The Link

Rentschler Library Faculty Newsletter. Spring 2010

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TurnItIn: It's Not Just for Policing Plagiarism!

Whether you have used TurnItIn in your class or not, you are probably familiar with its use as a "weapon" for catching students who copy their papers from other sources. What you may not realize is that the software can also be used as a tool to help both you AND your students .

Learning to Paraphrase: Many students have difficulty paraphrasing text to incorporate into their own research papers. If students are able to see the Originality Report generated by TurnItIn when they submit their papers, they can begin to conceptualize how little they have actually changed the original source and evaluate how much direct quoting is too much.

Easier to Comment: Some faculty use TurnItIn simply because it makes it easier for them to comment on student papers that are submitted electronically. You can even "save" comments that are frequently repeated and reuse them while marking class papers.

Grading Rubrics: Likewise, you can create assignment rubrics that specify how many points are awarded for each level of task completion. When applying the rubric to assignments, TurnItIn will tally the totals and apply them to the Blackboard grade book.

As a tool against plagiarism, TurnItIn "determine(s) the originality of texts based on comparisons with their internal database and net-wide searches" (http://turnitin.com) . While there is some dispute about whether archiving student papers in the internal database infringes upon a student's intellectual property rights, professors get to make the choice between archiving the uploaded papers or not. For faculty who reuse the same assignment topics and criteria for subsequent semesters, storing student papers in the archives can deter friends from sharing their old assignments.
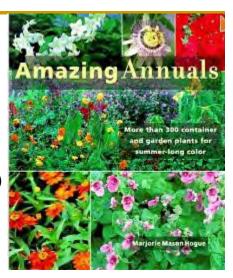
If you use—or have considered using—TurnItIn for your classes, try approaching it from a learning stance rather than a strictly punitive angle. Instead of just "busting" cheaters, it may actually help educate students who are still learning how to write effectively.

Going Green for Spring? Make your Neighbors Jealous.

Got a green thumb? Thinking about starting a garden this year? Whether you're into vegetables, herbs, flowers, or landscaping, Rentschler Library has a wide range of resources to get you started and keep you going. Just look for books in the SB section and you can learn how to make the perfect compost, prune a perfect pear tree, or poach a pervasive pest.

Don't want to get your hands dirty? Check out some of our top picks for Earth Day on April 22nd.

- *Cradle to cradle: Remaking the way we make things* (McDonough & Braungart)
- *Doing environmental ethics* (Traer)
- *Sleeping naked is green: How an eco-cynic unplugged her fridge, sold her car, & found love in 366 days* (Farquharson)

April is Poetry Month!

3rd Annual Favorite Poem Project, *Just Read It!*

Once again, Miami Hamilton is joining forces with Lane Public Library to rouse poetry lovers. Participants are invited to read their favorite published poem (<u>not</u> their own work) and to share with the campus and community why it has touched their lives and minds.

Last year's events were both stunning successes, with over 140 attendees and over 80 readers overall—most of them students. We would love to replicate that excitement this year! For details and to see images from last year's events, go to: http://www.ham.muohio.edu/library/2010poetry .

Haiku Contest: Enter your original haiku (in 5-7-5 format) in Rentschler Library's first ever haiku contest! The lucky winner will get a cool t-shirt and bragging rights; all submissions will have the chance to be displayed on the library's website. Contest ends April 16th. For more details and to enter your original haiku: http:/www.ham.muohio.edu/library/haiku .

> **3rd Annual Favorite Poem Project**
> April 15: 11am 1pm, at Wilks Conference Center
> April 21st: 7 9pm, at Miami Downtown

Staff News

- **Krista McDonald** and John Burke published "The Case for Textbooks" in the March issue (41.3) of *American Libraries*.
- **Mark Shores** published ""Capturing Appalachia: Building a Collection of Photographers' Work," in *Kentucky Libraries*, Winter 2010.

Improving Student Research Literacy

On Wednesday, April 21st, the Faculty Learning Community for Improving Student Research Literacy will be presenting "Best Practices for Fostering Information Competency in the Classroom" from 2-3:30 pm in the Shriver Center's Bystrom Reid room.

The seminar will highlight the work of this year's Community , including a list of best-practices for incorporating information competency in the classroom and some practical ways you can help your students become more effective information researchers.

If you're interested in partnering with other faculty and librarians to explore the philosophy and theories of information literacy and to develop direct applications for improving the quality of student research in a learning environment, you can apply for membership into next year's community from the CELTUA website.

Recent Community Members from MUH
2009-2010: Janet Valente & Kathleen Pickens-French
2008-2009: Alana Van Gundy-Yoder
2007-2008: John Krafft

Coming Soon: The Sharon B. Krafft Collection

Rentschler Library is excited to announce a new collection that is being created thanks to a generous donation of books and funds from MUH English professor John Krafft. The collection is being built to honor his late wife, Sharon, who was an instructor at the Hamilton campus for many years and also served as the Director of Learning Assistance. The

Sharon B. Krafft Collection will be focused on 18th and 19th Century British Fiction, since Sharon had a great fondness for the "Big British Novel." It will feature the novels of Anthony Trollope, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Mary Shelley, the Bronte sisters, George Eliot, and many, many more. The library welcomes donations of funds or books if anyone is interested in honoring Sharon's memory by contributing to this effort. Contact Polly Whitaker for questions about the collection and for details about book donations. Questions about monetary donations should be directed to Mary Bennett.
Be watching for an announcement in the fall when the new collection will be unveiled to the campus community.

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