College of Staten Island Library
College of Staten Island, The City University of New York

Welcome to CSI

CSI Library Newsletter

The CSI Library Newsletter is a quarterly online publication created by the CSI Library. The CSI Library Newsletter informs the college community of current events, new services, and resources that relate to the CSI Library.

Editor: Prof. Mark Aaron Polger, Instruction/ Reference Librarian

Greetings from the Chief Librarian

Greetings from the CSI Library and welcome to the first issue of our e-newsletter. As you settle into the semester, do pay us a visit and explore all the new and wonderful resources, collections, exhibits, and programs available to support your research and teaching needs.

Please peek in as often as possible to explore some newly acquired books that includes over 15,000 e-books (published by Springer) along with some of our new databases, including *ARTstor*, *Cambridge Collections*, *The Economist Historical*, *The Historical Statistics of the United States*, *JStor Life Sciences collection*, and the *Journals of the American Physical Society*.

New lounge chairs and new ergonomically designed study chairs await you on the second and third floors of the library to support your intense study moments. What's more, fully loaded computer workstations are now present on the third floor in the silent zone and I have yet to see a vacant workstation since they were installed. We do plan to deploy others soon.

Among the many goals I have set for the 2009/2010 Library's Academic Agenda are two that I would like to share with you. The first goal is to do better at promoting the library's resources, services, and policies, starting with this quarterly online newsletter. A few must-know information about new services in the library this fall include extended hours of services to 11:00pm on Mondays through Fridays, and to 9:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays; Chat Reference available from 12:00noon to 5:00pm during weekdays; and soon to debut on Facebook, in addition to our presence on MySpace.

The second goal is an initiative to make the CSI Library environmentally friendly that will contribute to the College's sustainability plan. Spearheaded by an ad-hoc group of library faculty and staff, we plan to transform the library as much as possible into a Green Library over the next five years. Expect to see announcements as goals of this initiative are implemented.

Of course, all of these new services and initiatives could not have been created or implemented without the talented, energetic, and dedicated involvement of all library faculty and staff members. We are all excited to begin this academic year with you and we look forward to serving you at some point this semester, if not often! Here's wishing you the best for a successful and productive semester.

Cheers!
Prof. Wilma L. Jones, Chief Librarian
Wilma.Jones@csi.cuny.edu

Database Trial : Spotlight on Web of Knowledge (until December 31, 2009)

The CSI Library has arranged a trial for Web of Knowledge. Web of Knowledge gives access to several databases via one platform, including:

• Web of Science (content from over 12,000 high-impact, global journals titles in the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities)
• Conference Proceedings Citation Index (citation data for evaluating the impact of papers presented at conferences and other professional meetings)
• MEDLINE (U.S. National Library of Medicine's premier medical literature database)
• BIOSIS Previews (journal articles, reports, and conference proceedings in the life sciences)
• Journal Citation Reports (statistical information and citation data for the world's leading journals)
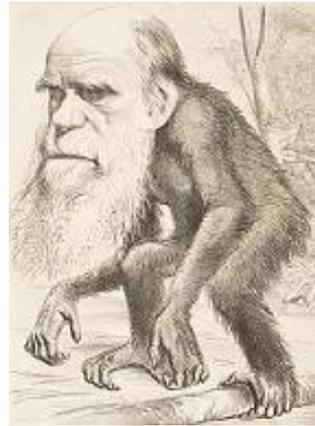• EndNote Web (Web-based reference organizer and citation tool).

The CSI Library has set up other trial databases for students and faculty to evaluate. The URL for our page of Database Trials can be found here:

http://srms.library.csi.cuny.edu/resources/subject.jsp?sub_id=75

If you require assistance with this database, please do not hesitate to come to the reference desk and a librarian will be able to assist you.

For more information, please contact :
Prof. Linda Roccos, Coordinator of Electronic Resources
Linda.Roccos@csi.cuny.edu

Celebrate Darwin 2009

Along with hundreds of world-wide events, the College of Staten Island Library will feature ongoing exhibits throughout 2009 to commemorate the life and legacy Charles Darwin.

There will also be a public program on December 2nd, 2009 during Club Hours, featuring the Provost and CSI faculty from the Sciences and Humanities & Social Sciences Departments.

This event will be co-sponsored by the College's STEAM initiative, a National Science Foundation-funded comprehensive curriculum, research, advisement, and scholarship program. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Robert Darwin (1809-1882). Darwin was an English naturalist who revealed that over time, all species of life evolved from common ancestors. He called this process natural selection, which he outlined in his groundbreaking work, On the *Origin of Species*, in 1859. Darwin's scientific findings form the basis of the life sciences by providing a logical explanation for the diversity of life. Although his discoveries established modern evolutionary theory, his ideas are not without controversy and continue to produce debate.

Books, articles, and images on display in the CSI Library focus on such themes as Darwin's biography and historical impact, his scholarship in relation to current environmental issues, influences in literature, and lasting effect on the field of life sciences.

For more information, please contact :

Prof. Amy F. Stempler
Instruction / Reference Librarian
Amy.Stempler@csi.cuny.edu

Library Instruction Update

The start of the new academic year is always an exciting one for library instruction. The summer months prove to be fertile ground for new projects and ideas that will take shape in starting this fall. This is also the time in which we, as teachers, reflect on the past year. These two actions, working in concert, have proven most interesting.

Beginning in September, the library instruction process will see a new level of automation. Built in collaboration with the exceptionally talented staff in the CELT office, library instruction's new online registration is now available. This form allows enhanced tracking of library instruction sessions and provide librarians with valuable information regarding their upcoming and available classes.

In an effort to establish a tangible set of goals for library instruction sessions for ENG 111 and ENG 151, benchmarks will be developed to assist in integrating information literacy into the curriculum. Faculty input and opinions will be elemental to this project's success.

While not completed, several video-tutorials are being tested for use in self-guided user-education. These videos, created with Camtasia, will combine screen-captures, still images, text, and voice narration to assist users in some common library tasks. An online library orientation and a sample catalog search have been created. Scripting and recording the narration is slated to begin shortly.

It is important that we look to the New Year to innovate, expand, and modify our classroom techniques. All librarians are encouraged to explore new ways to utilize the Smartboard and Synchroneyes software that is available as well as to pioneer new teaching techniques that are not bound to technology.

There is promise in the air. New students will be filling in the empty spaces. Established students will be honing their skills. The faculty will be preparing new and exciting ways to inspire learning. The library instructors will be ready to support any and all learning tasks. The start of new academic year is indeed very exciting.

Chat Reference Arrives at the CSI Library!

Have you ever wished that you could chat online with a librarian when you were working on your research paper? Well, the College of Staten Island (CSI) Library is pleased to announce the introduction of our "Ask a Librarian" chat reference service at the beginning of the Fall 2009 semester.

CSI's chat reference will enable patrons to speak to librarians in real time using the web based chat platform Library H3lp (pronounced "library help"). The service will be offered Monday through Friday from 12:00pm to 5:00pm when classes are in session.

The Library H3lp platform is compatible with many instant message services such as AIM, GoogleTalk, and Yahoo. This means that users of these chat services can chat with CSI librarians without having to use or login to Library H3lp. Alternately, patrons can visit the CSI Library's web site and access the service through a popup window.

This new service will supplement the library's traditional reference services (e.g. in person at the reference desk, on the telephone, by email) by giving users another way to consult the expertise of CSI's reference librarians.

The CSI Library will be using the Library H3lp platform to provide this service. Library H3lp was created by programmer Eric Sessoms in order to manage an after-hours chat and Instant Message collaboration between Duke University, North Carolina State University, and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

It was designed because other commonly used free chat platforms (e.g. Meebo) lack many of the features that are of great importance to librarians. With Library H3lp librarians will be able to send patrons documents and links as they chat with them.

Since it has been designed specifically for Librarians, it is very easy for patrons and librarians to use. Library H3lp is an exciting new development in the world of online reference services and the CSI Library is happy to participate in the emerging community of Library H3lp users.

For more information, or to book your class, please contact:

Prof. Allen Natowitz
Coordinator of Library Instruction
Allen.Natowitz@csi.cuny.edu

ILLiad Makes Interlibrary Loan a Breeze

Over the past year, the Interlibrary Loan office in the College of Staten Island Library has taken steps to improve service for the college community. One of the major changes patrons may notice is the acquisition and use of ILLiad software to process interlibrary loan requests. ILLiad has many new features that improve the accuracy and speed of ILL processing while enabling patrons to better manage their account.

The new ILL software also makes it easier for patrons to submit interlibrary loan requests. Upon registering for an ILL account, patrons are required to enter their contact information into the ILL system. However, they will not have to supply the information again when making future requests. Having e-mail and regular mail addresses on file with Interlibrary Loan enables us to notify patrons promptly and deliver materials accurately when requests arrive at the library.

By specifying a username and password of the patrons choosing, they will have secure access to information about their requests. Users can access their ILL account online to review items they have requested as well as check the status of outstanding requests. Articles are now provided electronically speeding up delivery. They are delivered to the patron's ILL account in PDF format and are available for download for thirty (30) days after the date of receipt. Loans of books and other materials may generally be kept for three (3) weeks unless otherwise noted. If patrons need to use the material longer, they can now renew the item online.

For more information, please contact:

Jonathan Cope
Instruction / Reference Librarian
Jonathan.Cope@csi.cuny.edu

Database Spotlight: ARTstor

ARTstor is a digital library of over one million images in the areas of art, architecture, the humanities, and social sciences. It contains high-quality digital images of paintings, prints, illustrations, photographs, and artifacts from museums and collections worldwide. ARTstor also provides a variety of tools to view, present, and manage images for research and teaching purposes. Users can not only zoom, pan, and rotate images but also create image groups, add notations, and export images for slideshow presentations. Not just for the art history student, ARTstor contains a broad range of historical, political, social, and cultural documentation equally useful to researchers of architecture, anthropology, history, theatre, ethnic or gender studies. Click here for list of collections organized by topic. Faculty members may request "instructor privileges" which provide enhanced functionality, including the ability to create shared folders, instructor commentary, and personal collections.

For further information, please contact:
Joseph Deodato
Instruction / Reference Librarian
Joseph.Deodato@csi.cuny.edu

For more information about ARTstor, including guides and tutorials, click here.

It is important to remember that interlibrary loan requests still take time to process, especially loans that are shipped via mail. Most loan requests are filled within 5-10 business days; articles generally arrive within one week. Other materials may take longer, depending on the location of the supplying library and method of delivery used. Some items are more difficult to borrow and thus take longer to arrive. These include reference books, rare materials, bound journal volumes, videotapes, DVDs or CDs, foreign theses, dissertations, and microprint.

Not all items are available and many institutions require fees for lending or do not lend or copy rare materials or full journal issues. We welcome comments and questions regarding the new system and any other ILL concern our community may have.

For more information, please contact:

Prof. Andrew Leykam
Coordinator of Interlibrary Loan
Andrew.Leykam@csi.cuny.edu

What is RefWorks?

The CSI Library subscribes to a web-based tool called RefWorks. RefWorks allows you to collect, manage, format, and share references for all types of resources. RefWorks also allows students and researchers to create annotated bibliographies on the fly, export references to Microsoft Word, and manage in-text citations in research papers. It's easy to use and integrates with most of our major research database providers (EBSCO, JSTOR, etc.).

RefWorks can be accessed from any computer with an Internet connection. It is available directly from the Library's homepage in the *Reference Toolbox* and there is also a tutorial created by the Center for Excellence in Learning Technology (CELT), located on the left hand menu of the library's homepage under "Research Guides."

It can be accessed from off-site, but you'll need a group number. This number can be provided by a librarian at the Reference Desk at: 718.982. 4010 or contact :

Prof. Amy F. Stempler, Instruction / Reference Librarian and RefWorks Liaison
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718.982.3917

Blogs From China with Prof. Linda Roccos

Each summer for five years, a group of CUNY educators have participated in the CSI/CUNY study tour of China, witnessing a country on the cusp of huge changes in nearly all aspects of life. I was pleased to be among this last group to visit both colleges and famous sights.

Day 2 : Saturday June 27 – Arrived in Hong Kong, a futuristic-looking city, with many skyscraper towers connected by skyway walkways and an escalator to go up the very steep hillside!

Day 5 : Tuesday June 30 – At the City University of Hong Kong all courses are taught in English. One required course is about Chinese culture (music, art, etc.), since there was little knowledge of it in Hong Kong. I visited the library with its multi-use commons area, and an easy to use DVD checkout system, with the cases unlocked at checkout.

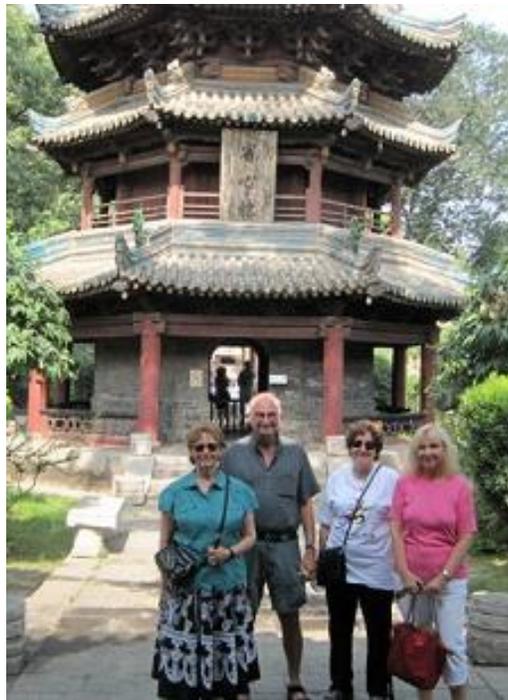Day 7 : Thursday July 2 – Shanghai University is very well funded from the "211 project" to improve universities to western standards, and CSI sends students here to study. The huge new library contains over 3 million volumes. Students pay to use the computers although it is cheap. Seating areas are very bright and comfortable, and no bags or drinks are allowed in the reading rooms!

Day 12 : Tuesday July 7 – Suzhou is just west of Shanghai, and we visited its Higher Education Development Center, a think-tank for scholars and graduate students. Their library was very modern, having five floors with one entire floor for e-resources. They have both U.S. and Chinese databases, as well as 1.4 million electronic books shared with the National Library , a useful consortial arrangement..

Day 15 : Friday July 10 –Nanjing University is another premier research university, where CSI sends students every year. We visited the Johns Hopkins-Nanjing Center where they teach economics and political science, in Chinese to foreign students, and in English to Chinese students. The students are paired up in rooms, a Chinese student with a foreign student, providing an excellent exchange situation.   But only 20% of Chinese students go on to higher education, versus 90% in Taiwan and South Korea.

Day 19 : Tuesday July 14 – In Beijing we heard a lecture at the CEAIE headquarters (China Educational Association for International Education), learning about the changing goals of the educational system here, and the welcome mat extended now to foreign students. Chinese students are also encouraged to study abroad, but U.S. visa problems make it difficult as only about a third actually return to China.

To learn more about her recent trip to China, please contact:

Prof. Linda Roccos
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For more photos from 2009 China Study Tour, please visit
http://picasaweb.google.com/DistanceLibrarian