LIBRARIAN’S NOTE

Happy New Year and welcome back for Spring semester. Last semester and over the break we arranged for some important database trials, and also sought to enhance our library instruction programs by offering more compact alternatives to the traditional class-length sessions. Remember too, that we like to have all library material orders in from faculty by mid-March to ensure delivery before the end of the fiscal year. All the best in the new semester, and we look forward to working with you!

NEW RESOURCES

During the fall semester, Geisel Library arranged for 30-day trial subscriptions of several interesting research databases, including Access World News, Cambridge Histories Online, and the Web of Science. However, due to the current financial situation, we have been unable to acquire any new databases or other online resources over the past six months.

NEWS & EVENTS

Expanded Menu of SLIPs

Last August, Geisel Library introduced a new form of library instruction: 20-minute presentations on a single topic that could be delivered either in the library or “on the road” in the course’s regular classroom. The menu of available Short Library Instruction Presentations (or SLIPs) has now been expanded to include several new topics. See our Library Instruction webpage for the latest list of SLIPs.

One option is 20 minutes of focused training on the research database of your choice. If your students will need to tap into PsycINFO, Criminal Justice Abstracts, Lexis-Nexis, or another specialized database, consider asking a librarian to come demonstrate various tips and techniques for getting the most out of that database.

According to a survey last spring, 91% of faculty respondents who brought classes to Geisel Library for instruction found the sessions either very (70%) or somewhat (21%) useful for their students. Please contact your department’s liaison librarian to ask about library sessions, SLIPs, web guides, or the other ways in which we can support your class’s research instruction needs.

Order Library Resources Now

Faculty library material requests will be accepted until Friday, March 19, 2010. Not sure what to order? You can search Choice Reviews Online for books and DVDs by general subject or key word. You can also contact the Library Liaison assigned to your department for suggestions or assistance in developing bibliographies.

Please send your requests to Betsy Holmes or your department library liaison. Orders are accepted in any format (email, catalog pages, phone call). Please be mindful of the deadline.

New Research Guides for Certificate Programs

Five new subject and research guides were created over the fall semester. These guides were created in response to new certificate programs at the college, as well as an increase in research on specific subject areas. The new guides are: Communication, Current Events, Ethnic Studies, Gender Studies, and Sports Studies.
Subject and research guides help students get started in the research process by directing them toward key resources in subject areas as well as resources that will improve their research and information evaluation skills. All subject and research guides can be linked from your course pages. For a complete list of available guides, please see our Research Help and Subject Guides pages.

Assessment Efforts Underway
Students often profess to understand how to conduct good research, but do they actually demonstrate these skills when producing research papers? A new sub-committee has been tasked with answering this question, as part of a college-wide assessment initiative. Chaired by Library Head of Reference Jeff Waller, the sub-committee is comprised of three faculty members: Brian Penney (Biology), Sara Smits (Sociology), and Keith Williams (English). The objective: to develop and apply a rubric that will measure how well students find, evaluate, and use information in the context of their research papers.

This spring, the sub-committee will be applying their draft rubric to a sample of research papers produced by Freshman English students. After refining the instrument over the summer, the sub-committee will then assess a larger sample of papers in 2010-11, both from Freshman English and senior capstone courses. This evaluation will provide valuable insight into our students’ strengths and weaknesses regarding the research process, and track the degree of improvement between the freshman and senior years. From the library’s perspective, we will be interested to identify areas of weakness in our students’ information skills, so that we can address these in our instructional sessions.

EBSCO Databases Go Mobile
All of Geisel Library’s EBSCO databases can now be searched on mobile devices through EBSCO Mobile. EBSCO Mobile is available on most smartphones (all phones must have Javascript enabled) but has been certified on the following internet enabled mobile devices: Blackberry, Dell Axim, iPhone, and Palm 750. It is optimized for large-screen mobile devices.

To search from your mobile device, enter the URL for EBSCO Mobile (or navigate to the EBSCO Mobile link on the Find Databases page on the library website), authenticate by entering your last name and Saint Anselm ID number, and select what database you want to search. Once inside the database, you can perform basic searches and access the PDF and HTML full text of documents right from your mobile device. To print out articles that you find through EBSCO Mobile, simply email the article citation to yourself to print the article at a later time.

On Depressions and Recessions
As the current financial crisis persists through a third year, some observers have commented on parallels with the Great Depression of the 1930s. Starting in January, an exhibit in the Geisel Library display cases will highlight library resources that can be used to investigate various aspects of the Great Depression and the current recession. For the Depression, researchers may wish to consult historical newspapers, government documents, documentary videos, and books that analyze the various agencies formed through President Roosevelt’s New Deal. To explore the current situation, helpful resources include business journal databases, industry profiles, the online Wall Street Journal, and recently-released books about topics like the housing bubble and corporate downsizing.

Friends of the Library
We’d like to invite faculty and staff to consider joining our Friends of the Library society. For a $15 annual membership fee, you receive a copy of our Friends Forum newsletter, plus invitations to our annual St. Bede’s Day dinner in April and other special events sponsored by the Friends. You can go online to read the latest issue of Friends Forum, which includes informative columns by several Geisel librarians. The Friends society has also collaborated with several academic departments to bring
speakers to campus. If you are interested in co-hosting such a presentation, contact Denise Paradis. The Friends of the Library can promote the presentation and arrange for refreshments.

High School Outreach
It’s a little-known fact that over the years, our librarians have conducted a number of instructional workshops for area high school students preparing to do their first substantive research papers. In early January, Geisel Library hosted a group of students from Bedford High School’s International Baccalaureate program, which requires its graduates to complete a research-based Extended Essay. Librarian Gwen Verkuilen taught them the basics of doing college-level research and provided them one-on-one assistance with their chosen topics.

Also in early 2010, Geisel Library will be offering a workshop for participants in the new grant-funded Humanities After-school program. This program will match up SAC freshmen with area high-school students, some of whom are refugees or immigrants while others are American-born. Their shared objective will be to research important figures in the Humanities from the native countries of the refugee/immigrant high-schoolers. Librarian Sam Urtz will give these students an orientation to the resources they’ll need to explore these “portraits of human greatness”. These outreach opportunities give Geisel Library a chance to make an impression on students who may soon consider Saint Anselm College for their collegiate studies.

NEW REFERENCE RESOURCES
Reference resources remain a great starting point for students who are investigating unfamiliar research topics, particularly at the freshman and sophomore levels. We continue to acquire new online encyclopedias for our Gale Virtual Reference Center, including two that are listed below. Here are several of our newest reference titles. New books can be viewed monthly on the Library’s website under New Library Materials.

American Presidential Campaigns and Elections
Ref JK1965 .A57 (3 vols.)
Published in 2003, this three-volume set contains 20-page entries on every US presidential election through 2000. For each election, the encyclopedia provides detailed discussion of the campaign issues, the nominating conventions, and the major-party candidates, along with a bibliography for further reading. At the end of each entry is a table of state-by-state election results, plus a sampling of primary-source documents that shed further light on the campaign.

Berkshire Encyclopedia of China
Available in Gale Virtual Reference Center
Across its five online volumes, this encyclopedia offers an interdisciplinary approach to Chinese history and culture. Written by both Chinese and Western scholars, the entries address people, organizations, places, events, and eras important to Chinese history. Also included are thematic essays on topics like environmental history, Confucianism, traditional medicine, and US-China relations.

Encyclopedia of Positive Psychology
Ref BF204.6 .E53 (2 vols.)
This encyclopedia summarizes the latest research in a new but fast-growing area of scholarly study. In contrast to branches of psychology that focus on pathology and disorder, positive psychology examines the factors that promote positive states of well-being and strong communities. Organized alphabetically, this encyclopedia includes essays on concepts such as coaching psychology, happiness, learned optimism, self-esteem, and successful aging.
**Encyclopedia of Social Problems**
Available in Gale Virtual Reference Center
This reference source offers interdisciplinary essays on major social issues in contemporary society, including both theoretical and real-world approaches for how to address them. Sample topics include domestic violence, homelessness, school vouchers, and urban sprawl. At the end of each essay, click on any of the “See also” cross-references to jump to related entries.

**Encyclopedia of Twentieth Century Photography**
Ref TR642 .E5 (3 vols.)
A highlight of this three volume examination of 20th century photography is its entries on individual photographers. Biographical information is accompanied by a discussion of the development of the artist’s photographic style as well as how their work went on to influence the work of others. Photographer entries are also accompanied by a list of significant individual and group exhibitions, works, and suggestions for further readings. In addition to entries on individual photographers, this encyclopedia also includes entries on movements, theories, equipment, and techniques that shaped the landscape of 20th century photography.

**History of Western Philosophy of Religion**
Ref BL51 .H575 (5 vols.)
With each of the five volumes focusing on a different time period, this encyclopedia presents the evolution of the philosophy of religion from ancient times to the twentieth century. Each volume starts with an overview of the philosophy of religion in the time period being examined, which is followed by entries on individual thinkers. Individual entries do contain biographical information but the majority of the entry focuses on how that individual developed their philosophies and how their philosophies contributed to the study of the philosophy of religion.

**Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World**
Ref DS35.53 .O96 (6 vols.)
An excellent example of a reference work that presents a topic in a truly interdisciplinary manner, the *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World* contains entries on religion, philosophy, history, culture, society, politics, and social institutions that shape Islamic culture. This six volume set focuses not only on the countries where Islam is the historically dominant religion, but also where it is a growing religion such as the United States, Britain, France and other European countries. A robust index and suggestions for further reading help the reader to discover related information on their topic.