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

What’s up with the basement?

If you’ve recently looked in the traditional place for books with call numbers A-C, you’ll have noticed that they’re... gone.

Really, they’re just on the 2nd floor, with the rest of the monograph collection – all of our main collection is now integrated, A-Z, in one run upstairs in Crumb.

So what are we going to do with the basement? Right now, we’re in a holding pattern, waiting on the perfect storm of institutional decisionmaking and capital funding. But when the moment comes, we’re ready to strike, and the plan is to build a new (as yet unnamed!) Instructional Development Center to support faculty. The space is big enough to house a practice classroom, a meeting and seminar space, offices for our colleagues who support the LTEC, ITC, and online education, and technology-rich workstations where faculty can work together to solve teaching and learning problems. We can’t wait to see what we can build.

Until then, we’ll experiment with ways to keep the space somewhat useful for student study, despite the weird empty shelves!

Inside this issue:

✓ Library Quest
✓ Status of the Archives
✓ New Databases and how we choose them
✓ Digital Humanities Lecture
Introducing LibraryQuest

Since 2008, the College Libraries have hosted an annual orientation for students enrolled in First-Year Success Seminars. Typically, the orientation takes the form of a two-hour open house staffed by librarians. Students visit poster stations around the library, receive information about vital services and resources, and complete a worksheet for credit. After receiving feedback that students don’t learn very much during this crowded, chaotic activity, we've decided to try something new.

This year, we're hosting a murder mystery game called Library Quest. Played over six weeks, the activity requires students to play an online game, explore Crumb Library, and take a Moodle quiz for credit. High-scoring teams have the opportunity to win prizes including $50 gift certificates to the College Store, $25 gift certificates to the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce, and some snazzy new College Libraries cold cups.

While we're excited about the new format, we're even more thrilled by the collaboration that produced it. As part of his summer course "Simulations and Games for Teaching and Learning," Professor Tony Betrus tasked two graduate students with designing a new orientation activity for the library. Guided by librarian input, the students wrote a narrative and designed a game that helps students to find clues about a murdered mascot. One of the students, Eric Ochranek, stayed on as an intern, and spent the rest of the summer building the game and creating a video that introduces players to the murder mystery. Louise Tyo, Director of Student & Family Transitions, generously facilitated communication with this year's FYSS instructors, while a College Libraries working group led by Elizabeth Andrews has been hard at work implementing and overseeing the game. By drawing on expertise and enthusiasm from across campus, we're able to offer first-year students a high-quality, interactive orientation that can be completed on their own time.

Library Quest wraps up on October 27, and thanks to Moodle quiz data and a follow-up survey, we'll be able to evaluate the new format and make improvements for next year's players. Look for more information on our successes and challenges in 2014, and in some improved library skills and research confidence in your 2nd semester 1st year students.
Updates from the Archives

When College Archivist Matt Francis left for a new opportunity at Penn State in June 2013, no one anticipated Dr. Hefner's college-wide hiring freeze in the fall of 2013. As a result, we spent the start of the fall semester quickly working out a short-term plan.

For the remainder of fall 2013, Senior Assistant Librarian Linda Hansen will be working in the Archives to meet basic research needs and support coursework. You may have met Linda at our Research Help Desk in the evenings, as she has been working as our evening reference librarian since spring 2013. Linda isn't a professional archivist, but she’s an experienced librarian with the intellectual curiosity to figure out archival practice and collections.

Linda is available to help all researchers – faculty, staff, students, friends of the college -- and looks forward to working with you.

If you have questions or requests for the College Archives, please contact Linda Hansen, hansenll@potsdam.edu or check out the College Archives website: http://www.libraries.potsdam.edu/about/archives/

College Archives
Open Hours, Fall 2013:

- Monday, 9-11
- Tuesday, 1-5
- Wednesday, 1-5

Additional research assistance available by appointment.
Course support available on request.
Please contact Linda Hansen for more information.
New databases for 2013, and how we choose them

With the expansion of online resources available to libraries, the question of what to purchase is a challenging one. Many databases offer content that covers many disciplines, and the wild disparity in how differing disciplines price scholarly content makes it difficult to compare what we offer for each subject area taught at the college. So we regularly ask ourselves: as we add and change our content, are we meeting the needs of our users?

In the summer of 2012 we stepped back and each librarian independently reviewed and rated how well our subject areas were being served by our online resources. As a result, we made strategic decisions to add new content to cover identified gaps. In the summer of 2013, we revisited our decisions, reviewed use statistics and re-evaluated our subject discipline coverage. The results are below.

New Databases Fall 2012

New databases (purchased directly by the College Libraries):
- Royal Society of Chemistry Gold Package
- America: History & Life
- Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text
- Historical Abstracts
- AnthroSource
- Sage Premier

New databases (provided through our SUNYConnect contract):
- Applied Science & Technology Full Text
- Education Full Text
- Energy & Power Source
- Entrepreneurial Studies Source
- Humanities Full Text
- LGBT Life with Full Text
- Social Sciences Full Text

Databases Canceled 2012
- ICPSR
- American Chemical Society
- Safari
- OED

New databases Fall 2013

Combined files with new content (created as a result of EBSCO’s acquisition of Wilson):
- Education Source
- Humanities Source
- Applied Science & Technology Source

New databases (purchased directly by the College Libraries)
- Anthropological Literature
- OED (Reinstated)
- America: History & Life: Full Text
- Historical Abstracts: Full Text

Free trial through 12/31/13
- Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)
- Nineteenth Century Collections Online (NCCO)

Bregman Speaker on Digital Humanities

Stay tuned for more information about an upcoming visit from Shawn Graham, an archaeologist and digital humanist from Carleton University in Ottawa. As part of our ongoing Bregman Digital Humanities Series, Professor Graham will give a public lecture on his work in digital history and archaeology on November 7. He may have time for a few classroom visits on November 8; if you're interested in having him speak with your students, contact Elizabeth Andrews at andrewec@potsdam.edu.

Newsletter created by Jenica Rogers, with assistance from Nancy Alzo, and Elizabeth Andrews.