



The Link

Rentschler Library Faculty Newsletter. Fall 2010

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

Impact Factor, Eigenfactor, & Dossiers...Oh My!

On November 16th, two of our King Library colleagues hosted the workshop, "Journal Citation Reports and Other Tools for Preparing Your Dossier" on the Oxford campus. The topic seemed to spark a degree of interest, especially regarding the difference between an Impact Factor and an Eigenfactor.

You can get to these citation analysis tools via the *Journal Citation Report (JCR)* database, conveniently located on Rentschler Library's Faculty page at www.ham.muohio.edu/library/faculty. The *JCR* includes both a Science and a Social Science Edition, so not only can you determine the value of a particular journal, but you can decide which journals to submit your articles to based on their ranking in your discipline.

So, what is the difference? In a nutshell, a journal's Impact Factor for a given year is calculated by ISI (Thomson Reuters) as the average number of citations in that year to the articles the journal published in the preceding two years. Critics point to bias within the

system, ranging from the fact that it ignores citations which occur after 2 years, that the database itself is flawed, and that number of citations does not necessarily infer quality.

With Eigenfactor, size matters. The bigger the journal and the more articles published, the higher its Eigenfactor will be. More comparable to the Impact Factor is the "Article Influence Score"—it generously measures the influence of articles over five years. Additionally, it considers the value of the journals that actually cite the article; it will be more valuable if it is cited by other high ranking journals. The difference in the way the Impact Factor, Eigenfactor, and Article Influence Score are each determined can lead to rather dramatic differences in journal rankings (see image below).

For a more detailed explanation and instructions, please see the *JCR* tutorial at:

<http://science.thomsonreuters.com/tutorials/jcr4/>

Journals 1 - 1 (of 1) Page 1 of 1

Ranking is based on your journal and sort selections.

Mark	Rank	Abbreviated Journal Title <i>(linked to journal information)</i>	ISSN	JCR Data [ⓘ]						Eigenfactor™ Metrics [ⓘ]	
				Total Cites	Impact Factor	5-Year Impact Factor	Immediacy Index	Articles	Cited Half-life	Eigenfactor™ Score	Article Influence™ Score
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	BRIT MED J	0959-535X	71175	13.660	11.284	5.116	345	9.4	0.14995	4.223

Journals 1 - 1 (of 1) Page 1 of 1

Please Join Us...

Rentschler Library is hosting a Victorian Christmas open house on Wednesday, December 8 where we will unveil the Sharon B. Krafft Memorial Collection to the campus community. Come by any time after 2:00 pm to browse through the new materials and enjoy refreshments. At 2:30 pm, there will be a brief presentation to introduce the collection which was inspired by Sharon's enthusiasm for 18th & 19th century British fiction.

We are excited to present this memorial collection in honor of Sharon, who faithfully served the Hamilton campus for many years as an instructor and as the Director of Learning Assistance.





If You Build It, They Will Come...

42, 761. That is the number of visits to Rentschler Library between August and November 1st—a number sure to rise dramatically as students scramble to find resources for end-of-term research papers and seek solitude in the library as they prepare for final exams.

So what are they doing here? From the looks of it, a little bit of everything: practicing presentations in the group study rooms, using the computers to look up resources and write papers, just studying quietly, etc. The library will be conducting a short survey of students through the end of the semester to help us answer that question more accurately so we can continue to exceed the expectations of our MUH community. Please encourage your students to stop by or to fill out our survey online.

Speaking of online...

Our online presence enables us to reach out to students where THEY are, so they can do their work at the time that best fits their schedule. Our Rentschler Library facebook page is now “liked” by 384 who have quick and easy access to the library’s latest news. Likewise, our blog received 26, 671 hits from the start of classes until November 1st, making it an ideal tool for promoting current issues and popular resources.

In that same stretch of time, our library home page had 17,301 visits from 4,887 unique visitors. Of all of our library pages, the Research by Subject area continues to be the most popular with 2,147 hits. Of all of the subject areas, English boasts the highest with 1,129 visits. While most of our visitors go directly to the library website via Blackboard or by using the web address, Google actually referred almost 1,100 visitors to our site. Thanks, Google!

Every Book Counts: Students And Reserves

It seems like such a little thing—putting a copy of your textbook on reserve—but it makes a huge difference to many of your students. While the library’s Textbook on Reserve program provides resources for many of MUH’s core curriculum classes, it cannot possibly purchase every textbook for every class.

That’s where you come in. From just August until the end of October, students checked out reserve materials **2,720** times. And that’s before the big rush for finals! When considering your class assignments next semester, please also consider placing a copy of reading assignments on reserve at Rentschler Library.

For more details, please contact Kim Taylor at 5-3179 or taylorkm@muohio.edu .

Staff News

Krista McDonald presented *Town & Gown: Collaborations between an Academic Library & a Public Library* at the Academic Libraries Association of Ohio (ALAO) Annual Conference.

Kathleen Pickens-French co-presented *Easily Integrating Information Competency Into the Classroom: Best Practices and Practical Assignments* at the Lilly Conference and *Joining Forces with Faculty to Foster Information Literacy* at ALAO.

Library News

New Furniture! Rentschler Library added 14 comfortable chairs (seen below) to meet the needs of our students. In addition to being stylish and cozy, the chairs are equipped with a work tray so students have a convenient place to put their laptops or books. Set on wheels, the chairs can be easily moved to accommodate group work or to get closer to outlets for charging equipment. The library also acquired 20 lightweight work chairs—also on casters—that can transform open spaces into areas for collaboration and group study.

