Media Collection is now Available!

This fall, remember to utilize Monmouth University Library’s newest collection of audio-visual materials. At the Circulation Desk as you enter the Library, students can check out DVDs or VHS tapes for viewing, and CDs for listening to in the library. There are televisions for viewing both VHS and DVD formats on the Lower Level, and all the computers in the Library will play CDs and show DVDs. Just ask for a headset at the Circulation Desk (or bring your own) when you check out your material.

If you want to see a Shakespeare play or you are doing research on myths, advertising, or eating habits you just might find something useful in the collection. The History & Anthropology Department recently requested several films – some critique women in advertising like “Slim Hopes” and “Killing Us Softly 3” while others address the Civil Rights Movement in this country (“Eyes on the Prize”) or depict early colonialism in New Guinea (“First Contact”).

There are also more popular films that are useful in a classroom setting, as well. “Traffic” with Don Cheadle and Catherine Zeta-Jones, “Amistad” with Morgan Freeman and Anthony Hopkins, and “Saving Private Ryan” with Tom Hanks and Edward Burns have all been ordered and will be available shortly. Check our catalog for a full list of media by going to the “Subject Heading” option and typing in “Media Collection”.

Faculty will be able to check out the materials for a week at a time to show in their classrooms, or in some cases, for other events and meetings on campus. Please keep this in mind when you plan your classes. If you know of material that would be useful to the curriculum of your department or school, please contact Lisa Coats (lcoats@monmouth.edu or 732-923-4537) or go to “Faculty Services” on the Library website (www.library.monmouth.edu) and fill out the Media Purchase Request Form. Provide as much information as you can so we are able to find the best source. Happy viewing!

Library Parking Available in Lot 6—North Campus

The lack of parking spaces at the library has been an ongoing problem for students. Now, in Lot 6 – North Campus – there are 19 designated parking spaces for library patrons at any time of the day. The spaces are specially denoted by signage and can be used by anyone utilizing the Library with the exception of resident students. Overflow parking for visitors is still available next to the Police Department. After 7:30 PM on weeknights and all day on Saturday and Sunday, gated Lot 20 which is adjacent to the library, is also open for library patron parking,
Library Circulation News

Spring Semester 2007 saw an increase in the gate count and check-outs from the previous spring semester 2006. Nearly 34,000 patrons and guests entered your library, an increase of over 35%. In addition, over 8,000 books were checked-out, an increase of over 73%. The library received new laptops and saw a big increase in their check-outs as well.

The library Circulation Department was very busy this summer. The entire Reference Collection has been shifted to allow for growth and increase your ease of use for this important collection. Therefore, you may notice that some of the locations of other collections have changed slightly. The Karasic, Monmouth and Juvenile Collections have been shifted and are shelved in the center stacks on the first floor (just to the left of the Reference Collection). The “New Books” are now located to the left of the Reference desk. There area also new shelving units near Reference to allow for additional displays.

Reminders:
- Laptops are available for your use in the library. Inquire at the Circulation Desk.
- Suggestion boxes are located in the foyer and at the Reference Desk. Let us know how we can improve our services.

“In the News” Book Exhibit

The Monmouth University Library features rotating exhibits of newly-published books that share common themes. The first display of the Fall semester features books about issues in the national and international news. There are books about genetically modified foods, steroid use in sports, environmental degradation, human sex trafficking, and refugees in civil wars around the globe. Come and browse the display shelves and open stacks that contain books in your field of interest. Find current information and scholarly works that you can use in your research. Don’t forget that you can search the MU Library’s book collection in the online catalog, 24/7, beginning at the library webpage. And if you still can’t find what you are looking for, please come by, call, or email the reference librarians for more help. 732 571-3438

Library Research Awards to be Presented in the Spring

Information literacy and developing student’s thinking skills is a high priority at Monmouth University. The library offers a wealth of information in print, electronic and media formats to help students and faculty with their research needs. For the first time, in the Spring of 2008 the Monmouth University Library will offer Library Research Awards. The program was created to recognize students who demonstrate extraordinary skill and creativity in the application of library and information resources to research papers completed in fulfillment of a course requirement. In addition to rewarding successful information literacy achievements by students, these awards will also highlight and promote the Library’s resources and services to the Monmouth community.

The $250 awards, sponsored by the Monmouth University Library Association, will be presented as one winning award for each category – undergraduate and graduate students. Successful projects need to make extensive use of library resources and collections, exhibit the ability to select, evaluate and synthesize the information collected, and show personal learning and development of research skills. An essay describing the research techniques used by the student will be given the most weight in the judging process. For more details on evaluation criteria and an applicant, see the link on the library’s home page. For additional information on the award you can also email Eleonora Dubicki at edubicki@monmouth.edu.
What Do Students Think about the Library Laptop Service?

In the spring of 2007, all MU students received a survey through email about the library’s lending laptop service. To encourage student participation, the library offered drawings of three Barnes & Noble gift cards to the survey respondents - 865 students responded to the survey with three students winning the gift cards: Kerry Gehm ($50), Megan Canavan ($25), and Meghan Moratelli ($25).

MU Library has offered the library lending laptop service since the summer of 2003, when the library became the first wireless hot spot on campus where students could connect to the Internet using their own laptops. In the fall 2006, 8 new laptops were purchased to replace the original five. The survey revealed that after the lending laptop service had been in place for 4 years, 66.47% of responding students were still unaware that the service existed. This was an improvement from a 2005 survey when 85% of participants did not know about the service. As a matter of fact, most participants learned about the laptop service through both surveys. This finding supports that the library should not mainly rely on the library website or word of mouth in promoting library services. Students need to be informed by other means, including signs, printed publicities, and be told in library orientations. After the 2007 survey, library laptop use increased more than five-fold.

The library laptop loaner service was strong in overall borrower satisfaction in the 2007 survey. The highest level of satisfaction is on speed (91%), and the lowest on technical support (69.23%). Most students used the Library laptops to do research, homework, and to communicate with others. For students who used both desktops and laptops, most of them performed the same activities on each. In large part, the Library laptops functioned as an extension of the desktops.

A recurring theme in student comments in the survey was that the loan period should be extended beyond two hours and users should be allowed to take laptops outside the library. While laptop ownership of survey respondents was 66.24%, many students commented that they would not carry their own laptops around campus. 54.43% of responding laptop owners never brought their own laptops to the library. Instead, they would prefer to use the desktops and laptops available in the library. The soaring statistics of laptop use after the 2007 survey indicates that the more students become aware of the library’s laptop service, the more they will use it. The library will need to cope with the increasing demand for the service in the future. In conclusion, 83.93% of respondents agreed that library lending laptop service was a valuable service to students.

Laptops can be borrowed at the circulation desk.

Archives & Special Collections

Mumford Collection
- A photograph of Lewis Mumford from the Monmouth University Lewis Mumford Collection appears on the cover of In Old Friendship: The Correspondence of Lewis Mumford and Henry A. Murray, 1928-1981, edited by Professor Frank G. Novak, Jr. of Pepperdine University and published by Syracuse University Press.

Archives
- Historic images of the Guggenheim Cottage, furnished by the Monmouth University Library Archives, are featured in a new two-volume study, Carrère & Hastings Architects, published in 2006 by Acanthus Press.

New Jersey Collection
- Nearly 400 new titles have been added to the New Jersey Collection catalog this year.
- The New Jersey Collection will be featured in a forthcoming issue of the Monmouth University Magazine.
- The Library’s Vietnam Newspaper Project online bibliography will be updated this fall to include links to full-text images for all citations.
for his distinguished contributions to the Section. The award was presented to him at the Annual Conference of ALA in Washington, D.C. in June 2007. He has been appointed chair of the Nomination Committee of AAMES for 2007-2008.

Eleonora Dubicki, Assistant Librarian, was appointed to the Editorial Board of CR&L News and is also a new member of the national ACRL Marketing Academic & Research Libraries Committee. Eleonora presented a poster session at the March 2007 ACRL conference in Baltimore, “Students Chart a new Course for Library Promotions” and attended ACRL’s Information Literacy Immersion ’07 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada August 5-10, 2007.

Lisa Coats, Instructor, is currently serving as Vice President of the NJLA Reference Section and is co-editor of their newsletter.

Beatrice Priestly, Adjunct Librarian, has had her article “The federal alternative minimum tax and the library director’s salary in New Jersey,” published in The Bottom Line: Managing Library Finances v.20 no.1 March 30, 2007.

