

milne LIBRARY news

Division of Library and Information Services

State University of New York College at Oneonta

College at Oneonta Learning Commons

The Milne Library is in the midst of some major changes as the building is transformed into the College at Oneonta's new Learning Commons.

The concept of a learning or information commons involves the collaboration of learning support, especially library/research services and Academic IT services, to create a space where access to technology and reference service is combined. The model offers a one-stop, flexible, collaborative learning space, where information and technology services, tools, and equipment are conveniently available to students and faculty. Some models also include tutoring, writing help, advisement, and other learning support units.

At Milne, our Learning Commons will begin with the melding of library and Academic IT services. In order to accomplish this melding, the current Periodicals Room in the library will be renovated to accommodate many facilities that currently exist in separate locations around campus. Among other things, the new Technology Center will include the following: a lab of 100 computers; the Information Technology Help Desk, the Teaching, Learning and Technology Center (TLTC); several private spaces to create multimedia presentations; a presentation rehearsal room; and offices for Academic Computing staff. The Reference and Information Desk will remain on the first floor for assistance with research.

The Learning Commons as a whole will offer:

- Help using library and research resources
- Help using technology and technology applications
- Large state-of-the-art computer lab
- Multimedia Lab –with scanner, large format printing, other presentation formats
- Video production and editing facilities, with help
- State-of-the-art Classrooms for Library instruction and for technology training
- Collaborative study space
- Faculty Development Lab
- Laptop loan
- Digital equipment Loan—e.g. laptops, video and still cameras
- Wireless everywhere
- Comfortable and inviting, with refreshments in the café
- Possible for the future: tutoring help, especially with writing; disabilities services, other learning support services

In order to incorporate the new Technology Center into the library building, the library has been busily moving thousands of periodicals from the current Periodical Room (B2) to a new Periodical Room one floor below the current one (B1) where compact shelving has been installed. The new Periodical Room is located in space that was used for storage prior to its complete renovation. During this transition period, browsing of print and microform periodicals will not be possible, but all periodicals are available by request – follow the green link on the top right of the

library home page - “Periodical Request Form.” Print the form, and drop it at the Circulation Desk. Periodicals are retrieved several times a day on weekdays, then kept for individuals at the Circulation Desk.

Once the periodicals have been moved, construction will begin on the Technology Center. The initial phase of construction is projected to be complete by the end of the fall semester. The plan is to have the staff and Help Desk moved before the semester begins in January. If all goes well the new lab will also open at that time.

Milne Library's Instructional Program

One of the continuing goals of Milne Library is to teach students to retrieve and evaluate information for their academic work and personal pursuits. The library partners with teaching faculty members to help students both meet information literacy standards upheld by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and acquire competency in

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information management, as defined by the SUNY General Education 2 curriculum. The library's extensive instructional program includes a one-credit course, Library and Internet Research, taught both fall and spring semesters, and individual classes taught at the request of faculty members for first-year through graduate students.

Instructional efforts have developed into increasingly more collaborative relationships between library and teaching faculty members. Where these efforts have been most successful, library and teaching faculty members have drawn upon their particular areas of expertise to plan classroom presentations and design student projects requiring the identification, location, use, and evaluation of information sources. In the course-integrated program, librarians tailor instruction to the specific needs of each class and create materials to assist students in the completion of research assignments. Practice sessions are built into classes to give students the opportunity to use sources and strategies introduced by librarians.

Because of the high demand for library instruction, faculty members are encouraged to request classes at least two weeks in advance. Arrangements can be made through Mary Lynn Bensen, Reference/Instruction Librarian, either by phone (x2729) or by e-mail (bensenml@oneonta.edu). An electronic request form is also available on the library web site.

Library Gets Virtual Facelift

With all of the changes happening in Milne Library, we decided to undergo a virtual as well as physical facelift. Our website has changed, bringing a breath of fresh air to our virtual home. Among several

changes, the most visible is the new color scheme and design of the main page. Features of the main page include a drop-down menu to provide one-click access to all major sections of the page while a quick links menu places all pages in alphabetical order. The dropdown menu and quick links menu are available on each page; this choice was made so that anyone using our webpage can jump to any part that (s)he desires with no more than two clicks. Also, (s)he can avoid a trip back to the main page. Furthermore, submenus on the left of subpages provide links to other pages in that section of the website as well as other useful links for that section. For example, from the databases A-Z list, you can access the Ask-a-Librarian feature even though that is not found in the Find/Search dropdown menu.

In order to reflect user-friendly language, some page names have changed. For example, "Cyber Guides" are now called "Course Guides" and "Subject List of Databases" is now combined with "Internet Sites by Subject" to form "Research Guides by Subject" containing "Databases & Journals" as well as "Web Resources." Also, "E-journals" are now titled "Journals Available Electronically."

For those interested in the technical aspect of the website, this site is now coded in ASP (Active Server Pages) and CSS (Cascading Style Sheets). ASP allows us to run server-side scripts to generate information, such as the dropdown menu, so that changes can be made more easily. CSS allows us to separate the style information (fonts, colors, backgrounds) from the information on each page.

While the webpage redesign was a major task, it is still not completed!

A website is never finished, and the "Website Feedback Survey" form on the main page is the best way to let us know what you think (anonymously, that is!). Look soon for a redesign of the databases sections of each subject page (using XML). For any comments, feel free to email the web coordinators (Kay Benjamin and Logan Rath) at libweb@oneonta.edu.

Logan Rath

Reading Room

The library's new leisure reading collection is now available in the reading room on the first floor. This is a new set of almost 400 books made available through a leasing program from the Brodart company McNaughton Books service. The titles are mostly popular literature, with authors such as Stephen King, Lilian Braun Jackson, Nora Roberts, and Janet Evanovich represented. There are also more literary titles such as *All Aunt Hagar's Children* by Edward P. Jones and T. Coraghessan Boyle's recent novel *Talk Talk*. There are non-fiction titles available, from authors such as James Carville, Jimmy Carter, Al Franken, and Arianna Huffington. Self help titles, celebrity biographies, and memoirs are also represented. The titles in this collection will be rotated out as they become less current and newer titles will be added. It is hoped that this collection will appeal to students and faculty alike. Books will be available for the usual check out times and will circulate in the same manner as other collections. The popular reading collection is another feature of the updated reading room on the first floor. Comfortable seating and newer reading lamps should make this a nice place to relax and read, or to study or do research, as there are PCs available in the room. The room

also houses the current periodicals collections, recently relocated from the lower level as well as current editions of The Daily Star, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and other newspapers.

Resources for College Libraries: Locating Core Books and Internet Sources by Discipline

Would you appreciate an online tool to help you locate and review books and web sites in your discipline? *Resources for College Libraries* (RCL) is just the tool to do this. The principle behind RCL is the creation of a database of core titles across disciplines that are the best and most appropriate for the undergraduate curriculum. The database currently includes more than 60,000 recommended core titles. Titles are selected by over 300 nationally recognized subject matter experts. *Resources for College Libraries* is an online version of the old *Books for College Libraries*, but with many added features, including the text of *Choice* reviews.

What is significant about the online edition is that you can create a custom search. There is a terrific range of criteria you can use to customize a search:

- Keyword, author, title, ISBN, price, publisher, series title, RCL subject
- Only those with *Choice* reviews
- By format: book, internet resource, CD-ROM, electronic book
- Status: In print, out of print, forthcoming
- Audience: Upper-division undergraduate, lower-division undergraduate, faculty, general
- Awards won: American Book Award, Pulitzer, and dozens of others

By combining these criteria in various ways it's possible to come up with a list targeted to exactly what you're looking for. For example, you could search for out-of-print books on Vietnam that were reviewed by *Choice*. Or you could search for forthcoming books on child development for lower-division undergraduates. Once you have a list of books, you can create lists in spreadsheet form to be manipulated and/or sent to your library liaison to order for the library. Another way to use RCL is to look for a *Choice* review, if there was one, for a specific title. Yet another idea is to use RCL to search for web sites that have been recommended by *Choice*, then add those web resources to your course syllabus.

It's also possible to browse through disciplines and sub-categories, so that you see the full range of core resources. In addition, if you have specific call numbers you can also search or browse within a call number range.

The link to *Resources for College Libraries* can be found under the link from the library home page – Databases by Name (A-Z) under Find Articles and Databases. The library has unlimited free access: on campus simply connect via the link, and from home log in with the username oneonta and the password oneonta.

If you'd like more information or help in using *Resources for College Libraries*, feel free to contact Heather Heyduk at 436-3585 or at heyduk@oneonta.edu, or Kay Benjamin at 436-2791 or at benjamkd@oneonta.edu.

Kay Benjamin

Conference on Instructional Technology presentation on "Second Life"

Kay Benjamin and Nancy Cannon gave a presentation at the annual Conference on Instructional Technology (CIT) held at SUNY Plattsburgh in June entitled, "*Is There a Place for the Library in Virtual Worlds like Second Life?*" Second Life is an online world where members construct virtual 3-D objects such as clothing, furniture, vehicles, houses, meeting halls, gardens, and shopping malls. Individuals create a persona, known as an avatar, to move around the landscape in virtual form, interacting with others who are "virtually" in Second Life in the same place at the same time. Although Second Life has the look and feel of a gaming world, it is proving to be a world where people do the same things they do in real life: meet people, dance, play games, read, listen to music, and just hang out with friends and talk. Educators are exploring the possibilities of this virtual environment for teaching and learning. Librarians are as intrigued and engaged as teaching faculty, attempting to build libraries and offer information services that mimic or potentially go beyond those offered in the material world. Bradley University has a library in Second Life; so does the Alliance Library System (ALS) of Illinois. There's even a medical library. What, exactly, do these libraries "have" in Second Life and what do they do? Kay and Nancy's presentation visited libraries in Second Life, demonstrated what these libraries currently offer, and considered some potential uses of this unique and growing community. The Powerpoint presentation they used at CIT can be found at <http://www.oneonta.edu/library/kb/2ndlifeppt>.

Staff news:

Pamela Flinton has joined the staff as Head of Access Services. Coming from Fulton-Montgomery Community College as Systems/Electronic Resources & Serials Librarian, Pamela graduated from SUNY Albany with an MLS degree. She loves to travel, explore museums and libraries, read and garden. Pamela is looking forward to becoming a part of the group here in the Milne Library as well as the SUNY Oneonta campus community.

Anne McFarland has joined the staff as Head of Bibliographic and Digital Services. Previously she was at the National Baseball Hall of Fame as the Director of Archives and Special Collections. Anne has a BA from Gettysburg College and an MLS from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Logan Rath has joined the staff as Emerging Technologies Librarian. His previous position was as a Graduate Assistant with the Department of Library and Information Studies at SUNY Buffalo. He has a BA in Spanish - Adolescent Education and currently holds two NYS teacher certifications in Spanish (7-12) and School Library Media (K-12). His hobbies include technology, movies, coffee, and spending time with friends and family.

This summer, **Heather Heyduk** completed a six-week internship at the Preservation Department of Cornell University as part of the New York State Technician Training program.

Jennifer Gaston started in August as a Keyboard Specialist 1 shared between Access Services and Bibliographic Services. She was previously employed at Gordon B. Roberts Insurance Company.

Sandie Fritsch started in June as a Keyboard Specialist I in Circulation. Her former employer was Wilber Bank.

Library Hours: Fall 2007

Regular Hours:

Monday–Wednesday.....8 AM–12 midnight
Thursday.....8 AM–11 PM
Friday.....8 AM–10 PM
Saturday.....11 AM–10 PM
Sunday.....12 noon–12 midnight

October Recess:

Thursday, October 25.....8 AM–6 PM
Friday, October 26.....8 AM–5 PM
Saturday, October 27.....Closed
Sunday, October 28.....6 PM–12 midnight
Monday, October 29.....Resume regular hours

Open House: Saturday, November 10.....9 AM–10 PM

November Recess:

Friday, November 16.....8 AM–6 PM
Saturday–Sunday, November 17–18.....Closed
Monday–Wednesday, November 19–21.....8 AM–5 PM
Thursday–Saturday, November 22–24.....Closed
Sunday, November 25.....6 PM–12 midnight
Monday, November 26.....Resume regular hours

Extended Finals Hours: Friday, December 14–Friday, December 21

Friday, December 14.....8 AM–12 midnight
Saturday, December 15.....11 AM–12 midnight
Sunday, December 16.....12 noon–1 AM
Monday–Tuesday, December 17–18.....8 AM–1 AM
Wednesday–Thursday, December 19–20.....8 AM–12 midnight
Friday, December 21.....8 AM–6 PM

Intersession Hours: Saturday, December 22–Tuesday, January 15

Monday–Friday.....8 AM–4:30 PM
Saturday & Sunday.....Closed
Tuesday, December 25.....Closed
Tuesday, January 1, 2008.....Closed

Dawn Gage was recently promoted to the position of Library Clerk III in the Bibliographic and Digital Services Department.

Terri Rowe has been promoted to Library Clerk II level as Interlibrary Loan Borrowing Clerk.

Kathy Burnham started in September as an Interlibrary Loan Lending Clerk.

Nancy Cannon and **Kay Benjamin** gave a presentation at CIT in June on Libraries and Second Life. See the article in this newsletter for more information on this topic.

Milne Library News is a publication of James M. Milne Library
State University of New York College at Oneonta
Oneonta, New York 13820-4014
Phone: 607.436.2723 Fax: 607.436.3081
<http://www.oneonta.edu/library>
Editor: Jim Coan