Promoting faculty awareness of services, staffing, and projects
in Julia E. Crane and Frederick W. Crumb Libraries and the College Archives

College Libraries Faculty News

Fall 2012

New Service: Proxy Accounts for Faculty

The College Libraries is pleased to announce a new circulation service available to campus faculty and staff. The Account Proxy Service gives SUNY Potsdam faculty and staff the ability to authorize campus assistants to borrow library items on their behalf (including teaching assistants, graduate assistants, administrative assistants, etc). This service eliminates the need for assistants to borrow library items using their personal library cards, and instead allows assistants to borrow items using a special proxy account that links the loan directly to the requesting faculty or staff account.

Anyone interested in using this service should contact the circulation staff to schedule an appointment to set up a proxy account. Full information and service requirements can be found on the Policies and Procedures page on the College Libraries website:

http://www.library.potsdam.edu/about/policies/accountproxy.html

Did You Know: Consultations

Crumb Library offers on demand, one-on-one help – our Research Consultation service – for students who need to use library resources to complete assignments. Students can make an appointment by using the form available on the Libraries’ web page under the Help tab. This service can help jump start an assignment by searching for background information, identifying approaches to searching, and choosing appropriate resources. We can help students when they need to delve deeper into the literature of their topic, if they need to master the intricacies of online database searching, or in organizing their approach to research.

Students are welcome to make appointments whenever necessary – we can give help for different courses and assignments or ongoing assistance as their research evolves. While many students find the service on their own, we’ve seen that interactions with faculty frequently lead the student to make an appointment, so we encourage you to direct students to a consultation whenever they might benefit from a little guidance in navigating the increasingly complex world of databases and resources.
Welcome to the new and improved Information Literacy Tutorials! Last year, the library piloted online, self-paced tutorials to help students learn basic research skills. Given the pilot’s success, we’ve extensively revised the material to make it more engaging, interactive, and practical.

Access the "Research in Databases" and "Free Web" tutorials using the Tutorials Portal on the library homepage (http://www.library.potsdam.edu/index.html). Both are organized into short modules that teach students to locate information resources suitable for academic work. Students can complete them one module at a time, or finish an entire tutorial in about an hour.

If you'd like to require the tutorials as a graded assignment, we've designed an associated Moodle course and quiz. After the add/drop period, we will automatically enroll any students in courses with FC, FS, and FW General Education designators. If your class doesn't have the designator but you’re interested in using the quiz, contact Carol Franck (franckcr@potsdam.edu) to make arrangements.

We’re also available for face-to-face instruction sessions! If the tutorials don’t meet your needs, or if your students need advanced skills, please schedule a class using the form on the libraries’ Information Literacy page: http://www.lib.potsdam.edu/about/policies/informationsliteracy.html

Welcoming Abby Smith

The College Libraries are pleased to welcome Abby Smith, the newest member of our librarian team. Abby comes to us from the University of Michigan and holds an MS in Information Science. While in Ann Arbor, Abby worked on digitization projects in support of the University’s Google and Hathi Trust initiatives.

Abby will be serving in a new position defined as the Discovery Metadata Librarian, focusing on creating new digital collections of College scholarship and making our existing digital materials more accessible to all of our users.

Please join us in welcoming her to our community! Abby may be contacted at smithal@potsdam.edu, or x3311.
Undergraduate Archives Research Award

Beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year, the College Archives & Special Collections is proud to announce the creation of its new Undergraduate Archives Research Award. The award will be given to the undergraduate student who creates the best research paper or other academic project (including, but not limited to, creative writing, artwork, website development, and exhibits) that is based substantially on College Archives & Special Collections materials. The winning student will be presented the award at their respective school’s Honors Convocation, and will also receive a check for $500.

It is our hope that this new award will help further develop the culture of undergraduate research at SUNY Potsdam by increasing both the quantity and quality of research performed in our archives. If you are interested in exploring other ways that the College Archives & Special Collections can help support your curriculum please feel free to contact Matt Francis at: x3326 francimr@potsdam.edu or check out the College Archives website at http://wwwlibraries.potsdam.edu/about/archives/
Fall Programming at Crumb

Crumb Library will be busier than usual this fall! Here are some of the events and programs we’re hosting this semester.

- As part of our ongoing **Bregman Humanities Series**, Crumb Library has invited **digital humanist Stéfan Sinclair** to visit us on Tuesday, November 14th at 4:00 pm. (See lower box for more information.)

- Do you supervise a student group? If so, send its members to the **Archives Open House for Student Groups** on Tuesday, September 18th from 4-6 pm. Our College Archivist, Matt Francis, will share information on how a group can preserve its history by donating important records, documents, and artifacts to the Archives. Refreshments will be served.

- This year, the Human Resources department is coordinating a series of events about **Civility in the Workplace**, including a **book club series** at Crumb Library. Pick up a copy of *Choosing Civility – the 25 Rules of Considerate Conduct* and join us in the LTEC on October 10th and November 14th. (More dates to come in the spring!) The event starts at noon, so bring a brown-bag lunch.

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Digital Humanist to speak at Crumb

As part of our ongoing Bregman Humanities Series, Crumb Library has invited **Canadian digital humanist Stéfan Sinclair** to share his work with the campus community. Join us on Tuesday, November 14th at 4 pm, when Dr. Sinclair will give a **lecture on entrepreneurship and the digital humanities**. Light refreshments will be served.

Stéfan Sinclair is Associated Professor for Digital Humanities at McGill University, where his research interests include the development of **scholarly tools for text analysis and visualization**. He also creates his own tools, including MONK, which helps humanities scholars analyze textual patterns. For more information on his professional activities and recent projects, visit his web site at [http://stefansinclair.name/](http://stefansinclair.name/).

If you’re unfamiliar with digital humanities, it’s broadly defined as the use of digital tools to enhance traditional humanities scholarship. Projects run the gamut from online manuscript collections to text visualization tools to interactive historical maps. These projects not only allow faculty members to share their scholarship with a wide audience, but engage their students, who can **interact with previously static texts in an online environment**. We hope any interested faculty or students will take advantage of Dr. Sinclair’s visit and join us on November 14th!