

# Check it Out

Spring Semester 2016

A newsletter for patrons of University Libraries

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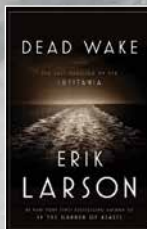


Image Credit: Library of Congress  
Colorized by UW Libraries, 2016

# ERIK LARSON

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UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING



# A Message from the Interim Dean

**By Lori Phillips**  
Interim, Dean of Libraries

Academic libraries traditionally hold a central position in the life of a campus, both symbolically and in terms of size and location. That is certainly the case at the University of Wyoming, where the addition to and renovation of Coe Library was completed in 2009.

Contrary to predications of diminishing use of library space, as journals and books transitioned into electronic format, academic libraries have seen significant growth in the use of physical space, provided the space supports the range of activities that 21st century students perform to accomplish their academic work. University of Wyoming is no exception to this trend, with gate counts steadily increasing in spite of enormous growth in online collections.

Having lived and worked in the new addition space for more than five years, UW Libraries is in the midst of repurposing existing space to better support evolving user expectations. A self-check out machine is now available for users that prefer a self service option. This machine does not replace our circulation staff, but provides an alternative option for library users.

Our reference collection, which is moving online as publishers issue standard reference works in electronic format, has been for the most part incorporated into the circulating collection. This frees up valuable space on the main floor of Coe Library to explore a partnership with an academic college to create a Student Innovation Center, that will support maker space and engineering design activities.

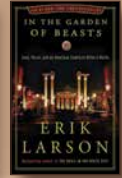
Another exciting project is the repurposing of underused space on the main floor of Coe Library into a student presentation practice space, complete with video recording capabilities. This space will be funded by UW Libraries Development Board.

Finally, we are working to move the media collection, which includes DVDs and videos, from its current location on level 1 to allow for the creation of additional group study and collaboration space. Our use data indicate that we need to create additional seats within Coe Library to support student work, so relocation of collections to less central locations within the building makes good sense.

All of these initiatives illustrate the importance that UW Libraries places upon paying attention to user needs within our physical space. Our goal is to provide relevant collections and services within a space that is collaborative, interactive, and engaging.

# ERIK LARSON

APRIL 20, 2016



Photos by Benjamin Benschneider

On April 20, Erik Larson will speak at 1:30 p.m. in the College of Education auditorium. His talk is free and open to the public. Members of UW Libraries Development Board will host a dinner, with Erik Larson as the keynote speaker, at 6 p.m. that evening. Inquiries for dinner reservations can be made by calling 766-3279.

Erik Larson is a master of narrative non-fiction. His vividly written, bestselling books have won several awards and been published

worldwide. His book, *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin*, is a vivid portrait of the American ambassador and his family in Berlin during the first years of Hitler's reign from which Larson has crafted a gripping, deeply-intimate narrative.

Larson has written articles for *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, and other publications. He has taught non-fiction writing at San Francisco State, the Johns Hopkins Writing Seminars, and the University of Oregon.

**More Info:** <http://uwlibblogs.uwo.edu/dustyshelves/erik-larson>

# New Security Cameras in Coe Library

By **Deborah McCarthy**

Interim Associate Dean, UW Libraries

✓ Visitors to Coe Library are bombarded with signs warning about theft in the building, yet UW Libraries continues to receive reports of unattended possessions stolen from individuals each semester. Theft victims often acknowledge that they should not have left their belongings unattended, but thought it was okay since they were only away for a few minutes to visit the restroom or to talk with a friend.

Thieves have stolen laptops and textbooks; both items are expensive to replace, and the work that they contain may be time consuming to recreate. This type of theft is easy to prevent: don't leave personal property unattended in public areas, such as the library, cafeteria, union, or other gathering places.

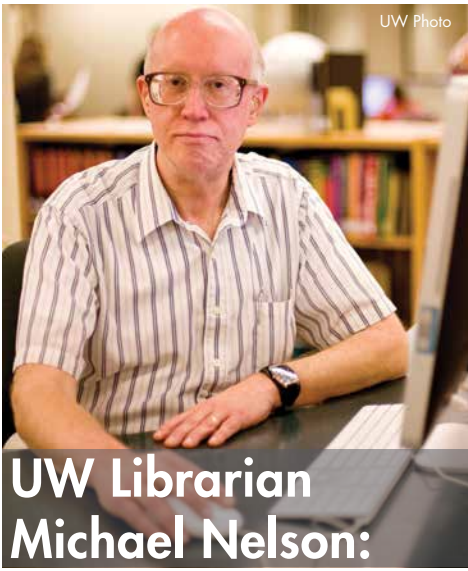
UW Libraries counts on library users to be responsible for their own possessions. Library employees work in all parts of the building but cannot be everywhere at all times. In order to increase security in the libraries, we are replacing our existing 22-camera analog security system with an upgraded 35-camera digital system. The expanded system will feed to the campus wide system, which will provide for better security in Coe Library.

Security camera systems alone do not prevent theft; they make it easier to identify the thieves. The new cameras may deter some theft in Coe Library, but individuals are best positioned to keep their belongings safe. Please keep a vigilant eye on personal possessions while in public areas within Coe Library.

Anyone who witnesses suspicious activity or becomes a victim of theft should contact UW Campus Police at (307) 766-5179 or visit [www.uwyo.edu/uwspd](http://www.uwyo.edu/uwspd).







## UW Librarian Michael Nelson:

Fondly Remembering a Colleague

**By Cass Kvenild**

Interim Associate Dean, UW Libraries

Our dear friend and valued colleague, Michael Lawrence Nelson, died on December 27, 2015. Mike was a long-time faculty member of UW Libraries. He came to UW in 1984, after earning his MLS from the University of Washington in 1978 and working in Montana libraries. Mike was hired in the reference department as the social sciences reference librarian and French bibliographer, and held that position until 2013, when he moved to collection development to focus

on selecting and ordering books in those same disciplines.

During his years in the reference department, Mike provided library instruction to thousands of students in the social sciences. Many professors insisted on bringing their classes to meet with Mike every year to learn from his expertise in formulating productive research strategies and finding specialized resources. Mike was kind and patient when teaching students to find hidden information as efficiently as he did. Mike enjoyed helping faculty with tricky research questions, and he was the libraries' leading expert in constructing and executing complicated database searches.

Mike was known across campus for his diligent and thoughtful contributions to numerous faculty committees. His collegiality and kindness in meetings was unparalleled, and his calm ability to apply common sense to knotty problems was welcome in heated debates. Mike was respected as a thoughtful mentor to junior faculty members and a trusted source of institutional memory.

Mike Nelson will be sorely missed at UW Libraries.

## Spring 2016 Library Workshops for Researchers

- Citation Tools
- Author Rights
- and More...
- Data Visualization
- Streaming Media

 **List of Workshops & Registration Available Online:**

<http://libguides.uwyo.edu/libraryinstruction/workshops>



# JoVE



## Journal of Visualized Experiments and JoVE Science Education Databases

By David Macaulay

Collection Development Librarian, CDO

Researchers know that it is not always easy to replicate experimental techniques based on the written descriptions provided in scientific articles. To help solve this problem, the publishers of the *Journal of Visualized Experiments* (usually shortened to *JoVE*) have developed a platform for visually demonstrating experimental procedures in a variety of scientific areas, including general biology, developmental biology, neuroscience, immunology and infection, medicine, chemistry, bioengineering, general engineering, behavioral science, and environmental science. Each *JoVE* article is a professionally-produced video where authors present their methods, data analysis, and results, accompanied by a peer-reviewed, downloadable text version and a list of materials. *JoVE* articles

are indexed in major databases including *PubMed/MEDLINE*, *SciFinder*, and *Scopus*. On average, about 75 new videos are published each month, with each issue featuring an introductory summary video.

A complementary resource, *JoVE Science Education*, provides clear visual demonstrations of scientific laboratory fundamentals. Instructors will find these videos to be valuable time-savers when they need to teach students about basic laboratory tools and techniques. University of Wyoming currently subscribes to the *General Laboratory Techniques*, *Basic Methods in Cellular and Molecular Biology*, *Essentials of Biology*, and *Essentials of Neuroscience* modules.

To start exploring these resources, visit UW Libraries' homepage at [www.lib.uwyo.edu](http://www.lib.uwyo.edu) and click the Databases icon. *JoVE* and *JoVE Science Education* are listed under "J".

# Open Access Resolution Passed

**By Bill Van Arsdale**

Head, Access Services

On November 18, 2015, the UW Libraries' faculty approved an open access resolution, which means they want their scholarship to be distributed "broadly, in digital format, online, free of charge, and free of copyright and license restrictions whenever possible." There were a number of reasons for taking this action:

1. The reliance upon commercially published scholarship is ultimately unsustainable for UW and other research-oriented libraries.
2. The Libraries have developed institutional repositories for all University faculty to provide open access to their scholarship. The library faculty felt they needed to support these services with their own scholarship in order to strengthen their promotional efforts with the teaching faculty.
3. That "open access models within scholarly publishing are consistent with faculty standards for peer review and excellence, and that articles published freely online are accessed more frequently and offer a greater reach and impact than articles published within a traditional subscription model."
4. "The UW Libraries strive to foster principles of academic freedom and to serve as leaders in the ongoing discussion of the future of scholarly communication at the University of Wyoming."
5. Beginning with Harvard University's resolution in 2008, many other higher education institutions have endorsed open access. Just in 2015, the faculties of Pennsylvania State University, University of Delaware, University of Washington, University of Arkansas, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dartmouth College, and Boston University have endorsed open access.

The Open Access Directory, maintained at Simmons College, has a complete list of faculty votes on open access as well as other pertinent information on open access. View our open access resolution online at:

[www.uwyo.edu/libraries/administrative-office/academic-planning/](http://www.uwyo.edu/libraries/administrative-office/academic-planning/)

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