



## **ALS Collections: A Newsletter** **Spring 2010, Issue 6**

Hello everyone, and welcome to ALS Collections: A Newsletter of Collection Development, highlighting resources available to ECU and issues related to developing and managing Academic Library Services' collections. This sixth issue comes to you in the middle of the spring term. Look for News in Brief and feature articles in each issue; this issue has four feature articles: Our Popular Reading Collection, A New Acquisition: The Robert Lee Ghormley Papers, More Options for Electronic Books! and ECU Theses and Dissertations -- Electronic Submission Mandatory Beginning Spring 2010: What is the Library's Role? Feel free to suggest future features, or to send comment to [thomasw@ecu.edu](mailto:thomasw@ecu.edu). Thank you, Joseph Thomas

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### **News in Brief:**

- Joyner Library has recently acquired the American Chemical Society backfiles. We now have access to all ACS titles going back to their inception. Along with this purchase we gained access to the ACS Symposium Series, a collection of over 1,000 volumes going back as far as 1974 and going up to the present. The ACS Symposium Series is a set of high-quality, peer-reviewed books created by leading experts in their fields. These books cover such topics as organic chemistry, polymer chemistry, food chemistry, cellulose and renewable materials and others. Online access is available through the E-Journal/E-Book portal or the library catalog by series title or book title.
- Joyner Library is now providing access to mobile phone applications. Two databases, Academic Search Premier and RefWorks, can now be accessed via cell phone. For more information about each database consult the [Academic Search Premier Mobile](#) page or the [RefWorks mobile](#) page.
- On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 4-5pm Joyner Library is hosting a Student Friendship Tea in honor of the book *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. The Tea will focus on the cultural traditions of coming together for tea.

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### **ECU Theses and Dissertations -- Electronic Submission Mandatory Beginning Spring 2010: What is the Library's Role?**

Eleanor Cook, Assistant Director for Collections & Technical Services

Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> century! East Carolina has transitioned Masters theses and PhD dissertations to an all electronic format. So how does this change impact ECU Libraries and how we can help students adjust to this new standard?

We're really excited about it, truthfully. Our graduate students' research will be far more accessible to the scholarly world with this change, and Joyner and Laupus Libraries have been working very closely with the Graduate School in planning for this transition.

Here are some of the important aspects of the transition from the Library's point of view:

- Theses and dissertations in electronic format are commonly referred to as "ETDs." Students need to get used to hearing this term, as it is commonly used.
- When our graduate students completed their research products in the past, the library provided the student with printed copies which were commercially bound and the Libraries retained one of these as a permanent ECU copy. The electronic version deposited to our institutional repository is serving this official role now. Students can still purchase print copies through a number of sources if they want, and we are here to help them discover and decide on these options. However, we are committed to preserving the electronic copy *in perpetuity*.
- Our ETDs are being archived in ECU's Institutional Repository, which we have branded as "The ScholarShip." See: <http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/> Check it out; it is very easy to use!
- A feature that is available now that was not in the past is the concept of "Embargo." If a student and his/her advisor have concerns about the student's research being "too" available for a time, there is an option of limiting access for some specified time. Electronic management of this makes it possible to lock down the research if it has some aspect that is confidential or market sensitive. Students should be counseled to consider this as they are in the process of doing their research or creative activity. It is VERY important that students realize that limiting access to their research could have implications both positive and negative. Prior publication agreements or patents pending for work that is part of their theses or dissertations are the most common reasons for embargoing these items, but students should be aware that no one can read embargoed theses until the embargo is released—not the students' advisors, relatives, graduate school admissions officers, or even potential employers.
- ETDs that are not subject to embargo are freely available to the world and are indexed by Google, are listed with full bibliographic description in the Libraries' catalog, and are also discoverable through worldwide databases such as World Cat.

There is an extensive FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) page on the ECU Graduate School web site for students to consult, (See: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/gradschool/etd-fqa.cfm> ) and there will be several workshops held this spring for students expecting to graduate at the end of spring 2010. As students become more used to this ETD requirement, it will become easier to administer. Right now we are going through an understandable transition with some confusion, many questions, and occasionally a bit of consternation – however, all universities are going in this direction and ECU is pleased to be able to take its place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with this change!



The  
**ScholarShip**  
East Carolina University's Institutional Repository

## **A New Acquisition: The Robert Lee Ghormley Papers**

Maury York, Assistant Director for Special Collections

The Special Collections Department has acquired the papers of Robert Lee Ghormley (1883-1958), a career naval officer whose service in the U.S. Navy spanned the period between 1906 and 1946. Although the collection documents Ghormley's entire life, it is especially rich in holdings pertaining to World War II. In 1940, President Franklin Roosevelt appointed Ghormley his Special Naval Observer to the American Embassy in London. In this role he sent highly detailed, confidential memoranda to his

superiors in Washington. These documents helped convince the United States government that Great Britain would be able to overcome the German "Blitz." In April of 1942, Roosevelt named Ghormley, now a vice-admiral, commander of all U.S. forces in the South Pacific Area (SOPAC) and asked him to organize an attack on Japan. Although lacking sufficient resources, Ghormley in August 1942 led the assault on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. This action's lack of success led to Ghormley's removal from the command, though a congressional investigation later found him to be free of wrongdoing. He continued to serve in positions of responsibility until his retirement. The finding aid for this collection, one of many documenting the United States Navy during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, is available at <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/special/ead/findingaids/1153/>. The collection already has been used by a scholar from Texas who is working on the Battle of Guadalcanal.



The Special Collections Department welcomes researchers and offers instruction to classes. Hours are 8-5, Monday-Friday and 1-5, Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 328-6671.

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### More Options for Electronic Books!

Joseph Thomas, Collection Development Librarian

Joyner and Laupus Libraries now offer more electronic books than ever—more than 420,000 as of early February 2010. While some of these books are available to us through NCLIVE, the lion's share belong in two categories: they come in large collections of titles we have purchased, or they are part of databases we have purchased (Early English Books Online and Eighteenth Century Collections Online are the two largest).



Now, librarians are able to offer a more tailored service: the purchase of ebooks on a title-by-title basis. To date, librarians have selected more than 100 books this way this fiscal year. They will all be accessible both in the library catalog and in the E-Journal / E-Book Portal.

Library patrons have probably already encountered electronic books on NetLibrary. To NetLibrary, we can now add books on MyiLibrary and ebrary. All three of these companies are aggregators; that is, they host online books published by others, including many university presses, associations, and specialty presses as well as commercial publishers. For a few of these larger publishers, we can occasionally purchase books hosted on their own publishing platform, eg., Elsevier's ScienceDirect and Wiley's Interscience.



That option is helped along by the fact that several of the largest publishers now offer their ebooks for sale to libraries alongside their print books—Elsevier, Gale, Springer, Wiley—and by doing so, they encourage other publishers to continue to develop their business models to include electronic books. Reference books were earlier adoptees in electronic publishing: we have had access to Gale Virtual Reference Library for several years now, and Gale's eReference books have been joined by Blackwell



Reference Online, Oxford Reference Online, and Credo Reference, among others.

