# The Link
## Rentschler Library Faculty Newsletter. Fall 2010

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

## Building Bridges & Blurring Lines:  Academic Libraries Serving the Community

"Do you have to be a Miami student to use Rentschler Library?"

Community members are usually surprised to discover they are welcome at Rentschler Library...and welcome to take our resources with them!  64 Community Borrowers actively check out books, and on any given day you can find area residents relying on our public computer stations for job seeking, submitting resumes online, and sharpening their technology skills.

Likewise, many of our Miami Hamilton students use the public library to complete their homework assignments. As an increasing number of students opt for online classes, the number of distance learners using public library resources also rises.  In response to this phenomena,  Rentschler Library Director Krista McDonald met with Hamilton Lane Library staff to provide training and guidance on how to direct college students to the academic resources they need.

With the current climate of concern over the economic downturn, this type of collaboration between academic and public libraries is both desired and desperately needed.   Efforts like these do more than just boost relationships with our public library colleagues—they serve the community and our students by ensuring that they have access to the resources they need when *and where* they are needed.

Rentschler Library boasts a long history of collaborating with the community, including 4 years of co-sponsoring the Annual Poetry Reading, supporting the annual Mad Anthony Writers Conference each Spring, and  creating bibliographies of supporting resources for public events like the popular "Racial Legacies: How to Talk About Race" series of town meetings.

The Center for Civic Engagement has sparked a new opportunity for bibliophiles to become involved in the community—by joining the "Novel Approach" Book Club. Details about the books selected and additional resources on the topics can be found on the library's website, under "Library Collections".

### A "Novel Approach"

**10/6:** *Enrique's Journey*
**11/10:** *You Shall Know Our Velocity*
**12/1:** *Outcasts United*
**1/12:** *The Blue Sweater*

*All meetings take place at 4pm in 502 Mosler—See Kelli Johnson for details.

## If Wikipedia Isn't Enough for your Class...

Are you requiring a research assignment and want your students to use the best possible sources?  It's not too late to schedule library instruction! We will tailor our presentation directly to your students' needs and provide time for hands-on experience searching library databases.   Some of the things we cover include formulating search strategies, evaluating sources, and using the library's electronic resources. Our instruction lab seats 25 students,  but we can offer alternatives for large classes.  Requests must be made at least one week in advance so that we can prepare the best possible learning experience; sessions are subject to lab and librarian availability.

You can request an instruction session by contacting  Mark Shores at shoresml@muohio.edu or 785-3203, or by filling out our online form at  http://www.ham.muohio.edu/library/facultyinstruction .

## Software Available on Library Computers

The list of software available on the library's workstations has changed as a result of the university-wide upgrade to Windows 7. Please check www.ham.muohio.edu/library/software for a complete list of what is installed before referring your students here to complete their work.

All software questions and requests should be made to Bill Sylvester at 785-3292.

## Linking to Library Resources in BB

By now, most faculty are pretty adept at uploading documents in .pdf format to Blackboard, but did you know you can also link directly to full-text articles in Miami University Libraries' databases? Unlike regular websites that anyone can get to by copying the url, accessing articles from off-campus requires a small detour through a proxy server that requires authentication in order to view the full-text.

In EBSCO databases, simply copy the "permalink" that is located at the right of the page; in other databases, you may have options such as "link to this article" or a "persistent link". Without these options, you will need to add the proxy url, as seen below, to the beginning of the article url you are inserting:

**http://proxy.lib.muohio.edu/login?url=**

### Blackboard "Do's"
- Verify that your links still work each semester
- Check your links from an off-campus computer
- If you are uploading .pdfs, include a link to adobe.com to make downloading the most current version of Adobe Reader easy for your students
- Test your BB site using multiple browsers (IE, Firefox, Chrome, etc) to troubleshoot issues

## Staff News

**Mark Shores** presented *"Lean and Mean: Re-envisioning an Outdated Area of the Collection"* to Kentucky librarians at the KLA/KSMA Conference on September 17th.

## Library News

**Updated Citation Manuals:** Please let your students know that Rentschler Library keeps copies of updated APA, MLA, and Chicago Style citation guides in Reference and on Reserve for library use. Links to online style guides and citation generators can be found on our website at www.ham.muohio.edu/library/citations .

**Library Databases Get a Makeover :** JSTOR and all EBSCO Host Databases (Academic Search Complete, CINAHL, etc.) have changed their appearance to a more modern Web 2.0 look. The same great features remain available, but you may want to spend a little bit of time adjusting to the new layout.

## Coming Soon...

**The Sharon B Krafft Collection** will be unveiled soon! Please watch for your invitation to Rentschler Library's special showcase where you can browse the new selection of 18th & 19th century British fiction and celebrate the memory of our esteemed colleague.

**Laptops:** The library will soon have 20 new Netbooks available that students, faculty, & staff can check out for a 24 hour period.

**Video Cameras:** 5 new Sony HD Videocameras are also being added to the collection and will be available for Miami affiliates for 24 hour checkout.

## 2nd Week of Classes Gives Library Plenty of Excuses to Socialize

Rentschler Library staff welcomed students and faculty back to classes with a mix of caffeine, sugar, and good old library hospitality. At 8:00 on a Monday morning, the free pints of coffee and delectable donuts were a huge hit for students, while Tuesday afternoon's crowd enjoyed punch and cookies. In fact, over 400 cookies were consumed in under 2 hours!

The library's table at Fall Fest was also a big hot, er, hit. Students played for prizes like flashdrives, highlighters, ear buds, and candy, while getting to know their library staff.