



Letters from the Library

Letters from the Library will pause for summer for the next couple of months, but this issue has enough to keep you busy for a while. Read on for some exciting new online collections, a new way to access theses and dissertations, and more!



“1957 photograph of the Library. Students in the foreground. [PG1_122-001],” University of Idaho Campus Photographs, PG 1, University of Idaho Library Special Collections and Archives

This issue features information about:

- Main Street Video Oral Histories
 - Silver and Gold Book Digital Collection
 - Accessing U of I Theses and Dissertations
 - What We’re Reading
 - Featured Collections
 - Upcoming Events
-

FEATURED STORIES

Main Street Video: Oral Histories

The Library recently completed the “Main Street Video: Oral Histories of the Last Video Store in Moscow, Idaho” digital collection. It serves as part verbal record of an iconic local establishment and part essay collection on the irreplaceable role the video store once played in our community.



The video store began in a corner of Moscow entrepreneur Howard Hughes' appliance store in 1978. Howard Hughes Video's collection grew, making space for Hollywood blockbusters, standard bearers of cinematic

history, foreign language films, and even some flops. Nearly every former patron interviewed for the oral history project commented on the unique delight of perusing the shelves for new and new-to-them titles.

Running for over forty years, Howard Hughes Video survived through ownership changes, moves, and the rise of video delivery and streaming services. It could not survive these forces for long and it was on the cusp of closing in 2015 when a co-operative was formed. The Main Street Video Co-op kept the beloved collection together and available to movie enthusiasts until March 2020, when final credits could not be put off any longer.

During Covid, it was decided to document its history and a group came together to record what was once a mainstay of life on the Palouse. It is this compilation that has become the Main Street Video digital collection. It features oral history interviews with more than thirty former store patrons and staff members.

[READ MORE >>](#)

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Silver and Gold Book

The University of Idaho Special Collections and Archives recently launched the Silver and Gold Book digital collection. This collection is dedicated to showing the book's fine craftsmanship and intricate details. This piece of university history is almost as old as the university itself, and even represented the Moscow community during the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. The Pleiades Club, federated in 1895, oversaw the creation of the Silver and Gold Book.





“Photograph of Silver and Gold Book standing on edge, University of Idaho Library Digital Collections.

[EXPLORE THE COLLECTIONS >>](#)

SEASONAL FEATURE

Accessing University of Idaho Theses and Dissertations

Graduation is right around the corner and there’s no better time to highlight the theses and dissertations (ETDs) completed by our graduate students.

There are three main ways to access U of I ETDs.

[VERSO](#), the U of I’s research information management system and institutional repository, offers the easiest way to access the full-text of born-digital ETDs. Currently, this collection includes U of I ETDs published between 2013 to present, with new ETDs added upon publication.

Consider searching by title, author, major professor, or committee member to find the ETD you’re looking for.

Welcome to VERSO

VERSO (Vandal Expertise, Research, and Scholarship Online) preserves and provides access to the research and creative output of the University of Idaho's faculty, students and staff.

Faculty & Researcher Scholarship | Open Access | **Theses & Dissertations**

Output | Researcher Profiles | Research Units | Research Collections

Screenshot of the VERSO homepage

Older ETDs can be found in our Library catalog by [searching for a title or author](#). Print copies of ETDs written by U of I graduate students can be digitized by submitting a request within our catalog or [contacting our Interlibrary Loan office](#).

[Dissertations & Theses Full Text](#) expands your search for ETDs by including those published at colleges and universities around the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Library offers workshops designed to promote awareness, build skills, and educate the University of Idaho community on research and learning in the information age.

Make it @ the MILL

Mark your momentous university graduation with a personalized and celebratory cap decoration workshop!

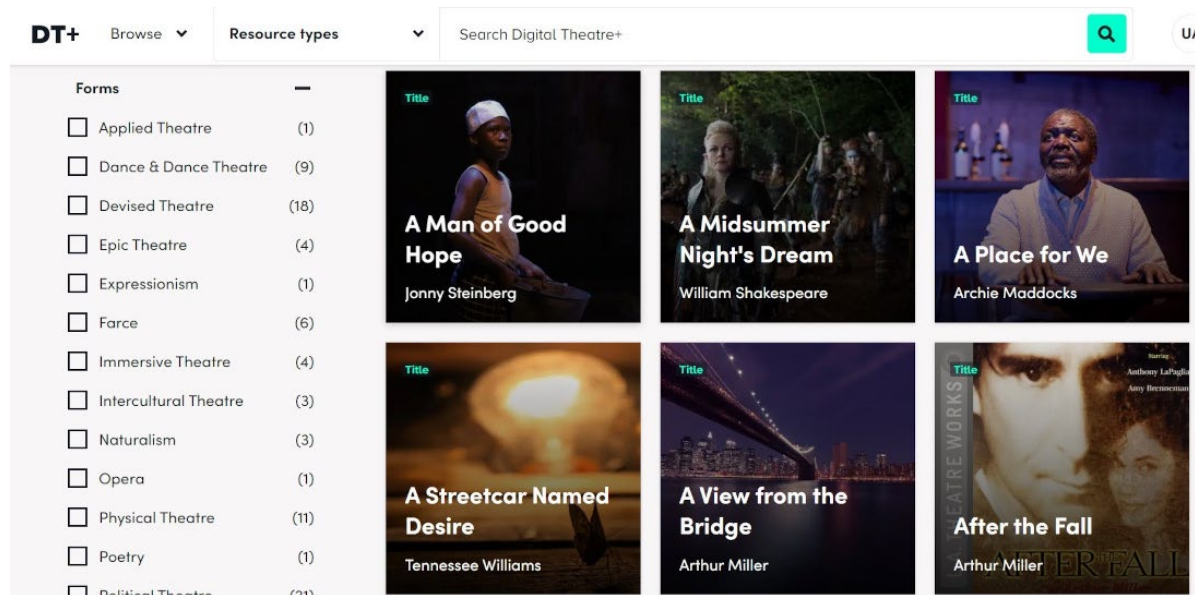
- May 1, 12:30 – 4 p.m.: Graduation Cap Decorating

VIEW THE CALENDAR

FEATURED COLLECTIONS

Featured Resources for May 2024

In this issue, we're highlighting [Digital Theatre+](#), a database that includes more than 1,600 videos and full-length performances of musicals, modern dramas, and Shakespeare plays from venues including the Royal Shakespeare Company, the London Symphony Orchestra, and the Glyndebourne Opera House.



Screenshot of the browse by Titles interface in Digital Theatre+

In addition to videos, this database also includes interviews with cast and production members, critical essays, audio plays from LA Theater Works and study guides that help students and users understand aspects of each performance, such as plot, character, and language.

If you have any questions about *Digital Theatre+* or would like to discuss how to use it in your courses, please reach out to [Rochelle Smith](#) (Humanities Librarian).

A complete list of our resources can be found on [our website](#).

[SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK ON THESE RESOURCES >>](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

What We're Reading: Andrew Weymouth, Digital Initiatives Librarian

Working on an architectural project has allowed me to revisit [The Image of a City](#) by Kevin Lynch, a fascinating exploration of sociological concepts of wayfinding and “legibility” in the built environment. The book has an added aesthetic charm of loose, freehand illustrations of the author’s concepts dotting the margins of the pages.

The project also gave me an excuse to reread William H. Whyte’s [The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces](#), a similar study in “environmental psychology,” employing sociological methods to uncover ways in which citizens interact with urban design that are as unexpected as they are intuitive. Whyte tempers the academic nature of the book with droll, insightful humor generally aimed towards urban developers who bungle things in a classic “solution in search of a problem” kind of way.

I am also reading [Every Man for Himself and God Against All : A Memoir](#), by one of my favorite documentarians, Werner Herzog. Stuffed to the gills with Bavarian bleakness and weirdo literary haymakers that frequently make use of poetic metaphor and narrative tangents that, no, he will not be fully explaining.

[FIND BOOKS >>](#)

GIVE TO THE LIBRARY

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the Library last month on Vandal Giving Day. We could not provide such wide-ranging services, collections, and spaces without help from our supporters. Interested in making a difference? Give to the Library today!

GIVE NOW



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