



Library Link

Van Wagenen Library, State University of New York at Cobleskill

Restoration of Library Hours

Last semester's experiment in expanding some hours while cutting others was a success, mostly. Everyone liked that the Center for Academic Support and Excellence (CASE) was open an extra hour and that the Library Café was staying open until midnight during the week. However, as much as people liked these two changes, they really hated that we cut the hours of the library itself. This give-and-take was financially necessary—we couldn't expand CASE's hours without cutting the library's—but it did lead to something positive.

People hated the reduction in library hours so much that

they stood up and said so. Largely as a result of this public support, the campus administration has found the funds needed to keep both the library and CASE open until 10:00pm Sunday through Thursday. The Library Café will remain open until midnight, now seven days a week. Friday and Saturday hours are still unchanged. (see p. 2 for Spring Semester hours)

We hope that we can further expand our hours and our services in the future. For now, thank you for speaking up and letting us (and everyone else) know that you think the library is an important part of the campus community!

Information Literacy Task Force

In the Fall 2005 semester, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Anne Myers asked Fran Apollo to convene an Information Literacy Task Force to educate the campus about information literacy and devise plans for integrating information literacy into every curriculum. The group has its charge from Dr. Myers and will be reporting their findings to her in April 2006.

Now you're probably asking yourself, "What exactly is information literacy, and why do I care?" In a concise form, information literacy is "an intellectual framework for identifying, finding, understanding, evaluating and using information." (Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 2002) This is a hot topic in higher education today. More and more classroom faculty around the country

are discovering the value of weaving information literacy into their curricula. This integration usually results in a general improvement in the quality of student papers and in students being more likely to carry these necessary research skills over into their other courses.

Members of the Information Literacy Task Force are Kevin Berner, JoAnne Cloughly, Sandra Malcolm, Scott O'Connor, Susan Zimmerman, and, of course, Fran Apollo. Please thank them for taking on this additional job for the Spring 2006 semester.

The group will be soliciting information from colleagues across campus. There may even be a survey coming out. Meanwhile, please share your questions and comments with Fran and/or other members of the task force.

Electronic Course Reserves Are a Hit

We are pleased to report that electronic course reserves will continue to be a part of library services. The feedback on last semester's pilot project has been very positive—from both faculty and students.

For those not familiar with this service, the way e-reserves currently work, faculty have the option of requesting scanned copies of reserve materials that are then posted as PDF documents to the appropriate Blackboard course modules.

Keep in mind that putting course reserves online does not negate the copyright laws. In fact, there are additional laws that apply when dealing with electronic access. As with traditional course reserves, the library can help obtain

clearance to use copyrighted materials for electronic reserves. Also, we are a member of a consortium that allows us to get reduced costs for obtaining copyright permission should fees be applied.

Any faculty who would like to add electronic course reserves to their classes should contact our Circulation & Interlibrary Loan Librarian, Gregg Kiehl, at x5851 or kiehlgr@cobleskill.edu. Naturally, we will still offer our traditional course reserve service for those that prefer and for materials not suited to electronic delivery.

Three articles on reserve for a class? Read them online—anytime!

Memorial Donation

Each year, books (or funds to purchase books) are donated to the library in memory of lost family members and friends, or just in honor of someone's birthday. Recently, the library was honored to purchase *The Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World* in memory of Scott Powell, who was sadly killed in an accident early in Fall 2005. Funds for the purchase were donated by the Social Sciences Department and Lynn

Abarno.

Scott was a Social Science major from Stamford, NY and he loved the idea of traveling. The atlas was chosen by his advisor, Rene Descartes. The library hosted a reception in December for the formal presentation of this memorial gift and we were quite pleased that Scott's parents were able to attend.

Children's Collection Moves Downstairs

Our large collection of children's books moved to the lower level of the library in October 2005. For those of you familiar with the building, this area formerly housed the biology lab.

Following the retirement of Prof. Anne Donnelly in spring 2005, the Natural Sciences Department decided that they no longer needed the space and it was reclaimed by the library. We had been talking with Early Childhood faculty about the possibility of relocating the children's collection for some time, so this provided the perfect opportunity to actually do it.

The newly renovated space is much more open and welcoming than the collection's former home on the top floor. The shelving is half as tall as regular library shelves and is specially made for children's books. We were even able to incorporate some display space for projects by Early Childhood students—and the children they work with.

In addition to just being a nicer space,

this new location can accommodate Early Childhood classes when they are doing literature work with children. We kept one part of the floor open so that children have a place to gather during story times.

While the new home of the children's collection is set up to be kid-friendly, this does not mean that it's just for kids. It is open to all library users, just like the Reference area or pretty much any other part of the library. The area includes four open access computers and space for group study. As it is adjacent to the Center for Academic Support and Excellence (CASE), we fully expect people to overflow into this area during heavy tutoring times.

As for the collection's former home on the upper level—we're still in the planning stage. There are many possibilities but we need to have more information before we can proceed. For now, this space is being cleaned out so it will be ready to go when the time comes.

Library Hours for Spring 2006*

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

* **Library Café open til midnight—every night!**

Recommended Reading

Outwitting History: the Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued a Million Yiddish Books
by Aaron Lansky

The Rituals of Dinner
by Margaret Visser

Hoodwinked
by Arthur Howard

Rangers and Redcoats on the Hudson
by David R. Starbuck

The Revolution Will Not be Televised
by Joe Trippi

Book Sale for Hurricane Relief

The library held its largest book sale ever in Fall 2005. Kicked-off on Showcase Weekend, the sale was originally intended to be a general fundraiser for the library. After Hurricane Katrina hit we decided that the money would be better used to help those affected by this devastating storm. When Katrina was followed by Rita, we knew we'd made the right decision. In the end, the book sale raised over \$300 for the American Red Cross. Considering that most things sold for 50 cents a piece, that's around 600 books sold!

People across campus cleaned out their bookshelves to help stock the sale carts, and some even bought as many books as they brought in. Our thanks go out to everyone for their help and support with this important fundraising effort.

Website Improvements

The Online Databases section of our website has undergone a major revision. Rather than being in one big list, the various databases are now organized by area of study. Many students (and even some faculty) have expressed confusion about which database/s to use for specific subjects. We think that this reorganization will ease the confusion. So, if you're not quite sure which databases are best for that child development (or sociology or botany) paper, this will help. For those who like a comprehensive list, it's still there—just select All Databases. Visit the library's website (www.cobleskill.edu/Library) today, choose Find Articles/Online Resources, and check out the changes!

Database Spotlight: ACM Digital Library

A valuable new online resource was added this Fall—the ACM Digital Library. Produced by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), this database is “a vast collection of citations and full text from ACM journal and newsletter articles and conference proceedings.” Some of the titles included are *ACM Journal on Emerging Technologies in Computing Systems*, *Journal of the ACM*, *Journal on Educational Resources in Computing*, *Journal of Computing Sciences in Colleges*, and *IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking*.

Not surprisingly, the ACM Digital Library is especially useful to students and faculty in the computer sciences. For example, a quick search on “network security” yielded over 1000 results, most of which had the full-text available. To explore this database yourself, visit the library's website (www.cobleskill.edu/Library) and choose Find Articles/Online Databases. You'll find the ACM Digital Library in the Business and Computer Technologies section, or on the list of All Databases.

Have You Signed-up for ILLiad?

Interlibrary Loan (ILL) helps us make a world of information available even when that information lives far away—ILLiad is the tool we use to do it. Be ahead of the game and sign up for ILLiad today! Visit the library's website (www.cobleskill.edu/Library) and choose Library Services/ILLiad Login to get started.

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, “A Risky Gamble With Google,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Dec. 2, 2005