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## Connections, Spring, 2003; Issue Three

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# CONNECTIONS

## *From the Dean's Desk*

The University Library has joined many others in conducting comprehensive planning sessions, aimed at defining the scope and purpose of library services and programs for the changing needs of our student and faculty users.

The Library's strategic plan, presented first at an administrative retreat in early February, unites compelling immediate needs with longer-term projects – all contributing to a fundamental transformation of traditional information services into innovative models for tomorrow's academic library. With the instruction of the end-user as the core initiative of the strategic plan, the Library faculty defined five other primary components: personnel needs, technology applications, space and facilities, collections and information resources, and new partnerships for progress. Each of these initiatives depends on increased coordination and collaboration within the library and among its primary constituents. The successful implementation of this strategic plan will position the University Library as an exemplary model academic information service agency.

### Library Instruction and Information Literacy: ...And the Difference Is...?

By Barbara Kenney

Bibliographic instruction has come a long way in the last decade. Library orientation has been supplanted by interactive instruction, with students engaged in activities designed to help them explore and understand the information universe. While being instructed in the use of library resources, students learn to be critical information consumers, who can match an information need with an appropriate resource. Information literacy instruction challenges students to take an active role in identifying and evaluating sources. They learn how information is organized and how to locate information using a variety of formats. Students are introduced to the scholarly publishing process, the concepts of intellectual property, copyright and privacy.

The most effective information literacy instruction is the result of collaboration between classroom faculty and librarian instructors. Classroom faculty set the goals and objectives of the course and determine the research assignment. Librarians assist faculty and

students in charting the research course by introducing the tools and concepts used in the research process. Working together, instructors and librarians plan sessions designed to engage students in the critical thinking activities required of an academic researcher.

Options for an instruction session cover a wide spectrum of activities, including task definition, development of a research strategy, identifying and locating information sources, and synthesizing and properly citing sources. We may begin with a brainstorming session, with students identifying the requirements of the assignment, main topics and concepts, keywords, and possible resources. Librarians teach how to use the library catalog as a tool to focus their search. We review periodical literature and discuss the difference between a popular publication, a trade journal, and a scholarly publication. Database instruction includes searching techniques, identification of subject-specific databases, and the interlibrary loan process. Students are encouraged to approach research as a process, a series of manageable steps, with librarians available for individual consultation along the way.

The overwhelming nature of the information universe has most



students running to the Web to complete assignments. While a great source of information, students need guidance in navigating the Web, evaluating the information they find, and avoiding the temptation to plagiarize. Web instruction sessions include site evaluation, and an introduction to the effective use of search engines.

Information is power and the ability to locate, evaluate, synthesize and use information competently cannot be overstated. To be successful in any postgraduate endeavor, students must possess a high degree of information fluency. Understanding how information is created, organized and accessed is a valuable skill, which creates pro-active information consumers. Whether buying a car, finding a mortgage, choosing a graduate school or deciding on a presidential candidate, the ability to identify sound and appropriate information is critical to intelligent decision-making. Librarians are collaborating with subject specialists to integrate these competencies into instruction sessions designed to teach skills that will last a lifetime.

The instruction librarians are introducing a new *Library Instruction Scheduling Form*, available online at the RWU Library Web Site (<http://library.rwu.edu/eforms/instructform.html>). When requesting library instruction for a class, faculty is asked to identify which information literacy components they would like covered. Please take a moment to review the form to see how information literacy skills might be integrated into your class. And if you have any questions, please contact Barbara Kenney, Information Literacy Librarian at [bkenny@rwu.edu](mailto:bkenny@rwu.edu) or 254-3559.

## Focus on Iraq

As events unfold in Iraq all eyes have been focused on this ancient and historically complex area. The war in Iraq and the expected transformation of this country in the coming months and years will continue to command the attention of the world. Within this context it is important to be informed not only about the contemporary scene in Iraq, but also the historical events and cultural developments that

are significant to today's situation. How did we get from the Cradle of Civilization to the Battle of Baghdad?

Mark Sawoski of the Political Science Department, RWU's resident expert in international affairs, has provided a list of resources (see insert) that he has found useful in assessing the events as they unfold in Iraq. Resources include websites, journal articles, studies, and books. The list is available online from the RWU Libraries Homepage at <http://library.rwu.edu/subjectguides/iraqwar.html>. The Library has also assembled selected readings on Iraqi history, politics and culture on the display book shelf near the New Books Area. Please feel free to stop by and check them out.

## Meet John Schlinke, Access Services Librarian

You may occasionally have questions about library services and collections. How do I place material on electronic reserves for a class I am teaching? How do I make an interlibrary loan request? Why can't I get access to a library database? When questions like these arise, please call John Schlinke, our new access services librarian, for helpful answers.

John comes to the Roger Williams University Library from Providence College, where he worked as a part-time reference librarian. His responsibilities in the Main Library include circulation, reserves, interlibrary loan, and copyright matters. In addition, during the spring 2003 semester he is filling in at the Architecture Library for our architecture librarian, Betsy Peck Learned, who is currently on sabbatical.

John graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 2002 with a Master in Library and Information Studies. He also holds a Master of Architecture degree from Rice University and a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Virginia. Prior to becoming a librarian, he practiced architecture for eight years, and taught architecture at the Savannah College of Art and Design for four years.

Please join us in welcoming John to the Roger Williams University community.



## Library Services for Faculty

- *How can I access library databases from home?*
- *How can I link to online journal articles from Blackboard?*
- *How can I request a library book purchase?*
- *Where can I find help in detecting plagiarism?*

These are just a few of the questions that can be answered from our new *Services for Faculty* web page. This web page is meant to provide faculty with a centralized location for finding out about the different services that the library offers for teaching and classroom support. It also includes links to new library materials, links to research tools and additional information for research support. Of special note is the section, "Resources for Plagiarism and Copyright Information." It contains links to articles and web sites that provide helpful advice on preventing and detecting plagiarism in student assignments. The *Services for Faculty* web page is located at: <http://library.rwu.edu/about/faculty.html>

## Friends of the Library

The 2002-2003 academic year included some new and important partnerships with both the Friends of the Library and the Roger Williams Family Association. The Friends sponsored two annual programs, attracting more than 50 members and community residents to each. The October 2003 program featured a local expert on the Rhode Island ties of both Edgar Allan Poe and H.P. Lovecraft. The May 2003 program represented a "homecoming" for retired library dean, Carol DiPrete, with timely observations about her recent life and work in Dubai (The United Arab Emirates).

Additionally, the Family Association and Friends co-sponsored a very successful October program featuring Mary Lee Settle, award-winning author of "I, Roger Williams". A new and ongoing academic lecture series (inaugurated by the Friends of the Library in February 2003) featured University faculty from the Feinstein College of Arts and Sciences (James Tackach, Lincoln's second inaugural address),

the School of Justice Studies (Christopher Menton, the impact of a liberal education), and the Gabelli School of Business (Kathleen Micken, understanding materialism). Approximately 30 persons from the University and Bristol communities attended each "First Wednesday" lecture in the Library periodical reading room.

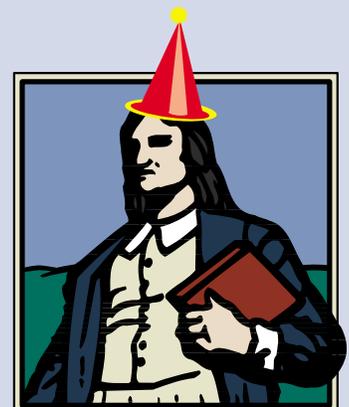
We appreciate the support of our Friends group, and look forward to our second season of academic lectures (featuring faculty from each of the University's schools and colleges), beginning in October 2003. The Library web site will provide details and dates for the entire 2003-2004 series.

## Homecoming

The University Library has collaborated with the Alumni Affairs staff in preparing a retrospective exhibit from the early years of the institution. This exhibit welcomes alumni (from the Classes of 1947-1970) to a June 14 reunion. Thanks to the interest and vigilance of University Facilities employee, Eddie Borden, the University Archives, managed by Mary Wu (*Cataloging and Database Management Librarian*), has received many important publications and memorabilia salvaged and saved over the years. Some of these items will be featured in the Library's homecoming exhibit from mid-May throughout the summer - reminders for returning alumni, and reflecting traditions for new students throughout the summer orientation.

## 400 Years Old

The University will be the site for a celebration of Roger Williams' birth, 400 years ago on June 7. State and local officials will join descendants of Roger Williams for a mid-day birthday party, hosted by the Roger Williams Family Association. The University Archives houses the official documents of the Family Association.





## RefWorks

### Request Video Purchases for Fall 2003

Looking for videos for your classes? The Audio Video Department has catalogs and other resources to find the right material for your class. Stop by and talk to our media Services Librarian Veronica Maher (x3114; [vmaher@rwu.edu](mailto:vmaher@rwu.edu)).

Requests for new videos or DVDs needed for the fall semester should be forwarded to Veronica Maher, Media Services Librarian ([vmaher@rwu.edu](mailto:vmaher@rwu.edu)). If approved, all requests will be purchased on a cost share basis. All requests must be in by June 1<sup>st</sup> for fall availability. Requests received after June 1<sup>st</sup> may not be processed until September. In addition to the title, please include other available information such as director, producer and distributor. You can visit the Media Services office in the library, email or call x3114 for additional information.

Check out the New Videos List from the Library website. This list will be updated in the fall. It is available at:

<http://library.rwu.edu/about/newvideos2002.html>.

### Your Personal Online Bibliographic Manager

Need help in managing references for bibliographies and manuscripts? Do you want to save hours of typing time and decrease the number of errors in creating bibliographies? **RefWorks** is your answer. This new tool, accessible from the library home page or at <http://www.refworks.com> is a web-based bibliography and database manager. Users can set-up their own secure account, import references from text files and online databases, and then use those references for writing papers and preparing bibliographies. Supporting a wide variety of style sheets (including APA, MLA, Chicago, and Turabian); **RefWorks** can format a paper and its bibliography in seconds. Import Filters allow you to import citations found from most of the library's online databases directly into your **RefWorks** database or you can enter references manually. For more information or help in using this new research tool please see the Library's "Guide to Using RefWorks" located at <http://library.rwu.edu/researchhelp/refworks.html> or contact Barbara Kenney, Susan McMullen, or Veronica Maher.