



Library Link

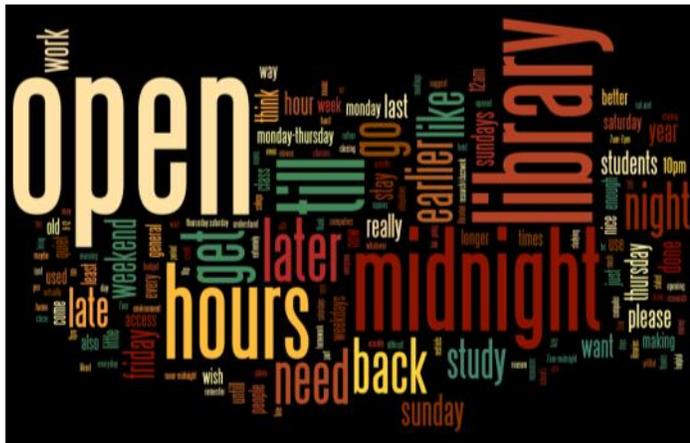
Spring 2012

Van Wagenen Library, State University of New York College of Agriculture & Technology at Cobleskill

Little Library Surveys— the Results

The Library ran a couple of mini-surveys last semester to help learn what users think about specific issues. The first was about our hours. We suspected that the move to closing at 10pm instead of midnight would be pretty unpopular. The results confirmed that suspicion, but not to the extent that we were expecting. 42.9% were actually fine with the current hours, including closing at 10pm. Of those who weren't satisfied, most of them wanted a return to closing at midnight. A few wanted more hours Friday-Sunday and/or staying open even later than midnight. The Wordle image below illustrates the full range of survey comments. What does all this mean? Well, when combined with our usage statistics and direct comments to Library staff, the survey results gave us the leverage necessary to get approval for staying open until midnight during the last two weeks of the semester. One student was so happy we were staying open late, there was actual squealing and jumping for joy. Moving forward into the spring semester, we hope to return to closing at midnight but it probably won't happen until the 2nd or 3rd week. Look for announcements via Sharepoint, Facebook, etc.

Do the current Library hours meet your needs?	
Yes	42.9%
No	57.1%



with 86% putting it in their top three. 'Use a Computer' came in second but was quite a ways back at 45%. Among other things, these results tell us that we should continue to provide a variety of work and seating areas— private study rooms, comfy chairs, tables, etc. For the spring semester we've added several more computers on the main floor, though they may not stay permanently. The older section of Wheeler Hall is being renovated and the machines from their computer lab were moved over here.

The second mini-survey was about what people like to do when they're here. So, we asked people for the top three ways they use the Library. The table at right shows activities making it into the top three of at least 30% of the respondents. As you can see, 'Quiet Study' was by far the most popular

Most Popular Activities	
Quiet Study	86%
Use a Computer	45%
Get Resources for Class	36%
Work with a Group	36%
Help from a Tutor	32%

We might run a couple more small surveys in the spring semester. They are a quick, easy way to supplement more comprehensive efforts such as LibQual+. Speaking of LibQual+, we'll be running that larger survey this spring (see p.2 for details).

Register to Vote @ the Library

SUNY Cobleskill's DisAbility Support Services Office (DSS) on the lower level of the Library is a National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) voter registration site. All students who register for DisAbility Support services or sign up for CASE services on Accutrak will be asked if they wish to register to vote. Asking this question of all students who register for DisAbility Support Services is a requirement of a United States Department of Justice Consent Decree and applies to all SUNY Campus disability services offices.



REGISTER TO VOTE!



Any student who wishes to register to vote in New York State may contact the DisAbility Support Services Office to receive a voter registration form. Students must have permanent address in New York State. The DSS office will process all registration forms for those students who receive DSS services. Students who do not receive DSS services should feel free to request a form, and may mail it in to the Board of Elections in their county of permanent residence. Mailing addresses for all Board of Election offices are on the form.

More information is available at www.elections.state.ny.us, or you can contact Betsy Briggs, DSS Coordinator at 255-5282 or briggsew@cobleskill.edu.

There was a reason why Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, and others of their generation believed the republic could not survive without libraries. They are embodiments of republican ideals. They pump the blood of a democratic culture, information. —Siva Vaidhyanathan

Take Survey → Get Entered to Win

Van Wagenen Library will administer a user satisfaction survey called LibQUAL+ this semester from February 20 through March 30. We'll be offering various prizes to encourage participation— including two \$100 Amazon gift cards! The survey will be open to all SUNY Cobleskill students, faculty, and staff. Watch for announcements via email, Sharepoint, the Library's website, etc. in February.



LibQUAL+

LibQUAL+ is a nationally-normed survey designed to assess users' perceptions regarding service quality in academic libraries. For those of you who have been around SUNY Cobleskill for awhile, this survey may sound familiar since we ran it in both 2007 and in 2003. Repeating the survey every few years helps us assess the impact of our efforts and aids in keeping track of users' changing priorities. If you want more information about the LibQUAL+ survey, please contact the Library (Library@cobleskill.edu; 255-5841).



Research Workshop Series

Instruction Librarian Fran Apollo's popular Library Research Workshop Series will begin in week 2. She has condensed it into 6 parts and is offering sessions at a variety of times so that everyone *should* be able to find a time that works for them. All workshops will be held in VW213 and will last about 30 minutes.



The first workshop in the series will cover finding books in our Library and elsewhere. Attendees will leave able to locate, choose, assemble, and utilize book material from various sources. They'll also learn how to sign up for and use Interlibrary Loan (ILL) to help complete their research needs.

Other workshop topics include understanding the difference between popular and scholarly resources, using information wisely and legally, internet privacy, doing research remotely, and more.

Attendance will be taken and reported back to instructors who may be granting extra credit for this activity. Classes are welcome but please make arrangements with Fran in advance since seating is limited (255-5858; apollof@cobleskill.edu). The full schedule has been posted on Sharepoint and reminders will come out as the semester progresses.

CASE Workshops: Study Skills, Time Management, & More

The Center for Academic Support and Excellence (CASE) is expanding its workshop series. Starting Feb. 1st, these workshops will be taught by CASE staff and others and include a wide range of topics such as math anxiety, time management, and writing college essays, to name a few.

Following is a sampler of just the February sessions. Please see Sharepoint for the full schedule. Contact CASE directly if you have any questions (255-5872; CASE@cobleskill.edu).

- Feb. 2, 5pm - Overcoming Math Anxiety (Christopher Warner & Wendi Richards)
- Feb. 6, 12pm & 5pm - Time Management (Laura Skinner)
- Feb. 8, 12pm & 5pm - What Type of Learner Are You? (Kimberly Liardo)
- Feb. 13, 5pm & Feb. 21, 12pm - Writing College Essays (Tammy Rehberg)
- Feb. 16, 1pm - Balancing Work, Family and School (Elizabeth Weir)
- Feb. 20, 12pm & 5pm - How to Read a Textbook/Active Reading (Laura Skinner)
- Feb. 22, 12pm & 5pm - Note Taking and Listening Skills (Kimberly Liardo)
- Feb. 27, 12pm & 5pm - Let's Ace the Test! (Margaret Liberti)
- Feb. 28, 12pm - Test Prep (Elizabeth Briggs)
- Feb. 29, 4pm - A Walk in My Shoes: Invisible Disabilities (Wendi Richards)

Recommended Reading

- 11/22/63*
by Stephen King
- Aleph*
by Paulo Coelho
- Damage Control*
by Denise Hamilton
- I Didn't Ask to be Born (But I'm Glad I Was)*
by Bill Cosby
- Changes*
by Mercedes Lackey
- All I Did Was Shoot My Man*
by Walter Mosley
- The Swerve: How the World Became Modern*
by Stephen Greenblatt
- Jagger: Rebel, Rock Star, Rambler, Rogue*
by Marc Spitz
- Bonnie*
by Iris Johansen
- Shock Wave*
by John Sandford
- Ed King*
by David Guterson
- A More Perfect Heaven: How Copernicus Revolutionized the Cosmos*
by Dava Sobel
- Zero Day*
by David Baldacci
- The Ballad of Tom Dooley*
by Sharon McCrumb
- The Litigators*
by John Grisham
- The Quest: Energy, Security, and the Remaking of the Modern World*
by Daniel Yergin
- The Affair: a Reacher Novel*
by Lee Child
- Heartwishes: an Edilean Novel*
by Jude Deveraux
- Steve McQueen: a Biography*
by Marc Eliot
- Second Nature: a Love Story*
by Jacquelyn Mitchard
- Snuff: a Novel of Discworld*
by Terry Pratchett
- The 3rd Alternative: Solving Life's Most Difficult Problems*
by Steven Covey
- Prey*
by Linda Howard

Art in the Library: 3-D Book Art Challenge

This semester, the Van Wagenen Library's Participatory Art Program brings you—the 3-D Book Art Challenge! This contest challenges you to take books and turn them into pieces of art by folding, cutting, stacking, carving, painting, tearing, or whatever your creative instincts demand.

Solo and group projects may be entered into competition and will be judged on creativity, originality, and best combination of media and theme. All entries must be made from actual books, and the books must belong to *you* not the Library (that includes other libraries like the one downtown). We'll have a stock of books here that you can safely use for your project. Also, just as we've included several examples of book sculpture here, we'll have pictures available at the front desk as a source of inspiration and ideas.

Please register for the contest at the Circulation Desk so that we know how many entries to expect.

The deadline for submitting finished pieces is March 31st but completed projects or large, multi-book installations may be submitted before this date. See Library staff for special instructions. Prizes will awarded April 7th.

This is the Library's first art contest. Our other art projects like paper snowflakes and painting construction walls have all been just for fun (see the [Fall 2010 issue](#) for more about the Participatory Art Program). We thought the element of competition, and of course prizes, would encourage participation—especially since this is a bit more challenging than cutting out a snowflake!

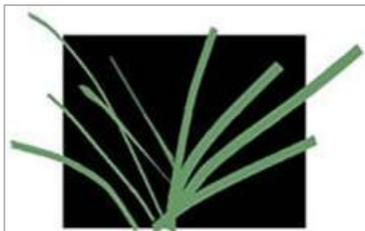
Can't wait to get started and have questions? Call Gina Brady to learn more (bradygk@cobleskill.edu; 255-5847).



E-Resource Spotlight: Turfgrass Information File

If you're interested in pretty much any aspect of turfgrass, the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) is for you. It covers the full scope of the turfgrass industry—from golf course architecture to sod production to the biology of turf pests and weeds. TGIF currently has over 180,000 searchable items and monitors over 320 journals and magazines, research reports, and conference proceedings. The database also includes records for extension bulletins, technical reports, scanned golf course plans, and much more!

While the majority of the database is abstract-only, TGIF now offers the full-text for a significant amount of material, with additional content being added continuously. The TGIF database includes some of the industry's best resources, such as *Golf Course Management*, *Sports Turf Manager*, *USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Summaries*, and *Turf News*.



TGIF began in 1983 as a cooperative project of United States Golf Association (USGA) and the Michigan State University Libraries' Turfgrass Information Center, with the intention of providing access to all published materials reporting on aspects of turfgrass and its maintenance. Once you've explored this resource, we think you'll agree that they are getting closer and closer to meeting that ambitious goal.

Like all of our research databases, TGIF is available 24/7 from the Electronic Databases section of the Library's website (www.cobleskill.edu/library/electronic-databases.asp). Please let us know if you have any questions about this database, or any of our other resources (255-5841; Library@cobleskill.edu; or text to 66746, keyword *asklib*).

What *is* that funky thing?

It's a QR code! This particular code generates a text message to the Library's Text a Librarian service. It puts in the number (66746) and the keyword (asklib)— the user just has to type in their question and hit send.



How do I use it? You use an app on your smart phone, iPad, or other camera-equipped mobile device to scan the code ([demo video online](#)). Some devices come with a barcode scanning app installed. If yours doesn't, free apps are easy to find. Barcode Scanner and Red Laser are both good and are available for Android, iPhone, and iPad; Barcode Scanner is also available for Blackberry, or ScanLife Auto is another good choice. Among other things, you can use these same apps to scan barcodes on items at the grocery store or mall to do price checks at other stores.

QR codes can do lots of things and you've probably noticed them popping up all over the place. They can take you to a website, launch a YouTube video, dial a phone number, add a contact to your phone, serve as a movie ticket or store coupon, and much more. QR codes can even look cool and creative ([examples online](#)). We've been thinking of different ways these codes could be useful in the Library so don't be surprised if more of them show up soon.

From the Dean



Happy New Year! In reading our newsletter, you'll see that we are in assessment mode. Besides our successful quick user feedback surveys, we're hoping for your participation in our LibQual+ survey. I'll admit, it's a pretty dry & boring survey, but we promise—we will utilize all of the data collected! The original expansion of building hours and addition of a popular reading collection were the direct result of earlier LibQual+ surveys. From a different perspective, our participation contributes to a larger national collective of data that can be used by all higher education practitioners.

Please note, I am retaining my long hair photo for the newsletter. Why? It's an ok picture of me and I enjoy seeing my long hair—it seems like eons ago! I want to say thanks to the entire campus for all of the kind words, encouragement, and support that you gave me. I especially want to thank the entire Library staff for assistance and support during my recovery. I'm looking forward to a wonderful semester and remember, the Library wants to hear from you!

Staff News

Fran Apollo continues to serve on the editorial board of *Public Services Quarterly*, a peer-reviewed journal covering a broad spectrum of public service issues in academic libraries.

April Davies is coordinating the Library's participation in a pilot program for consortial purchasing of ebooks. The pilot includes several other SUNY campuses as well as a number of private colleges and a couple of public library systems.

Kim Liardo joined the staff down in CASE this past fall as a MERITS Coordinator and professional tutor for BIO111. She has also been teaching the BIO111 Lab and FFCS. Kim received her Biology degree from Boston College and has studied Healthcare Law at Albany Law School.



Elisa Lopez also became part of the CASE staff during the

fall semester. She has bachelor's degrees in Linguistics and Music Performance and an equivalent bachelor's in English from SUNY Albany. Elisa is a familiar face at SUNY Cobleskill since she worked in the Offices of Extended Learning and Professional and Continuing Education before coming over to the Library.



Education from the College of St. Rose.

Tammy Rehberg is now working part-time in CASE as Manager of the Writing Center. She will oversee the hiring and training of writing tutors, as well as work with faculty to provide support for classroom writing assignments. Tammy has 10+ years of teaching experience, from elementary to college level, and an MS in Special

Library Hours for Spring 2012

Mon.-Thurs.	7:00am-10:00pm*
Friday	7:00am-5:00pm
Saturday	10:00am-4:00pm
Sunday	2:00pm-10:00pm*

Library Café open until Midnight

** closing time changes to Midnight 2nd week— watch for announcement*

Calendar

- Jan. 23
First Day of Classes
- Jan. 28
National Kazoo Day
- Feb. 1
National Freedom Day
- Feb. 22
Washington's Birthday
- Feb. 28
Floral Design Day
- March 10-18
Spring Break
- March 11
Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 16
Freedom of Information Day
- April 6-14
Passover
- April 8
Easter Sunday
- April 22
Earth Day
- May 12
Graduation



Text a Librarian

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