



## What Is CQ Researcher?



[CQ Researcher Online](#) is an in-depth, unbiased information resource with coverage of a range of topics, including:

- Arts, Culture, Sports
- Business & Economics
- Defense & National Security
- Education
- Employment & Labor
- Energy
- Environment, Climate, Natural Resources
- Government
- Health
- Housing
- Human Relations
- International Relations & Trade
- Law & Justice
- Media
- Religion
- Science & Technology
- Social Movements
- Social Services & Disabilities
- Transportation
- U.S. Congress, Presidency & Supreme Court
- War & Conflict

Each single-themed, 12,000-word report has been researched and written by a professional journalist, and provides:

- An Introductory Overview
- Background and Chronology on the Topic
- Assessment of the Current Situation
- Tables and Maps
- Pro/Con Statements from Representatives of Opposing Positions
- Bibliographies of Key Sources

CQ Researcher is available through the [Libraries Homepage](#). In the green "Research" box, click on the [Databases A-Z](#) link, then scroll down the alphabetical list or use the link to jump to the "C" section of databases.

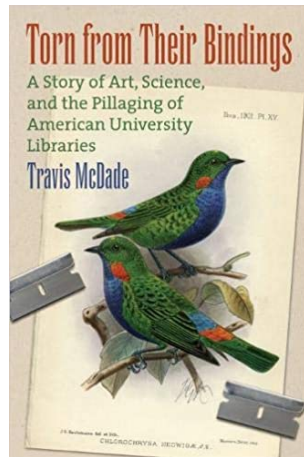
If you have questions or need assistance, our Chat and other online services are available at the [Ask a Librarian! / LibAnswers!](#) link on our Website.

## Contact Us

[Dr. Terry Latour](#)

Dean of Libraries

## Carlson Library Browsing Books – Tom from Their Bindings



Torn from Their Bindings: A Story of Art, Science, and the Pillaging of American University Libraries by Travis McDade. University Press of Kansas, 2018.

Late one evening in June 1980, a maintenance worker at the University of Illinois at Champaign was making his periodic inspection of the University library's a/c equipment when he stumbled over four large books strapped together in a pile outside the HVAC building. He called campus police and continued his work indoors. When police arrived they discovered that someone had carried the books across the street and had stashed them behind a hedge. Hiding in the shadows of campus buildings the police waited until one of the thieves returned for his loot. When he did the police arrested him.

The arrest of Robert Kindred uncovered a crime spree that involved the theft of thousands of rare, and in some cases irreplaceable, library materials including exquisitely beautiful lithograph plates and color illustrations from 19<sup>th</sup> century rare books, atlases, journals, and magazines such as Harper's Weekly, and The Illustrated London News. Kindred was a high school dropout with big ambitions. His accomplice, another high school dropout, had a criminal record. The pair removed plates by cutting them from their bindings with razor blades. They then framed the stolen prints and sold them to antique shops and home furnishings businesses.

Kindred, who favored three-piece, powder blue polyester suits, and his companion, who was usually dressed in jeans and a grubby tee shirt, were never questioned or challenged by library staff or the antique dealers who paid for the stolen goods. Kindred timed their thefts for the evenings when the libraries were mostly staffed with student workers or during the summer when librarians, busy with other projects, were not monitoring their collections or users. The pair traveled over 1,000 miles raiding the special collections of university libraries from Texas to Maryland, filling the cavernous trunk of a Cadillac sedan with priceless treasures. After Kindred was arrested, librarians from the University of Illinois spent weeks in the Champaign police station trying to determine the rightful owners of thousands of pages of stolen property. For the most part they were unsuccessful.

Travis McDade, curator of rare law books at the University of Illinois College of Law, is a leading expert on crimes involving the theft of rare books. Torn from Their Bindings reads like a crime novel as McDade recounts the depredations of the criminal pair whom he describes as the operators of an "art world chop shop."

Torn from Their Bindings can be found in the Carlson Library Browsing Collection, shelf location number Z702.K56 M38 2018.

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### The S.W.A.T. Minion's Tip: Why Computers Cannot Boot Instantly



Computers are "state machines". The problem is that the initial condition the computer starts with is not very useful to you and me. What **is** useful (a fully booted computer), lies millions of steps further down that 'state machine.'

To illustrate how a "state machine" works, consider these very simple examples...

- Vending machines dispense products when the proper combination of coins are deposited
- Elevators drop riders off at upper floors before going down
- Traffic lights change sequence when cars are waiting
- Combination locks require the input of combination numbers in the proper order

The easiest way for developers to describe the useful, running state of a computer is to define it in programs, and those programs will always take more than 'zero time' to run. While boot up times have definitely improved in the past few years, and will continue to improve as time goes on, there is - and will always be - a lot going on 'behind the screen' every time you start up your favorite computer.

## Cantankerous



**PRONUNCIATION:**

Kăn-tăng'kər-əs

**MEANING:**

Difficult or irritating to deal with.

Showing an ill-natured disposition; ill-conditioned and quarrelsome, perverse, cross-grained.

**PART OF SPEECH:**

Adjective. (Adjectives are describing words, like "large" or "late.")

**HOW TO USE IT:**

There are those who contend the hockey maven is a cantankerous old coot—rife with unpopular opinions and quick to assert them— Rick Harrison, Newsday, 19 Sept. 2004.

Although we do not "*repair*" computers, the **S.W.A.T. Team**  
(**S**tudents **W**ho **A**ssist [with] **T**echnology)  
on Level A of Carlson Library is always happy to help.  
Having an issue? Let us take a *swat* at it!

### Something To Think About:



*Beauty is not in the face;  
beauty is a light in the heart.*  
- Kahlil Gibran