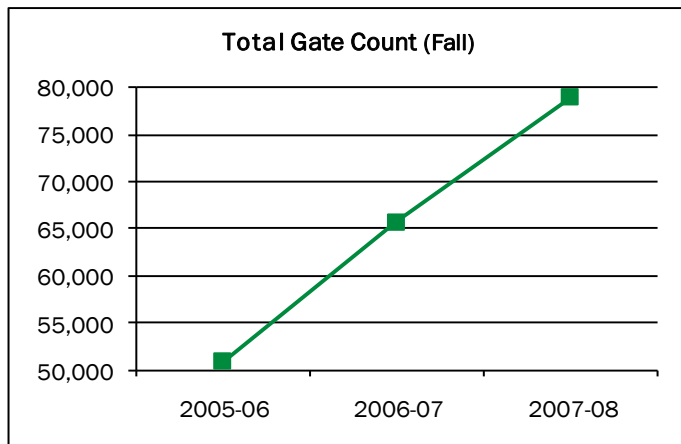




Popularity Can Be a Good Thing

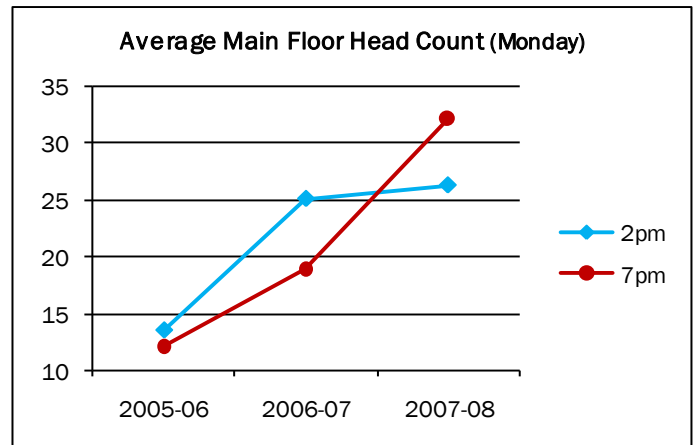
We are pleased to report that 2007-08 has been particularly busy thus far! Almost every number in the Library is up over last year. While there are days when we wish we weren't *quite* so busy, overall, we like it.

In terms of people in the building, regardless of what they're doing, we've seen a 17% increase compared to Fall 2006 with an additional 13,250 people passing through the security gates. This continues the trend we saw last year when gate counts for the academic year showed us up 23% from 2005-06 to 2006-07. We think this growth is largely due to the increased number of open access computers in the building and to extending our hours of operation. It should be noted that gate count numbers are not adjusted to account for people who come through the doors five times a day versus people who only come in once a week.



In addition to the gate count, we also keep various statistics to help us get a better idea of what people are doing while they're here and what our busiest times are. One of these is a head count conducted on the main floor at specific times of day. For example, the following table looks at two time periods on Mondays. We can clearly see solid

growth over the last couple of years. Of particular interest this year are the sharp increase in evening activity and the potential leveling off in the afternoon. The Monday 7:00pm count is up by 41% over 2006-07, while the 2:00pm count is practically unchanged. It will be interesting to see how the spring semester impacts these numbers.



Things are hopping down in the Center for Academic Support & Excellence (CASE) as well; see p. 3 (AccuTrack) for details.

In addition to high levels of activity in the building, services such as Information Literacy instruction (which is usually done outside the Library) are also being heavily used. In Fall 2006, Fran Apollo was out in classrooms team-teaching Information Literacy sessions to a total of 209 students. In Fall 2007, that number was 856. A measly 409% increase! While a number of the classes were quite large, the total number of sessions was up by 50% as well. These increases are due, in large part, to the continuing efforts of Fran, Dr. Sue Zimmerman, and other members of the campus community to integrate Information Literacy skills throughout the curriculum.

Copyright Quiz, Redux

Let's see how much we all remember. Are the following statements true or false? "It's ok:

1. for me to make copies of that *New York Times* article I saw yesterday for tomorrow's class."
2. for me to copy this VHS tape of 'Aliens' onto a DVD."
3. for me to use a picture I found on the web for my department or personal homepage."
4. for me to put direct links to articles in the Library's databases into my Blackboard assignments."

The answers: true, false, false, true.

Copyright, especially in this digital age, can be a complicated issue. For example, the false statements above *could* be true *if* you got permission from the copyright holder first or *if* the material in question included a statement

expressly allowing copying or *if* you only copied a small portion of the film for viewing in the classroom or... are you confused yet?

We've all seen the stories about music sharing and other such activities and how they can infringe on copyright, and sometimes get people in trouble. What we often forget is that other activities can be just as much of a copyright violation, and "kids" aren't the only offenders.

Federal law does make what are called *fair use* exemptions to copyright for educational and personal uses, but they only go so far. If you want to be absolutely sure—get permission! In the meantime, the Guides section of the Library's website offers several good resources to help you get a handle on things (cobyweb.cobleskill.edu/library).

“Into the Wilderness” Reader’s Series

This semester, the Van Wagenen Library, along with the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the New York Council for the Humanities, is sponsoring a Reader’s Series on the theme “Into the Wilderness.” The series gets underway Jan. 15th with a discussion of Bill Bryson’s *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail*. After living in England for several years, Bryson moved back to the States and decided to get to know the place again by spending a few months walking this “hiker’s highway” along with a friend of his. They meet some interesting characters, risk snakebite, and learn to value hot showers. Through Bryson’s inimitable writing style, we not only share in their adventures, we also glimpse pristine mountain lakes, soak up the peace of the deep woods, and marvel

NetLibrary is Growing

We recently added another 200+ titles to our NetLibrary collection. NetLibrary gives you 24/7 access to thousands of books, whether you’re on campus or off. This includes classic fiction, reference works, and books on most any topic—from art history to nursing to philosophy. You can get to these online books from the

Tutoring Program

The CASE tutoring program continues to grow and serve the needs of the students. In the fall semester, there were more than 40 tutors available for a wide range of classes, from Ag Engineering to Anatomy and Physiology. Tutors are available seven days a week and on an as needed basis. CASE also employs 3 professional Math tutors who are available for students in the evenings Monday through Thursday. Tutoring presents terrific opportunities for both the tutors and the tutees. On a recent survey, most of the CASE tutors indicated that their own knowledge of the subject they were tutoring increased and that they were able to gain a deeper understanding of key concepts and ideas by teaching them to other students. One tutor commented how she most enjoys “helping people out and most of all seeing their improvement from the beginning of the semester to the end.”

Workshop Series

Last semester’s workshops on things like study skills, getting to know the Library, and choosing good online research sources were a hit and more are being planned for the spring! Topics will include: citation styles, Train your Brain (for more effective textbook reading), copyright and plagiarism, using Google Scholar, online news sources, time management, and more. Keep an eye on Sharepoint throughout the semester— all workshops will be announced as schedules and such are set.

at ecological treasures that we are increasingly in danger of losing forever.

Other books in the Reader’s Series include: *The Meadowlands: Wilderness Adventures at the Edge of a City* by Robert Sullivan (Feb. 19th), *The Monkey Wrench Gang* by Edward Abbey (March 18th), and *Dead Cities and Other Tales* by Mike Davis (April 15th). Multiple copies of all the books in the Reader’s Series are available for check out at the Library’s Circulation Desk.

The discussion sessions will all be held at 4:00pm in Library 208 (the TV Studio). Refreshments will be served and seating is limited so please sign up soon by calling Prof. Angelika Hoehner at 255-5137. You should also contact Prof. Hoehner if you have any questions or need further information about the Series.

Library’s regular catalog or from NetLibrary directly. To investigate for yourself, go to the Library’s website (cobyweb.cobleskill.edu/library) and choose either Online Catalog or NetLibrary. Let us know if you have questions or just want a bit of help getting started.

Library Hours for Spring 2008*

Mon.-Thurs.	8:00am-12:00am
Friday	8:00am-5:00pm
Saturday	10:00am-4:00pm
Sunday	2:00pm-12:00am

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

Recommended Reading

I am America (and So Can You!)
by Stephen Colbert

The Darkest Evening of the Year
by Dean Koontz

The Camel Bookmobile
by Masha Hamilton

The Museum of Dr. Moses
by Joyce Carol Oates

Guacamole Dip: from Baja— Tales of Love, Faith, and Witchcraft
by Daniel Reveles

The Tent
by Margaret Atwood

The World is Flat: a Brief History of the 21st Century
by Thomas Friedman

The Secret Supper
by Javier Sierra

Songs Without Words
by Ann Packer

Staff News

Fran Apollo traveled to Philadelphia in January for the American Library Association (ALA) mid-winter conference as part of her duties as President of the Eastern New York Association of College and Research Libraries (ENYACRL).

April Davies and Nancy Van Deusen recently contributed an article, “Fits and Starts: SUNY Cobleskill’s Continuous Improvement Journey,” for a special issue of *Indiana Libraries*, the journal of the Indiana Library Federation.

Gregg Kiehl will attend the ILLiad International Conference in Virginia Beach this March as part of the IDS (Information Delivery Services) Mentor Project.

Michele Moore (now Michele Strobeck following her wedding on Dec. 22nd) joined the CASE staff in October as a MERITS/Retention Program Assistant.

Jennifer Morgenstein joined the CASE staff as a MERITS/Retention Program Assistant in August. Jen also runs the Writing Center.

In December, Jiang Tan put together two days of show-and-tell presentations on Technology Integration here at Cobleskill. Various faculty from around campus shared the different ways they use things like Blackboard, podcasts, and SurveyMonkey in their classes.

Dottie Wilcox joined the CASE staff as a MERITS/Retention Program Assistant in August. Among her other duties, Dottie handles Center marketing and scheduling.

E-Resource Spotlight: Hoover's Pro

Business can be a complex subject area. You need to look at things from different angles to get a complete picture. That's why the Library offers access to Hoover's Pro in addition to databases such as Business & Company Resource Center and Business Source Premier. This online business resource provides tons of company and industry information.

As an example, let's say that you need to research car makers. An industry search for "auto manufacturing" in Hoover's gets you an overview of the industry plus a list of the most searched companies and a link to a complete list of

registered auto manufacturers. If you select Ford Motor Company from this list, you can see how much money they made over the last several years, how their sales compare with their top competitors, read a history of the company, find out who their top executives are, review their latest SEC (Securities & Exchange Commission) filings, and so much more.

Hoover's Pro and our other business databases are accessible from the Electronic Databases section of our website (cobyweb.cobleskill.edu/library). As with all our databases, Hoover's is available 24/7, on campus and off.

Then There's the Writing Center

In addition to working with MERITS students, Jen Morgenstein also heads up CASE's Writing Center. With the help of seven peer writing tutors, the Writing Center helps students with all aspects of their writing, from planning and organizing to editing and revising. Writing tutors are available every day except Saturdays each semester. Some of the many resources available through the Writing Center include organizing essays, identifying topics for research, advice on citing sources, and assistance with understanding literature.

AccuTrack Yields Useful Data

Last semester, we installed the AccuTrack system in the Center for Academic Support & Excellence (CASE) to help us track information such as student visits, contact hours, tutoring usage, usage of disability support services, and student demographic information. We asked all students that came in to CASE to sign in to the new system by either entering their 800 number or by simply swiping their CobyCard.

While we've only been using AccuTrack for one semester, we're already getting useful information from the system. For example, on any given day, with a click of the mouse, AccuTrack helps the CASE staff see who is in the Center and what services they are using. We've also learned that, over the course of the fall semester, the Center was utilized by almost 1,000 individual students with more than 16,500 hours logged for various CASE services. We knew it was busy downstairs, but not that nearly 40% of the student body was using the Center!

We're really looking forward to seeing what the data look like over time. Are particular days always really busy? Is there a service that's being under-utilized? Not only should AccuTrack prove helpful in gathering data for grant reports and the like, it may also help us continue to improve CASE's services and operations.

If the traditional librarian has been conceived as a figure at home in the discreet silences and cautious dealings of a Henry James novel, now perhaps the right model will be found in James Fenimore Cooper or the Star Wars films: something between the pathfinder Natty Bumppo and the Jedi knight.

—Jim O'Donnell, in *Avatars of the Word* (1998)

The Mac's are Here!

At the beginning of last semester, we told you we'd be installing some Macintosh computers to increase access for Graphic Arts students since the Mac Lab (in Warner Hall) closes at 9pm and isn't open on weekends. Well, they are finally up and running! The four Mac's were installed in late November on the main floor by the south-side windows (near the Reference Area).

There are some special considerations to be aware of with these computers. First, they are not connected to the Coby2 domain. This means no access to the M-drive. However, Graphic Arts students *can* access their user accounts on the Mac server in Warner 018 from these computers. The second issue is that they are not connected to any printers. Graphic Arts students should save their work and go over to the Mac Lab to print.

See a Reference Librarian for instructions for logging in and accessing the Mac server. People other than Graphic Arts students can use these computers if they wish but they are intended primarily for these students. Accordingly, other users may be asked to give up their machines as needed.

Presidential Primaries

It's time to winnow down the field of presidential hopefuls. For New York State voters registered with a particular party, that means a trip to our polling places on Feb. 5th. We can't, and won't, tell you how to vote, but we want to encourage you to participate in the electoral process. Part of being a member of this democracy is exercising our right and responsibility to vote.

There are a lot of candidates this time around. If you're still trying to make up your mind and need to learn more about the candidates and their issues, we suggest the following websites:

Project Vote Smart	www.vote-smart.org
YouChoose'08	www.youtube.com/youchoose
OnTheIssues	www.ontheissues.org
Annenberg Political Fact Check	www.factcheck.org

Official websites for the individual candidates can be found quite easily via Ask.com, Google, or other search engine. If you have any trouble at all, just ask at the Reference Desk or give us a call and we'll get you unstuck.

Remember, if you want your candidate to be on the big ballot come Nov. 4th, show up in February and say so. Be a part of the process—register, read up, and vote!