

FIAT LUX

Picturing the Future

**LIBRARY'S ANSEL ADAMS EXHIBIT IGNITES
CONVERSATION, CREATIVITY**



A Library exhibit of Ansel Adams' photos of UC from the 1960s is the centerpiece of a bevy of activities that include seminars and lectures, dance and theater performances, a social media interface, rephotography, and a creative contest, among other activities.

plans for celebrating the University's 1968 centennial. Kerr, then the UC President, hired the photographer (with writer Nancy Newhall) to create a book portraying the landscapes, buildings and people of the UC system. Shown at left is a detail from a 1966 image of a pre-football game parade.

The current exhibit, "Fiat Lux Redux: Ansel Adams and Clark Kerr," is on display in the Bancroft Library Gallery through February 2013 (and online at www.lib.berkeley.edu/omeka/exhibits/show/fiat-lux). "On the Same Page"—a program that gives new students a book, movie or theme to talk about—has centered this year's offerings around the exhibit.

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It makes me feel like I want to be a part of something bigger, something that is going to make a difference.

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IT STARTS HERE

Berkeley's excellence is founded on its library. Opened in 1868 with one thousand books, the University Library now holds over eleven million volumes, and ranks as one of the world's great research collections. Join us in supporting the growth and preservation of this stellar library.



FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

Back to school circa 1886: A young man's reflection



The Bancroft Library recently received a donation of letters written by Elmer R. Drew, who attended the then-young UC Berkeley in the mid-1880s. As University Librarian Tom Leonard was perusing them, he was struck by how different Berkeley was. The hills weren't built up, cows grazed in fields around town, and hunting in the creeks and woods was commonplace. Yet the teenage student agonized over the same things today's students worry about: the work load, competition, and of course, football.

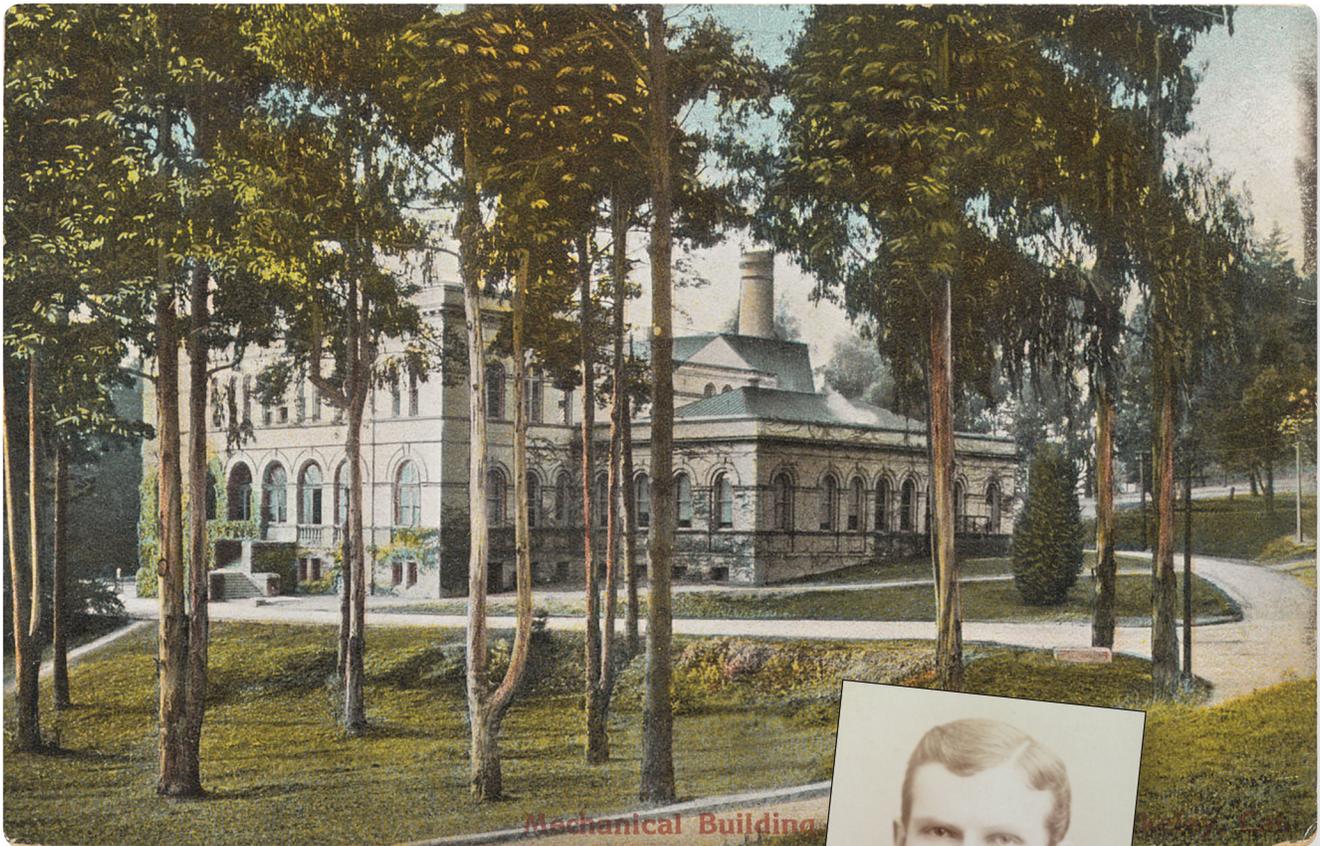
Reprinted from *Berkeleyside*, 9/27/2012

BY TOM LEONARD

"There are so many improvements going on at Berkeley now, that we hardly know the place," an undergraduate wrote. Roads are torn up, buildings changed to fit larger classes. The year is 1886.

This new take on "back to school" is in a small white box of letters from Elmer R. Drew, recently discovered by his relatives. This is a teenager's view of a campus that was itself a teenager. Mike Drew (Elmer's grandson) and Mary Drew of Los Altos have given this California snapshot to the Bancroft Library.

The letters show the California we have lost. Drew camped in Hetch Hetchy when it was a fertile valley. He listened to an army officer who was fresh from chasing Apaches. Elmer marched with a flaming torch to inspire his classmates to support the GOP. This is a pastoral East Bay, when you cut the grass, you can give the hay to the cow next door. Drew owned opera glasses and sang. He owned guns and used them, frequently. Many squirrels and birds meet their ends in these letters.



Elmer R. Drew,
UC Berkeley
Class of 1888

“Haven’t had a chance to warm up the gun yet,” Drew wrote, “but may go out some Saturday afternoon after quail in the hills. A large flock (of geese) somehow strayed over Berkeley last Saturday and the familiar honk made me hungry.”

The competition of Berkeley was bracing, when it was not exhausting, for Elmer Drew. “This is a place where one must work to succeed. I have . . . all solid work in recitations and in reading at the library, except perhaps half an hour of exercise at the gymnasium, which, by the way is a fine place.”

Drew watched classmates fall behind. “Two years of play cannot be made up in one year’s work,” he wrote. Drew himself was ready for a good time. “Picnics are in full blast,” he noted. “All is well except that my throat has not yet entirely recovered from Saturday’s football.”

Like Berkeley students today, he deployed his time with care (he was, appropriately, a student of mechanics). University of California customs allowed him slack. When a Regent died, for example, classes were called off.

Drew stayed on at Berkeley after graduation to work in Joseph LeConte’s physics lab. The spectacle of Berkeley continued to catch his eye: “The boys celebrated Halloween with . . . a pair of cart-wheels on the top of the gym and a goat in the Recorder’s office.” Elmer himself was headed for a career that would keep him in touch with spirited undergraduates and wide open spaces. He became a professor of physics at Stanford. ☀

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Students are discussing the “Fiat Lux” images in courses ranging from writing and photography to legal studies and chemistry. Especially appealing for this digital media generation, creative reuse is encouraged: Adams’ images can be downloaded, then Photoshopped, staged, mashed-up with videos or collaged into new photographs that explore personal visions of the university.

With its evocation of momentum and innovation, this exhibit of images from UC’s era of expansion has come at a time of turmoil about the University’s future. This juxtaposition—and the questions it raises—is exactly what lead curator Catherine Cole intended.

“I’m hoping a robust, palpable picture of a research university will emerge.”

— Catherine Cole, lead curator and Berkeley professor

Cole, a theater and dance professor, believes that the current climate of uncertainty about the UC system challenges the community to renewed efforts to “picture the future” with an expanded sense of our history and our horizons. “I’m hoping a robust, palpable picture of a research university will emerge,” she adds.

The exhibit has prompted vigorous and diverse responses among students, faculty, alumni, and the community. This is as Cole had envisioned: “I want discourse, conversations,” she says, “not just in the gallery, but in the hallways and out on the streets.”

The Conversation Expands

With filmmaker and Berkeley instructor Kwame Braun, Cole has made a series of 18 fascinating short films in which campus people, including faculty members Michael Pollan and Georgina Kleege, respond to five images they’ve chosen from the collection. The series, “Take Five,” can be viewed

online (www.lib.berkeley.edu/omeka/exhibits/show/flat-lux/film).

Viewers of the exhibit and the films have been inspired to muse on their own ties to the University, including their hopes and fears for its future. Below are selected comments.

“As a proud UC Berkeley alum, I hope for a bright and long future for the UCs. These pictures to me demonstrate the vitality, excitement, and life of the campus that I fell in love with as a student. Go Bears!”

“The UCs embody everything that is great in higher education—a place of the highest quality education that is open to all who are willing to strive for excellence, regardless of race, gender or economic means. Such educational opportunity is the heart and soul of true democracy. I fear we may be losing this, as state support evaporates and as we turn into a society of the ‘have’s’ and ‘have nots’— I don’t want to cry for a Berkeley lost.”

FIAT LUX, OR LET THERE BE LIGHT, is the motto of the University of California.

The *Fiat Lux* newsletter of the Library at the University of California, Berkeley is published quarterly by the Library Development Office, University of California, Berkeley.

Your feedback and suggestions are warmly invited. You can reach us at (510) 642-9377 or give@library.berkeley.edu

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PHOTOGRAPHY
Peg Skorpinski p. 2



This 1967 photo of the Charles Franklin Doe Library by Ansel Adams depicts the northwest corner of the building. Through Adams' lens, this view—less commonly portrayed than the North Entrance—gives the sense of a monumental temple, shaded by a pastoral foreground of trees. The University Library—comprising two dozen specialty libraries together with Doe and Moffitt, Bancroft, and the East Asian Library—is ranked as one of the top public university libraries in the world.

“ We as members of the academic community are the custodians of a great tradition, soon to be 150 years old (1868-2018). The goal is to speak to a future and recapture the past in education that should be affordable, accessible and of the highest quality. If we fail, we will have betrayed a generation and abandoned a tradition. ”

—faculty member

“ It makes me feel like I want to be a part of something bigger, something that is going to make a difference. ”

—student

Visit onthesamepage.berkeley.edu to learn more about activities inspired by the exhibit. You can view entries in the Fiat Lux Remix contest on Facebook, by searching for “On the Same Page.” ☀

Thanks to BERKELEY...

Over the last four years, the "Thanks to Berkeley" PhotoBooth project has invited the Cal community to join together to express their pride and gratitude through portraits and words. An online exhibit with more than 3,600 images is currently featured at campaign.berkeley.edu. The portraits were taken by San Francisco photographer Christopher Irion.

These voices and faces are wonderful reflection of the spirit and diversity of the Cal community: students, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends.

Of course the library collections are fabulous in their depth and diversity, but also the faculty and staff from physical plant to the Chancellor's office are superb!

Lucia Diamond

*Librarian
School of Law/
Robbins Collection*



*I feel more educated
just walking through the library.*

ABRAR QADIR

Junior '09



Cal Berkeley is The Place To Be!

SHEILA WILLIAMS

WHAT do you LOVE about the UNIVERSITY LIBRARY?

Send your thoughts and memories to give@library.berkeley.edu, and we may publish them online or in a future newsletter.



I learned how to
spend the night in
the library =/

Thanos Rossopoulos '09



11 Million Books.
Never a shortage of
ideals.

Tom Leonard '73 Ph.D



All that information.
Thank goodness for the libraries.

Steve Mendoza



THE LIBRARY IS THE
HEART AND SOUL OF
THE UNIVERSITY!

Kathryn Wayne



Poetry of place
brilliance of minds
a light in it.

Steven Blach ∞



From spending countless hours at
the library to waking up at 6am to
participate in the Berkeley Project, I
love everything about it.

Sneha Shah '11

FIAT LUX

WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL ISSUE of our redesigned newsletter! *Fiat Lux* will offer you stories on diverse people, projects, events and scholarship on campus. We will report on the history, people, and collections that formed the Library, as well as new services and cutting-edge programs designed to meet today's learning needs. Through a greater variety of stories and increased use of photos that convey the life of the Library, we will offer a window onto the academic vitality at Berkeley, the world's greatest public research university.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

AWARD-WINNING GRADUATE WAS ENERGIZED BY LIBRARY, BERKELEY

Library prize awarded to his paper on
wind power in China

Ryan Swanson ('12) says that it was through researching his prize-winning senior thesis that he gained his greatest skills from university—"how to teach myself and how to synthesize knowledge into original ideas." His success was recognized by his advisor Dr. Rakesh Bhandari, who called Ryan's paper "the best thesis that I have read in Interdisciplinary Studies."

Ryan's fluency in Mandarin (he had previously spent a year in China through Cal's study abroad program) enabled him to translate his own sources for the paper. Less traditionally, he also gleaned valuable data by following energy and policy analysts on Twitter.

At present, Ryan is working in Beijing as an assistant in the department of international cooperation for a state-owned enterprise that builds nuclear power plants. Six months into the job, he comments that he's "learning about the logic and culture of Chinese state-owned enterprises. I'm also learning a lot about how business deals are made in China and about China's blend of capitalism, one that straddles central planning and a market economy."

Down the road he foresees pursuing several other passions, among them returning to Argentina, where he spent a gap year learning Spanish and studying tango. He'd also like to pursue graduate study in energy and environmental issues, and his own creative writing of essays and memoir.

*"Weaving math and science
into social sciences can enable
powerful insights."*

—Ryan Swanson

Ryan's experiences living abroad in Argentina and China, his range of interests and his academic accomplishments exemplify his overall attitude towards life. "Go for it! This is your life, it's okay to be creative with it. Too many certainties make things boring!"

Out-of-the-box thinking

One of Ryan's favorite classes at Cal, taught by noted professor and author John Harte, explored the



NEW NAMING OPPORTUNITY

Are you interested in creating a lasting legacy of your—or a loved one's—personal connection to the University Library and the undergraduate students it serves? If so, a unique opportunity is being offered for the first time to a donor who would like to support the Library Prize for Undergraduate Research for generations to come.

Ryan Swanson's paper on wind power in China won a 2012 Library Prize for Undergraduate Research. See www.lib.berkeley.edu/researchprize for more on the Library Prize-winning students.

Describing his interest in environmental problems, Ryan talks about "imagining what humanity will look like in 4 to 7 generations."



quantitative aspects of global environmental problems. "It was really, really mind-expanding! We examined large-scale environmental issues, and used quantitative analysis to come up with potential solutions."

"If you wanted to pass," Ryan added, "this course definitely required out-of-the-box thinking. I got lots of headaches!" Challenged by the math utilized in the course, he subsequently studied advanced calculus in order to better equip himself for future work in this arena.

Dr. Harte's course allowed Ryan to identify his intellectual passion for integrating math and science into social sciences—a weaving of disciplines which "can enable a whole array of powerful insights to happen."

"Talk to Librarians"

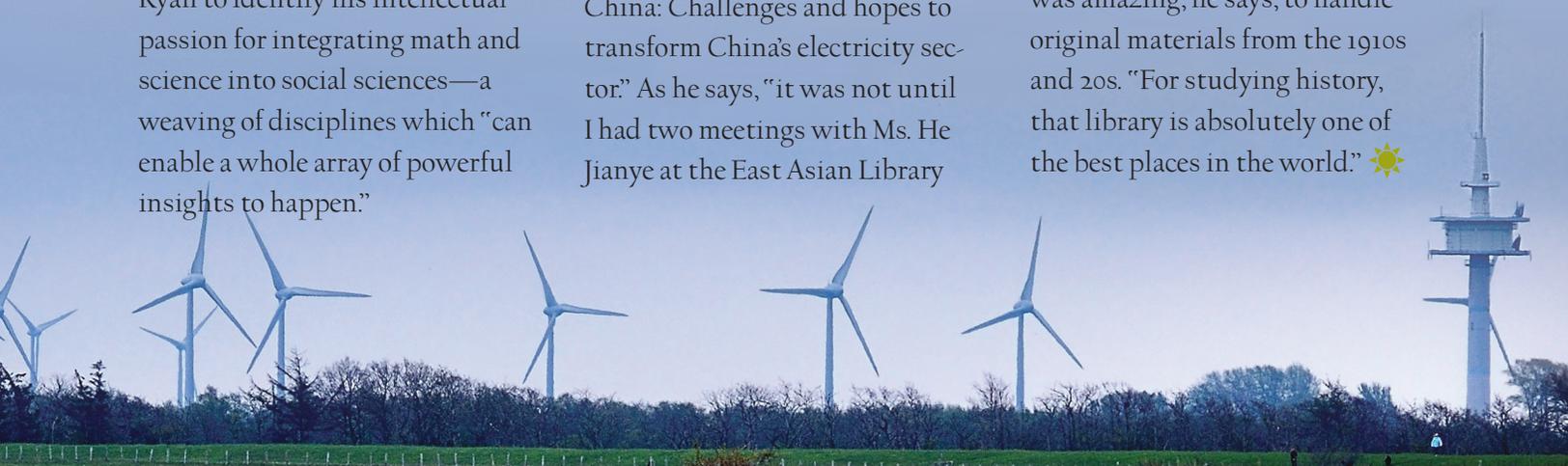
Ryan's energetic use of the library was a major factor in his academic success at Cal. In fact, his top recommendation for new students is to "talk to librarians—that will completely change the experience. And find ways to define your class projects so you can drill down into the collections, to make them come alive for you."

It was through consulting with a librarian that Ryan had a research breakthrough on his prize-winning paper, "The Political Economy of Wind Power in China: Challenges and hopes to transform China's electricity sector." As he says, "it was not until I had two meetings with Ms. He Jianye at the East Asian Library

that I learned how to use Chinese-language databases and access Chinese government statistics. This allowed me to incorporate raw data in my research."

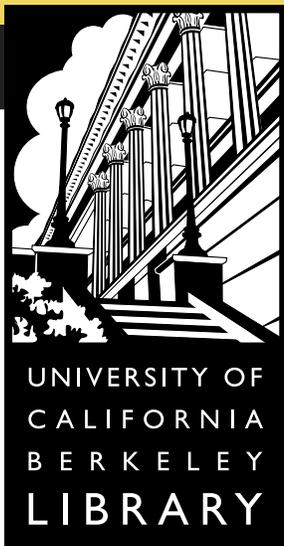
During his years at Cal, Ryan found himself using different libraries as favored study spots. One favorite was the grand North Reading Room in Doe. Ryan found it inspiring, and "good for big thoughts."

Researching the Mexican Revolution through primary documents held at the Bancroft Library was one of the most eye-opening research experiences for Ryan. It was amazing, he says, to handle original materials from the 1910s and 20s. "For studying history, that library is absolutely one of the best places in the world." ☀



The Library Prize recognizes outstanding use of library resources in student papers across all departments. One student prize winner called it "the most formative learning experience" he had at UC Berkeley. A \$250,000 pledge (payable over up to a 5 year period) would provide the funding necessary to endow and name the program.

For more information, please contact Deborah Maxon in Library Development at dmaxon@library.berkeley.edu or 510/643-4714.



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A LEGACY for the Library

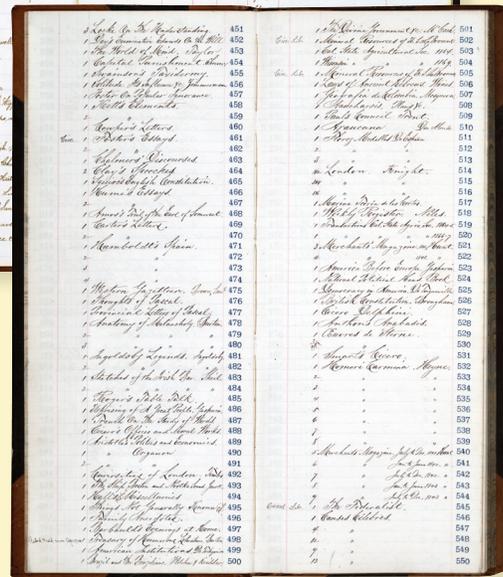
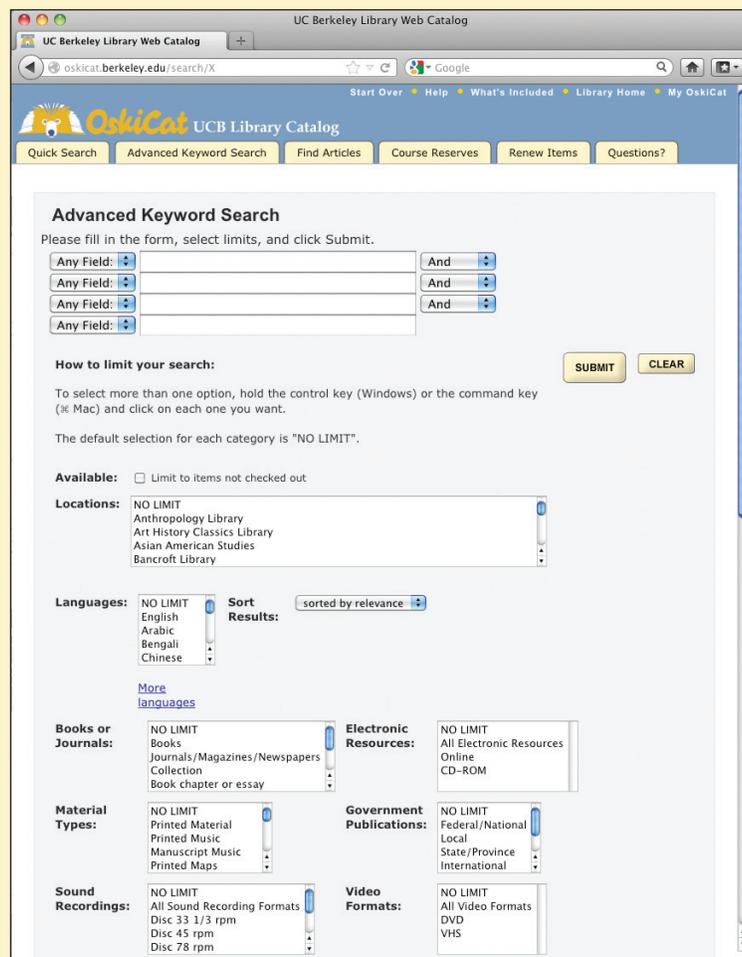
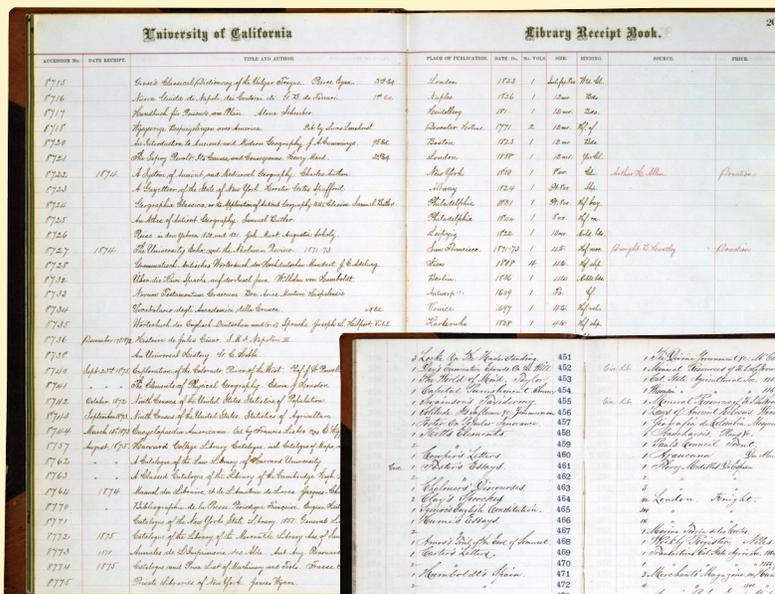


Remember the University Library in your estate plans. With a retirement charitable gift annuity through the University Library, you receive fixed payments for life, while taking a sizeable tax deduction now. Payments are guaranteed by the UC Berkeley Foundation—not tied to the volatility of the stock market—and a portion is tax free. Our Gift Planning Office can provide consultation for the best means to support the Library.

THEN & NOW

CATALOGING IN FICTION AND REALITY

In Jorge Luis Borges' celebrated story "The Library of Babel," the librarians of an all-encompassing collection believe that a complete catalog must exist somewhere. Luckily, with our vast but finite collection, cataloging goals are more readily achieved—especially now that handwritten catalogs are no longer the norm! Through computerized search,



a user can search the entire contents of the library in a few seconds. In a recent ten-day period, the upgraded OskiCat handled almost 190,000 searches, retrieving over 37 million records. (Moreover, if an item exists on Google Books, users can usually "jump" directly from the OskiCat record to it.) While infinite collections and Borgesian catalogs remain in the realm of imagination, making as much knowledge as possible readily available continues to be the Library's daily business.

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at the Library

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ALL ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

DAVID ROSS BROWER: A FORCE FOR NATURE

Bernice Layne Brown Gallery, Doe Library
through March 2013
check lib.berkeley.edu for hours

A lifelong citizen of Berkeley, David Ross Brower is celebrated for shaping the modern environmental movement. An authentic sage and activist trailblazer, Brower fought to save the Grand Canyon and enlarge the national park and wilderness systems. He was a tireless advocate for clean water, free-flowing rivers, roadless wilderness, protected habitat, and a nuclear-free society. This salute to his life, work and words is drawn from the Bancroft Library collections and celebrates the centennial of his birth.

Story Hour in the Library presents JOYCE CAROL OATES

Thursday, February 14, 2013
5 to 6 pm
Morrison Library

Oates is recognized for some of the most enduring fiction of our time—including the national bestsellers *We Were the Mulvaney*s and *Blonde*—and has also published poetry, plays, essays, memoir and criticism. Surveying her more than 70 books, Henry Louis Gates Jr. said “A future archeologist equipped only with her oeuvre could easily piece together the whole of postwar America.”
The reading will be posted to YouTube.

