



The Link *Rentschler Library Faculty Newsletter. Summer2012*

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Making a Difference 101

A recent article in the *Journal News*, "College Grads See Grim Prospects in Job Search" ¹, calls into question why students are trying to earn a degree if they will still remain underemployed after college. One Miami student went so far as to call her Associates Degree "worthless", while others express concern about how they will repay student loans.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could help keep their costs down so that they can focus on the overall value of their education? Below are a few ways you can make a difference.

Be open to older editions.

Unless your required textbook underwent some major changes, consider letting students use earlier editions that they can purchase cheaper used. Additionally, older editions of textbooks are more easily borrowed from lending libraries—a free & welcome alternative.

Share your copy.

If you have an extra copy of the class textbook, you can place it on reserve at Rentschler. Students can then use your book "in house" to complete assigned readings & do their homework, even if they're waiting for their financial aid check to arrive so they can purchase books.

Limit the amount of printing they have to do.

Many students have given up home Internet access and/or do not have home printers, and printing on campus can add up at 10 cents/page. Even if they can print from home, it's incredibly expensive to buy ink (much less paper). Do they really need that *entire* PowerPoint printed out?

Make sure they know what resources are available.

If you assign creative projects, make sure they know they can check out digital cameras, laptops & flip video

cameras from the library. Students needing extra academic help can get free tutoring at the Office of Learning Assistance. For those facing difficult personal and/or financial situations, the Office of Student Services offers free counseling services that can help students learn stress management techniques.

Rentschler Quick Stats: 2011-2012

Circulation	
Total Checkouts, Includes:	41,804
Checked out to OhioLINK Users	1,646
Checked out to other MU Libraries	1,339
Miami Hamilton Students Borrowing from other Miami Libraries	3,285
Circulation Renewals	2,492
Popular Reading (Bestsellers) Checkouts	351
Total Reserve Checkouts (Includes Textbooks on Reserve, Digital Equipment, Study Rooms, etc)	8,302
Non-Book Checkouts (videos)	818
Group Study Room Checkouts	1,105
Library Traffic	
Total Visitors	118,281
Library Instruction	
Total Sessions	120
Number of Students in Attendance	2086
Use of the Library Online	
Website Visits	30,074
Unique Visitors	12,738
Instant Messages	112
Visits to Library Blog	72,665
Facebook Rentschler Library Page	493 fans
Collection Management	
Number of Books Purchased	2414

¹ Read the Article: <http://tinyurl.com/7b8y2kd>



Library Makeover



By Fall, Rentschler Library should have a new look! Snazzy new carpet & a posh paint palette will complement our comfy chairs while bringing the library into the 21st century.

OhioLINK Changes

Extended Loan Periods for Faculty

Beginning July 9, the faculty loan period for OhioLINK books will be extended to 6 weeks—doubling the amount of time you can keep them before returning or renewing. The loan period for students and other OhioLINK users will remain 21 days. The number of possible renewals has increased to six (6) times for all users. Users may also place holds on checked-out materials that are ten (10) or fewer days from their due date.

Media loan periods (videos, cds, etc) remain just 7 days for all users & will still not be eligible for renewal.

Staff News

Krista McDonald & Kathleen Pickens-French were panelists in “Embedded Librarian Best Practices” at the American Library Association’s Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA.

Krista & Kathleen also presented “Changing Trenches, Changing Tactics: A Library’s Frontline Redesign in a New CMS” at the Distance Library Services Conference in Memphis, TN.



Say Hello: Hannah Ellinghausen joined our staff as the new Senior Library Assistant. You may recognize Hannah from working here as a student assistant & from taking classes at Miami towards her Associate in Arts, Social Sciences degree. Hannah is responsible for Periodicals, Microforms, Library Purchasing & Requisitions.



Say Goodbye: Kathleen Pickens-French is leaving Miami University this summer to explore a career at a different institution. According to Rentschler Library’s Director, Krista McDonald, Kathleen will be most missed for her interpretative dance & witty

newsletters. Like this one.

EBSCO’s Discovery Service Offers One-Stop Shopping



Have you ever wished you could just go to one spot to find the books & articles that you need? Wish no more! This fall, Miami will be implementing EBSCO’s Discovery Service to provide full integration between the library’s existing catalog & popular databases. Many other libraries have already made the move & have reported increased usage of electronic resources, as well as positive reactions from faculty and students alike.

In addition to providing unparalleled breadth & depth of coverage, EBSCO’s Discovery Services will be customized to fit the research needs of our Miami community. To learn more about EDS, see EBSCO’s website at <http://support.epnet.com/eds/> & keep an eye out for training sessions offered by our staff.

“By creating a strong library research platform with the speed and simplicity of a commercial Internet search engine, Milligan College makes its library holdings even more accessible to students and faculty.”

—Milligan College, TN