lib.colostate.edu/friends/thanks2007> to view all the ways you've enhanced the arts and culture for CSU and the greater Northern Colorado community.



Visit <http://lib.colostate.edu/develop/2007thanks.html>

NOTABLE DEVELOPMENTS

Special Thanks to Our Recent Donors

Program Support

- MWH Global has donated \$2,500 to sponsor Water Tables, a benefit for the Water Resources Archive that brings together water experts for an evening of conversation at Morgan Library and Lory Student Center on Saturday, February 9. As a gold level sponsor, MWH supports both the event and the Archive, making it possible to acquire, preserve, and digitize records and materials that help improve our understanding of past and future water resource management.
- Applegate Group, Inc., Ayres Associates, Black & Veatch, Boyle Engineering Corporation, Bureau of Reclamation, CDM, Colorado River District, First Western Trust Bank, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Rubicon, and Stewart Environmental Consultants, Inc. have each donated \$1,000. These silver level sponsors not only support the event, their generosity enables CSU graduate students to attend Water Tables.
- Bronze Water Tables event sponsors donating \$500 include Aqua Engineering, Inc., Bratton Hill, L.L.C., Brown & Caldwell, Deep Rock Water, Hilton Fort Collins, Harrison Resource Corporation, Leonard Rice Engineers, Inc., Odell Brewing Company, Tetra Tech, Inc., and TST, Inc. Consulting Engineers, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ward, and Wright Water Engineers, Inc.

Make Your Mark on Morgan Library Message Stones Honor Students, Faculty Members, and Your Time at CSU

The walls of Morgan Library tell the story of thousands of donors from across the nation who have contributed to CSU Libraries since the mid-1990s. Carved into native Colorado sandstone, 9"x9" personalized message stones recognize the contributions of donors who give \$1,000 or more to any library fund.

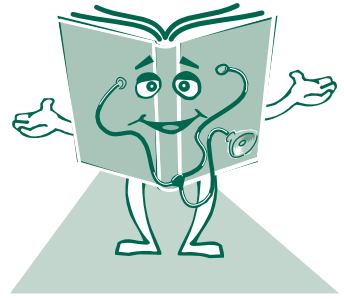
The message stone program is a great way to honor anyone who has made a difference in your CSU experience, honor a loved one or friend, or simply leave a message for the future.

To make your mark on the walls of Morgan Library and make an immediate impact on the success of CSU students, faculty, and staff, return the donation form included in this issue of *Stay Connected* with your gift of \$1,000 or more. Be sure to fill out the message stone portion of the form. Message stones will be engraved during summer session, so it is important to act now!

For questions regarding the message stone program, please contact Andrea Lapsley at 970.491.6823 or write to andrea.lapsley@colostate.edu.



ASK DR. BOOK



Dear Dr. Book:

I have just received some oversized Colorado history posters for Christmas. What is the best way to store these posters for the long term?

— Colorado History Buff

Dear Colorado History Buff:

What a nice present! While regular sized documents (up to 8 ½ x 11 inches) are easily stored flat or in a file cabinet, oversized materials, whether posters, prints, blueprints, or maps, can pose a challenge. While it may be tempting to fold the posters into a more manageable size, it is much better to store them without folding or ceasing to prevent potential stress points that may lead to tearing in the future.

Any storage system should protect the posters from the environment (light, temperature and relative humidity extremes, air pollutants, and pests) and inadvertent damage.

The simplest flat storage method is to house the posters in a large folder, made out of either heavy weight acid-free paper or folder stock. Preservation vendors offer folders from 11 x 17 inches up to 36 x 48 inches. Posters of similar size can be housed in one folder separated by acid-free tissue paper. The challenge is to find a large enough flat space to store the folders so that it remains flat and protected from the environment. Although they usually have space, basements and attics are not environmentally sound locations.

Preservation supply vendors also offer various types of large archival document storage boxes in stock sizes or they will construct a customized box to your specifications. Any box should be made out of acid-free, lignin-free paper stock and pass the Photographic Activity Test (P.A.T.). The boxes can be stored either horizontally or vertically, with the caveat that if stored vertically, the box should be full enough so

that the posters remain upright. Housing the individual posters in acid-free file folders within the box will help. The file folder will also offer support and protect the poster when it is removed from the box for viewing. If the box is to be housed horizontally, single posters within a box can be separated by acid-free tissue paper cut to size. While vendors also offer folders of inert plastic (trade name Melinex®), paper folders are preferred.

A third option is archival roll storage tubes, especially for very large posters. The poster is wrapped around the tube and covered by archival tissue. The tube and poster are overwrapped with another archival material, such as unbleached, un-sized cotton muslin or Melinex® and tied. Optionally the tube is then put into a muslin cover or storage box. Storage tubes come in different diameters up to 12 feet long. The caveat for use of storage tubes is that poster should be regularly unrolled so that it do not become permanently curled, but will flatten easily.

For additional information on preservation in general, please write to “Dear Dr. Book” in care of *Stay Connected*, Colorado State University Libraries, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1019 or visit the Libraries’ Preservation Services Web site (<http://lib.colostate.edu/preserve/>).



FAVORED COMPANIONS

Like other favored companions, great books are forever part of those who encounter them. In this column, we ask participants to name a book or books that have impacted their lives.

I am a bona fide lover of books, yet I have been accused on several occasions over the past five years of despising them. These accusations came from colleagues who vehemently disagreed with our experimental purchase of a collection of electronic books at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Libraries. While I am guilty of wanting to see what an electronic book has to offer, and especially if and how it gets used, I am steadfast in my support for the printed product. I consider books to be wonderful containers, ideal in size, texture, and weight. They work marvelously to convey ideas written in long, complex sentences. I recently read over editorial instructions for submission to an online-only publisher, and it struck me that one of the things embodied in “Write brief sentences and avoid using commas” is a potential change in how we approach the creative act of writing. In attempts to tailor electronic text so it can be most effectively searched online, we have to be vigilant that we don’t truncate our thoughts as well.

Growing up, I leaned toward books of profound youthful angst like *Catcher in the Rye*. I read *Cry the Beloved Country* because an older cousin was in Africa in the Peace Corps, Faulkner because he was my Northern Mississippi grandmother’s first beau (my Southern relatives still consider him to be pretentious because he adopted the title “Colonel” but had no military experience), and Sartre because another older cousin told me I needed a dose of existentialism. Unfortunately I am impervious to nuance and none of it stuck.

Over the years, however, certain books have proven transformative. From 1970-

*Chris Sugnet,
Assistant Dean
for Scholarly
Communications*



1973, I served in the US Navy and after I got out I wanted to understand why the Vietnam war started. As a neophyte librarian at Cornell, I read a terrific account of the early days in Vietnam by George McT. Kahin. I subsequently initiated a Ford Foundation-funded project to employ Vietnamese and Hmong refugees in creating a Vietnam War bibliography based on Cornell’s collection. It was no coincidence that I eventually left Cornell for New Mexico in 1981, the same year in which I first encountered Edward Abbey’s *Desert Solitaire*.

In the late nineties, my wife and I helped start a university in the United Arab Emirates, the first one in the Gulf to be co-ed and admit non-nationals. Books have enormous symbolic power in the region. In 1998, the entire Kuwaiti government resigned when a book deemed vaguely anti-Islamic was found at the crown prince’s stall at the annual book fair. In our fledgling library in Sharjah, we hid the titles we knew were on the official banned-books list so visiting members of the conservative press didn’t encounter them and pressure the government to end our experiment in American-style education. Here in the U.S., we sometimes take our right to publish any book on any subject for granted. I often find it difficult to recommend specific books but I firmly believe that books in general are an incredible gift to the next generation and deserve to be promoted and protected.

Chris Sugnet recently joined Colorado State University Libraries as the Assistant Dean for Scholarly Communications. In his position, Chris will lead the implementation of programs and services to facilitate greater information exchange and knowledge sharing among scholars and researchers on the CSU campus. He is an enthusiastic supporter of open access initiatives and is very eager to explore possibilities for collaboration across CSU.



Recommended Recipe for Success:

- 1 part inspiration
- 1 part perspiration
- 2 parts library

Photo: Jo Ann Goltart, 4-H member from Weld County, with her sweepstakes sample of wheat and her loaf of bread. Goltart won the sweepstakes in the milling and baking contest in the Pure Seed Show at the 1955 National Western Stock Show. From the Records of the Colorado Cooperative Extension. CSU Libraries Colorado Agricultural Archive.

**GIFT FORM
INSIDE**

Give a gift that will make a difference in the lives of all CSU students, faculty, and staff by supporting CSU Libraries.

Visit us online at <http://lib.colostate.edu/develop>



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Dean of University Libraries:
Catherine Murray-Rust

Director of Development:
Andrea Lapsley

Editor:
Judea Franck

Contributing Columnists:
Donna Gallup
Ashley Large
Diane Lunde
Linda Meyer
Chris Sugnet
Roxana X

Editorial Support:
Amy Hoseth

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