



Library Link

Spring 2003

Van Wagenen Library, State University of New York at Cobleskill

Plagiarism Issues, Plagiarism Responses

There is no getting around it, plagiarism is like a plague on our academic house. Studies show that many students don't even see plagiarism as a bad thing. Schools that prided themselves on academic integrity have been hit hard—witness recent events at the University of Virginia. We here at SUNY Cobleskill definitely see our share of cases. Every single semester sees teaching faculty coming to the Library for help in dealing with plagiarism.

We currently provide several tools to students to guide them through the research process. The Library has also developed a section of plagiarism resources on the faculty area of our website (www.cobleskill.edu/library) to provide information and to assist with detection as necessary.

However, combating plagiarism on an ad hoc basis will never make a substantive dent in the problem. A two-

Common Forms of Plagiarism

- *Copying or paraphrasing portions of text without attribution*
- *Flat-out obtaining an entire paper from a website or another student*
- *Using original ideas or conclusions without attribution*

pronged attack seems to be a stronger plan—education and detection.

The first step in really fighting plagiarism is, of course, education. Cheating is nothing new; modern technologies just make it so much easier. Teaching faculty need to continue to make this an issue with students—define common forms of plagiarism, make sure they know how to avoid it, and make doubly sure that they know the penalties for it. Instruction Librarian Fran Apollo (255-5858 or apollof@cobleskill.edu) is a great source of help for such efforts. She is available to help design customized assignments for different subject areas and skill levels.

In addition to continued emphasis in the classroom, faculty need to be able to systematically detect plagiarism. Simply entering suspect passages into a good web search engine such as Google can often find the source of web plagiarism. Unfortunately, that can get quite time consuming when dealing with 70 or more students. The Library is currently investigating plagiarism software. Programs such as Turnitin and EVE compare student papers to large numbers of Internet documents as well as to their own databases of previously submitted material. We hope to bring one of these valuable tools to the SUNY Cobleskill campus in the near future.

Information Literacy and the Conference on Instructional Technologies

This past fall we introduced the *Handbook for Integrating Information Literacy/Library Skills Into the Early Childhood Program*. Early Childhood faculty have been using the handbook for a semester now and it's a hit!

The handbook can be used directly with students or as a resource for faculty. It has two main sections. The first includes a "tour" of the Van Wagenen Library. Along the way it explains things like how the basic research process works, how to read call numbers, how to search online journal databases, and much more. The second section contains customized assignment templates. The primary purpose of these lessons is to help teach information literacy skills within the regular curriculum. This allows the student to really connect such skills to what they are actually doing; it's not set aside as some separate thing that doesn't seem to relate to the course. This effort is not confined to just one or two introductory classes; as students move through the program, information skills are

reinforced and carried over into other courses.

In addition to the success of the handbook with the EC division itself, it has also been well received outside of the SUNY Cobleskill community. Instruction Librarian Fran Apollo has been asked to submit a proposal to the upcoming Conference on Instructional Technologies. The theme of CIT 2003 is "Collaborations for Success." Integrated information literacy efforts such as ours will be one of the main tracks at the conference.

The task now before us is to continue to improve information literacy efforts for the whole campus. Each division and department has the chance to get it on it. A customized handbook for Agricultural Engineering, another one for Sociology—it will happen! Teaching faculty need to be involved in the process to make it a true success. Not to mention that such efforts look great in a promotion binder. Contact Fran Apollo at 255-5858, or by email at apollof@cobleskill.edu, to learn more.

SFX Goes Primetime

SFX has been up and running for a semester now and it has been a big hit with students and faculty alike. SUNY Cobleskill was one of three pilot sites for this software during Fall 2002. Most of the other SUNY schools are now working to bring SFX up at their libraries, too.

SFX software enables libraries to link various online resources to provide for more integrated searching. If a user is searching for journal articles on social inequality in Ebsco's MasterFile Select and they find an interesting article but only the abstract is available—a quick click on the SFX link will let them check other databases for full-text of the article. If the full-text is available, perhaps from one of the InfoTrac databases, another quick click will take them right there. If online full-text is just

not available, a different click goes straight to an Interlibrary Loan request form.

SFX has proven to be very useful. Students especially like it when they're searching from their dorm rooms. If it seems like they've run into a wall with a search, SFX can often show them a route around the problem by pointing the way to another database.

The various linking capabilities of SFX serve to enhance library services. Only time will tell just how far we can take it. If you have any questions or comments about SFX please contact Kelly MacWatters at 255-5894, or by email at macwatks@cobleskill.edu.

*A quick click
on an SFX
link can
really take
you places!*

Library Hours for Spring 2003

Mon.-Thurs.	8:00am-10:00pm
Friday	8:00am-5:00pm
Saturday	11:00am-3:00pm
Sunday	2:00pm-10:00pm

Staff Changes

We are pleased to welcome Barbara Ruland back to the Library as Library Clerk II in Acquisitions & Serials starting January 2, 2003. Barbara will be trying to fill the shoes of the recently retired Rolene Mau. We wish Rolene a long and happy journey!

Recommended Reading

Blood Brothers by Elias Chacour & David Hazard

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

LAND Speed

January 2003 brings the launch of a new statewide Interlibrary Loan (ILL) delivery service—Libraries and Nylink Deliver (LAND). LAND will significantly speed up the shipping time for most ILL items.

The LAND system divides the state into two regions, North and South. Shipments within each region will be overnight while those between regions will take two days. This means that the delivery time between SUNY Cobleskill and Brockport or Albany (two of our common sources) will be just one day instead of 5-7 days! Overall ILL turnaround time, when dealing with other LAND libraries, should be reduced by half. ILL is an extremely valuable service and we are excited about this new enhancement to it.

If you would like to know more about LAND, or ILL, feel free to contact Fran Apollo at 255-5858, or by email at apollof@cobleskill.edu.

"Gift a Book" Gets Results

The first few months of the "Gift a Book" fundraising campaign have brought in nearly \$1000 worth of material. The Library would especially like to thank William Murabito, Marilyn Barnes, Patti McCall, and Christy Gillespie for their generous donations.

We are seeing good signs that the coming semester will bring continued support for the campaign. Anyone interested in participating can find donation forms at the Library as well as on our website (www.cobleskill.edu/library). If you have any questions about "Gift a Book" please contact Nancy Van Deusen at 255-5841, or by email at vandeun@cobleskill.edu.

Upcoming LibQUAL+ Assessment

LibQUAL+ is a web-based "assessment survey" designed to "[measure] library users' perceptions of service quality." In simpler terms, it will tell us what people think the Library is doing right and what they think needs some work. This nationally-normed survey will be conducted at more than 75 academic and public research libraries in New York State during Spring 2003. New York's efforts are being coordinated by the New York 3Rs Councils and supplemented by a grant from the federal Library Service and Technology Act.

The Library hopes to administer the LibQUAL+ survey to the entire campus community. Look for more information about our participation in LibQUAL+ to appear in your mailbox in the coming weeks. In the meantime, to learn more, please contact Kelly MacWatters (255-5894 or macwatks@cobleskill.edu) or visit the NY3Rs' website (www.ny3rs.org/AboutLibQUAL.html).

Website Highlight: NetLibrary

NetLibrary is one of the many benefits of our affiliation with SUNYConnect. NetLibrary offers online access to books on any number of topics, from SQL to canapés—all in the comfort of your office (or wherever). Full privileges require setting up an account but don't be put off by it, any expenses have already been taken care of.

To try out NetLibrary for yourself, simply go to the Library's home page (www.cobleskill.edu/library). Choose Research a Subject/Find Books/Net Library, and take it from there. A couple of minutes later you are on your way! Any of the Reference librarians can help you get started if you'd like a little assistance.