



The Link

Rentschler Library Faculty Newsletter. Fall 2009

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

MUH Celebrates Intellectual Freedom during Banned Books Week

With the assistance of our faculty and students, Rentschler Library put its own spin on Banned Books Week by creating a “Living Display” of participants actively expressing their freedom of choice by reading a banned or challenged book. While the main purpose of the display was to increase awareness about modern censorship topics, the display also facilitated conversation about the library’s role in protecting Intellectual Freedom.

One way the library supports Intellectual Freedom is by maintaining a balanced collection that represents alternative viewpoints—even those that may not be popular with the majority of the community. We are also strongly committed to protecting each library user’s right to privacy, so an individual can choose to read something without fear of judgment or discrimination from others.

To see images of MUH students and faculty that were part of our “Living Display”, see our flickr pages at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rentschlerlibrary/>



“ALA actively advocates in defense of the rights of library users to read, seek information, and speak freely as guaranteed by the First Amendment. A publicly supported library provides free and equal access to information for all people of that community. We enjoy this basic right in our democratic society. It is a core value of the library profession.”

—American Libraries Association Statement on Intellectual Freedom

Rentschler Library Becomes Hot Spot for Students

Peek around the lower level of Schwarm Hall and you can see the signs of our 17% enrollment increase. Head upstairs to the library and you’ll see the same thing. Every computer is being used; students are using our technology to write papers, create presentations, and do research. For the first week of classes, our gate count was up 24% over the first week of classes in 2008; our numbers for August reflect a 32% increase over last year’s foot traffic. Likewise, September statistics confirmed the library’s popularity as a destination for students, with an increase of 7% over last year.

We’re also expecting our library instruction program to beat last year’s totals. As of this writing, we have 68 classes scheduled (that includes the times that librarians go to an instructor’s classroom), and we can expect that number to continue to grow. Last Fall semester we did 65 classes total. That’s a lot of instruction! That means librarians are getting a lot of “face time” with your students; it also means we have become an important part of their educational experience at Miami University Hamilton. Whether it’s helping students find an ethnographic study, or helping the computer shy learn to save documents to their flash drive—the library is here and ready to help out.



All About Interlibrary Loan

Scenario: You are reading a fascinating journal article on trends in academia (or whatever you find fascinating) and the author refers to an even more fascinating book or article that you just have to read. How do you get to it?

Response: To find articles, go to the library's homepage at www.ham.muohio.edu/library. Use the "Journal Titles" tab to search for the journal listed in the citation; if MU owns access to that journal, you will be able to find it in the results page. Alternatively, you can search MU's databases to locate the article by title and/or author. For books, simply go to the library's homepage and search using "Title Begins With"; you will be routed to the MU Catalog to view results. If Miami does not own the book, you will see a red "0 results" box; simply click "Search OhioLINK" to carry your search terms into a statewide search for the book. If an OhioLINK library owns it, you can request the book by clicking "Request Item" and entering your Miami username and password. But what do you do when you still cannot find what you need?

Interlibrary Loan: Now is the time to let Rentschler Library work *for* you. From the library's homepage, go to the Interlibrary Loan/Sword link. After you enter your username and password, you will be able to specify which type of request you need to make (i.e. Book, Journal Article, Thesis, etc.) You will need to have the complete bibliographic citation in order for library personnel to find exactly what you are looking for, and you may need a little bit of patience while your request is processed. Estimated delivery times are dependant upon availability and distance of lending libraries, while renewal options are dependant upon the lending library's policies.

"Frequent Users Card" Rewards Customers

As if going to the library was not reward enough, Rentschler Library is showing its appreciation to all of our "Frequent Users" by giving away 1GB flashdrives and ear-buds (small headphones).

How do you get YOUR reward? First, you have to pick up a "Frequent User" card at Rentschler Library's circulation desk. We will mark your card each time you visit and use our services. After ten visits, you get your choice of prize. We hope to see you soon!

Disclaimer: Offer only good while supplies last!

Staff News

Kelli Johnson, in her role as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, is now responsible for the administrative leadership of Rentschler Library. Welcome aboard!

Krista McDonald, Rentschler Library Director, will be returning to work on November 2nd. Welcome back!

Library News

Need a Laptop?

Starting this fall, the Computing Services department asked the library to take over the process of checking in/checking out laptops to faculty. So, if you're planning a trip and need to borrow a laptop, please stop by Rentschler Library. We currently have 5 laptops available. Just know that if you run into technical issues with the laptops when you're out the road, you'll still have to call Computing Services for tech support.

Library Supports Faculty & Community Research

Rentschler Library has created a variety of bibliographies to facilitate "information discovery" on topics relevant to our community, most of which are available right here on the Hamilton Campus. Topics include:

- Globalization
- Service in Learning
- China: International Initiatives
- Racial Legacies
- Appalachian Studies

Go to:

<http://www.ham.muohio.edu/library/bibliographies>

We would like to thank the following persons for their generous book donations:

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