



The Link

Rentschler Library Faculty Newsletter. Spring 2012

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

SOPA & PIPA: From Protection to Protests, Prime Paradigms of Paradox

While Wikipedia may not be an acceptable resource for a scholarly research paper, its leadership in promoting & providing a free exchange of information can be admired. And, on January 18th, Wikipedia did what no librarian or professor has EVER been able to do—it thwarted your students from accessing its content.

The information blackout was just one of many web protests to the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) & Protect IP Act (PIPA); a Google petition against the two bills is reported to have brought in 4.5 million signatures¹ High traffic destinations—including Mozilla’s Firefox landing page, Creative Commons, and Flickr —gave visitors a glimpse of what a censored Internet would look like.

still here for you!” they cried from Facebook, blogs, and library home pages.

But librarians have something besides a well stocked arsenal of subscription databases, a desire

defend intellectual property, and a healthy rivalry with Google and Wikipedia.

“something” caused many academic librarians to exchange their metal batons for pom-poms. What could cause academic librarians to cheer for Wikipedia? A commitment to intellectual freedom, to freedom of speech, & to fighting censorship. Of course, the blackout to protest banning was a bit of a paradox, but at least it was temporary.

In all, 18 U.S. Senators changed their votes after the Internet protests of January 18th, and; for now, both SOPA & PIPA have been shelved.

And, yes, the library just cited Wikipedia.

What would students without the fast & easy access to online information?

Some librarians pulled a Tonya Harding & poised readily, waiting to take the final strike that would put them ahead of the Wikipedia competition. “We are

¹ Stop Online Piracy Act. Wikipedia. 24 Jan. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SOPA>



Get MORE Stuff! Borrowing from Public Libraries with “Search Ohio”



What do you do when the book you want is not available at Miami? You go to OhioLINK. But, what do you do when it’s not available there? Public libraries across Ohio have joined forces with OhioLINK to bring you “Search Ohio”; on your OhioLINK results page, you can click their logo (see picture at left) to see if the item is available from a participating library. If so, you can request it for delivery, just like OhioLINK!

WARNING! There is one pretty big difference. Fines begin to accrue IMMEDIATELY on all Search Ohio items (there is no grace period on overdue fees), so you need to keep track of due dates through your account & renew them BEFORE the listed due date. Check your account & renew items from our website at www.ham.muohio.edu/library/myaccount



The “One-Two Punch” — F2F Library Instruction & an Online Niihka Librarian

It’s not too late to schedule library instruction for Spring semester! If your class requires any kind of research assignment, your students will benefit from learning how to use the library’s databases and catalog for locating credible resources.

Additionally, our librarians can create an online “Library Research” page that is tailored to your assignment. Students can search for books, access scholarly databases, or get help from their “embedded” librarian right where they need it...in your Niihka course site.

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Library News: 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 & creativity.

Haiku Contest Rapidly Approaching February 3rd Deadline!



For the third consecutive year, Rentschler Library invites the Miami University community to author and contribute little works of creative genius —haikus! Original haikus that follow the 5-7-5 format are included in Rentschler Library’s online collection, and the entry deemed “most extraordinary” will steal the spotlight as the 2012 Haiku Champion. Browse our collection & enter YOUR haiku at:

<http://www.ham.muohio.edu/library/originalhaikus>.

African American Read-In

Sponsored by Multicultural Services, the African American Read-In will be February 6th from 12:30-2 pm in the Multicultural Center, Rentschler 114. Rentschler Library will have plenty of spectacular selections available onsite, but you can also bring your own favorite reading. Please call Katina Chandler at 5-3024 for more information.

Black History Month Display: Spotlight on Women

Stop by Rentschler Library throughout the month of February to learn more about this year’s national theme, “Black Women in American Culture and History”. From Sojourner Truth to Condoleezza Rice, the display will feature works by and about a variety of influential and inspirational women.

Favorite Poem Project

Rentschler Library will again be joining forces with MUH faculty to present the 5th Annual Favorite Poem Project, to be held on Thursday, April 12th from 12-2pm in Wilks Conference Center. A second poetry bash will take place on Monday, April 16th from 7-9pm at the Lane Public Library, located in downtown Hamilton. Details forthcoming.

Mad Anthony Writers’ Conference

On April 13th & 14th, Wilks Conference Center will be packed full of published and aspiring writers at the 7th Annual Mad Anthony Writers’ Conference. Profits from the event help fight illiteracy by supporting programs that assist area children and adults. Register for Saturday’s Conference events by February 15th & receive a special discounted rate of just \$99.! Check it out online at www.WriteLikeMad.com.