



# Emmanuel d'Alzon Library Link

The Newsletter of the Emmanuel d'Alzon Library  
Assumption College, Worcester, Massachusetts USA

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## Inside this issue:

Art in the Library	1
Information Literacy	2
Speech Recognition	3
Call for Artists!	3
D'Alzon Arts	4
New Database	4
From the Director	5
By the Numbers	6
Interlibrary Loan	7
From the Back Cover	8

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## Art Students Brighten Up D'Alzon Library

Phil Waterman

Last spring, the Library collected feedback from students about changes that we could make to our first floor computer area. As a result of this feedback, we purchased new, roomier computer workstations, added an additional computer, rearranged the workstations, and moved two of the group study tables to make the area less crowded.



Hopefully you have noticed one more change, which occurred over the winter break. The Library partnered with the school's art students to bring some much needed color to this space!

We decided to paint the four support columns in that area, but rather than simply paint the columns a new color, we thought, "Why not have art students paint murals on the columns?" We discussed the idea with some of the Art Department faculty, who thought this was a great idea. In late September, we sent out a Call

for Proposals to art students, asking them to submit a proposal for painting a mural on a column. Ten students responded. A judging panel of librarians and Art faculty members met in late October and chose the four winning proposals.

The four winning artists were: Melissa Brazeau ('12), Anne Harris ('12), Jen King ('14) and Sean O'Gara ('13). Over

the winter break, Melissa, Anne, Jen and Sean created their murals.

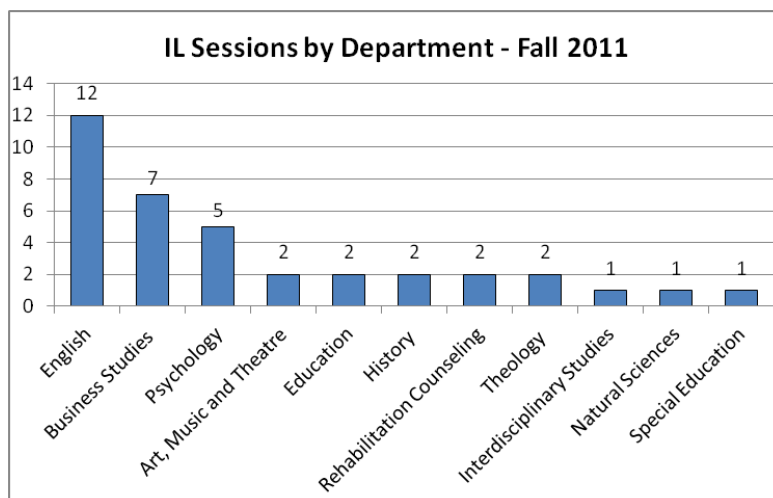
In late January, the Library will host a reception to celebrate the student artists and our new art work. We are thrilled with the beautiful works created by the students, and we look forward to more collaboration in the future; after all, we do have more columns!

Tell us what you think about the new art work by posting a comment to our [Facebook](#) page.

## Teaching Critical Thinking at the Library

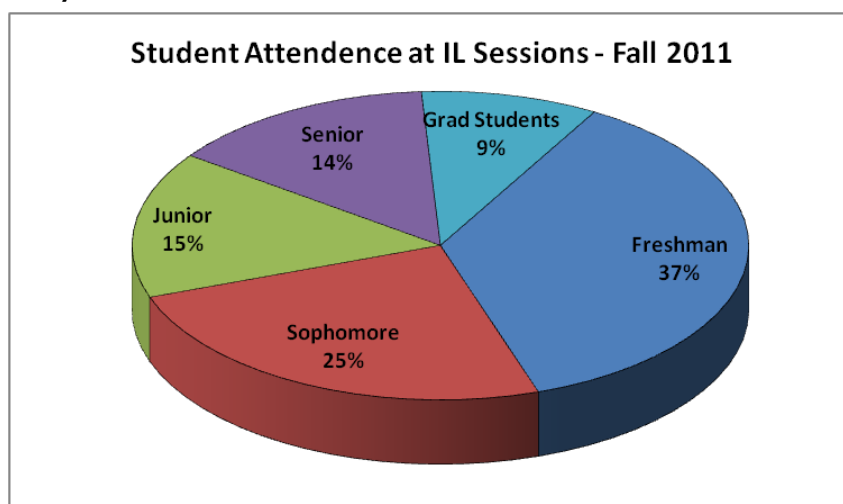
Phil Waterman

During the fall 2011 semester, librarians at the d'Alzon Library taught information literacy, (critical thinking in a research context) to students from nine of the 17 undergraduate academic departments, and two of the five graduate academic departments. The following chart shows the distribution of these classes by department.



The classes introduced students to important concepts such as how to define a research question/topic; how to identify reliable sources of information, how to locate resources within the library (either physically located in the library or accessible online through the Library's website), and how to evaluate resources.

Through these classes, we were able to teach research strategies and skills to nearly 700 Assumption students during the fall semester. The following chart shows the distribution of these students by class level.



For 60% of these students, the session was their first formal exposure to information literacy strategies through the Library; the other 40% had attended at least one previous session. If you are a faculty member and would like to discuss incorporating an information literacy instruction session into your course, please contact me at [pwaterman@assumption.edu](mailto:pwaterman@assumption.edu) or x7375.

## Talk to Me

Mary Brunelle



For Christmas, Santa brought me an awesome new GPS. It's a Garmin nüvi, and it's adorable. One of its best features is that it accepts voice commands, meaning you can speak to it and it speaks back to you. This is very cool, as I love having conversations with my technology. Furthermore, I realized how far technology has come, for a device to accept voice commands out-of-the-box.

In years past, speech recognition software was clunky. It was rather faulty, and you often had to train a device to recognize your voice, dialect, intonation, etc.

(Indeed, some powerful assistive technology still requires this set-up.) But the technology built-in to so many of today's popular devices requires no set-up. Increasingly I have come to rely on the voice recognition technology in my iPhone (Siri), my car (Bluetooth), and now my GPS. I especially enjoy my car's Ford Sync system from Microsoft, which allows me to control my iPod with my voice and make hands-free calls while driving.

The technology is not fool-proof, though. Nüvi has trouble understanding me when I say "Worcester"; if I don't enunciate properly, she substitutes "Leicester". My iPhone is the same. If I forget to mute the TV before talking to Siri, she says, "I'm sorry, Mary Brunelle, I

did not understand you" with a rather judgmental overtone. If she knew my middle name, she probably would throw that in there too.

But on the whole, the technology is surprisingly receptive and intuitive. Furthermore, for people with physical disabilities, hands-free technology is not just cool; it's a necessity. The mother of one of my dear friends is legally blind, and she ordered an iPhone 4S the day it became available. She had been waiting for a phone with this kind of sophisticated speech recognition software for ages.

People have been talking to (and sometimes yelling at) their technology for years. It's refreshing to see—make that *hear*—that now, the technology is talking back.

### CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

We are establishing the art show schedule for next year.

If you or someone you know is an artist,  
please contact Joan O'Rourke at (508) 767-7202.



Joan O'Rourke

Once again, the Library is the setting for an impressive art exhibit by Assumption students. The show features works by students of professors Scott Glushien, Tom Grady, Patty Harris, Carrie Nixon, and Lynn Simmons and will be displayed through February 3. Included in the show are photographs, paintings, drawings, typographic self-portraits, and a multimedia display. Please stop by to enjoy and admire this beautiful exhibit which enlivens the Library.

Our next art show will be something a little different. *Immigrant Perspectives of Life in Worcester* is a literacy through photography exhibit by CSL students in Professor Esteban Loustaunau's Spanish class in collaboration with ESOL students at TRA-Inc. This inspiring exhibit will be on display Feb. 6 – Apr. 13. Join us for the opening reception on **Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Future  
Events  
in the  
D'Alzon  
Arts Series**

**Poetry Reading**

Featured Reader: Ron Spalletta

Open Mic

Friday, February 17, 7:00 p.m.

**Senior Seminar Art Show**

April 16 – May 11

Opening Reception: Wednesday, April 18, 4:30 p.m.

**Two Reasons to Use the Dissertations and Theses Database**

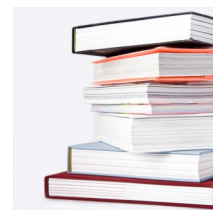
Nancy O'Sullivan

Have you ever searched a database and the results included items noted as *dissertations* or *theses* that were unavailable in full-text? Before requesting the item through inter-library loan (ILLiad), be sure to look in our new **Dissertations and Theses** database. This database provides access to 2.3 million citations for dissertations and theses from around the world. Citations are available for dissertations published since 1861 and for masters theses produced since 1988 in all academic disciplines. Full-text abstracts are available for more than 800,000 of these scholarly works.

It is important to note that the citations themselves are quite extensive and may contain the information you need without having to read the entire thesis. In addition, for works published after 1997, a 24-page preview document may be available. Of course, you may request the full dissertation through inter-library loan, though libraries do not always lend them because they are a one-of-a-kind item. But we are always willing to make a request.

You can also use this database as part of your normal research routine. When you write a paper, your insights about the

topic become part of the academic "conversation." One way of learning about previous related conversations is to read the work done by other student-scholars similar to yourself. Their advanced work is published as dissertations or theses and is available through this database. Versions are often later published as scholarly books or articles. So think about using this as another tool, in conjunction with your other search results. You have a wealth of information to explore!





## From the Director

Doris Ann Sweet

It is always bittersweet to lose a valued staff member to a career move that is right for him or her. Kelly Jo Woodside has accepted a position as a consultant with the state library agency, a career direction she always expected to pursue, though not so soon. We will miss Kelly as a colleague and a friend. We especially appreciate her contributions to furthering our thinking about, and approaches to, information literacy in the College, as well as her contributions beyond the Library on such groups as the Academic Honesty Committee and the Technology Advisory Committee. We wish Kelly well as she moves on—her last day at Assumption will be January 31.

The College is lucky, however, to have a member of the Library staff, Phil Waterman, who will move into the position of Head of Reference and Information Literacy Services on February 1. Many on campus already know Phil through his activities in reference, information literacy instruction, and a number of other

events and projects for which he has provided leadership—last year's Six-Word Story project is just one example. Phil's library and project management expertise, as well as his sense of humor, bode well for success in his new position.

Another major position has also been filled. On January 9, we welcomed Robin Maddalena as our new Head of Access Services and Collection Management. Robin, who earned a BA degree in English Literature from Binghamton University and an MLIS from Simmons College, has held several positions at Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill, MA, over the last nine years. Her most recent position was as Technology and Information Literacy Librarian, and for several years, she was the Access Services Department Head. Her position here at Assumption has been redefined to include a leadership role in collection management and development, as well as access services. Library staff members are delighted to have Robin on board!



Phil Waterman: Head of Reference & Information Literacy Services



Robin Maddalena: Head of Access Services & Collection Management

## By the Numbers

Liz Maisey

**TWELVE****LAPTOPS AVAILABLE TO  
CHECK OUT IN THE LIBRARY****130***Items in the Library's  
Career Reference Collection***4****ORIGINAL ART  
WORKS  
PAINTED ON  
COLUMNS IN  
THE LIBRARY'S  
COMPUTER  
AREA****ELEVEN***Downton Abbey fans  
among the staff in the  
Library*

## What Can Interlibrary Loan Do For You?

Vivienne Anthony

Here in the interlibrary loan department we can assist you by acquiring books and research materials that you are unable to find in the d'Alzon library. We do this by using the interlibrary loan software called ILLiad. Once you have signed up for an ILLiad username and password you can make requests for anything we do not own in our library.

### Some of the benefits of using interlibrary loan are as follows:

- ♦ Articles and books can be requested locally, within the state, from other states and even from other countries.
- ♦ Articles and other information for your research may be delivered electronically to your ILLiad account, or sent to the e-mail specified in your account profile, so that you may read items from your laptop or other electronic devices.

- ♦ ILLiad maintains a history of your requests so that you can keep a record of materials that you have requested for future reference.
- ♦ ILLiad will show you the status of your requests and inform you when your library materials have arrived. Books will be held at the circulation desk for pick-up at your convenience.
- ♦ ILLiad allows you to request a renewal of your interlibrary loan books online just by clicking on the four digit TN number that is given to each request.

I would be very happy to help you with any information you require to make your interlibrary loan requests. Please contact me at [vanthony@assumption.edu](mailto:vanthony@assumption.edu) or x7291 if you require any help with setting up your interlibrary loan account. Best wishes for the spring semester!

### RESEARCHGUIDES - BY TRIALTIME

WWW.TOONDOO.COM



## ***The Golden Empire***

By Hugh Thomas

"From a master chronicler of Spanish history comes a magnificent work about the pivotal years from 1522 to 1566, when Spain was the greatest European power. Hugh Thomas has written a rich and riveting narrative of exploration, progress, and plunder. At its center is the unforgettable ruler who fought the French and expanded the Spanish empire, and the bold conquistadors who were his agents."-- Book jacket

## ***A Short History of Early Modern England***

By Peter C. Herman

"The Early Modern period in England produced some the greatest literary works the world has even known, from the *Faerie Queene* and *Paradise Lost* to *Dr. Faustus* and *Macbeth*. *A Short History of Early Modern England* presents students with the crucial historical and cultural information necessary for a richer appreciation and deeper understanding of the literature produced in this period."

— Book jacket

## ***A Thousand Darknesses***

By Ruth Franklin

"As tough-minded as it is clear-eyed, Ruth Franklin's bracingly unsentimental meditation on Holocaust literature and its critics is not the weak-of-heart. Her startlingly fresh and original rereading of writers as diverse as Borowski, Wiesel, Kertexa, and Sebald among many others strips away truisms and clichés and get to the heart of what this literature can and cannot do – why we must read what we can hardly bear to think about."

– James E. Young, author of *At Memory's Edge*

## ***The Age of Movies: Selected Writings of Pauline Kael***

Edited by Sanford Schwartz

"Kael called movies 'the most total and encompassing art form we have,' and she made her reviews a platform for considering both film and the worlds it engages, crafting in the process a prose style of extraordinary wit, precision, and improvisatory grace. To read *The Age of Movies* moves us to be swept up into an endlessly revealing and entertaining dialogue with Kael at her witty, exhilarating, and opinionated best." — Book jacket

## ***The Psychology of Prejudice: From Attitudes to Social Action***

By Lynne M. Jackson

"*The Psychology of Prejudice* provides a concise description of the psychological study of prejudice and discrimination. It is clearly written, well-organized, and nicely integrates classic work with the most recent cutting-edge findings. Using vivid contemporary examples, Jackson does an outstanding job of making complex empirical and theoretical issues accessible to a diverse audience."

— Book cover

## ***The Skillful Teacher: on Technique, Trust, and Responsiveness in the Classroom***

By Stephen D. Brookfield

"*The Skillful Teacher* explores the assumption that skillful teaching is grounded in constant research into how students experience learning. The book explores the three R's of skillful teaching: respect, research, and responsiveness. Brookfield offers practical guidance on aspects of the teaching experience that range from lecturing creatively to giving helpful evaluations. The book also lays out a plan for constantly renewing one's engagement in teaching." — Book jacket

