Information literacy and developing students’ critical thinking skills are a high priority at Monmouth University. The Monmouth University Library established Library Research Awards in 2008 to recognize students who demonstrate skill and creativity in the application of library and information resources to research papers completed in fulfillment of a course requirement.

Graduate student Kristina Tipps and undergraduate student Danielle Darpino have been selected to receive the 2012 awards. Both award winners made extensive use of library resources and services, identified authoritative websites, demonstrated the ability to select, evaluate and synthesize the information collected, and showed personal learning and development of research skills as they completed their projects.

Kristina’s research paper, *Forensic Linguistics in Cases of Questioned Authorship* was written for her fall 2011 Linguistics class. The project was nominated for the award by English faculty member Professor Heide Estes. In her abstract, Kristina explains that the research paper “outlines a history of the development of forensic linguistics from its roots in contested literary documents to its present use in criminal investigations and analyzes the quantitative and qualitative strategies that linguists use to determine accurate authorship of documents within criminal cases.”

Danielle’s research paper, *Women’s Fashion: Reflections on Culture and Gender*, was written for her Research Seminar in American History in the fall of 2011. It was nominated by Professor Brian Greenberg, Department of History and Anthropology. Danielle’s paper examines how fashions and styles reflect many aspects of culture in a society, including social, political and economic realities.

The $250 awards, sponsored by the Monmouth University Library Association, will be presented at the April 29, 2011 Student Award Ceremony. Past winners of the award include Alison Dooley and Katelyn Orr (2008), Neva Pontoriero and Nicole Stevens (2009), Alexis Anderson and Suzanne Anastasio (2010), and Kimberly Morté and Kathleen Cook (2011).

### 2013 MU Library Research Awards:

**Submission Deadline:** Friday, March 1, 2013

**Eligibility:** Papers written during the spring, summer or fall 2012 semesters

**Award Categories:** Undergraduate and Graduate, $250 each. Funding for the awards is generously provided by the Monmouth University Library Association.

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Student Center Reference Desk--ASK!

Tired of trekking across campus to get help in the library? Need to ask a quick question between classes? The walk to get help with research just got a little bit shorter. The Library is now offering reference services on the second floor of the Rebecca Stafford Student Center. The RSSC library reference desk is located in the student lounge on the second floor, next to the Veterans Affairs Office. The desk will be staffed for the spring and fall 2012 semesters: Monday, 2 PM–5 PM, Tuesday, 10 AM –1 PM, and Wednesday from 6 PM–9 PM. Stop in with your research questions.
Locating Journal Articles in Library Databases

By searching the Library’s 150+ databases, students, faculty, and administrators have access to popular and scholarly journal titles 24/7. The following databases are key starting points for doing research in each discipline. A more complete list of databases, as well as books and websites, can be found in our discipline and course-specific research LibGuides http://guides.monmouth.edu and on the research databases webpage by subject http://library.monmouth.edu/researchdb/researchdb.php Tutorials on searching Academic Search Complete and PQ Central are available. Help with your research is available at the reference desk (732)571-3438.

### Multi-disciplinary Databases
- Academic Search Complete
- Proquest PQ Central
- Lexis/Nexis Academic

### Anthropology
- Anthrosource
- Family & Society Studies Worldwide
- Ethnographic Video Online

### Art
- ARTstor
- AHSearch
- Beazley Archive

### Biology
- Biomedical Reference Collection
- Nature
- ScienceDirect

### Current Topics
- CQ Researcher
- Points of View
- Proquest Newspapers

### Chemistry/Physics
- American Chemical Society
- SciFinder
- PROLA

### Communication
- ComAbstracts
- Communication & Mass Media Complete
- Communication Studies Full text

### Computer Science & Engineering
- ACM Digital Library
- IEEE Digital Library
- Computing Reviews

### Business
- Business Source Premier
- ABI Inform
- Lexis/Nexis Academic

### Criminal Justice
- Proquest Criminal Justice
- Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text
- PsycARTICLES
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<tr>
<th><strong>Education</strong></th>
<th><strong>Nursing &amp; Health</strong></th>
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<td>- ERIC</td>
<td>- CINAHL</td>
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<td>- Professional Development Collection (Ebsco)</td>
<td>- Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition</td>
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<td>- Proquest Education Journals</td>
<td>- Biomedical Reference Collection</td>
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<th><strong>Philosophy/Religion</strong></th>
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<td>- Project Muse</td>
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<td>- SocINDEX with Full text</td>
<td>- JSTOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Sociology Full Text</td>
<td>- ProQuest Religion</td>
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<td>- America History &amp; Life</td>
<td>- Political Science Complete</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Historical Abstracts</td>
<td>- CQ Congress Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>- JSTOR</td>
<td>- Columbia International Affairs Online</td>
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<th><strong>Psychology/Counseling</strong></th>
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<td>- PsycINFO</td>
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<td>- Literature Criticism</td>
<td>- PsycARTICLES</td>
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<td>- Literary Reference Center</td>
<td>- Counseling &amp; Therapy in Video</td>
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<th><strong>Social Work</strong></th>
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<td>- Environmental Issues &amp; Policy Index</td>
<td>- Social Work Abstracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>- ScienceDirect</td>
<td>- SocINDEX with Full Text</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Family &amp; Society Studies Worldwide</td>
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<td>- Sociology Full Text</td>
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<td>- SIAM Journals Online</td>
<td>- SocINDEX with Full Text</td>
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<td>- ScienceDirect</td>
<td>- Credo Reference</td>
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According to a Fall 2011 study of faculty perceptions regarding Information Literacy (IL) conducted at Monmouth University and three other New Jersey institutions, the findings were definitive that faculty view the mastery of IL skills as critical in order for students to perform effective research in the academic environment. Although faculty most often refer to IL skills as “research skills,” these skills are included by more than 88% of faculty in the stated learning outcomes for their courses.

The five IL skills evaluated in the survey as defined by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) are: ability to identify and address information need, proficiency in accessing information effectively and efficiently, ability to evaluate and think critically about information, competence in using information effectively for a specific purpose, and ability to use information ethically and legally.

The ability to evaluate and think critically about information was the skill garnering the highest rating of importance by faculty, followed by the ability to use information ethically and legally. However, student competency in these skills was also identified as the lowest among the five IL skills measured. Fully 38% of faculty rated students’ competency in evaluating information as poor. Plagiarism and documentation also appear to be a problem area, with only one quarter of faculty rating students’ skills in using information ethically and legally at a good or excellent level.

Clearly, the strongest perceived skill that students possess is an ability to identify and address the information need, with 42% of faculty rating this competency as excellent or good. However, while students may be able to identify a topic for their research, they are less successful at identifying keywords and developing search strategies for finding journal articles, books, or websites that provide appropriate information about their topics.

When asked if students should be information literate in all five of these skills, 99% of faculty felt students should master these skills by graduation. Nevertheless, while faculty felt students should be information literate by graduation, the response was very different regarding competency of students actually achieved by graduation. Only slightly more than half (55%) of the faculty felt students were information literate at graduation.

Since these skills will play a vital role in creating information literate citizens who can conduct effective research in their personal lives when they leave the college campus, it is critical that librarians and faculty collaborate to bring about improvements in student skills. Many survey respondents offered suggestions on how librarians can work with faculty to build research skills. New library services will be developed by MU librarians to implement some of these suggestions and to identify techniques that can be used to build stronger student competencies in research skills. Some general areas for new endeavors include identification of key courses for library instruction, increased individual and small group instruction, development of workshops for faculty and students, construction of additional tutorials, and creation of a virtual IL training site.

Thank you to all faculty who completed the survey and provided such valuable insights into student research. For additional information on survey results or plans for new services, please contact Eleonora Dubicki at edubicki@monmouth.edu.
Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Frank Fury earned his Ph.D. in English from Drew University in the spring of 2006. In the fall of that same year, he began working as a part-time professor at both Monmouth University and Georgian Court University. Shortly thereafter, when a full-time lecturer position became open at Monmouth, he applied and was hired. He has been a full-time lecturer at Monmouth since the fall of 2007, and in that time has taught numerous general education literature and composition courses in addition to courses in the English major. His research interests include 20th and 21st-century American literature, the short story, and sports and literature.

Dr. Fury has this to say about the quality of instruction his students receive during a library instruction session: “Each time I teach a section of EN101 or EN102 (College Composition I and II, respectively), I generally schedule at least one instructional workshop at the library ... I feel that doing so gives the students intimate access to the library staff, which is composed of highly qualified professionals who know a great deal more than I do about directing students to the very valuable research resources that the library—both in the library itself and online—boasts. More importantly, I think that the library staff excels at helping students help themselves; that is, the instructional workshops are useful not only for whatever assignment on which the students are currently working, but also for helping them understand how to take full advantage of what the library has to offer throughout their academic careers at Monmouth. In this way, I think the library offers an invaluable service to Monmouth students of all disciplines.”

New Additions to the Circulation Department Staff

Please welcome Andrew Allgor. Andrew will be working Sunday-Thursday from 3:45 PM- midnight in the circulation department. He is a graduate of the Chubb Institute and has experience in the educational administrative assistance and computer technology fields.

Also, please welcome Tabitha Mischler, who joined the Circulation Department on March 30, 2012. Tabitha earned her Associates Degree in Legal Technology from Burlington County College. She worked for Monroe Township Library and Carteret Library as a Library Assistant.

Library Usage Steadily on the Rise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Total Gate Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>05-06</td>
<td>59,248</td>
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<tr>
<td>06-07</td>
<td>80,453</td>
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<tr>
<td>07-08</td>
<td>102,240</td>
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<tr>
<td>08-09</td>
<td>112,254</td>
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<tr>
<td>09-10</td>
<td>119,224</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>124,635</td>
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The chart above shows the total gate count for each fiscal year from 05-06 to 10-11, indicating a steady increase in usage over time.
The Media Collection Is Growing!

No DVD player? No problem! The Media Collection has expanded to include streaming video. The Library offers streaming educational video content from Alexander Street Press including *American History in Video, Counseling and Therapy in Video, Education in Video,* and *Ethnographic Video Online*. These collections include thousands of hours of streaming video content on demand with no checkout necessary. If you have not yet tried using them for one of your courses, take a look! You can access the streaming video collections on the Library Research Databases page.

In addition to our streaming media collection, the Library has added over 50 new DVD titles to the collection in 2012. This spring’s featured DVD is *Page One: Inside* The New York Times (2011):

“The news media is in the middle of a revolution. Old certainties have been shoved aside by new entities such as WikiLeaks and Gawker, Politico and the Huffington Post. But where, in all this digital innovation, is the future of great journalism? Is there a difference between an opinion column and a blog, a reporter and a social networker? Who curates the news, or should it be streamed unimpeded by editorial influence?

Expanding on Andrew Rossi’s “riveting” film (*Slate*), David Folkenflik has convened some of the smartest media savants to talk about the present and the future of news. Behind all the debate is the presence of *The New York Times*, and the inside story of its attempt to navigate the new world, embracing the immediacy of the web without straying from a commitment to accurate reporting and analysis that provides the paper with its own definition of what it is there to showcase: all the news that’s fit to print.”
GUC 2012 comes to the Library

The Monmouth University Library was an enthusiastic participant in the 11th Annual Global Understanding Convention, “Freedom, Sustainability and Security: Creating Interconnected and Inclusive Communities.”

The Convention, organized by the Institute for Global Understanding, is a University-wide event intended to raise awareness of global affairs, and to encourage students, faculty and staff to engage in local and global community service. The Library mounted several exhibitions highlighting the connectedness of people around the world.

Advocacy of the Human: An Exhibit of Selected Works of Jacob Landau (April 5, 2012 through April 19). Landau was active in the artistic community of Roosevelt, New Jersey from the 1950s until his death in 2001. This collection of his artwork exploring humanity in all its dimensions included a portrait of Einstein, as well as other works that exemplify the artist’s imagination. The exhibit was co-sponsored by the Jewish Cultural Studies Program, the Honors School, the History and Anthropology Department, and the Library.

Another exhibition is Delta Constant and Commuters: Politicized Landscapes, which explored global agricultural practices and the effects of war on landscapes in Uganda. The exhibition of photographs by Brooke White, Associate Professor of Art at the University of Mississippi, analyzes the ways that modern day war and agricultural practices shape our sense of place and ultimately our identities. Ms. White was on hand for a lecture on Thursday, April 5, 2012. The lecture and exhibit were facilitated by Anne Massoni and co-sponsored by the Art Department and the Library.

Finally, Librarian Eleonora Dubicki mounted a book exhibit highlighting new books on the recent Egyptian uprising. Included in the display were Wael Ghonim’s Revolution 2.0: The Power of the People is Greater than the People in Power, which explores the events leading to the ousting of President Mubarak; Liberation Square, by Ashraf Khalil, which gives the journalist’s firsthand account of the efforts to build a democracy; and Messages from Tahrir: Signs from Egypt’s Revolution, edited by Karima Khalil, which examines the creative and eloquent signs carried by the protesters. These books, and many others, are part of the Library’s permanent collection and available to be checked out.

Prepping for a Corporate Job Interview?

The library has several resources to help you find information on companies for research projects or to help you get ready for job interviews.

Business Source Premier provides Datamonitor profiles of company and industries, as well as articles.

ABI Inform and LexisNexxus have up-to-date news items on corporations, as well as links to Corporate Affiliations.

Reference USA is a wonderful tool to find detailed information on companies based on geographic location or industry – for example, need to know all of the companies located in Red Bank, NJ?

For easy access to these resources, and key internet sites, check out the Research LibGuide for Business.
MU Library Has a Facebook Page

The Monmouth University Library is happy to announce its Facebook page, a site where students can obtain information on library events, exhibitions, and building hours. In addition to providing Library information, the Facebook page enables students to access the Library catalog, databases and LibGuides directly from the Facebook page. The page was created in an increased effort to reach students via social networking.

The new Library Facebook page provides a variety of tools to help students gain access to important Library information. Visitors to the page will be able to search for articles, books, and even streaming media without leaving Facebook. The page will also serve as a way to promote and inform the Monmouth University community of upcoming library-related events.

Students, faculty, alumni and others can search for the Monmouth University Library on Facebook, and become a Fan, or visit the Monmouth University Library on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/MonmouthUniversityLibrary.

Librarian and Staff Happenings

Susan Bucks, Specialist Librarian, received the Global Understanding Award during the 2012 Global Understanding Convention. The award is given to members of the MU community in recognition of outstanding leadership in global education and fulfilling the mission of the Institute for Global Understanding.

Matthew Doyle, Susan Bucks, Eleonora Dubicki, MaryBeth Meszaros, and Beatrice Priestly attended the 13th annual VALE Users Conference, January 5, 2012, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ.

Eleonora Dubicki published an article: DaCosta, J.W. and Dubicki, E. “From Lamp to Libraries: Formulating State Standards to Embed Information Literacy across Colleges” in Library Trends, vol. 60, No. 3, Winter, 2012, pp. 611-636. She is also scheduled to co-present the results of her recent study on faculty perceptions of Information Literacy skills at the LILAC (Librarians’ Information Literacy Annual Conference) in Glasgow, Scotland in April 2012.