

SPRING 2024, ISSUE 2



MERIAM MEGAPHONE

a newsletter from the Meriam Library at California State University, Chico



FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHT TO READ

American reading levels have been far below grade-level for decades, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress. In 2022, only one-third of children were reading at proficient levels. When a child doesn't learn to read, their chances of incarceration, homelessness, and high school dropout increase. That's why Oakland-based NAACP activist Kareem Weaver believes literacy is one of the greatest civil rights issues of our time and is fighting for change.

From award-winning director Jenny Mackenzie, "The Right to Read" is a documentary that shares the stories of activist Weaver, a first-grade teacher, and two American families who fight to provide children with the most foundational indicator of lifelong success: the ability to read.

According to promotional materials available on the film's website, schools throughout the nation use reading methods known as "whole language" or "balanced literacy." These methods promote the idea that a child will naturally learn to read over time and encourage students to rely on context markers like pictures and memorization

"The greatest civil rights issue of our time"

rather than individual sounds and letters. Unfortunately, they've been proven not to work, but are supported by a billion-dollar industry that continues to sell ineffective curricula to thousands of educators who haven't been provided alternative methods.

Weaver knows the solution is simple: teach children how to read using explicit and systematic literacy instruction, often referred to as "structured literacy" or "the science of reading." Supportive research has been available since 2000, when President Bush called for a National Reading Panel.

Fed up with the bleak reading scores in his own community, Weaver filed an NAACP petition demanding change in Oakland schools' reading curricula. Weaver, working with Sabrina Causey, a first-grade teacher in the lowest performing Oakland school, goes against district mandates to bring in evidence-based literacy tools to see if they can turn reading scores around.

In Virginia Beach, Teresa Hunter and her four-year-old daughter Ivy work on early language—a crucial component of literacy—showing how parents can help children get ready to read at home. In Mississippi, the Adams family explores educational technology to help their son Fred Jr. learn to read before his third grade exams. Meanwhile, Weaver furthers his cause by calling out publishing companies that he believes prioritize profits over student success.

Fast forward two years: The Oakland school board finally meets the petition's top demand of implementing a new reading curriculum across the district; Weaver's work to mobilize national demand for literacy is taking off; Causey's students have some of the best scores in Oakland; Hunter's daughter Ivy is on track to read; and the Adams family have successfully helped their son achieve above grade-level reading scores.

Eighteen out of 50 states now require teacher training in the science of reading. For Weaver, this isn't nearly enough. There needs to be a widespread shift in how America thinks about teaching reading, from policy makers to teachers to parents. This film is a call for educators, policymakers, parents, and anyone who cares about the future of our nation to join the fight for every child's right to read.

www.therighttoreadfilm.org/about



watch the film and discuss
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10
5-6 PM
RESEARCH COMMONS

LATE NIGHT STUDY IS BACK ON THE 1ST FLOOR: SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY TO 11:45 PM

DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING RAD LIBRARY EVENTS

POETRY IS NOT A LUXURY

OPEN MIC POETRY NIGHT
IN HONOR OF AUDRE LORDE

TUESDAY, APRIL 23
5-6 PM
RESEARCH COMMONS



"I AM NOT FREE WHILE ANY WOMAN IS UNFREE, EVEN WHEN HER
SHACKLES ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM MY OWN."

REVENGE OF THE SIXTH STUDY WARS RETURNS

WE'RE CELEBRATING MAY THE FOURTH (BE WITH YOU) EXCEPT WE'RE DOING IT ON MAY THE SITH ON THE FORCE FLOOR! WAIT. IN CELEBRATION OF THE ICONIC STAR WARS FRANCHISE, MERIAM LIBRARY AND THE STAR CENTER ARE JOINING FORCES TO SEND YOU TO A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY! JOIN US FOR SANDWICHES AND MOCKTAILS ON THE FOURTH FLOOR AS WE GET READY TO LAUNCH THIS SCHOOL YEAR INTO SUMMER!

MONDAY, MAY 6
5-8 PM
FOURTH FLOOR

GOT A COSTUME? OR A PROP? BRING IT!



READING HOUR

Let's read together! You bring your favorite book or something you're reading for class, and we'll supply the space and the snacks for a little break from the grind on the 4th floor!

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 3-4 PM



INNOVATION LAB

ON THE SECOND FLOOR

COMMUNITY CODING

Got data and working on analysis? Got questions on using R or other programming languages? Great way to dedicate time to working on that project you've been meaning to get around to.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
MARCH 27 - MAY 8
NOON TO 3 PM

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT



Make posters in the Makerspace to amplify your voice for GSEC's event April 25. TBTN is the oldest worldwide movement to stand against sexual violence.

APRIL 22, NOON-2 PM

FINALS WEEK COFFEE BREAK

Don't let finals week get you down! Get back up with a hot cuppa joe and a snack on the fourth floor across from the elevators!



MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
MAY 13-15 9 AM TO 2 PM-ISH
FOURTH FLOOR

YOU CAN ASK A LIBRARIAN AND LOOK AT OUR POPULAR COLLECTIONS ON THE 2ND FLOOR

THE JOY OF PHYSICAL THINGS

In an age where digital content dominates, the allure of physical media may seem like a relic of the past. However, for many enthusiasts, the joy of holding and owning tangible forms of media transcends the convenience of digital downloads and streaming services.

There's something inherently satisfying about flipping through a graphic novel, turning the pages of a book, or admiring the intricate artwork on a Blu-ray disc cover. Physical media offers a sensory experience that digital formats simply can't replicate. The smell of freshly printed pages in a book or the nostalgia of popping a DVD into a player evoke a sense of connection to the content that digital files often lack.

For collectors, physical media provides a sense of permanence and ownership. Unlike digital files that can be lost due to technological failures or licensing issues, physical copies offer a tangible representation of one's personality. They can be displayed proudly on shelves or walls, passed down through generations, and cherished as tangible artifacts of cultural and personal significance.

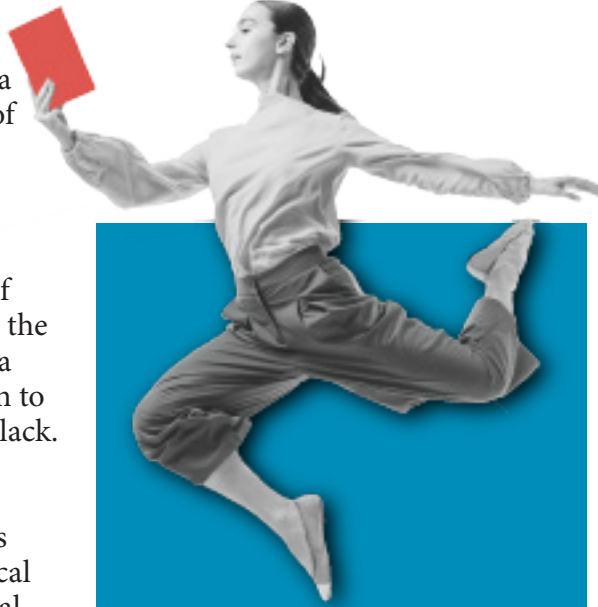
For libraries, physical collections offer a similar sense of permanence. Says Patrick Newell, a librarian at Meriam Library, "Physical library collections leverage a unique part of law that allows the library to lend the items in a collection to others. As our society grows used to digital environments that require us to license collections of content like

subscribing to a streaming service, we're using them more and more and paying for the privilege." Once you stop paying for these services, you lose access to these materials, he says. "Physical library materials allow us to buy something once and make it

available to hundreds or thousands of people rather than the student renting the resource themselves." Thus, physical collections, and the laws that surround them, just make great economic sense for universities and communities.

For cinephiles, bibliophiles, and pannapictagraphists alike, physical media offers unparalleled quality and authenticity. Movie lovers relish the crisp visuals and immersive soundtracks of Blu-ray discs. For book lovers, nothing quite compares to the tactile experience of turning pages and feeling the texture of paper beneath their fingertips. And for pannapictagraphists, the release of new titles carries forward the epic journeys found in their favorite comic books series.

In a world where digital content often feels disposable and fleeting, physical media offers a sense of authenticity and permanence that resonates with enthusiasts across various mediums. While the convenience of digital formats cannot be denied, the joy of owning or partaking in physical media lies in its ability to evoke memories, stimulate the senses, and foster a deeper connection to the content we love. It helps us remove ourselves from the stressors of the digital age, the constant bombardment and need for acknowledgement. So, whether you're a film buff or a bookworm, take a moment to breathe in the unique and singular beauty of the item you hold in your hands.



**Meriam Library
has an extensive
collection of DVDs,
popular books,
and graphic novels
available on the
second floor.**

MERIAM MUSING. As libraries evolved from private collections to public repositories of knowledge, librarians around the world faced the daunting challenge of managing increasingly vast and diverse collections of books and manuscripts. Enter Melvil Dewey, of Dewey Decimal fame, who recognized the need for a standard method of recording bibliographic information. Working together with Thomas Edison (of lightbulb fame), a master at legibly transcribing messages hot off the teletype, Dewey created Library Hand, a regulated method of handwriting characterized by clear, precise letterforms and consistent spacing that could be easily read and deciphered, even under the dim glow of gas lights (thanks again, Tom). Library Hand was taught in library schools until the early part of the 20th century when the advent of the typewriter rendered it obsolete.

CONGRATULATIONS TO APRIL GARCIA WHO WON THE 3RD FLOOR SCAVENGER HUNT!

MERIAM MORSELS

New and cool things at the library!

**ALL NEW MONITORS
COMING THIS SPRING!**

**MERIAM LIBRARY
IS GETTING**

57

**NEW 24"
STUDENT MONITORS**

8

**NEW 27"
HIGH-PERFORMANCE
MONITORS**

8

**ADDITIONAL MONITORS
ON THE THIRD FLOOR**

**AND WILL CREATE MULTIPLE
DUAL-MONITOR STATIONS
AROUND THE LIBRARY!**

IN OUR COLLECTIONS: THE LATIN BIBLE OF 1498

If, after reading the article "The Joy of Physical Things" on page 3, you imagined the satisfaction of holding something of great significance in your hands, then you should probably pay a visit to our Special Collections office on the third floor. Our oldest book, the Latin Bible, was printed in 1498, more than 500 years ago.

Commissioned during the height of the Renaissance, this extraordinary Bible artfully combines theological insight, linguistic expertise, and innovative printing technology. At its core, the Latin Bible, also referred to as the Great Glossed Bible, is an edition

of the Latin Vulgate, the standard Bible of the Western Church at the time.

One of the most striking features of the Great Glossed Bible is its extensive glosses, or annotations, which adorn the margins of the text. These glosses serve a dual purpose: clarifying obscure passages and providing theological commentary. Compiled from a wide range of sources including the works of Church Fathers, medieval theologians, and classical scholars, these annotations offer readers invaluable insights into the interpretation and application of biblical texts.

*Don't pay
the pay
wall!*

Oh no! You just found the perfect article for your research, but it's locked behind a pay wall! Never fear! The library may subscribe to the journal or magazine you're looking for, and even if we don't we will get it for you at no cost. If you would like more info on this super hero service, please visit the Circulation Desk on the 1st floor or "Ask a Librarian" on the 2nd floor.

TECH LENDING STAFF PICK



WHO DOESN'T LOVE DOGS AND GO PRO CAMERAS? NO ONE, THAT'S WHO! GO PRO CAMERAS ARE SUPER EASY TO USE AND WHEN YOU CHECK ONE OUT FROM THE INNOVATION LAB ON THE 2ND FLOOR, WE'LL ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS AND THEN YOU CAN KEEP IT FOR THREE DAYS! STRAP IT TO YOUR FAVORITE DOG AND GO!

Stop by and check out all of our lendable tech and the creative Makerspace in the Innovation Lab

BOOK DROPS



*Yep!
They're
a thing!*

Need to return your library book, but don't have a lot of time? We have two exterior book drops for your convenience! One is located near the library on Warner (just drive up!) and the other is located south of the front doors.

"DO OR DO NOT. THERE IS NO TRY." MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU ON THE 4TH FLOOR