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UP-TO-THE-MINUTE LIT NEWS

News and Tips from LIT — Last updated January 29, 2008 8:44 PM

- Although the Lexis-Nexis database no longer contains Roper Polls, you can now access a portion of the survey results via iPOLL, which is now linked on the Databases A-Z page of the library's website.

- The GRE (Graduate Record Examination), LSAT (Law School Admission Test), MCAT (Medical College Admission Test), and GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) test preparation books with CD-ROMs are on reserve at the library Circulation Desk for student use.

- The LIT HelpDesk has established an email account for reporting computer problems: lithelp@lakeforest.edu

We are providing this alternative for your convenience, especially for non-urgent requests. Whether you send an email to lithelp@lakeforest.edu or leave voice mail at x3456, the Help Desk will generate a ticket for the work or, if applicable, will return your email answering your questions and/or providing instructions.

- Get Laptops in the TRC
  Starting this fall laptops can be checked out from the Brown Technology Resource Center (TRC) on Level 2 of the library.

- Connie Corso has assumed responsibility for management of the Brown Technology Resource Center which is located on the second floor of the Library. Connie is replacing Donnie Sendelbach, who managed the TRC last year.
AUTHENTICATE NOW

With more and more of the campus going wireless, it has become increasingly difficult to locate and identify computers which are degrading service for the rest of campus. One example of such degradation may be an infected computer sending out spam, which clogs the network, slowing down access for everyone. Starting this fall, all wireless computers on campus and all desktop computers in the residence halls will be prompted to authenticate once each semester before access to the network is permitted. After the initial authentication, during which each user will be prompted to enter a campus email username and password in a browser, the user will then be able to access the Internet, library databases, Moodle, MyForester, and all other online resources.

This method of identifying users of the network will enable IT staff to determine the origin of viruses and other malicious software that can attack the network and cause the network to slow down or create connection failures. Each year our network has improved in speed and reliability. This authentication requirement will enable network staff to manage network resources even more efficiently.
GOING DIGITAL

Software for sharing digital assets

Moodle, the software that brings much of the work of the campus classrooms online, has gone through some behind-the-scene changes. Current class materials are now being kept on a new server (accessible at http://moodle.lakeforest.edu/), which should result in a cleaner flow of data to the students and the reduce clutter of previous semesters' materials for the instructors. Marylin Bell of LIT has moved all fall 2007 class materials that were created on the old server onto the new server. Class materials from previous semesters can be made available at this address: http://moodle2.lakeforest.edu upon request; contact Erik Larson x6219. Instructors can contact their Academic Technology Specialists for any other questions about Moodle.

There is an easy method for making slide shows in Moodle, using the database module. In the course, add a database activity and when it says, “There are no defined fields for this database,” click on "choose a predefined set." There’s a preset already installed called Image Gallery. Select this preset and click Choose. This lets faculty easily upload image files, supply a title, and enter a summary. The gallery will display the images individually and as a group.

In addition to allowing faculty to make slide shows, there are a number of features that will allow students to make their own gallery, if the instructor wishes. Contact David Levinson for help with this feature.

Another digitization software that will soon be offered on campus is MDID (Madison Digital Image Database), an open source, grant-funded software. It will allow faculty to store, select, and sort images, and has classroom presentation tools. Contact Academic Technology Specialist David Levinson for more information.

The Library's newly formed Digital Asset Management team is working in tandem with a similar team from Beloit College to scan, organize, and make accessible both text and images from the colleges' archives and special collections. By pooling both monetary and intellectual resources, the two similar colleges will be able to offer collections of archival images for the use of students, faculty, and even the world. Using ContentDM, a system that supports the management of digital collections, images will be classified and ordered into searchable, browsable collections. For example, view the Paddock Railroad Collection of images from the Lake Forest College special collections. Prior to this project, ContentDM was already used on campus for Religion professor Catherine Benton's images of Asian artifacts, which is part of the National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education (NITLE) Image Database to Enhance Asian Studies (IDEAS) collections.
Sharing spreadsheets and other documents will soon get much easier with Google Apps. Logging on through an Internet browser will give you and your colleagues access to the same documents without having to transfer files—no need to worry about losing formatting or data while sharing. Google Apps will also provide a campus-wide instant messenger service that will be private, secure, and have no advertisements. Check back here for news of the arrival of these applications on campus.
DATABASE SPOTLIGHT

The library has consistently provided for our campus community access to over a hundred databases of published articles, many scholarly and/or academic in nature. However, databases come and go. Here are two that were more recently acquired.

The full-text Chicago Tribune (Historical-1849-1985), like all our databases, can be found on the Databases A-Z page. It is alphabetically just below the Chicago Tribune-1985-present. The Library also owns all years of the Tribune in microfilm, but there is no index for anything written before 1972, which makes finding earlier articles difficult, especially if you don't know the exact date of an event. With the historical Tribune database, any word from any article, headline, or advertisement can be searched. The database contents are all PDF, yielding printouts identical to the microfilm versions. Faculty, students, and members of the community have all found this database to be a tremendous resource. Surprisingly, for some in-depth research projects, the microfilm version is still preferred.

Credo Reference, our other spotlighted database, offers searchable full text from 240 reference books covering both humanities and sciences, including business, law, languages, and generalities such as dictionaries and thesauri. Just a few of the titles included are Collins Spanish Dictionary, Cassell's Peoples, Nations and Cultures, Encyclopedia of the European Union, and Wiley's Dictionary of Developmental Biology and Embryology. Credo’s Reference will be especially convenient when you are working outside of the library and need a quick fact or overview of a topic from a source you can clearly cite and which won't disappear into cyberspace. It can also be found on the Databases A-Z page.
NEW FEATURES IN THE LIBRARY CATALOG

Despite the recent buzz in Library land about libraries that have gotten rid of call numbers, the library catalog is very much alive, and, in fact, ours has several new features.

This past spring a "New in the Catalog" button was added to the library catalog toolbar. A direct link to the same page is also featured on the library homepage as "New books & media." Unlike the previous new titles list that was assembled manually, this new titles list is automatically updated using the reports that are sent daily to a consortium server off-campus. A program looks at the create/update date fields in the book and media records, which means that newly purchased books and newly donated or newly classified books will show up in the list when the user clicks the "Search" button. Programmers at CARLI (the consortium of libraries to which we belong) headquarters in Champaign, Illinois, developed the new titles list using code written by Michael Doran of the University of Texas at Arlington.

Another new feature in the library catalog is a button in the magazine and journal records that lets the user know whether the journal is also available online. Try searching, for example, the journal Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Click on the title, and you will see the flashing "Seeking Full Text" button. Soon a clickable "Find It" image will appear. If the journal is available in full text online, the "Find It" button takes you to a list of databases that contain the journal online and/or to a link from which you can access the journal's content. These links will give access to the journal even if you are off campus, provided you know the fourteen digit barcode number on your campus ID card.
Perhaps the most obvious additions to the library catalog are colorful book cover images for many of the titles. Offered through the CARLI consortium and marketed by Syndetic Solutions, this feature gives us not only cover images, but tables of contents, author notes, first chapters, excerpts, summaries, annotations, and reviews for those books for which the data is available. So the next time you are viewing a library catalog record, especially if it is a recently published item, be sure to click the "Click for more information on this title" link.

Would you like to be able to search the library’s catalog from your browser at any time? Systems Librarian David Levinson has developed two search plug-ins for Firefox and Internet Explorer 7 which will let you do just that. Go to http://library.lakeforest.edu/plugins for more information and to install. Want Firefox too? There’s a download link there too. Email David Levinson or call him at x5059 if you have any questions or need help with this.
PROFESSOR IN SECOND LIFE

This spring Davis Schneiderman hopes to have his Postmodernism class meet for selected sessions in Second Life. Second Life (also known as SL) is a virtual online world populated by digital avatars of real people who walk, talk, and fly around surprisingly realistic structures having three dimensional qualities. Entrance is gained to this universe by downloading free software and registering an identity. Schneiderman intends for the students to meet at a specified location in SL and then explore their surroundings and discuss issues of identity, such as what it means to represent yourself virtually, and what are some of the social implications of a virtual world. Books are now being published online, and Davis sees this as the next medium shift in narrative, with the last one being the advent of the printed book in the 1450s. What will future novels look like? One wonders whether the library catalog will someday link to stories performed in Second Life.

Clarissa Thiessen ('10) did research in Second Life this summer for Schneiderman as a Richter Scholar. Her research focused on discovering what other schools and professors were doing in SL, as well as the business model employed in SL by Linden Labs, creators of this virtual environment. On the Education page of the SL website she learned that Professor Schneiderman could use an acre of SL land in Campus: Second Life for free for one class for one semester, but would have to buy an island for subsequent classes. (Selling virtual property is how SL obtains financing, along with grants.)

Thiessen also researched individuals in Second Life who are planning activities to celebrate the Centennial of the Burnham Plan, the layout design for the City of Chicago after the Great Chicago Fire. Schneiderman hopes to write a grant to buy an island on which to use virtual architecture to recreate the Burnham "Plan of Chicago" from 1909. He anticipates that the virtual city would interest the people of Lake Forest in the possibilities of Second Life.

Thiessen found SL to be an easy place to meet and chat with people who all seemed excited to be there.

Currently, two scholarly studies of Second Life appear in the PsycInfo database, and one appears...

The reference librarians at Lake Forest College have discussed having a library presence in SL, as many libraries now do. However, reference librarian Nancy Sosna Bohm and Clarisa Theisen both found SL to be a heavy user of computer resources. The librarians are eager to see the outcomes of a class on our campus using this technology.
Dr. Ken Bennett, Emeritus Professor of English, has just published his most recent work, *Threading Shakespeare's Sonnets* online. Bennett sees the Sonnets as a narrative held together by threads of themes and motifs, such as the color black or the myth of Cupid. He notes that the furrows of a brow in one place are echoed by the furrows of a plow in another sonnet.

On the technical side of things, Bennett has been assisted by LIT student employees who work under the supervision and direction of Academic Technology Specialist Donnie Sendelbach. LIT student employee Alex Monahov ('10) worked on the design and two-column layout of the book, whose chapters include the text of each sonnet beside the commentary. Next, Gabriella Panayotova ('10) implemented the design in MS Word and then converted each chapter to a PDF. Quincy Roberts ('09) also converted portions of the 293-page text to PDF and then into "Flash Paper," using Macromedia's Flash software. Roberts used DreamWeaver and its template feature to create a website to frame the online documents and allow navigation throughout the chapters. The students worked throughout the summer on this project through funding from the Dean of Faculty's Office.

*Threading Shakespeare's Sonnets* is available at [http://campus.lakeforest.edu/kbennett/sonnets](http://campus.lakeforest.edu/kbennett/sonnets).
RefWorks Works For You

The Library now subscribes to RefWorks, an online bibliography service. RefWorks allows you to quickly save citations while you are conducting research in online databases. You can also manually enter citations from print and other sources. Then you can access these citations from any computer with an Internet connection, download them, and/or have them automatically formatted in correct MLA, APA, Chicago or other citation style. Refworks can automatically generate a bibliography at the end of your paper while you are writing it and insert correctly formatted citations with a couple of mouse clicks. Bibliographies can also be shared with just a few clicks.

The first time you login to RefWorks, go to the Library website and click on the RefWorks link in the red menu on the left. You will then need to click on the link that says “Sign up for an individual account.” Once you have established a username and password, you are ready to start using RefWorks. In the future, return to the RefWorks link on the Library’s website, or you can go to www.refworks.com/refworks from any Internet-ready computer and login using the group number RWLakeFC.

If you have Microsoft Word installed on your computer, you can install RefWorks’ Write-N-Cite, which allows you to use the automated bibliography features when you are writing a paper. When you are logged in to RefWorks, click on Tools and then select Write-N-Cite to reach the page with links to download the Write-N-Cite program on your computer. Then, when you are in Word, you will have a small Write-N-Cite toolbar.
Many databases of academic articles, including PubMed, Current Contents, EBSCO databases, and the FirstSearch databases, have links to export citations to RefWorks. For web pages, you can download the RefGrab-It toolbar button for your browser. When you are logged into RefWorks, just click on Tools and select RefGrab-It to go to the page where you can download RefGrab-It. All the computers in the Library reference area have RefGrab-It installed on both their FireFox and Internet Explorer browsers.

If you need help with RefWorks, just ask a Reference Librarian at x5074.
VIRTUAL REFERENCE

If you’ve been to the Library home page recently, you can’t have missed the instant-message widget on the right side of the page. Patrons of the Library can now get reference help online in real time. If the message at the top of the box states in orange letters that “lfc_librarian is online,” then you can get an immediate typed response to any question you type into the box. If the message says the “lfc_librarian is offline,” your message will be received the next time one of the reference librarians logs into Meebo (the software provider of the IM widget). If you leave contact information, the librarian can assist you later. At the bottom of the widget, the Library’s reference desk phone number and link to email for reference questions are provided as well.

Meebo is a free Internet chat program that requires no downloading of software. A June 4th article in Business Week gives background information about the small company. A list of libraries that use Meebo for instant online reference can be found at the Library Success wiki. Recently a Lake Forest student at home in Minnesota used the Meebo widget to get help accessing articles. The student’s typed comment says it all: "This chat box is a great tool!"
There's more to installation of digital projectors and smart boards than meets the eye as is illustrated by this photograph of wires in the server closet of Buchanan Hall during installation.

This fall fourteen new "smart" classrooms will be available to students and faculty at the College. These classrooms have a computer in a podium or wall rack unit, a ceiling-mounted projector, and a DVD/VCR controlled by a wall-mounted Medialink unit which replaces the need for individual remotes for each piece of equipment. This is the same system that has worked very well in the library classrooms.

Five of the new smart classrooms are located on South Campus in Buchanan Hall, the former location of the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management. Now, after extensive renovations, it is home to the College's Education, Theater, and Religion departments, as well as the Ethics Center and Health Services.

Two of the Buchanan Hall classrooms are equipped with smart white boards on which notes can be written during class and then transferred to Moodle or other websites. The Education Department has five electronic Airliner slates that wirelessly display on the white board, allowing for more interactive classroom engagement. Another room will be setup for the production of videos for education majors who are practicing teaching and presentations.

Buchanan Hall also has a Student Common area with a built-in 60" flat panel television with a cable connection. The entire building is wireless and is LEED certified, meaning that it is environmentally responsible and a healthy place work.

On Middle Campus, in Reid Hall, Rooms 202 and 203 have become smart classrooms with upgraded sound systems for the Music Department's use.

Young Hall 309 is now a smart classroom while Young Hall 126 will be even "smarter" with two computers—a Mac and PC—connected to a flat screen TV which is hung from the ceiling to accommodate the room's unusual dimensions.

Hotchkiss Hall 09, 101 and Meyer Auditorium have had Numonics tablets installed. These enable notes written on them to be projected.
On North Campus, Durand Hall 209 will also become a smart classroom. Additionally, the Art lab has a new server that is 8x more powerful, insuring better performance and reliability.

Contact Karen Blocker at x6128 with any questions about smart classrooms or training needs.