Spring 2008

Check it out! Library Newsletter, Spring 2008

Johnson & Wales University Library - Providence

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Looking Good
New Carpet
While students were on winter break, a hardworking crew from the Johnson & Wales facilities department installed new carpeting in the library’s public access computer area on the second floor of the Yena Center. With the assistance of IT field support, the project was completed in record time, causing minimal disruption in library services for students resuming classes on Monday January 7th. Library administrators are continuing to plan for the installation of more new carpeting. Next up is the classroom/computer lab which is scheduled to be re-carpeted over the February break.

Journal Browsing Collection
Wondering what the best journals are in your field of study? Visit the first floor reading area of the Downcity library where there will now be displayed the latest issue of each print format title to which the Downcity library subscribes, for a total of 115+ journals. While online access is increasingly the method of choice for reading select journal articles, Johnson & Wales librarians still believe in the virtues of exploring journals in their traditional print format. The library will also continue to shelve all issues of popular magazines in the reading area, but back issues of curriculum-related journals will be stored behind the circulation desk. To determine library holdings for a particular title, library users can search the library online catalog, journal locator, or simply ask a librarian for help.

Climate Change Awareness Events
In partnership with the J&W Focus the Nation initiative (www.focusthenation.org) the library has added to its collections many new resources on global warming and other environmental conservation topics. In addition, the library hosted two book discussion groups on climate change. Librarians, faculty and students met in the special exhibits room in the Yena Center where they enjoyed “local food” refreshments and shared their ideas on the hazards of global warming, how to go ‘green,’ and how to get people at J&W more involved in the discussion. One idea contributed by nutrition major Jesse Grunther, who attended the discussion group in January, was to hold discussion groups about not just books on climate change but also poetry, pop songs, and graphic arts dealing with the topic. Anyone with specific poems, songs or graphic images to suggest for the library’s March 21st discussion group should contact the library director Rosie Hopper, 598-1145, rhopper@jwu.edu.
Erika Frank is one of the newest members of the library staff, joining the reference team this past September. As a native of New Hampshire—a state with just a tiny bit of coastline—Erika is thrilled to be living in the Ocean State which she says truly lives up to its reputation as the “Biggest Little.”

Erika has had a productive year getting to know the J&W community. In addition to being part of the Downcity reference services rotation, she has taught 24+ library research classes which were attended by more than 500+ students. Currently she is assisting in the library trials of prospective new research databases for the 2008-2009 academic year. She is also excited to begin contributing content to the library’s research guides.

“I love working with students,” says Erika, whose #1 research tip is still: “Don’t be afraid to go to a librarian for help. It’s what we’re here for.”

As asked about her own favorite information resources Erika raves about monitoring RSS feeds through Google Reader. This allows her to automatically receive the latest articles on topics of her choosing from journals such as the Chronicle of Higher Education which is available full-text through the library’s subscription to Lexis Nexis. The Google reader service is so easy to set up, says Erika. Later this year she and other members of the library staff are hoping to offer informal info-tech training sessions for anyone in the J&W community wishing to update their Web 2.0 skills in order to take advantage of RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds, blogs, and other digital age innovations.

Outside of work Erika loves to spend time with family, travel to new places, and is also an avid football fan with her heart firmly in Indianapolis. With the Colts out of the play-offs for this season, Erika is of course rooting for the Patriots. Over the years she has attended many games at Gillette Stadium and as this newsletter went to press she was looking forward to being part of the crowd at the AFC Championship game.

If you would like to get help with research, or with using library and information resources, you can e-mail Erika at efrank@jwu.edu or reach her by phone at 598-2466.