FRANKENSTEIN
Penetrating the Secrets of Nature
A Traveling Exhibition to America’s Libraries

An Exhibition hosted by Booth Library
Eastern Illinois University
October 17 - November 22, 2005
Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature

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Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University
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Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature was developed by the National Library of Medicine in collaboration with the American Library Association. Major funding has been provided by the National Endowment for Humanities and the National Library of Medicine.

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to Booth Library’s fall series of events celebrating the influence of Frankenstein over the past nearly 200 years. Whether it was the reading of Mary Shelley’s novel that first caught your attention or the viewing of any one of the films exploring the monster over the past century, all of us understand, without a doubt, the enormous, lasting hold that this young woman’s story has had on society for so long.

In addition to the obvious educational merits of this series, such as arousing the curious, promoting scholarship, introducing the library and its website to a larger audience, and a myriad of other reasons, we hope to assist the students, faculty, and community members of our region to join actively into interdisciplinary discussions with guests and scholars from many corners of the University. Frankenstein is ripe with potential for sleuthing the interplay between the arts and the sciences, across literature, psychology, medicine, philosophy, business, and a host of others.

As our One Book, One University selection for this academic year, I encourage you to come to our announced discussion sessions on Frankenstein. These tend to be informal gatherings, sometimes with a leader and other times group-guided. Feel free to bring your lunch or a snack, whatever makes you comfortable. Come with a question or just to listen or interact with what others have to say. Discussion will also be a part of most lecture presentations throughout this series, allowing us to delve into many related topics as well.

I am indebted to so many of my colleagues for the success of bringing to Booth Library Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature, from Peggy Manley who assisted me with the grant proposal to the American Library Association’s Public Programs Office, to our presenters and guest scholars, the curators of the concurrent exhibits, the faculty and staff of Library Services, and our partners throughout Eastern Illinois University and beyond who have dedicated much talent and effort to making this series come to life. Our thanks also go to our sponsors, ALA, NLM, NEH, and IHC for their careful attention and expertise.

Let me hear from you. Please take a moment to write your thoughts about the exhibits and events so that Booth Library may continue to provide the best services possible in the future.

Sincerely,

Allen Lanham, Ph.D.
Dean of Library Services
Frankenstein
Penetrating the Secrets of Nature

Opening Reception
Thursday, October 20, 2005
7:00 p.m.
Booth Library Marvin Foyer

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley
(1797-1851)

portrait by Richard Rothwell, 1841
permission by CORBIS

A Traveling Exhibition to America’s Libraries
Welcome
Allen Lanham, Dean of Library Services and exhibit chair

Greetings
Blair Lord, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Presentation
David Raybin, Professor of English
Betty T. Bennett, Professor of Literature, American University

Recognition of Faculty Presenters and Curators
Ann Fritz, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Chair, Library Advisory Board

Closing
Dean Lanham

Refreshment Table
Blood Popcorn          Meringue Bones
Vegetable Brain with Dip  Finger Sandwiches
Laboratory Punch
Booth Library at Night, 2005

Joe Ethridge Photography (used by permission)