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CONNECTIONS



From the Dean's Desk

Welcome, readers, to our first issue of this newsletter. Although this is not the first library publication of its type, we hope that you will find its content and format both interesting and accessible. On these pages, and their web counterparts, will be timely library news stories and the occasional article about teaching, learning, and libraries. We invite your comments, and encourage your suggestions for future issues.

Your Libraries (including the Architecture Library, Main Library, and information center at the Metro College in Providence) are sponsoring two exciting new projects focused on books and scholarship.

One is the Recommended Readings project. We invite any tenure-track member of the faculty or full-time administrator to select a book that has been important in his/her personal or professional development. A bookplate inside the front cover will include a very brief statement (not more than 30-40 words) and the identification of the nominator. At the beginning of each academic year the books associated with this product will be displayed for all to see and borrow.

A second project – Faculty Research and Scholarship – celebrates the research and scholarly interests of our faculty. The Libraries will solicit bibliographic citations for books, journal articles, and other evidence of scholarship for permanent addition to the collections, and display on the Library website. The collection offers a site for materials associated with faculty sabbatical projects, as well. I hope we will all support the initiation of this project and its continuing development.

Friends of the Library

On Friday, May 10, at 5 p.m. President and Mrs. Nirschel invite the University community and the general public to the semi-annual program sponsored by the Friends of the Library. This May the program features Rhode Island independent booksellers in a discussion of the trends in publishing and the reading interests of college-age and adult readers. A reception will follow this hour-long program in the Main Library's periodical reading area.

Enter finals week stress-free!

Join the RWU Peer Program, the Health Advocates and the Library staff in relaxing your way into finals week. May 6-10 the library will host a variety of stress relieving activities in the Periodicals reading area and the Library's 24-hour classroom. Pick up a copy of your favorite magazine or book, a cup of herbal tea, some cookies, and relax to the sounds of new age music. Lunch hours will feature massage therapy, guided meditation with Nancy Hood, and yoga with Jim Azar. A special drawing will be held for a free full-body massage at a local Middletown spa. Watch for the schedule of activities to be announced on the Library home page, along with an exhibit and Web guide to relieving stress prepared by RWU librarians. Enter finals week stress-free!

A wireless "Teaching Library"

If you've been to the library recently, you may have noticed some significant changes in the reference area. We have relocated the library's collection of print indexes to make room for 29 wireless computer workstations purchased through a \$100,000 grant from the Champlin Foundations. This new computer area is an important component in the development of the library's concept of the "Teaching Library." Since the Main Library opened a decade ago, the proliferation of information resources via web technologies has dramatically transformed the way librarians offer reference and instruction services. Learning to effectively locate, evaluate, and apply information in all formats has become a defining element in undergraduate education and the Libraries' central teaching role. This new computer area will offer us an opportunity to provide expanded and specialized reference services that capitalize on the "teachable moment" that frequently occurs at the reference desk. The close proximity of this new wireless lab area to our library classroom also offers a unique opportunity to integrate traditional instruction on print materials with hands-on instruction using web accessible databases. Please take a moment to stop by and try out the first wireless computer area on campus. And while you're here, be sure to book a library instruction class for your students!

Featured Database: Science Direct

Science Direct is the library's newest database. Although as the name suggests, it is focused on topics in the sciences, there are many titles that would be useful to other areas such as business or education. The library purchased this database produced by Elsevier Science Inc. through a cooperative agreement with other libraries in New England. This meant a substantial savings to the university while increasing the number of electronic subscriptions by over 500. These respected high quality titles, many of which are unique to area institutions, are usually priced for hundreds of dollars, which the library budget could not support. Through this agreement we are paying about \$24 per title.

The database indexes over 1,100 journals and provides access to over 500 full text journals with back files that extend back to 1995. This number is expected to grow substantially as more libraries join this cooperative agreement. The library is adding these titles to our online catalog and students will be able to simply click on the link to access articles from an on campus terminal or from home by employing the HELIN proxy server.

The University community is encouraged to learn more about this database by clicking on the Science Direct link on the library homepage. The database may be searched by topic or publication title. For articles that are not available within the database full text, users are provided with the option to order the article from the publisher for a fee. Although you are free to do so, keep in mind that the library would be happy to get the article for you at no cost through its interlibrary loan department.

Meet our New Staff Members:

MARY WU and MARY BETH WILSON

On May 1st Mary Wu, the new Cataloging / Database Management Librarian, will be arriving on campus. She is coming to us from the Bowdoin College Library in Brunswick, Maine. However, Mary is not a stranger to Roger Williams University since she was employed here from 1999 to 2000 as the Senior Copy Cataloger at the RWU Libraries. While working in this position she also attended the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Rhode Island. Upon her graduation in December 1999 she began looking for a faculty position in the New England area. In November 2000 Mary was selected to become the Assistant Catalog Librarian at Bowdoin College Library, one of the most highly respected academic libraries in the Northeast. As the Assistant Catalog Librarian Mary performed original cataloging in all subjects in a variety of languages and formats. She became especially proficient in cataloging electronic and Internet resources that are so much a part of academic research today. With Mary's expertise the RWU Libraries will be able to enhance the configuration of electronic and Internet resources through the online catalog, thereby improving access to information by students, faculty, staff and administrators. Mary and her family are happy to be returning to Rhode Island, which is the location where they feel most at home in America since their emigration from the People's Republic of China in 1990.

Please welcome Mary Wu back to the Roger Williams University community as the newest member of the Library faculty.

In March, the Main Library welcomed Mary Beth Wilson as the new Circulation Assistant Supervisor. She has been a part of the RWU community for the past 2 1/2 years working part-time in dining services. Mary Beth has her Associates Degree in Business from the Community College of Rhode Island, and will be pursuing a bachelor's degree here at RWU beginning this fall. Besides reading and enjoying the outdoors, Mary Beth is an avid NASCAR fan. She and her husband Allan have two daughters and live in Bristol. Mary Beth works 4:00 PM to Midnight, so if you are in the library late at night, be sure to stop at the Circulation Desk and say hello.

FAQs About Media Services

What is Media Services?

Here at RWU Media Services has two sections. The AV Equipment office (3336) which handles requests for audiovisual equipment deliveries and the Media Services office (3114) which handles the acquisition and collection of music CDs and videos.

Who can check out videos and CDs ?

Faculty, staff and students may borrow materials for 3 days.

What do I do if I want the Library to order a particular video?

Contact the Media Services Librarian Veronica Maher (3114). She will research the availability of the video and submit a request to your school or department for a 50/50 cost share purchase.

How can I order equipment for classroom use?

The best way is to email avhelp@rwu.edu. You can also leave a message at 3336 or send a paper form by fax (254-0818) or mail to the AV department. (NB- Watch for our new online MEDIA SERVICES REQUEST FORM)

Why are 48 hours required?

The AV staff schedules its work by requests. In order to schedule staff we need to know who needs what and when at least two business days ahead. Weekend requests require additional notice. Also some setups take longer than others and require more time on task which affects delivery times etc.

Will I know if my request has been scheduled?

Yes. If you provide your email address a confirmation will be sent.

Can I ever talk to a live person?

Yes. If you have special requests and would like to speak to our technician please ask for a call back as part of your request. Please note that our staff is busy delivering orders and not always available on call. If you have additional questions related to audiovisual equipment or our media collection please forward them to vmaher@rwu.edu.

Check-out the New Books

In relocating materials to make room for our new computer area, librarians have moved the new book area to a more visible location. Our new books are enjoying increased attention now that they are showcased through the windows of the library's entranceway. In the first stack of the reference area you can now sit and browse through our most recent additions and bestseller collections. Remember, our new book list is updated monthly and is available from the library's home page at <http://library.rwu.edu/newbooks.html>

New Reference Titles:

Encyclopedia of Ocean Science. Academic Press 2001.
REF GC9 E57

A comprehensive, six-volume encyclopedia in the field of oceanographic studies offering researchers the latest information in the field as well as classic scientific theories. Leading scientists have contributed the nearly 350 articles, accompanied by color photographs, figures and other detailed illustrations. The sixth volume offers a detailed index and ten helpful appendices.

New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians [2nd Ed.].
Grove/Macmillan 2001. REF ML100 N48

The newest edition of the premier resource on music and musicians comprises 29 volumes. Over 29,000 articles by scholars in the field focus on a wide range of topics, including the lives and work of notable musicians, topics in music theory and practice, musical instruments, and historical and analytical surveys of musical traditions in various cultures. Treatment of intellectual, social and political trends and their influence on music enhance this edition.

Working Americans 1880-1999. Grey House 2001.
REF HD8066 D47

A fascinating decade-by-decade exploration of U.S. social and economic history profiles Americans in various walks of life and of different income levels. Each volume in the three-volume set focuses on a different stratum of society: The Working Class, Middle Class, and Upper Class, providing windows into their distinct worlds through an exploration of the work, homes and pastimes of representative families. Drawing from numerous sources, author Scott Derks provides a rich, engrossing societal portrait and research resource.