Children of the Caribbean: Their View of the World

The Library is currently hosting an exhibit by SHARE USA of 35 photographs taken by children in Monte Plata, Dominican Republic. Alice Pearce, board member of the non-profit organization based in Red Bank, NJ, makes two trips a year to the impoverished mountain village to provide support for an orphanage and school. Initially speaking to the children and adults of the community about health services, SHARE USA is also providing financial and educational support for orphaned children to attend school to improve their future employment prospects. Pearce has worked to expand the school to offer classes through the eighth grade and is now working on setting up a vocational school for the children who do not go on to high school.

The pictures in the exhibit were taken by children of the orphanage with disposable cameras. With no prior photography experience, the children were told to take photos that captured their view of the community and friends. The photos are both artistic and telling. A number of the images show children playing, but at their feet are piles of garbage that litter the streets. At a special presentation during Monmouth’s Global Understanding Convention, Pearce delivered a sobering talk about the circumstances under which these children live. She explained that while the photos may depict some beautiful scenery, in person, one’s other senses would...
**Partnering with the Writing Center**

In an effort to provide outreach service to students at another point of need, the Library has initiated a trial, limited partnership with the campus writing center. Librarians Susan Bucks, Lisa Coats, and Beth Meszaros are providing four hours per week of reference service on the premises of the writing center. Students make half-hour or one-hour appointments via TutorTrac, the same mechanism whereby they sign up for a session with a writing tutor. These librarians will also function on an as-needed basis as writing tutors for “drop-in” students.

“Roving reference” is becoming increasingly common on many college campuses. Moreover, the partnership will position the Library as a more visible partner in the educational process. Finally, it highlights the research-writing connection and the fact that librarians can provide instruction in areas beyond retrieval and access. All three librarians report that business, thus far, has been brisk.

Hours of service are Tuesday and Thursday 3:15-5:15. Students access TutorTrac via the University’s main page. They use the drop-down menu under “Academics” or directly link via [https://tutortrac.monmouth.edu/TutorTrac/Default.html](https://tutortrac.monmouth.edu/TutorTrac/Default.html)

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**Research Database Usage Continues to Grow**

The Library provides access to over 130 databases. The number of searches conducted by users continues to increase each year as students and faculty utilize this easy access to full text articles. The top database during the October-December quarter was Proquest Central. This new multi-disciplinary database is an upgraded version of our previous Proquest subscriptions, adding more full text material, additional dissertation and career resources and broader coverage of psychology, criminal justice and computing. Similarly, last year the library elected to upgrade to Academic Search Complete and Cinahl Full Text for access to more titles in full text.

JSTOR remains the most popular database for historical information, with full text access to articles published as early as the 1850s. Topic coverage includes history, literature, business, political science and art.

Databases are accessed from the library’s research databases page: either by subject or the alphabetical list. Remote access is available 24/7. [http://library.monmouth.edu/researchdb/researchdb.php](http://library.monmouth.edu/researchdb/researchdb.php)

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**Top 5 Databases**

1. Proquest Central
2. Academic Search Complete
3. JSTOR
4. ERIC
5. PsycINFO

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**Children (cont’d from p1)**

Provide a more complete picture, where you can feel the 95% humidity, smell the stench of the open sewers, and hear the constant crowing of roosters. Life is difficult for the inhabitants of this and many other remote villages. While many tourists enjoy the resort areas along the Dominican Republic’s coast, very few visitors ever reach the villages just one hour away. Electricity is usually cut off in the villages by noon in order to provide power to the resorts. Housing is often in shacks made by flattening pieces of tin. There is no running water and the lack of filtration systems requires that all water must be boiled before use to kill bacteria.

The financial and educational support the organization provides to the Eva M. Russell School and the Casa Monte Plata Orphanage has created a significantly better environment for the children and a brighter future with prospects of better jobs.

The Library is very interested in hosting these types of photography exhibits and seminars to raise awareness among the Monmouth community about poverty in many areas of the world, and to encourage volunteerism and fundraising to improve the quality of life in these regions.
Monmouth Faculty Authors’ Reception

On April 1, 2008, a reception to celebrate University faculty who have published books during 2008 was held in Wilson Hall. Fourteen authors were recognized for their publications: Liora Brosh, Rekha Data, Kevin Dooley, Bonnie Gold, Brian Greenberg, George M. Kapalka, Golam Mathbor, Nancy Mezey, Enoch Nappen, Joe Palladino, Maureen Paparella, Gene Simko, Richard Veit, and Hettie Williams. Several hundred articles have also been authored by Monmouth faculty. Both books and articles are included in the compilation of Monmouth University Faculty Publications 2008.

Circulation News—Did you Know?

- The Circulation Department now has 18 laptops; including 7 Mac’s for student use. Laptops are for in-library use only. Please go to the Circulation Desk for check-out.

- The standard borrowing privilege for undergraduate students is 3 weeks. If you need to renew your checked-out books please call the Circulation Desk at 732-571-3693.

- You can return any checked-out book to any one of the book drops located on campus. Book drops are located near the Health Center, in the back of the Student Center and outside the Library entrance. Please do not return DVD’s or Inter Library Loans through the book drops. They must be returned directly to the Circulation Desk.

- CD-R’s are available for $2.00 each at the Circulation Desk.

- Beginning Monday, April 27, 2009 – Monday, May 11, 2009, the library will once again extend its closing hours for Final Exams! Check the library website for more details!

Nippon Foundation Book Grant

Japanese popular culture, from manga and animation to cuisine and fashion, is becoming increasingly popular among people of all ages. There are many sources of information about Japan: print, broadcasts, and the internet, to name but a few. To simplify the process of hunting down authoritative works on Japan, The Nippon Foundation set in motion a book program, the first step of which was to ask ten experts with extensive knowledge of the country to select 100 books to serve as useful guides for those who want to understand present day Japan. During the selection process, the committee members were able to draw on entirely different backgrounds and points of view, having experience in business, academic, media, government, cultural, and NGO-related circles.

The Monmouth University Library is one of 300 libraries that have been selected to receive this collection of 100 books on present-day Japan. The books look at Japan from every angle, covering such topics as foreign policy, business and management, society and culture, films and animation, classic and contemporary literature, and history. Most of the books are recent publications, but some older classics have been included to give a better appreciation of the historical background of the nation. This collection of books provides an excellent introduction to one of the most complex societies in the world. The books will be added to the Library’s circulating collection and will help faculty and students understand the enigmas of modern Japanese society and thinking.
Meet

Delaine Sarraf - Circulation

Delaine is now the Reserve Specialist, processing all course reserves. Please contact Delaine if you are interested in placing articles, books or DVDs on reserve for your classes. Delaine can be reached at 732-571-4522 or dsarraf@monmouth.edu.

Susan Bucks - Instructor Librarian

Susan is happy to be the new government documents librarian at Monmouth University. Previously, she worked at Monmouth as an adjunct librarian. While working on her Master in Library and Information Science degree at Rutgers University she interned at the Morgan Library in New York City. She has a BS in Economics from Susquehanna University and a BA in Art History from Rutgers. In the past she worked at the Monmouth Museum and Cultural Center in Lincroft, NJ where she was public relations coordinator and assisted with programs and exhibitions.

Librarian and Staff Happenings


Eleonora teamed with Lisa Coats, Reference & Instruction Librarian, and Amy Clark (Brookdale Community College) to present “Library Research Awards: Celebrating Excellence in Student Research” at the annual New Jersey Virtual Academic Library Environment conference on January 9, 2009 in Piscataway, NJ.

Beth Meszaros, Assistant Librarian, attended the Comparative Drama Conference in Los Angeles, CA March 25-29 2009. She served as a session moderator for three sessions. In addition, she was asked to serve as respondent to the Keynote Speaker, Lizbeth Goodman, who spoke on the use of media and technology in live performance.

Beatrice Priestly, Adjunct Librarian, published an article “In Favor of the Masters Degree for the Office and Title of Librarian?” in the Black Caucus of American Library Association Newsletter, November/December 2008.