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Since I have been at Penfield, this space has been used most frequently to describe the Library’s renovation plans. And while those plans are becoming more and more developed under the leadership of Library Director Mary Beth Bell and Provost Susan Coultrap-McQuin, life in the library has certainly gone on – students oriented to the library and instructed in efficient library use, materials bought and cataloged, thousands of reference questions answered, meetings called and attended, and library staff contributing to the life and vitality of the campus.

This fall marked the tenth anniversary of our annual “Food for Fines” campaign, in which overdue fines are forgiven when patrons bring boxed or canned food for donation to the less fortunate citizens of Oswego. We were able to donate over 1400 food items to the Oswego Human Concerns group in exchange for waiving almost $1200 in fines. Another exciting program occurred in October, when we organized hour-long noontime public readings for Banned Books Week. Seventeen students, professors, administrators and library staff members read aloud from political treatises, works of literature, and children’s books while enjoying marvelous weather with students and others on campus. We hope to make this an annual celebration of the freedom to read and the freedom to express ideas.

On Valentine’s Day Penfield hosted visiting poet Lee Ann Roripaugh for a reading of her quirky love poems in the café. Later in the spring we mounted a major presentation of “Drawings of the Children of Darfur,” a thought-provoking exhibit enhanced by a guest lecture by Dr. Darius Makuja, Assistant Professor of Religion at LeMoyne College and a native of Darfur, on April 8, 2008. The presentation drew a large crowd of students and others learning about this tragic situation.

Our annual book sale is just around the corner – this year it is April 21-23. We hope that all of you reading this will make the time to stop by and peruse the wide selection of materials whose sale will benefit the library.

Finally, this summer we are looking forward to hosting librarians from across the state for the 5th annual Information Delivery Services (IDS) conference. This will be the first time the meeting will be held outside the project center at SUNY Geneseo. We anticipate a great time for the 100+ primarily SUNY librarians and library staff who plan to attend. Venues for the conference include local restaurants, Campus Center facilities, and, of course, our own Lake Effect Café.

A great year’s work from a great library staff! Now, back to renovation planning…

David Clendinning, Associate Library Director
Banned Books @ Penfield

Each year Penfield Library joins thousands of libraries across the country in celebrating Banned Books Week – and our right to read.

We put up posters and displayed books that have been banned or "challenged" (books that some person or organization has requested to be removed from library shelves).

This year, for the first time, the Library sponsored public readings of banned books.

From 12:00 to 1:00 pm each day from October 1-5, members of the University community – students, professors, administrators, and library staff members – gathered to read from, and listen to, banned books. Those who participated all agreed that it was a wonderful experience, one which we hope to repeat in the years to come.

On Wednesday, participants read from banned children’s books. Above, Documents librarian Mary Bennett reads from Hallowe’en ABC. Upper right, Circulation staffer Carol Carter reads from the most banned book of 2006, And Tango Makes Three.

New Electronic Research Materials Available

Our suite of electronic reference resources has expanded again, and we’d like you to meet the newcomers. These are all available through the A-Z List of Databases & Indexes link on the library home page and through relevant research subject guides.

Grove Music Online provides access to The New Grove Encyclopedias of Music and Musicians, Opera & Jazz, with frequent updates and addition of content. Since the subject is music, naturally audio examples are included. (This requires only an easy download of free software.)

Full text for 59 core scholarly and scientific journals is now available through our new Psychology database, PsycARTICLES. Subject coverage for this resource includes general psychology and specialized, applied, clinical and theoretical research.

Finally, check out CQ Global Researcher, a collection of monthly reports on current international issues that provides an important supplement to the respected CQ Researcher. Search both simultaneously through any CQ Researcher link.

Barbara Shaffer, Reference Services Coordinator

Questions?

Not everyone has an IM account, but that’s no longer needed for chatting with a Librarian. There’s an easy to use chat box on our Ask A Librarian page, into which you simply enter your brief question when you see the message that we are “online.” Asking A Librarian has never been easier!
Penfield Loves Ya! – 2nd Edition

For the second year, Penfield Library has celebrated Valentine’s Day in style. This year we hosted visiting poet Lee Ann Roripaugh who read from her works on love-related themes – but not the usual ones! Check out her work at http://octopusgardenhome.blogspot.com/

Later in the day the library hosted a reception in honor of the unveiling of the newest group of Penfield Library “READ Posters.” It featured food and drink and live music provided by the Emeriti Septet.

Penfield Library Involved in First Year Orientation

During summer 2007 the library had the opportunity to give a series of presentations at the first year student orientation sessions. The presentations highlighted the top ten reasons to use Penfield Library. Throughout the presentation there were chances for the students and parents in the audience to answer trivia questions about the library and win a prize. The prizes included T-shirts and iTunes gift cards.

As a follow-up to the presentation, the library invited students to visit the library and enter their names into a drawing for three gift certificates to the campus bookstore totaling $200, which was held this fall when students returned to campus. The winners of the gift certificates were: Jillian Hyland, Christine Breese, and Ryan Gallagher, pictured below between Library Director Mary Beth Bell and Associate Director David Clendinning.

Guest Speaker Discusses Darfur Genocide

On April 7, 2008, Dr. Darius Makuja addressed an attentive crowd in Penfield’s Lake Effect Café. Dr. Makuja, shown at left talking with a student before his talk, showed a short documentary called Voices from Darfur and spoke on “Genocide in Darfur: Oil Interests and the International Community’s Inability to Stop Crimes Against Humanity in Sudan.”
No SFX in the Library

Over the past summer, SUNY dropped the SFX service from ExLibris (which provided linking from citations to full text) and replaced it with 360 Link, a product of Serials Solutions. You should notice little change in functionality, other than all SFX or Find Text icons have been replaced with “360 Link to Full Text” icons.

The new service also offers a link to ILLiad (Interlibrary Loan), which is useful if our cataloged materials are out or missing, or if electronic links do not work. All databases still display the “See if in Penfield Library or Online” text – which takes you to the same place – in addition to the image that “takes you where you want to go.” So don’t run in circles – let 360 Link do the work for you.

Tom Larson, Library Webmaster

New!
Lake Effect Conference Room @ Penfield Library

If you’ve been to the Library’s Lake Effect Café you’ve passed by a room that has undergone an exciting transformation. Over the past summer room 122 (just outside the Café) was renovated into a small group conference room. This space holds up to 10 people and contains a large flat screen TV for displaying a laptop image, cable programming, or video from DVD or videotape. Everyone is welcome to use this facility: students, faculty, and staff. This is one of the library’s first steps toward providing collaborative work/meeting space where students and faculty can combine group interaction with information technology for an engaging, effective learning experience.

Faculty, staff, and students may schedule the room in advance by submitting an online request form available on the library’s web site. Questions may be directed to Library Administration at 312-3554 or 312-4233 or e-mailed to refdesk@oswego.edu. Everyone may also use the room on a first come, first serve basis whenever it has not already been reserved. The room, available whenever the library is open, is made possible by alumna and former faculty member Barbara Shineman.

Chris Hebblethwaite

Faculty to Receive Journal Articles on their Desktops

In a new Penfield Library pilot program, SUNY Oswego faculty members will be able to receive all articles they request delivered electronically to their computers. This new service began in January 2008.

After determining that the desired article is not available in full text from the Library’s databases, the faculty member can simply fill out an Interlibrary Loan (ILL) request for the article. If the material is available in-house on microfilm or in paper, Library staff will scan it and notify the professor when it is available for his/her use. If the material is not available on campus, Library staff will secure access to it via traditional ILL channels.

We hope to be able to provide this service, as with Interlibrary Loan, with a target average of 48-72 hours (business days only) between the time the article is requested and when it is made ready for use.

If the pilot proves successful Library staff hopes to expand the service by Fall 2008. We welcome your comments as this new service progresses!

Michelle Parry and David Clendinning

The Teaching Professor

SUNY Oswego has recently subscribed to The Teaching Professor, a newsletter that comes out monthly during the school year. It will be of interest to nearly every instructor on campus. Each edition contains 6 to 12 articles that range from ways to engage students, to faculty time management, to assessment and evaluation, to the latest pedagogical research. In the October 2007 issue I found every single article thought-provoking, insightful, and useful. One described an evaluation method called “project-based” exams that mirror how students might use course material outside the classroom. Another was a very nice description of a “behavior contract” that explicitly laid out faculty expectations for student behavior. Another described how instructors who weren’t trained to teach writing can lead their students to write better papers.

In every case I caught myself thinking, “Gee, I’d never thought of that. I can see using that in at least one of my classes.”

Fortunately, it is very easy to access this fine newsletter. From the library web page (http://www.oswego.edu/library/) select the appropriate link for “Faculty Services” (http://www.oswego.edu/library/services/faculty.html). “The Teaching Professor” is near the bottom of the page.

Bill Goffe, Economics Department