

Word from the stacks...

Murder in the Stacks: Dewey Death

by Dennis Benamati,
University Librarian

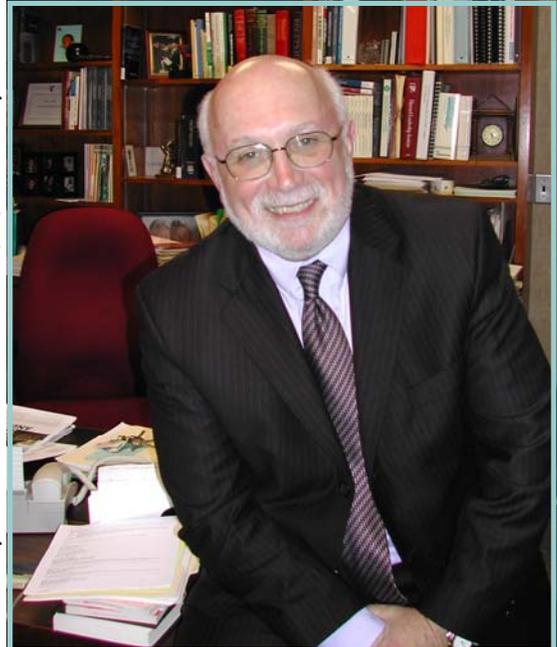
For a very long time now, my wife and I have talked about collaborating on a mystery novel. Since we are both librarians and since it is recommended that one write about the things one knows, it seemed prudent to write a mystery that takes place in a library. This is what we have so far: Our heroine is Kay Elemenoe, a 27 year old reference librarian at a major metropolitan public library who has a penchant for mystery novels and faceted classification schemes. Prior to going to library school, Kay had a job supervising quality control for a company that makes the little plastic things on the ends of shoe-laces. Her sidekick, Jarislav (J.J.) Jihgfed, is a wide-eyed and loveable high school student who works as a library page. J.J. has an undeclared crush on Kay (just to give the book a romantic twist), but his real passion is Slavic and Near Eastern languages and literature.

One day, while fronting books in the philosophy section, J.J. discovers the body

of a man, apparently murdered. The victim is clutching a copy of David Couzens Hoy's, *Critical Circle: Literature, History and Philosophical Hermeneutics*. During a lunch-time conversation with J.J. on the multi-dimensional characteristics of Universal Decimal Classification, Kay stumbles onto a clue that would take her to the study of semiotics, and then, like an Umberto Eco novel, on a dark ride back into Medieval Romania and forward again.

That was fun. But I've probably put more time into typing the previous two paragraphs than my wife and I have actually spent talking about the novel over the last 20 years. Be that as it may, there have been some things happening in the Ryan-Matura Library that need to be brought to everyone's attention. There is another kind of tragedy going on in our stacks. But like any good mystery, there is a solution and a resolution.

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Mr. Dennis C. Benamati
University Librarian

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Inventory Management

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In our 5 year plan to renew the University Library, we projected the completion of an inventory of the collection. An inventory isn't the kind of project that libraries take on lightly. It usually means a lot of time spent on the project and a lot of time and money spent in follow-up. Upon completion, we will have determined what the Library continues to own vis-à-vis the Library Catalog. We will have discovered what is missing, made decisions about which of those items to replace, deleted records from the catalog for items we won't replace, and corrected errors in the catalog such as incorrect call numbers. We will have generally had an opportunity to review the collection and determine its

“Highest on our list of concerns is the possibility that some titles have simply slipped away in the arms of a reader or researcher. These may not have been checked out through the library’s circulations system. They are lost, most

areas of strength and weakness. This, we hope, will result in a much more reliable catalog, a collection that is appropriate for the curriculum and one that satisfies the research needs of the students of the University.

At the moment, we are 85-90 percent through the process. We hope to complete the inventory by the end of the summer break. In the mean time however, I have

some numbers that I'd like to share. Of the approximately 96,000 titles we've checked against the catalog, about 6,400 had some kind of cataloging problem that has been corrected. These problems fall

into a wide range of possible errors. About half of them are the kind of things that can affect the library user's ability to find a book either in the catalog or on the shelf. A number of these errors are a call number on the spine of the book that is different from the call number in the catalog. The other half is made up of the kind of error that the user is not likely to notice, but that affect the way the Library goes about its business. As a matter of efficiency, we fixed them as well.

The most urgent news to come out of the inventory is the number of books that were found to be missing from the collection. To date we have discovered that over 2,500 titles are missing from the shelf and not checked out. Coincidentally, in 2004/05 we purged an additional 800 'missing' titles that were left over from previous years operations, bringing the total missing to over 3,300 titles.

The titles are missing for many reasons. Highest on our list of concerns is the possibility that some have simply slipped away in the arms of a reader or researcher. These may not have been checked out through the

Summer Hours & Numbers

Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Saturday 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Independence Day Weekend

Sat, July 1: CLOSED

Sun, July 2: CLOSED

Mon, July 3: CLOSED

Tues, July 4: CLOSED

Summer Intersession

Saturday, August 26 Closed

Sunday, August 27 Closed

Monday, Aug. 28—Friday, Sept. 1 8:00 AM—4:30 PM

Sat., Sept. 2—Mon. Sept. 4 Closed

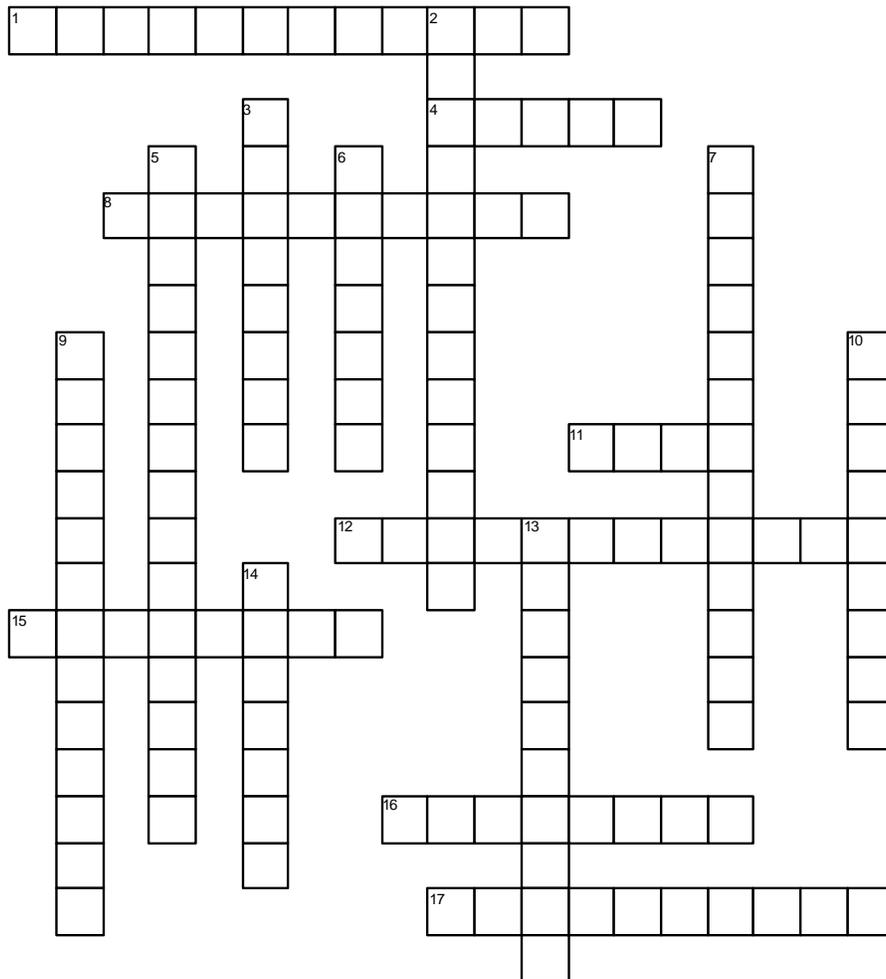
For more information, please call:

Reference desk: x7726 (203-371-7726)

Circulation desk: x7702 (203-371-7702)

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Library Jargon



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

ACROSS

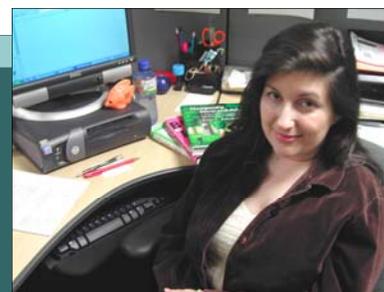
- 1 a list of references at the end of a book or article
- 4 alphabetically detailed list of the names, places, and subjects discussed in a book and the numbers of the pages on where the items appear
- 8 a book of alphabetically listed words in a language with definitions, pronunciations, etc.
- 11 a unique, 10-digit number given to every book published
- 12 a reference book containing information on all subjects, or limited to a subject (sometimes in more than one volume)
- 15 to shorten a keyword when searching
- 16 a brief summary of the content of a book or article
- 17 use of someone else's ideas or work without acknowledgement

DOWN

- 2 a firsthand or eyewitness account of an event
- 3 an online resource that provides articles from many publications
- 5 visit this to check out your books or to pay fines
- 6 a publication published periodically that contains scholarly articles written by researchers or experts in a subject area
- 7 visit this for questions about research
- 9 items set aside by faculty for use during a particular class
- 10 the person who can help you with your research
- 13 this tool helps in organizing your ideas before you begin researching
- 14 where to find what the library owns

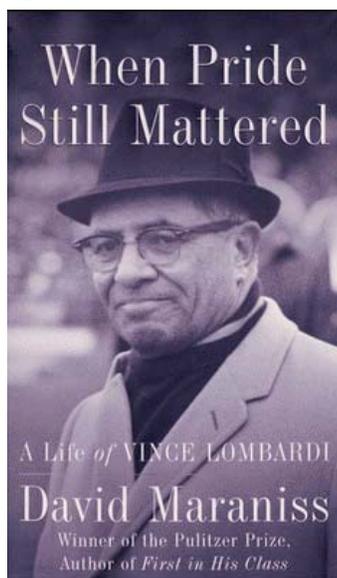
Book Notes

By Lylah Franco



The Joy of Summer Reading

What is more relaxing than sitting in a beach chair, listening to the waves and reading a good book? (Possibly being curled up on the couch next to a crackling fire with a good book, but not much else.) During long days in my cubicle in the dreariest weeks of March, I daydream about sun on my shoulders, sand under my toes and a great read in my hands. With these images in mind, I asked my co-workers to give some thoughts on their favorite books.

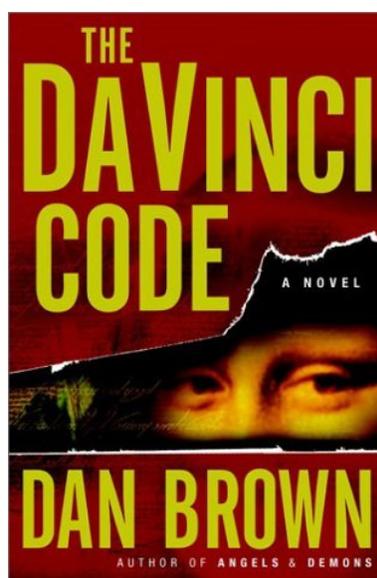


Amy Mackie, Research Librarian

When Pride Still Mattered: A Life of Vince Lombardi by David Maraniss

This is a great book for those looking to combine a great biog-

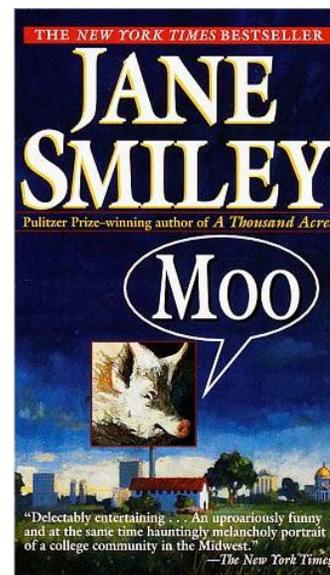
raphy about personal triumph and leadership, with some history of football thrown in.



Renata Cioffi, Administrative Services Coordinator
The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown

If you like fast paced reading, you will love this book. The author grabs your attention from the first chapter and keeps you guessing until the end. The book is considered controversial by some because the plot goes against Catholic teachings by suggesting that Jesus Christ was married and conceived a child. When reading the book it's important to keep an open mind and remind yourself it's fiction. What I thought was really interesting is that even though the book is fiction, the way the author explains parts of history

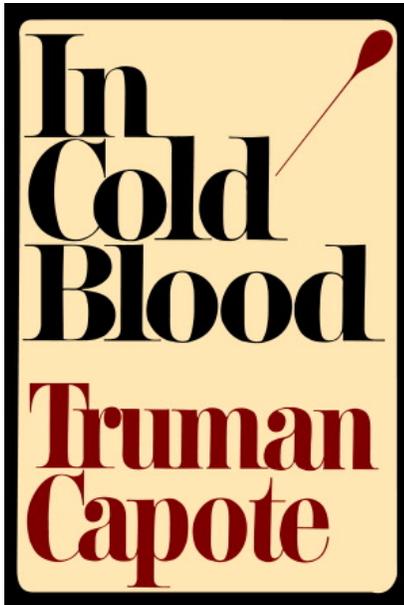
makes the reader crave learning more about events and places described in the book. Since the book was published, there seems to be more interest in learning about Jesus' life and Leonardo Da Vinci's works to see if there could be any truth to what is portrayed in the book.



Bonnie Figgatt, Head of Technical Services
Moo by Jane Smiley

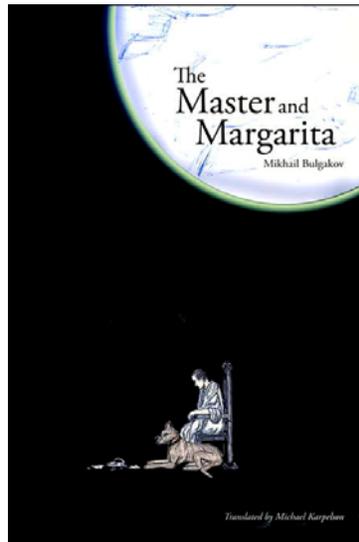
Jane Smiley's Moo is a hilarious parody of academic life, set at a midwestern university. Its characters range from Chairman X, the beleaguered 60s- radical chair of the horticulture department and his submissive/subversive family, to a hog named Earl Butz, being fattened in a bizarre research project and befriended by his student care-

taker. It chronicles the failings of ineffectual administrators and the liaisons among students and faculty -- and the elegant machinations of a dean's secretary who takes networking to a whole new dimension as she ensures that all is done as she invisibly decrees. This is not only the finest of literary fiction, but also a hilarious great read.



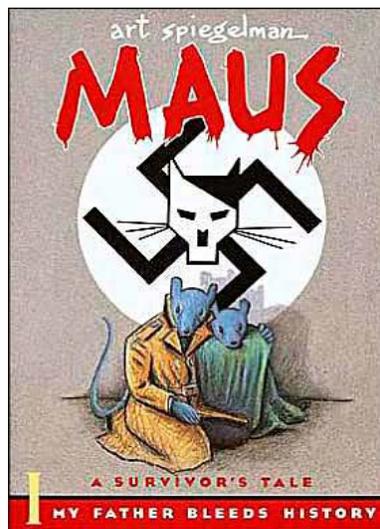
Lylah Franco, Acquisitions Assistant
In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

The film Capote made this well-written page turner a bestseller again after forty years. A highly original work, In Cold Blood became an early model for the type of writing called "new journalism" or "literary nonfiction." It tells the story of the Clutters, a Kansas farming family murdered in 1959, and their killers. Capote spent six years in Kansas researching the story and interviewing the murderers, who went to trial and were convicted during that time. Although "literary nonfiction" books are now published by the hundreds, this one still stands above the crowd.



Sam Eddington, Evening Circulation Supervisor
The Master and Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov

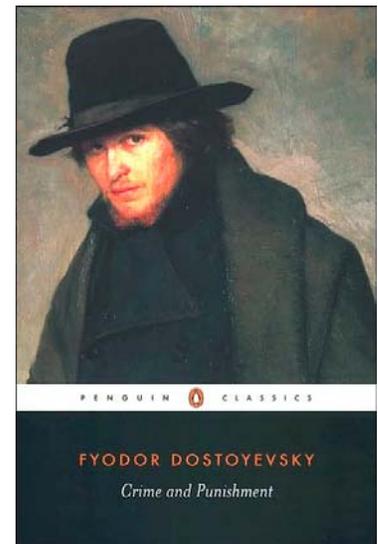
The Devil himself invades Stalin's Moscow in Bulgakov's posthumously published masterpiece. By turns desperately sad and side-splittingly hilarious, The Master and Margarita stands for the transformative power of love and literature, even in the darkest circumstances.



Libby Knapik, Instructional Services Librarian
Maus by Art Spiegelman (winner of the 1992 Pulitzer Prize)

In this graphic novel, Spiegelman tells of his parents' (both Auschwitz survivors) experiences as Jews during WWII in Hitler's

Europe. It's a story of survivorship and the author's own coming to terms with his father and their family history. The illustrations, portraying the Jews as mice and the Nazis as cats, somehow work in telling this story. Everything is very real. I laughed out loud in spots and cried in a lot of places, but the reader isn't forced to confront the brutality of the story head on because of the comic book format. Once I started reading, I couldn't put the book down. I highly recommend Maus.



Shawn Fields, Circulation Librarian
Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky

A deliciously torturous journey through a mind submerged in the struggle of the intelligencia against tsarist policy and the burgeoning of the modern age in a very medieval Russia. Dostoevsky shows us the confused soul of the nineteenth century Russian as only an epileptic, former convict could portray it. Raskolnikov's path leads through sickness and murder to eventual love and salvation.

Lylah Franco is Acquisitions Assistant at Ryan-Matura Library. She earned a BA in English from Southern Connecticut State University in 1998 and a graduate certificate in Finance at SHU.

Inventory Management

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Library's circulation system. They are lost, most likely, forever. What do we do about this? During the 2004 academic year, we implemented several security measures to reduce this kind of loss. We expanded our security system in such a way as to make it more difficult to by-pass. We added alarms on several doors to the outside and we installed security cameras at the front and rear entrances of the Library. This last measure has been particularly effective as we have already managed to successfully identify persons leaving the library with materials that have not been properly charged.

How would one know the difference between a book that is appropriated and one that is the victim of some other event? It's really not very easy, but there are some clues. For example, on one hand, we have a list of missing books published between 1997 and 2005, all of which deal with capital punishment. On the other, a list of missing books published between 1968 and 1975 dealing with FORTRAN programming. FORTRAN hasn't been used in a very long time and it's plausible, albeit unlikely, that books on the subject would have been withdrawn by the Library, but not removed from the catalog. While it is possible that the books on FORTRAN were purloined in 1976, it's a sure thing that the books on capital punishment were not lost as the result of a mistake. Be that as it may, the sad thing is that many of the titles that are missing are classics and seminal works such as books by or about social thinkers such as Jacques Maritain. They are also frequently the 'hot topics,' like capital punishment, that students like to research because of interest.

We've put in place procedural assurances that withdrawal of a title cannot occur without the catalog record being withdrawn as

well. So the likelihood of 'operational mishap' is considerably reduced.

As for books that are stolen, the security measures we've implemented will help discourage theft. But I'm concerned that too few people recognize that the theft or mutilation of library materials is as serious an act as society generally considers it. Theft and mutilation of library materials has historically, culturally and legally been considered unacceptable. Theft or mutilation of library materials has been dealt with by the Federal courts, see for example, *United States v Spiegelman*, 4 F. Supp. 2d 275 (1998, SD NY) and the legislature of the State of Connecticut, see *General Statutes of Connecticut*, Sections 53a-119, 53a-119(12) and 53a-119a. The University has also reinforced the security of library materials with a provision that "theft and damage of library materials" is a violation of our Policy on Academic Integrity. (Sacred Heart University. *Academic Integrity Policy*. http://www.sacredheart.edu/pages/734_academic_integrity_policy.cfm, last visited 16 June 2006).

Regardless of the reason for their absence, all these missing titles create some complex issues that need to be addressed, not the least of which is the

Regardless of the reason for their absence, all these missing titles create some complex issues that need to be addressed, not the least of which is the cost to replace them. If we were not selective about which of them to replace, it would cost between \$165,000.00 and \$285,000.00 to buy, receive, catalog and process all 3,300 titles at today's prices.

The fact of the matter is that we would not replace them all. Those books on FORTRAN programming for example, are simply no longer appropriate to purchase. The complicating factor in all this is that the money we save by being selective in what we replace is spent in professional services to apply the critical evaluation needed to distinguish the books to be replaced from those that won't be replaced. Once we made the appropriate selections however, we will find that many of the books we want to replace are no longer available. They may be out of print and for that reason, difficult to procure.

New face around the library

Veronica Hart joined the library staff on February 13, 2006. Veronica is the new Administrative Secretary at the library. Veronica is a graduate of the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale N.Y. where she received a B.A. in English. She has held positions in a recruiting environment, an e-business company and two consulting firms. Favorite interests include reading, alternative health care, yoga and meditation. Please stop by the Administrative Offices to introduce yourself!



Veronica Hart
Administrative Secretary

Library News

Summer time is the right time to visit the library if you are looking for a quiet space on campus to read or do research. The staff is ready and willing to help with any research needs that summer students, University staff, or faculty may have. Its also a great opportunity for faculty to start thinking about the fall semester and any publications they might want to place on reserve.



Editor: Matilde Renata Cioffi

Design & Layout: Mark Stanczak

Committee Members:

Lylah Franco,
Kim Macomber
& Amy Mackie

Editorial Policy

Submission of articles or opinion letters:

All submissions of articles or opinion letters must be sent to the editor via e-mail at cioffim@sacredheart.edu for publishing consideration.

Submissions must be received by deadline date to be considered for upcoming publication.

Space availability will be considered when deciding whether to incorporate an article.

Byline of the author submitting article or opinion letter will be published.

Submissions without bylines will not be published.

Any submissions by a group or a committee must have all the members' names on the piece.

Content:

Submitted articles can deal with any number of issues either controversial or not.

The editor reserves the right to deem an article inappropriate for publication if it is used for personal attacks or complaints.

The editor and copy editor reserve the right to edit either the style or length of any submitted article.

Spring 2006 Poster Contest Winners:

First Place: Victoria Conte

Like most college students I know, I go to the library the most during midterms and finals weeks. But what most students do not know is that there are many other resources that the library has to offer other than a quiet environment. On my poster I wanted to display all of the things you are able to do at the library. What is great about the Ryan-Matura Library is the extremely helpful librarians, online catalogs, and endless books, newspapers, magazines, and collections. The Jandrisevits Learning Center (JLC) is an excellent resource for students who need assistance with their studies. One on one help with professors and personal tutors, monthly workshops, as well as online writing and math labs are only some of the extra help that the JLC offers. In my future years as a college student, I know that I will be taking advantage of the library's different components that is available to students that attend Sacred Heart University.



Second Place: Tanya Kutlik

Professor June-Ann Greeley once lectured on the importance and power of being able to read. It was her lecture that inspired my poster. She spoke of the opportunities and the knowledge that reading adds to an individual's journey and experiences through their life. As I explored the concept of what a library is, this lecture sped through my mind like a bullet. BOOM! The fire lit up and I realized: the library is for reading, learning, sharing, experiencing, traveling, bringing together old friends, and meeting new ones. The list seemed to go on forever. It was then that I realized what the library is. It is a creative portal through which you "go anywhere, be anyone, and do anything..." It holds the "power of information".

