McGRATH ADDS LIBGUIDES!
An Online Research Tool Tailored to Your Library’s Resources.

CLICK HERE TO CHECK IT OUT!

McGrath Library is pleased to introduce LibGuides (Research Guides) as the newest electronic/online Resource.

LibGuides acts as a surrogate website that organizes Library resources by subject, topic, course, or even a specific project. LibGuides can list books, databases, individual articles, embedded videos, documents, and more.

McGrath Library’s LibGuides already contain subject specific guides and guides that are dedicated to using public resources like the Census, Bureau of Justice Statistics, and Bureau of Labor Statistics. Click on the link above to view the guides.

A couple of Course Specific guides have already been created! If you are interested in having a guide made for your course or for a specific assignment / term paper in your course please contact Chris Hulsman, Electronic Resources Librarian at Ext. 245 or: chulsman@hilbert.edu Or askus@hilbert.edu

IN THIS ISSUE:
(p. 1) Introducing Online Research Guides: McGrath Library’s NEW Online Tool to Organize Library Research Material by Subject, Course, Topic, or Project.
(p. 2) Director’s Choice Book Review: Imperial Gamble
(p. 3) NEW! Franciscan Collection at Campus Ministry: McGrath Library Has Started a New Collection of Books Housed at The Campus Ministry Office.
(p. 3 & 5) Book Reviews.
(p. 4) ARTS in the LIBRARY Reception Date is SET!
(p. 6) NEW! Mobile Reference.
(p. 7) New Books at McGrath.
On 18 March 2014, twenty-three days after masked Russian troops invaded, the Crimean Peninsula along with the port city of Sevastopol, was “formally” annexed to the Russian Federation. This action, by Vladimir Putin, resulted in a wave of international sanctions against Russia; a Russia that was already suffering economic hardship due to the world-wide recession that began in 2007 as well as the beginning of the drop in the price of oil, Russia’s major export. So, what prompted this action by Putin and what is his justification for the action?

Marvin Kalb is one of the original “Murrow’s boys,” journalists selected and recruited by Edward R. Murrow to include, besides, Kalb, Walter Cronkite, Eric Sevareid, and Daniel Schorr. Kalb, a former Russian History Professor and State Department press officer and translator has tried to shed light on Putin’s actions towards Crimea and the Ukraine in his book, Imperial Gamble: Putin, Ukraine, and the New Cold War.

Kalb begins by tracing the history of Russia from its beginning in the city of Kiev where it was known, in the 9th Century, as Kievan Rus’; through the reigns of Peter the Great and Catherine the Great and the Soviet era; to the present Russian Federation under Vladimir Putin. Kalb’s assessment is that, from a Russian perspective of history, Kiev, the present day capital of Ukraine, is the birth place of Russia. Further, Ukraine has been a part of Russia for centuries and is not perceived as a separate, independent country by the Russian people, and, especially, by Putin. And Crimea, which has the Black Sea port of Sevastopol, Russia’s only warm-water port, is not even seen, in Putin’s eyes, as a legitimate part of Ukraine, having been incorporated into Ukraine in 1954 by Nikita Khrushchev, who, himself, was Ukrainián. In Putin’s mind, therefore, Russia was only reclaiming what was hers by annexing Crimea in 2014.

Kalb does not sanction the annexation or many of the claims made by Putin. His purpose in Imperial Gamble is to reflect through a great many sources and by statements made by Putin himself, on Putin’s character and mindset. He sees Putin as trying to revive Russia, trying to bring it back to superpower status and viewing himself as the only one who can accomplish this. He also sees Putin as fearful of the West and of the United States especially. In Kalb’s view, Putin sees the West as a threat and sees them trying to lure Ukraine into both the European Union and NATO.

Kalb, being both a journalist and a history professor, writes very good history but with a journalistic style. Consequently, Imperial Gamble is a comprehensive historical work aimed at a readership that is familiar with the topic but not Russian scholars. Marvin Kalb’s Imperial Gamble: Putin, Ukraine, and the New Cold War comes very highly recommended.
McGrath Library and Hilbert College’s Franciscan Campus Ministry are coordinating a collection of library books to be stored at the Campus ministry office in 103C Bogel Hall.

All items will still be available to be checked out and each item will still appear in the library’s Online Catalog of books and items. The library staff would like to give special thanks to the Director of the Campus Ministry Jeff Papia for helping coordinate this collection, and to Librarian Liz Wandersee for doing all of the hard work electronically cataloging each of the items.

The collection was started with approximately fifty titles and it will continue to grow as new titles and items are added. Each title that is stored in the Campus Ministry will be labelled electronically in the catalog to let library patrons and students know if a title is located in the Ministry Collection. Books can be checked out directly from the Ministry Collection in the Ministry Office, or requested from the library.

Peace, and All Good!

For any questions contact the library staff at: askus@hilbert.edu
Or the Campus Ministry: jpapia@hilbert.edu

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**Magna Carta: The Birth of Liberty**

By Dan Jones. (Viking Press, 2015).

Reviewed by Chris Hulsman, Electronic Resources & Systems Librarian, McGrath Library

Prominent British historian Dan Jones (The Wars of the Roses: The Fall of the Plantagenets and the Rise of the Tudors, The Plantagenets: The Warrior Kings and Queens Who Made England) recalls the circumstances surrounding Magna Carta. The historical document has long been the demarcation of the commencement of democratic, individual liberty from the antiquated periods of autocratic rule. Or is it?

Jones recounts the birth and subsequent evolution of the Magna Carta in an insightful and pragmatic way. It is obvious that the document was not responsible for a succinct transition to a society of individual freedoms and rights to Due Process. However, without devaluing Magna Carta’s influence, Jones deals a humble revisionist portrayal of the circumstances behind the policy that created the famous document with his typical brand of thorough research and matter-of-fact storytelling.

Much of Magna Carta is dedicated to analyzing and interpreting the political landscape that germinated the sealing of King John’s agreement with his Barons at Runnymede in 1215. Jones points out that Magna Carta laid down some significant groundwork for future documents. However, he also poignantly reveals that Magna Carta was born from a political struggle between a king and his royal barons. Early in his history Jones points out “what was at issue in 1215 was a tight-knit, technical, and often quite dull shopping list of feudal demands that was mainly of interest to a tiny handful of England’s richest and most powerful men.” Moreover, the resulting civil war from King John’s eventual retraction of his agreement was most notably felt by the lower classes.

Jones makes no secret of the notion that Magna Carta’s relevance is seemingly stronger to today’s socio-political climate than it was to the common people during the time of its creation and evolution. Magna Carta is an astonishingly well-organized, well-researched history.

Located at McGrath Library

Arts In The Library Reception.

The Arts in the Library Reception is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25th at 4:00pm in McGrath Library. This year’s Featured Artist is Ann Stievater. Stievater works in still life and landscape oil. Numerous works of hers are on display at McGrath Library and will continue to be on display until the conclusion of the fall semester.

The Reception will include refreshments, music, and poetry readings from Herb Kauderer and Anthony Hughes. Both are distinguished professors here at Hilbert College and teach various classes in English Literature and Film.

The reception will also include some light music from Emily Pawelski & Christine Kuczkowski. This event is FREE and OPEN to the public. The Library has also been designated as a Hilbert Passport Event. Please stop by McGrath for the event and during any of our open hours to view the art and enjoy our library! Email Questions to askus@hilbert.edu.
Typical non-fiction reading excursions normally require delving into a history unexperienced by the reader. Reading history often includes learning of wars that have long since ended, posthumous accounts of a monarch’s reign, and evolutions of ancient political systems and religious ideologies. All of which passed before our perceptions had the opportunity to witness them.

Occasionally, a non-fiction work is published that addresses current topics and inspires the reader to engage in their own research on the subject. David Daley, the editor of Salon, constructed a highly informative, and provocative study of the Republican gerrymandering strategy for 2010 in *Rat**cked: The true story behind the secret plan to steal America’s democracy*. Daley does a masterful job of describing all stages of the strategy referred to as REDMAP, that culminated in the Republican Party’s continued control of Congress despite receiving less votes in Congressional races than Democratic candidates Nationwide.

As the 2008 election lopsidedly favored Democratic candidates across the board, the RSLC (Republican State Leadership Committee) devised an ingenious plan to commit large amounts of funding into State Legislative Campaigns. Republicans gained sweeping advances in the 2010 mid-term elections and plans were already in place to maintain control. The majority of State Legislatures have dominion over the redistricting process following each Decennial Census; control the State, control the congressional district lines. Utilizing advanced mapping software called *Maptitude*, a process of partisan districting began after the 2010 Census, most of which was conducted behind closed doors and in secretive locations by Republican controlled State Houses. The plan was simple in its theory and brilliant in its execution. Step one, grossly outspend Democratic incumbents in state elections. Step two, redraw districts to guarantee a Republican majority in the House of Representatives through 2020, and perhaps beyond.

Daley spends time travelling to a number of swing states to interview local politicians that have been “Rat**cked” by REDMAP. He traverses many of the congressional lines to describe the landscape and the socio-economic segregation of neighborhoods. One of many states effected by REDMAP that Daley describes is North Carolina, especially the 12th Congressional District: “That’s where they drew the district that has been considered the most Gerryman-dered in the country […], North Carolina’s 12th, with a perimeter of some 907 miles, essentially with the goal of tying together minority populations in four North Carolina Cities. It hugs I-85 so closely that in some places the northbound lanes are in one district and the southbound lanes in another.”

The numbers are startling, and they will beckon the reader to spend time vetting them. Through a careful examination of American Community Survey numbers and election results, a reader can independently review the demographic information in North Carolina to find that 54.6% of the African-American population had been packed into 4 of the 13 congressional districts allocated to North Carolina. North Carolina’s districts have now been challenged in the nation’s highest courts. (Continued on Page 6)
At times Ratf**ked reads like a travel chronicle, as Daley takes to the road uncovering portions of REDMAP, one city, one interview, and one mile of a district line at a time.

While his book focuses on the success of Republican gerrymandering in 2010, Daley realizes that “both sides have a long, successful history of manipulating redistricting for their own advantage.” Gerry-mandering has been around since its founder Elbridge Gerry redrew the lines of a Massachusetts State Senate district in the early 19th century, and it has been included in both Democratic and Republican strategy. Daley doesn’t eschew partisanship, in fact he spends a considerable amount of time particularly excoriating the recent shift to the right of the Republican Party, but he does reach beyond his Liberal bias. He is not campaigning for a Democratic rally to regain control of State Legislatures and redistricting committees, rather, his agenda requires more of a bipartisan cooperation to create districts that properly reflect the convictions of the body politic.

Ultimately, Daley wants to elucidate the paralyzing effects partisan redistricting has on representation. Representation is what is at stake here, and Daley is vigilant in his reminders to the electorate that partisan redistricting essentially bypasses votes.

Readers will feel a combination of intrigue, anger, and apathy while reading Ratf**ked. Daley makes no secret that the strategy was remarkable, even enviable. On a technical level, there was nothing done that was illegal, which at moments seems unbelievable when reading the cited emails that are included in sections of the book. This example was sent by Tom Whatman, a political operative for John Boehner, in regards to including the headquarters of the Timken Company within John Boehner’s district: “Guys: really really sorry to ask, but can we do a small carve out down 77 in Canton and put Timken HQ in the 16th. I should have thought about this earlier.” The population of the small piece of land that was converted into the 16th district territory is zero, however it does include the headquarters of the Timken Company, a donor and contributor to the Boehner Campaign.

By the closing chapters, Daley ends with his parting argument that regardless of which political party is redistricting for partisan advantage, the effects can be paralyzing to a representational democracy. Daley points out that a study conducted by the non-partisan, non-profit organization FairVote concluded that 373 out of 435 congressional districts are “safe seats,” meaning the only real challenge to those incumbents comes from within their party. This has the effect of further polarization of political parties as each experiences more pressure from their base rather than from their opponent, ultimately threatening those who are moderate and willing to work across the isle. Daley points to this as a cause for the recent shift in conservative politics further to the right and Boehner’s 2015 resignation serves as evidence of it.

In 2012, the new districts were put to work receiving 33 more congressional seats than the Democrats despite having 1.4 million more votes cast for Democratic candidates. Daley’s research consistently speaks for his premises. Ratf**ked is a highly enlightening and highly terrifying read.
NEW BOOKS

Malcolm J. Sparrow.

Terri Byers, editor.

David Willbern.

The Fringes of Belief: English literature, ancient heresy, and the politics of freethinking, 1660-1760.
Sarah Ellenzweig.

Literature and architecture in early modern England.
Anne M. Myers.

The war on cops: how the new attack on law and order makes everyone less safe.
Heather Mac Donald.

Getting gamers: the psychology of video games and their impact on the people who play them.
Jamie Madigan.

A primer of human genetics.
Greg Gibson.

Capture: a theory of the mind.
David A. Kessler.

Equal is unfair: America’s misguided fight against income inequality.
Don Watkins.
Hilbert College & McGrath Library Present:

A 2016 Hilbert College Passport Event

PLEASE JOIN US!
For Our Reception!
Tuesday, October 25, 2016
4:00pm at McGrath Library

*This Event is FREE and OPEN
to the Public!

*Includes Snacks & Refreshments!

Featured Artist:
*Ann Stievater (Still Life & Landscape; Oil Paint)

Poetry Readings By:
*Anthony Hughes
*Herb Kauderer

Music By:
*Emily Pawelski
*Christine Kuczkowski

Artist Website: www.annstievator.com