Alison Dooley and Katelyn Orr Named Recipients of the 2008 Library Research Awards

Information literacy and developing student’s thinking skills are a high priority at Monmouth University. For the first time, in the Spring of 2008, the Monmouth University Library has selected two students, Alison Dooley and Katelyn Orr, to receive Library Research Awards.

The program was created to recognize students who demonstrate extraordinary skill and creativity in using library and information resources to complete research papers. Both award winners made extensive use of library resources and collections, demonstrated the ability to select, evaluate and synthesize the information collected, and showed personal learning and development of research skills. Alison’s project, *Eunice Rivers: The Economic and Social Factors that Influenced her Involvement in the Tuskegee Syphilis Study* was prepared for a Senior Seminar class. Katelyn’s project titled *The Compromised Life of a Female Slave* was completed for her Civil War Literature class.

The $250 awards, sponsored by the Monmouth University Library Association, will be presented at the April 27th Student Award Ceremony and listed in the 2008 Commencement Program. Congratulations!

Monmouth Faculty Authors’ Reception

On April 2, 2008, a reception to celebrate University faculty who have published books during 2007 will be held in Wilson Hall. Six authors will be recognized for their publications: George M. Kapalka, David C. Marshall, Sue Starke, Julius O. Adekunle, John Morano and Mohammad S. Obaidat. Several hundred articles have also been authored by Monmouth Faculty and both books and articles are included in the compilation of Monmouth University Faculty Publications 2007.

Library Awarded Three Grants

Monmouth University has received a grant of $13,860 from the New Jersey Historical Commission. The grant will support the Monmouth University Library project for preservation microfilming of the extant holding of the student newspaper *The Outlook*. *The Outlook*, founded in 1933, provides background briefings for many outside media organizations, researchers, historical societies, community groups, and the public. The newspaper not only covered local news events in New Jersey but also national events such as Martin Luther King Jr. speaking on campus.

The second grant in the amount of $1,100 has been received from the Council of Independent Colleges to enable Dr. Thomas Pearson (Provost), Dr. Richard Veit, (Faculty, CETL) and Dr. R.N. Sharma (Dean of the Library), to attend a conference on the “Transformation of the College Library” held in Baltimore, Maryland From March 27-29, 2008. Only twenty-five universities were selected from the United States to attend this important workshop and Monmouth is one of them.

Eleonora Dubicki, Assistant Librarian, has been selected as the recipient of a $5000 Emerald Research Award for her project: Research Behavior Patterns of Business Students. The competitive grant is funded by the American Library Association’s Business Reference and Services Section to support business research. Eleonora will be undertaking both qualitative and quantitative research to understand the needs of business students in the use of print and electronic resources to complete research assignments.
Your opinion counts! The Library is currently conducting a survey to measure student and faculty satisfaction with the Library services. We did a similar survey in 2005 and implemented many improvements suggested by the results of the study—cafés, study rooms, more electronic resources, updated computers, longer hours, exhibits, media, and commuter parking, just to name a few. Now that the library renovations are complete, tell us what you think about library services and let us know where we should concentrate future service improvements for Monmouth users. You will receive an email to participate in the survey and will automatically be entered to win gift certificates. Please take 10 minutes to complete the survey by 4/14/08 and voice your opinions.

Library Circulation News

Fall semester 2007 once again saw a big increase in the gate count, check-outs and reserves. The library gate count for the Fall semester was 47,570. This is an increase of 22% from the Fall 2006 semester! Check-outs also increased—numbering 8,300, increasing 17%. The History department still leads with the largest percentage of check-outs per department. The Sociology, Criminology and English departments were also high on the check-out list per department.

Many students have taken advantage of the lap-top lending program. Check-outs for lap-tops were over 1,000 for the Fall semester! Circulation recently streamlined the check-out procedure and purchased new cases to facilitate a quicker check-out.

Library reserves continue to be a valuable tool for the University faculty and students. Recently the Reserve Request Form was updated. This new form reminds the faculty that articles located in the library database need not necessarily be placed “on reserve” and can be used for consecutive semesters. All faculty utilizing the reserve service should keep in mind that material placed on reserve that is not library owned or available in the library database can only be reserved “every-other semester”. Ultimately, faculty members must make sure their reserve requests comply with copyright law.

U.S. Government Websites for Health and Medical Research

The authoritative information found on these government websites is very current, well-maintained, and easy to search.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) is one of the nation’s top medical research agencies. The NIH website publishes the latest studies in all medical fields with online reports used by many medical professionals in scholarly journals. http://www.nih.gov

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is a clearinghouse for credible health information, easy for everyone to navigate with very current disease and health information. http://www.cdc.gov/

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) was created by an act of Congress in 1992. SAMHSA is a public health agency that confirms the accountability and effectiveness of programs that deal with mental health and substance abuse. Scholarly researchers contribute to and cite the information gathered by SAMHSA. http://www.samhsa.gov

National Center for Health Statistics contains up-to-date state and federal statistics relating to many health issues. This resource provides the quantitative evidence to support research theses. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm

Fedstats is the place to go for statistics gathered in the last decade from more than 100 federal agencies, ranging from agricultural to social services. Click on “Health” via the dropdown menu for links to many government health-related websites. http://www.fedstats.gov

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) is a free online version of the classic publication published since 1976. Article topics include the effects of prison violence on juveniles, tobacco use, and disease and health conditions. http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr

Library Survey

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Media on the Move

Thanks to all the great suggestions from Monmouth University’s faculty and students, the Library’s Media Collection has been growing steadily since we began acquiring material in the fall semester of 2006. Since we now have over 150 DVDs, VHS tapes and CDs in the collection, we needed to move it from behind the Circulation Desk to a larger, more permanent location. On the first floor, past the Reference Desk (where you can stop to ask for directions) and next to the study room in the left-hand corner, you will find the Media Collection. Also, this move means the material is now browsable! The containers are there on the shelves for browsing, and once you make your selection, you can take the case to the Circulation Desk to check it out.

Students can check out media to be viewed in the library. Four viewing stations which hold televisions with VHS and DVD players are located downstairs in the lower level of the library near the instructional computer lab. DVDs can also be viewed on any computer in the library. Headsets are available to be checked out at the Circulation Desk or you can bring your own. Faculty can check out media materials for one week intervals to use in their classrooms or, in some cases, for events on campus. There are descriptions of the different rights available for media on our website, and every record in the catalog has a linked definition of either “Educational Rights” or “Performance Rights”.

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.

Special Collections

A major upgrade to the Library’s Vietnam Newspaper Project webpage (http://library.monmouth.edu/vietnam/vietnam.html) was completed in February 2008. As a result, library patrons now have access to the full text of more than 200 items cited in “A Chronological Bibliography of Articles on the Vietnam War from Monmouth University’s Student Newspaper, The Outlook, 1965-1975.” Chris Ellwood (Archives and Special Collections), Linda Silverstein (Library Systems/ILL), and Deepthi Ratan (Graduate Student Assistant) collaborated on the six-month initiative.

Materials from the Monmouth University Library Archives will be featured at three forthcoming events: Monmouth University’s 2008 Scholarship Ball (at Monmouth University in West Long Branch--April 26); The New Jersey Library Association’s 2008 Conference (at the Ocean Place Resort in Long Branch--April 29 to May 1); and The Monmouth County Archives and History Day (at the Monmouth County Archives in Manalapan--October 11).


eHRAF: Cross-Cultural Database

Would you like to know how the Zulu culture uses herbs as medicinal remedies? Or the relevance of the coyote in the mythology of the Hopi Indians?

eHRAF (Human Relations Area Files) is a cross-cultural database that contains information on all aspects of cultural and social life for 165 mostly “non-industrial” cultures around the world. eHRAF can be used to find cultural information: on subjects, on a specific culture, or on a geographical region. Documents in the database include: books, dissertations, journal articles and monographs. Access is available on the Library’s Research Databases page. A user guide has been developed to help you browse or search the database. http://library.monmouth.edu/help/eHRAF.pdf
Ma Lei and Hugh Holden (Piedmont College, GA) have been selected to receive the Research Award by the Research Committee of the joint ACRL and NJLA College & University Section. Their article, “The State of Wireless Laptop Lending Programs: A Survey of Academic Libraries” will be presented at the NJLA conference in Long Branch, NJ on 5/1/08. They will present “What If A University Library Lent Laptops & Nobody Came? An Analysis Using three Surveys” on 4/30/08. Ma Lei will also present “Assess the Mess: From Immediate Feedback to Summative Assessment” with two other librarians at the conference.

Lisa Coats, Reference & Instruction Librarian, attended an ACRL Pre-conference workshop at ALA Midwinter, Philadelphia, January 11, 2008, “Injecting Fun into Library Orientation: How to Engage and Capture your Students through Interactive Presentations” as well as the web conference, “Applying Fair-Use Doctrine to Colleges and Universities”. Lisa was also a co-presenter for Monmouth University’s Film Committee and CETL faculty workshop on 2/18/08, “Teaching with Film: What You Should Know”.

Ma Lei Hsieh, Assistant Librarian, was a speaker in a breakout session “Creating Chaos in Your Instruction: Experiments in Active Learning” at the VALE/ NJLA CUS - NJ ACRL User Conference in Piscataway, NJ in January 2008. Ma Lei and Eleonora moderated lunch time discussion roundtables on “Getting Students Involved during Library Instruction.”

Ma Lei will participate in Monmouth’s Global Understanding Convention (GUC) and speak as a panelist in “2008 Olympics—A Crossroads for China—Panel Discussion” on April 9. She will also prepare a book exhibition on China in the Library during the GUC Week.

Meet

Sylvia Robinson, InterLibrary Loan
Sylvia became a neighbor to Monmouth University in 2002, after moving from Europe and purchasing a house steps away from the Doherty House. “From the beginning I aspired to work in the Library. I applied for my current position after I lost my job in Brielle Public Library, where I worked for the past 3 years. I’m very proud to be part of such a wonderful team.”

Librarian and Staff Happenings


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Beatrice Priestly, Adjunct Librarian, will present a poster session titled “The Alternative Minimum Tax and Your Salary,” at the NJLA 2008 Annual Conference on 4/30/08.

Allison Shields, Circulation/Stack Manager, completed the Community Emergency Response Team training sponsored by the Monmouth University Police Department and attended various Human Resource sponsored workshops on “Conflict Resolution”, “Generations in the Workplace” and “Thriving in Chaos” as well as a web-conference, “Applying Fair-Use Doctrine to Colleges and Universities”.

Kate Angelo, Reserve Specialist, attended the web conference, “Applying Fair-Use Doctrine to Colleges and Universities”.

Chris Ellwood (Collections Manager, Archives and Special Collections) attended a workshop, “From Chaos To Clarity: The Life Cycle of An Archival Collection,” presented by the New York Public Library on December 12, 2007.