



The Link

Rentschler Library Faculty Newsletter. Spring 2009

engage | explore | inform | innovate | seek | discover | inspire | preserve | create | support | communicate | imagine | transform

Student Research Behavior: Convenience-vs-Competence



There is no denying that the Internet has redefined “academic research” for many college students. Not surprisingly, the results of one Pew Study show that 46% of current college students have used Wikipedia. Why? Convenience.

In fact, 71% of the study’s respondents rank that as Wikipedia’s main draw. Its popularity may also be related to the users’ dependence on search engines like Google; in one week, 70% of Wikipedia visits were the result of search engine referrals. The Study can be found at:

http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2007/PIP_Wikipedia07.pdf.pdf

So, how can we tempt today’s college students into

utilizing more scholarly resources? By familiarizing them with library resources and teaching them how to evaluate the information they find. The more they practice, the more adept they will become at constructing fruitful searches that yield higher quality resources.

In the end, they may just find that doing reliable research right the first time is more convenient than getting immediate online satisfaction. Do your students a favor that they may not know they need: talk to one of our librarians about scheduling a library instruction session for your class. Sessions can be tailored around a specific assignment, but can also focus on topics in information literacy, advanced search strategies, and more.

Copyright Conundrums. “It’s Fair Use”...or is it??

With today’s rapidly advancing changes in technology, copyright issues have become more confusing than ever. It (literally) takes someone with a law degree to navigate the question of compliance. Even the experts can be befuddled by the issue of ‘what is legal’, as interpretations are continually challenged and changed in the courtroom.

How does this impact you in the classroom? Sections 107-118 of the U.S. Copyright Act make provisions for using copyrighted works for the purposes of teaching, scholarship, and research. However, it is important to note that there are limitations and exceptions, possibly including: the reproduction of work into another format, the amount of work being duplicated, and the frequency or duration of use for classroom purposes. If you have concerns about whether your use of copyrighted work is actually infringement, you can go to www.copyright.gov for guidance, or use this fun little Web tool to estimate whether a printed work has fallen into the public domain: <http://librarycopyright.net/digitalslider>.

If you are still uncertain about whether you are in compliance, please consult with Miami University’s Office of General Compliance by calling 529-6734, or by emailing GeneralCounsel@muohio.edu.

Faculty Services

Library Instruction

- Research Assignments
- Information Literacy
- Search Strategies

Class Reserves

- Electronic Articles
- Library or Personal Copy

Research Resources

- Extended Borrowing Times
- Access to Databases
- Interlibrary Loan Services

Public Equipment

- Color Printer & Copier
- Scanner
- Microform Machines
- Computers with extensive software

Librarian Liaisons

- Support Subject Areas
- Guides & Bibliographies



NEW at Rentschler Library

New Computers: Over the week of Spring Break, IT services worked diligently to install 63 new public computer stations in Rentschler Library. Students are now able to login and access the internet faster, giving them more time to focus on filling their research and composition needs.

New Electrical Outlets: 50 wall outlets are being added to the Popular Reading section, the group tables, and the individual study carrels to allow users to work on their laptops longer, without draining their batteries. Many thanks to Dave Shanks and the Physical Facilities Department for their hard work!

New Books: Ranging from the popular “Vegan Planet” cookbook to more scholarly coverage of Abraham Lincoln, this month’s new book selections have something to suit everyone’s taste. You can browse the New Books list at www.ham.muohio.edu/library/new.

2nd Annual Favorite Poem Project

April 14: noon 2pm, at Wilks Conference Center

April 22nd: 7-9pm, at Miami Downtown

Staff News

Krista McDonald is on part-time leave, as of mid-March. Mark Shores is Acting Director during her absence.

Mark Shores published “Library Service To Urban Appalachians: Opportunities and Rewards” in *Kentucky Libraries*, Winter 2009 (73.1).

Coming Soon...

Improved Signage: In an effort to improve library navigation for users, we are increasing signage so that all 72 ranges are marked by placards. The placards will include the range of call numbers shelved on that unit, as well as an identifying number so that library staff can provide clear directions for locating materials.

Website Redesign: Over the next several months, we will be researching and developing a new user-centered library Website that will focus on connectivity, streamlined access to resources, and the promotion of library services. If you have comments or suggestions for the new site, please email Kathleen Pickens-French at pickenke@muohio.edu.

Web Tools that Facilitate Collaboration on Student Assignments

If you assign team or group assignments for your classes, you are probably familiar with the complaint that it is too difficult for classmates to collaborate outside of the classroom because of schedule conflicts, geographic differences, work/family needs, etc. Below are some free resources that students can use to brainstorm ideas, share resources, upload files, and edit documents.

Google Docs (<http://docs.google.com>) Ideal for written group projects, the team can upload files from their desktops, edit them online, and share them with each other. Most importantly, it tracks the “Revision History” so edits and contributions are easily distinguishable among group members.

Wikispaces (<http://wikispaces.com>) Perfect for creative projects with multiple processes or roles to divide, team members can upload documents, images, and videos to shared pages. Includes the ability to track page changes, discussion threads, and to receive email notifications whenever changes are made to monitored topics.

Blogger (<http://www.blogger.com>) If you require your students to keep a journal or notebook during the semester, you may want to explore this online journal option. Students can link to each other’s blogs, post comments and insights, and can take class discussion to a deeper level once on their “own turf”.

Share on Ovi (<http://www.share.ovi.com>) Web Storage for students to upload and share their videos, podcasts, and images. Uploaded podcasts and vidcasts generate their own URL and embed code, so they can be posted within blogs, wikis, and Web pages.

For ideas on incorporating these technologies into instruction, email Kathleen Pickens-French at pickenke@muohio.edu