



# The Link *Rentschler Library Faculty Newsletter. Spring 2010*

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

## Plagued by Plagiarism? Do more than just shout “Cheater, Cheater”...



OK, so that may not be the best article title ever, but it went with the picture.

If you’ve ever had to have “the talk” with a student you suspected of plagiarizing, then you are probably familiar with the “I didn’t know I was plagiarizing” defense. While it sounds suspicious—and in some cases *is*—the fact is that many students today are not aware that copying and pasting text is simply wrong. They may not realize the importance of their bibliography, instead thinking that it’s just some busy work they have to throw together at the end because you so cruelly require it.

Should they know this by now? Yes. Are they taught it in beginning college classes? Yes. Were they asleep that day? Maybe. It’s not a question of whether or not they should already know what seems like common sense to most of us. It’s a question of what YOU can do to limit your own frustration when you’re grading those research papers.

Rentschler Library’s website has an “Academic Integrity & Plagiarism” page listed under “Helpful Guides”: <http://www.ham.muohio.edu/library/plagiarism> . The

page includes information about Academic Integrity at Miami, information about citing, and links to external resources to help students cite properly. Consider adding this link to your syllabus, Blackboard links, or just going over the page with your students in class.

The page also includes a link to a generalized citations checklist students can (and some should) complete before submitting assignments: <http://alturl.com/vk79> . Note that students even need to check that they are not submitting work they have submitted for an assignment in a previous class—one of the more subtle and misunderstood types of plagiarism that students practice.

Requiring students to conduct a plagiarism checklist helps clarify expectations and provides students with a framework to follow while writing citing their sources. It may not STOP plagiarism, but it may at least stop the excuses for it.

Maybe.

**Plagiarism Defined**  
 By Miami University:  
 “quoting or closely paraphrasing the writings of others while leading the reader to believe that you are the author of the text.”

## OhioLINK News—How the Current Climate may Affect You

OhioLINK is now part of a shared technological infrastructure that includes sharing server space with other Ohio Educational groups. While this is a cost-effective merger, you may experience some delays in material from the EJC being available via the “FindIT” button. Please note that this delay only affects a small percentage of the titles available, and work is being done to resolve the issue.

Likewise, you may notice that it takes a bit longer than usual to receive books from OhioLINK that originate from the northeastern corner of the state. This is a result of an increased demand on the delivery courier in that quadrant that is causing delayed pickups from academic libraries.



## Mark your Calendars!

What kind of library would we be if we didn't let you know about all of the fantastic opportunities you have to get involved with reading?? Below are just a few upcoming events that show how MUH supports literacy.

### African American Read-In

Sponsored by Multicultural Services, the African American Read-In will be February 1st from 3:00 pm to 4:30 in the Multicultural Center, Rentschler 114. Please call Katina Chandler for more information or to get a registration form at 5-3024. Forms are due by January 29th, so hurry!

### The "Big Read"

Join the Hamilton community in reading (or rereading) John Steinbeck's *"The Grapes of Wrath"*. Don't have time? You can check out an audiobook in playaway format for 3 days and listen to the book on your way to work. Rentschler Librarian Mark Shores will be leading a book discussion group on February 17th at 3:00 pm in Rentschler 104. See a full list of "Big Read" events at [www.ham.muohio.edu/thebigread](http://www.ham.muohio.edu/thebigread), or contact Sue Sepela for more information (5-3027).

### Favorite Poem Project

Rentschler Library will again be joining forces with MUH faculty to present the 3rd Annual Favorite Poem Project (dates TBD). If you are interested in joining the Planning Committee for this event, call Rentschler Library at 5-3235, or stop by the library today (Monday, January 25th) at 3:30pm for the Committee's first meeting.

### Mad Anthony Writers' Conference

On April 17th, Wilks Conference Center will be packed full of published and aspiring writers at the 5th Annual Mad Anthony Writers' Conference. Profits from the event support the YWCA Family Literacy Council of southwest Ohio and help fund programs that assist area residents conquer illiteracy. Please note that the Mad Anthony Conference Planning Committee is always looking for volunteers to help with the event. To register or to volunteer, please see their website at <http://www.madanthonycbf.org>.

*"To acquire the habit of reading is to construct for yourself a refuge from almost all of the miseries of life."*

William Somerset Maugham

## Rentschler Library Expands Reference Services: Text Us at (513) 360-TEXT!



Why we want to expand our reference services to include texting? The fact is, the majority of our students rely on texting as their primary mode of communication; adding this service makes us more accessible to students and makes it easier than ever for them to get assistance.

Text messages are routed through our instant messaging service via Google Voice, so the additional service was a perfect price....FREE! The downside is that messages are limited to 160 characters, so library users needing more in-depth assistance will be referred to more traditional reference services.

What should you text us? Check and see if your book is in, find out what time we close, asked if we have a copy of the latest New York Times, or whatever else you need to know. Messages received after library hours will be responded to at the start of the next business day.

Of course, we are still happy to answer your questions at 5-3235, if you want to talk to us live.