



The Link

Rentschler Library Faculty Newsletter. Fall 2011

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

Is it Over Yet? Looking Forward to Winter Break “To Dos”.

As the semester crazies escalate, it is natural to look ahead towards more relaxed times...like Winter Break. But the intersession offers more than just a reprieve, it presents an opportunity to evaluate what worked—and didn't work—in the Fall, before beginning the new semester.

Broken Links: If you provide your students with urls in handouts, or hyperlinks in Niihka, double-check that those links still work before suggesting them to your students. For example, database subscriptions get cancelled (i.e. SIRS), website links change, etc..

Follow Your Own Directions: Likewise, the steps in a “how to” process frequently change. If you provide your class with directions on how to get to a library database, change the spacing in Microsoft Word, submit their assignments online, etc., make sure your directions are still accurate to avoid confusion.

Reserve It: Putting a copy of your Spring textbook on reserve at Rentschler Library will help your students that are waiting on financial aid or for their textbooks

to be delivered. Instead of starting the semester behind, they'll be able to contribute to class discussions and submit their assignments on time.

Schedule It: Library instruction helps students learn how to effectively find and select the types of resources that won't have you cringing while grading research projects. To get your preferred time, request early in the semester to ensure the availability of the lab and librarians. This way, you can get the scheduled class listed on your syllabus, too.

Expect the Unexpected: Ice accumulation in the winter & tornado warnings in the Spring—it can be adventure just trying to get to class, much less complete it. If you haven't already registered with the university's emergency text system, you may want to do it (and recommend it to your students) to ensure that you don't take unnecessary risks getting to campus.

Enjoy it: You will be looking forward to summer soon enough!

Get a Room! Study Rooms....They're for MORE than Studying.

It's that time of year when students are clamoring for a space to work on group projects together, practice their presentations live, and to find a spot to cram together for their final exams. In the absence of dormitories, it can be difficult to find a public, yet semi-private, place to collaborate.

Rentschler to the rescue!

The library has two group study rooms that can seat up to six comfortably. The rooms are equipped with a computer & projector, thereby helping students rehearse presentations. With large tables and dry erase boards, the rooms also foster an environment for brainstorming, reviewing lecture notes, and tackling complex group work. Due to popularity, usage time is restricted to 2 hours & it's recommended to reserve rooms in advance.

Do your students a favor—make sure they know that Rentschler is the place with the space they need!



Staff News

Academic Library Association of Ohio (ALAO) Annual Conference, November 4th, 2011

Miami Hamilton was a strong presence at this year's annual conference for Ohio academic libraries! Special thanks to Kim Taylor and Gayle Riley for "holding down the fort" while the librarians travelled to Toledo, Ohio. Presentations included:

Picture This: Collaborating with Faculty to Bring Visual Literacy to the Classroom. Presented by Dr. Theresa Kulbaga, Dr. Susan Pelle, & Kathleen Pickens-French.

Our Role in Retention: The Library as Liaison to "At Risk" Students. Presented by Polly Whitaker, Mark Shores, Kathleen Pickens-French, & Krista McDonald.

Worlds Apart? Bridging the Distance for International Students on Campus. Presented by Katie Gibson (Oxford), Krista McDonald, & Kathleen Pickens-French.

More than Just a Link: Embedded Librarianship that Works. Presented by Krista McDonald & Kathleen Pickens-French.

I Saw it on YouTube: Library Lampoons & What We Can Learn from Them. Presented by Mark Shores.

Issues & Advantages of Free Citation Generator Tools. Poster Session by Mark Shores.

Mark also presented the poster session "Do you Haiku? Running an Effective Haiku Contest in your Library" at the Kentucky Library Association's Annual Conference on September 29, 2011.

Library News

Ancestry.com Library Edition is now available from the Rentschler Library website at <http://www.ham.muohio.edu/library/genealogy>. Please note that access is restricted to "on-campus".

SIRS Researcher is no longer available at Miami University. If you or your students need access to a Pro/Con database, you can access either CQ Researcher or Gale's Opposing Viewpoints from the Regional Campuses. See our "General" Research by Subject pages for links: <http://www.ham.muohio.edu/library/general>.

Library Instruction: Our librarians have met with 1273 students in 69 classes so far this semester! If you have a class assignment that requires scholarly research next semester, your students may benefit from a review on how to find and evaluate academic resources. See our instruction page at <http://www.ham.muohio.edu/library/facultyinstruction>.

Winter Intersession Hours & Closings: Rentschler Library's hours & closures during "break" can be found on our website at: <http://www.ham.muohio.edu/library/hours>.

Who's the Big Winner?

Congratulations to Holly Bond, winner of the 2011 Banned Books Week Challenge!

Along with Holly, the following individuals scored at least an "A" on the BBW Crossword Puzzle & were entered into our Grand Prize drawing: Baelea Andreotta, Shannon Beatty, Roberta Campbell, Josephine Clark, Lori Clark, Emily Fuhrman, Anna Glasshagel, Jessica Heis, Jessica Irvin, & Diana Royer.

Good job everyone!