



Fall 2002

Library Link

Van Wagenen Library, State University of New York at Cobleskill

Making Strides Towards Greater Information Literacy

Instruction Librarian Fran Apollo recently returned from Immersion '02 (Track 1) at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Immersion is an intensive 4.5 day teaching institute for instruction librarians sponsored by the Association of College & Research Libraries.

This highly competitive, invitational institute covers many topics including the psychology of learning, presentation techniques, assessment, and moving from bibliographic instruction to information literacy. Since SUNY Cobleskill is about to begin our 4th academic year of embedding information literacy into the curriculum this was one of the most valuable issues for our campus.

General Education requirements, accreditation boards and sound instruction methods were recurring themes among the librarians who are helping their institutions move in the direction that we took in August 1999. The faculty at Immersion, nationally-known librarians and teachers, confirm that SUNY Cobleskill is on the right track!

The Early Childhood division is the first to benefit from the material and enthusiasm that Fran has

brought "home." Fran and Nancy Van Deusen have created a handbook to assist the teaching faculty in incorporating Information Literacy; complete with several assignments. They are also asking ECHD faculty to indicate specific skills required in each class so that they can suggest, or create, assignments to help reinforce the importance of such skills across the entire program.

Every division will have an opportunity to tap into these reinvigorated efforts during the next few months. For those of you who don't want to wait, take a look at the Information Literacy tutorial we've added to our website (www.cobleskill.edu/library/infolit/home.htm). Contact Fran Apollo (255-5858 or apollof@cobleskill.edu) to learn more about how to make Information Literacy an integral part of *your* classes, too!

Embedding Info. Lit. skills into the curriculum gets results! Students are better prepared to complete assignments and the skills are more likely to stick!

SFX: Coming Soon to a Computer Near You

The Van Wagenen Library is in the midst of testing the SFX linking software. SUNY Cobleskill was selected as one of three pilot sites, along with Binghamton and Fredonia, by the SUNYConnect Advisory Council from the various SUNY libraries that have expressed interest in implementing SFX.

SFX enables libraries to link various online resources to provide for more integrated searching. As an example, let's say a user is searching for journal articles on freshwater fish in FirstSearch. They find a citation for what looks like a perfect article but FirstSearch only has the abstract. Without SFX, the user would then have to try other likely databases hoping for the full-text of the article. With SFX, there are two primary benefits. First, SFX will allow that user to quickly find out if the full-text of the article is indeed available in another database, such

as Science Direct. Second, it will let them link right over to that other database, and in some cases it goes right to the article in question.

The linking capabilities of SFX can provide and expand many library services... online Interlibrary Loan requests when the full-text just isn't available online; email directly to a Reference Librarian when you have questions; links to quality Internet search engines to expand your search beyond the journal databases; and more!

We hope to have SFX up and running before the end of the semester. If you have any questions about SFX or the implementation process please contact either Kelly MacWatters (255-5894 or macwatks@cobleskill.edu) or Nancy Van Deusen (255-5842 or vandeun@cobleskill.edu).

“Gift a book” Campaign Gets Going

The Library has launched a new fundraising campaign called simply, “Gift a book.” The campaign is designed to make the most of our donors’ contributions while making donating itself easy and more personal.

We’ve designed a simple form that donors can use to tell us what sort of book they’d like the Library to get and

Gift a book...

~ for your birthday,
~ in memory of a loved one,
~ or just because you feel like it!

note, and a check complete the process on the donor’s end.

We take it from there— that’s right, we even do the shopping! We do this because it make things that much simpler for our donors and because libraries can purchase materials at special prices that are not available to the general public. This enables us to make every donated dollar go that much further.

Donation forms are available at the Library as well as on our website (www.cobleskill.edu/library). If you have any questions or comments about the “Gift a book” campaign please contact Patti McCall (255-5887 or mccallpc@cobleskill.edu).

New Assignment Templates Online

Instruction Librarian Fran Apollo is well known for helping classroom faculty design effective research assignments. We’ve taken a number of her assignment templates and added them to the faculty area of our website (www.cobleskill.edu/library).

The various assignments address: citation formats; evaluating information from websites; defining paper topics; the difference between magazines and journals; how to search online databases; and so much more. Please, take a few minutes and check out this valuable resource.

As always, Fran is available to help design assignments tailored specifically to your needs, or to answer any questions you may have (255-5858 or apollof@cobleskill.edu).

USA PATRIOT Act Prompts Review

The passage of the USA PATRIOT Act in Oct. 2001 made for a lot of questions regarding the privacy of our records. The Library has completed a review of our policies regarding retention and disclosure of information and we are prepared to deal with any questions that may arise in this area. A packet has been put together which includes our current policies and some background material. It will be available at the Circulation Desk if anyone would like to see it. Please contact April Davies if you have any questions or comments (255-5887 or daviesac@cobleskill.edu).

Seen & Heard

“While I oppose capital punishment, anyone caught cutting a page out of a book in a library should be put to death.”

— Andy Rooney (quote seen on a librarian’s office door)

Monday, the clerk said, “Why is it so doggone warm in here?!” Tuesday, the same clerk said, “Why is it so doggone cold in here!?”

“If I were to sit on my hands I’d have nothing to say.” — One of the librarians (we all know which one)

“So much toilet paper, so little time...” (a sign seen at the site of a practical joke)

Restructured Fines

Due to rising costs the Library will be forced to raise the level of some fines. Starting this semester, overdue fines for regular materials (books, videos, etc.) will be \$1 per day, with a maximum fine of \$10. The fines for equipment (notebook computers, cameras, etc.) are under review and will be announced as soon as a final decision is made.

On a related note, the maximum number of items that can be checked out by students and community borrowers will be changed to 15. Please contact Kelly MacWatters (255-5894 or macwatks@cobleskill.edu) if you have any questions about these changes.

Print & E-Journal Lists Now Online

Have you ever wondered if the Library has Business Week? or if the Los Angeles Times is available full-text in one of our databases? Well, it just got a lot easier to find out. The “Library Periodical List” and the “Electronic Journal List” are now available on our website (www.cobleskill.edu/library). The “Library Periodical List” will still be available in the ever-popular paper format as well.

Library Hours for Fall 2002

Monday-Thursday	8:00 am-10:00 pm
Friday	8:00 am-5:00 pm
Saturday	11:00 am-3:00 pm
Sunday	2:00 pm-10:00 pm