Inviting new environment draws more patrons

During the Fall semester, Monmouth University faculty, students, and staff enjoyed the renovated library in record numbers: 39,031, an increase of more than 50% over the prior year. Book circulation was up 39%, now that all our books are back from storage.

What else is new at the library?

- There is now an Information Desk located in the lower level of your library. If you have any questions locating a periodical or Government Document, help is now only steps away!
- A new area displaying popular magazines was set up on the lower level of the library—especially for browsing.
- The Library has 3 new group study rooms! These rooms are located one on each floor of the Library. We encourage you to use these rooms for all your group studying.
- The Library café opened during the fall semester. Hours: Monday—Thursday 11:00am—10pm, Friday & Saturday closed, and Sunday 3pm—8:00pm.
Library Association Annual Holiday Ball

The Monmouth University Library Association held its 32nd Annual Holiday Ball and Celebration of Trees on Saturday, December 2, 2006. This year’s ball marked the 50th anniversary of the Monmouth University Library Association. Mr. James Weakley of AIG American General was the 2006 honoree. All proceeds from the ball benefit the Monmouth University Library. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the library association members for their continued generous support.

Archives, Special Collections, & Gifts

Archeological Society of New Jersey Collection:
Thanks to the efforts of Associate Professor Richard Veit (MU Department of History and Anthropology), many of the books, journals, and archival materials collected by The Archeological Society of New Jersey will soon be available at the Monmouth University Library. A preliminary inventory of the collection holdings is under way and processing of the materials will begin this spring.

Lewis Mumford Collection:
Installation of the new Mumford Room furnishings has been completed and the collection materials have now been returned to the Library from off-site storage. Processing of the uncatalogued portions of Mumford’s artwork and personal library will take place over the spring semester. The collection will remain closed until processing is complete.

New Jersey Book Collection:
As a result of a comprehensive inventory that was completed, in December 2006, 453 items will be added to the collection catalog and another 77 item records revised. Two additional reading tables were ordered for the New Jersey Room and are planned for installation in the near future.

New Subject Guides Now Available

In late 2006, librarians worked together to update, complete, and develop new Subject Reference Guides, raising the total number to 46. Most of the guides have been rewritten; all contain new brand new research materials and updated hyperlinks.

All Subject Reference Guides are also in PDF format, so, they can be viewed on screen or printed out. The guides also have full page numbering and subject headings.

Instead of being overwhelmed by myriad paths to research, consider using a traditional subject reference guide. By doing so, you’ll be informed of popular and established research materials, including respected texts, trusted reference works, and electronic resources that won’t let you down.

Each guide has been printed out and is displayed near the Reference Desk. Look for the new revolving display rack! But, you can also find them on the University Library Research Help page.

Subject Reference Guides – a great way to start and finish your research.
Loaner Laptops Available in Library — Upcoming Survey

The Library's Lending Laptop Program is in its 4th year and has 8 new laptops this semester to lend for in library use. The Library is one of the Wi-Fi hotspots on campus. Students have Internet access in the Library using their own laptops or using one of the Library's laptops. Laptops provide mobility to students and allow students to curl in a corner to study or to study in groups in one of the Library's study rooms.

The University Library is conducting an on-line survey of all Monmouth students. It is seeking student help in evaluating this service. The survey should take only a few minutes to complete, and every student who answers questions 1-10 will be entered into a drawing for 2 Barnes & Noble gift cards worth $25 and one card for $50.

An email was sent to all students with the subject line "Take the Library's Survey for a Chance at a Prize!" Students must click on the link in that email to take the on-line survey; there is no other means of reaching it. The survey runs from March 12th to the 31st. If anyone has questions about the survey, please contact Professor Ma Lei Hsieh at mhsieh@monmouth.edu or 732-571-4404.

New Multimedia Collection

The Monmouth University Library has recently begun a multimedia collection. Our purpose is to provide media to the Monmouth University community in a centralized, controlled atmosphere. We hope to help enhance the educational experience on campus by having quality audio/visual material accessible to the faculty and students.

Currently, we have several educational DVDs being processed and cataloged that will be available shortly for students to view in the library and for faculty to check out for use in classrooms for educational purposes. Some of the DVDs ordered will have performance rights for showing to larger groups on campus. There are also some materials around campus that will likely be added to the media collection and become usable via the library at some point in the near future.

Televisions with VHS and DVD players are being ordered for viewing stations in the lower level of the library near the instructional computer lab, but the DVDs can be viewed on any computer in the library. Headsets are available to be checked out at the circulation desk. Other equipment will be purchased as needed, particularly if other types of media (i.e. audio) are added to the collection.

If you know of material that would be useful to the curriculum, please contact Lisa Coats (lcoats@monmouth.edu or 732-923-4537). Provide as much information as you can so we are able to find the best source.

We are excited about developing the collection and providing this valuable service, so we hope you will utilize and enjoy it. More information to come!

Monmouth Faculty Authors’ Reception

Each year, the Library hosts a reception to celebrate University faculty who have published books during the previous year. This year’s event is scheduled for April 4, 2007.

The reception is highlighted by faculty authors discussing the focus of their publications and providing insights on the actual process involved with getting published. This year, we have 11 faculty members who have written or edited books, and have several hundred articles which have been authored by Monmouth faculty.
Databases for Gender Studies Research

Some are new and some are old, but all of the databases described below contain pertinent and helpful information for researching topics related to gender studies. All Databases are accessible from the Library’s Research Databases web page.

*Family and Society Studies Worldwide*:  
Contains reports, scholarly and popular journal articles, and book citations written about international issues in gender studies. For example, find information about gender and food insecurity. Some of the ERIC reports in FSSW date back to 1962!

*GenderWatch*:  
Covering from 1974 to the present, this very comprehensive database contains scholarly journal articles, many in full text. Find information about employment status of women in a developing China.

*Sociology Sage Full Text*:  
Find journal articles dating from 1970 to the present. Gather information about your topic from the sociological perspective. Many articles are scholarly and all are in full text.

*JSTOR*:  
Use this database for retrospective research on gender studies’ topics. “Feminist studies” is one important section to search for scholarly journal articles.

*ScienceDirect*:  
When searching in this authoritative database, select the “psychology” and “social sciences” sections for gender studies-related journal articles.

Electronic Resources Usage Continues to Grow

The Library provides access to 110 databases. In 2006, users conducted 956,626 searches, an increase of 27% over the previous year. The growing number of scholarly titles available online makes researching quicker, while improving the quality of materials accessible. Access any of the Library databases from the research databases page: either by subject or the alphabetical list. [http://library.monmouth.edu/researchdb/researchdb.php](http://library.monmouth.edu/researchdb/researchdb.php)

Where are library patrons most likely to search for journal and newspaper articles?

When researching general or current topics, *Academic Search Premier and Proquest Research Library* are good starting points. Both have full-text journal coverage on a broad range of topics and contain both popular and scholarly journal coverage.

*JSTOR* is also a multidisciplinary database, but is especially unique in its archival coverage. Full-text from some journals go back to articles published in the 1850’s. It is a terrific resource for historical information.

*Lexis Nexis* provides world-wide news coverage from papers and syndicated sources. It also has excellent coverage for business, medical, and legal topics.

The remaining top databases are discipline-specific and should be searched if you have a narrowly-defined topic for your search.

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<tr>
<th>Top Databases 2006</th>
<th># Searches</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Search Premier</td>
<td>123,447</td>
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<tr>
<td>PsycINFO</td>
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<td>ComAbstracts</td>
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<td>ERIC</td>
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<td>Lexis Nexis Academic Universe</td>
<td>27,217</td>
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<td>CINAHL</td>
<td>25,477</td>
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New Databases

Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory & Criticism

Comprehensive historical survey of Literature’s most important figures and movements. It’s chronological range extends from Plato and Aristotle to the present, with wide geographical and cultural coverage. Includes entries on critics and theorists, critical schools and movements, and the critical theoretical innovations of specific countries and historical periods. Each entry includes a selective primary and secondary bibliography, and there are extensive cross reference for each entry.

SciFinder Scholar

Tool for searching for biochemical, chemical, chemical engineering and medical publications. Access available from all on-campus computers.

MarketLine

MarketLine Business Information Centre provides business information on 10,000 companies, 2,000 industries, and 50 countries. The service uses desk research and secondary data sources to compile Corporate, Industry, and Country profiles which offer in-depth analysis of global companies and key industrial and consumer sectors across the world’s leading economies.

MathSciNet

Offers reviews, abstracts, and citations to the world’s research literature in mathematics and related areas compiled from Mathematical reviews and current mathematical publications.

Noodle Tools—Citation Help!

Need help with citing articles or creating a bibliography? NoodleTools is a comprehensive MLA and APA bibliography composer with a fully-integrated note-taking component.

Users create their own account.

Information Commons computers

Most databases are accessible remotely 24/7.

http://library.monmouth.edu/researchdb/researchdb.php

WiFi connections throughout the Library
Library Wisdom

Libraries exist to unfurl dreams, offering access to knowledge and entertainment and everything in between. They symbolize the ideal that all citizens have a right to be informed.

John King, San Francisco Chronicle

Meet

George Germek, Appointed Coordinator—Reference Services

George is the new reference coordinator. George will also participate in other library functions such as library instruction and collection development. George’s degrees: BA and BS in English and Management Science from Kean College, Master of Arts, English from Rutgers, and Master of Library and Information Science degree from Rutgers. He is an experienced English instructor on the college and university levels and has also had experience as an instructional designer and trainer.

Librarian and Staff Happenings

Dean R.N. Sharma has published a book entitled “The Impact of Technology on Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Library Collections.” It is being used as a text book in a library school in the Midwest. Ravi has also published several book reviews in Choice and the American Reference Books Annual.

Several librarians attended the NJ VALE annual conference in Piscataway NJ in January 2007. Eleonora Dubicki and Lisa Coats moderated lunch time discussions on promoting the library on-campus, and Ma Lei Hsieh had a poster session on MU Library.

Lisa Coats is the new co-editor for the New Jersey Library Association’s Reference Section Newsletter.

Chris Ellwood, Collections Manager for Archives and Special Collections, prepared an updated historical profile of the university for the West Long Branch Historical Society for a forthcoming commemorative publication.