The Library website is not only the electronic face of the Library, but a working tool. In collaboration with IT staff, the Library redesigned its site this summer to integrate its appearance, navigation, and functionality with the overall Assumption website redesign, and to better highlight the resources and tools for which it is the gateway. Our old site was rich with information, but crowded, requiring a lot of scanning for users to get to the right place. We began the process of redesigning the site with usability studies, engaging students to inform us about their use of the site and identify the components most important to them. On our new site, we chose to highlight the six components that ranked highest for the students—the services and resources they wanted to use most often.

We did additional research by viewing sites of other libraries and noting features we especially liked. From this review, we selected a new way to present library hours. Hours for the current week are displayed automatically and users can also link to a complete display of d’Alzon Library hours. We have added an easily updated Library News section for events and other news.

Several existing features have been enhanced. The Meebo chat box is prominent on the home page and has also been added to some of our database pages, so that researchers with questions have easy online access to a librarian. Forms used by faculty to request book purchases and to request that items be placed on reserve have been redesigned to make the process easier. The Faculty Publications page has been redesigned and can be easily updated. The d’Alzon Arts pages have also been redesigned to display the year’s offerings in a compact fashion, linking to more detailed information.

While the major redesign has been accomplished, the site is still a work in progress and we welcome any suggestions sent to library@assumption.edu. Many thanks to Laurie Welling who did the lion’s share of work on the site and to our valuable collaborators who helped in a variety of ways: Mike Murphy in IT, Ming Sun in IT, Renee Buisson in Public Affairs, and the students who gave us feedback.
New! Laptops in the Library

The d’Alzon Library has 11 new laptops for your use. Each Dell Latitude E6410 utilizes the Windows 7 Operating System and is loaded with all of the Microsoft Professional Office products, such as Excel, Word, Powerpoint, etc. As before, you can access the Internet through our wireless service while using a laptop, or we can lend you an ethernet cord at the Circulation Desk.

Each laptop case has a key (on a red cord) with lock, directions, and a power cord. Each laptop has a battery that can last up to 2 hours. The laptops are used continuously and the battery might be low, so please plug in the laptop if possible during your usage and remember to shut off the power when you finish using it.

After you have finished your work, you will want to email your documents to yourself, save to a flashdrive, or print. The laptops will print to Library Printer 2 on the first floor. Please note the number of the computer, which will display on the GoPrint station. It is written on yellow paper taped to the laptop under the keyboard.

Welcome to the Interlibrary Loan Department at Assumption College!

Did you know that if there are books and articles you are unable to find here at d’Alzon library, we can acquire them for you through the Interlibrary Loan System? The introduction of the Illiad Resource Sharing Management Software has allowed us to automate routine interlibrary loan functions which have increased efficiency and reduced paperwork.

To request a book or an article you must create an interlibrary loan username and password.

To do this go to the library home page, click on the Illiad icon and then click on “First Time Users”. Then go to “First Time Users Click Here” and fill out the new user registration form.

After submitting the registration form you will be able to make your first interlibrary loan request. Articles are usually delivered within 1-2 days and are sent electronically to your interlibrary loan account, where they remain for 30 days.

The average turnaround time for receiving and processing loans (books and movies) is 5-7 days. I will inform you by email as soon as your request arrives.

If I can assist you in any way with your interlibrary loan login, or if you have any questions regarding the interlibrary loan service, please do not hesitate to contact Vivienne Anthony at vanthony@assumption.edu or x7291. I look forward to receiving your requests!
I Heart Kindle

A friend gave me the new 3rd generation Kindle from Amazon for my birthday. Yes, it was a very cool—and generous—gift, and of course I was excited initially, but I didn’t know how much I’d love it until I actually started playing with it. My friend worried that, as a librarian, I might be a print purist and harbor an innate aversion to all things digital. Not so. I grew up in the digital age, and my work fosters an even deeper love of technology; e-books are no exception. I wasn’t familiar with the earlier generations of Kindle, so I can’t attest to how much of an improvement the latest version is over the old-timers, but I do know I love this little guy.

And how little it is. Kindle is small, slender, and lightweight. But despite its size (the screen height measures just under 5 inches), my eyes feel perfectly comfortably while reading. In fact, there are numerous options for adjusting the display, including text size, line spacing, font style, and screen rotation, so I could change my preferences if I ever experienced eye strain. The screen itself is pretty neat, too. It uses “electronic paper.” Frankly I don’t know what that means, but the effect is that when I look at Kindle, it doesn’t feel like I’m looking at a computer monitor. Some reviewers compare Kindle’s display with iPad’s display. Sure, iPad features a color screen, but it’s also quite glossy, which makes light glare (especially solar glare when outside) a real issue. Don’t get me wrong; I also have an iPad, which I love and use frequently. However, for reading—on the go and for long periods of time—Kindle is king. Kindle has many cool features—many of which I don’t see myself using but I like knowing they’re there. For instance, Kindle syncs with other devices like iPhone and Blackberry, which means you can read content across devices; you can read a few pages on Kindle, then switch to iPhone and pick up where you left off. I don’t really see myself reading Pride and Prejudice on my weency iPhone, but maybe someone else wants to, so good for them. Kindle also features text-to-speech, which means it accepts voice commands and reads text to you. Again, I probably don’t need Kindle to read me a bedtime story, but I’m sure many audio book lovers will take advantage of this feature.

One feature I certainly will use, though, is the collections feature. This allows me to organize my content, say by author or genre. Other neat features include bookmarking, highlighting (which really is underlining), notes, built-in dictionaries, jump to, and search. Perhaps you know Kindle supports content other than books, such as PDF documents, images, magazines, and newspapers. Did you know that Kindle also supports subscription to e-content? This means you can subscribe to, say, the Kindle version of the New York Times, and Kindle automatically downloads each new issue overnight.

Kindle offers so many fun features, and I’m still learning. But so far, my pro column is full, and my con column is null. So if you’re looking to treat yourself, or you’re lucky enough to have a loved one who will treat you, to an e-reader, check out Amazon’s Kindle. I’ll tell you it was one of the best birthday gifts I’ve ever received.
From the Reference Desk: New Databases

**Marketline**

*Phil Waterman*

**Marketline** is a leading provider of quality information on companies, industries and countries. It provides data and analyses on over 30,000 companies, 3,400 industries and 100 countries. Marketline information draws on extensive primary and secondary research, all aggregated, analyzed, crosschecked and presented in a consistent and accessible style. In addition to company, industry and country information, Marketline tracks the most important mergers and acquisition deals, provides comprehensive data on consumer markets, and provides a live feed of relevant news, comment and analysis to keep users up to date with current business issues.

**ARTstor**

*Barrie Mooney*

Click on “go” to begin your search of one million collected images, audio files, and videos covering various subject areas. Some great features include:

- An easy keyword search box as well as an advanced search option that allows users to search first by geographical area of interest, and then by specific classification: gardens, fashion, film, maps, paintings, and much more.
- Search results can be sorted by title, date of creation, or by artist, and can be viewed as large or small thumbnail images or as zoomed-in close-ups.
- The ability to export citations of images to RefWorks or another citation tool, allows Assumption students and faculty to create, save, share, export and generally use all images for educational purposes.

We’ve worked with the Art Department to ensure ARTstor is available as another useful resource for doing research. Enjoy!

**RefWorks – Manage your citations**

*Nancy O’Sullivan*

How do you keep track of the articles and books you use when writing your papers? Pieces of paper or notecards here and there? Stacks of books and articles? Do you remember how to format in-text citations when you need them? Do you panic when it comes time to type your bibliography? Where do those periods go?? Well, d’Alzon Library is pleased to announce the recent acquisition of RefWorks—a research and citation manager designed to help you store and manage your research sources, as well as generate citations and bibliographies easily.

Right now you can find the link to RefWorks in the list of Popular Databases in the Find Articles section of the Library website. You will need to set up a personal account. When you find an article in a database, you can usually export it directly into RefWorks. You may also add books and other resources manually. You may set up individual folders for each research project in order to stay organized. When it comes time to write your paper, you can download and use a related product, Write-N-Cite, to help you format and insert in-text citations. Once your paper is complete, you can use RefWorks to generate a properly formatted bibliography in whichever citation style you need. You’ll be done in no time!

Look for RefWorks workshops during the semester. In the meantime, sign on, and give it a try!
What is information literacy?

According to the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), information literacy is the ability to "recognize when information is needed and ... to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information." According to ACRL standards, an information literate college student should be adept at such skills as developing a research question, finding books and articles in the Library's catalog and databases, analyzing the credibility of an information source, and recognizing and avoiding plagiarism.

As a learning community for first-year students, Tagaste is an excellent opportunity to introduce foundational information literacy skills that students can build upon in future coursework. The two-semester sequence of the program is ideal, since it allows a focus on basic concepts in the fall, with more complex research activities in the spring to reinforce learning. Eventually, we hope to expand this work to other Tagaste sections in order to reach as many new students as possible, as well as work with academic departments to identify discipline-specific information literacy skills for upper-level students.

Why is information literacy important at Assumption?

In addition to encouraging better research papers, information literacy provides an essential foundation for critical thinking and engaged citizenship, qualities emphasized in the College's mission. For example, current students as well as graduates might use information literacy skills to research effective models for a service project in their community, compile evidence to help raise funds for an issue that's important to them, or select a political candidate, to name just a few examples. In fact, according to the researchers, Shapiro and Hughes, information literacy might be seen as a "new liberal art," necessary for a "free and humane" society.

The importance of information literacy is also recognized by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the organization that accredits Assumption. The latest accreditation guidelines for higher education state that students should be able to demonstrate information literacy skills by the time they graduate.

How else does d'Alzon Library support information literacy?

Tagaste is just one component of the information literacy services available to Assumption students and faculty. Each semester, d'Alzon librarians conduct research workshops for courses in a wide range of disciplines. This fall, for example, we have scheduled 21 sessions in response to faculty requests. In addition, we offer research-related handouts and links for faculty to incorporate into their Blackboard sites, and we are in the process of updating and expanding our subject guides, which recommend books, databases, websites, and other relevant information for research in all disciplines taught at the College.

Our reference services also offer many teachable moments in which we can show patrons how to find answers to their own questions. For example, if a student is looking for a specific book, the librarian points out each step while searching the online catalog so the patron can do it him/herself next time.

Finally, we are available to faculty for consultations on designing effective research and resource-based assignments. Since information resources change rapidly, it can be challenging to keep current, but we are here to help with any questions, from reviewing an assignment to be sure the Library has access to appropriate sources, to offering database refresher sessions for individual faculty or departments.

For more information about information literacy services at Assumption, contact Kelly Jo Woodside at kwoodside@assumption.edu or x7020. To schedule an instruction session for your course, contact Phil Waterman at pwaterman@assumption.edu or x7375.

Note: Sections of this article are adapted from "Information Literacy: Library Teaching and Learning," which appeared in the Simmons Library Newsletter Fall 2007.
We have some very interesting displays right now in the comfortable seating area near the front windows on the first floor of the Library. In the bookcase to your left, Vivienne Anthony has some of the pots and tiles that she created and is showing as part of her art exhibit. Those two pots actually started out as coils that were wrapped around and around. Then the outside was smoothed before being painted, glazed and fired. Beautiful exhibit, Vivienne!

The case on your right is showing some of the new offerings we have acquired in the past few months. Whatever your interest, from art to history to theology to music, I’m sure we have something for you to read and enjoy.

If you care to take a look on top of the map case, you will see some of the books that were either challenged or banned just in the past year. Some of these books are true classics, such as The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway, A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving, To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, and I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou. Some are more modern, such as The Bookseller of Kabul, Running with Scissors, and Song of Solomon. Not to mention the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary!

Watch for our new displays later in October. We will be showing some of the writings of Fr. Emmanuel d’Alzon. This will be in conjunction with the unveiling of his statue that will be placed permanently in front of the Library. We will also have some books on drawing techniques that will coincide with the new art exhibit.
Painter, ceramist, and fine artist extraordinaire, Vivienne Anthony is the Circulation and ILL Assistant in the d’Alzon Library. Inspired by her grandfather, she, in turn, inspired the audience as the featured artist at the opening reception of Natural Expressions on September 7.

Vivienne’s instinctive feelings result in realistic work where depth and light are captured perfectly. Her medium of choice varies between oil paint, conté crayon and pencil, and conté crayon and chalk. If you are in the Library, you will undoubtedly notice the beautiful landscapes and still lifes of autumn leaves, but make sure you head to the back left of the Library to see a piece entitled Glassware which has received a lot of attention. This particular piece, done in conté crayon and chalk, depicts wine glasses and jugs from different angles. The effect of the chalk is fascinating and simulates the shine on the glass. In the display case to the left, Vivienne showcases more of her work in ceramics and tile molds.

Our co-worker, Vivienne, is one talented lady! Stop by to see her exhibit which is on display until October 15.

7th Annual Book Sale

The d’Alzon Library held its seventh Annual Book Sale on September 8th and 9th. Although we did not have the picture perfect weather that we have come to expect for this event, the enthusiasm of the crowds seemed undimmed. Business was brisk as people happily hunted through the wide selection of materials primarily donated by faculty and staff. The event raised $950.00 which will be used to send books and serials to three colleges operated by the Assumptionists in Nairobi, Kenya, and Kinshasha, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Many thanks to all who helped make this sale a success.

If you are interested in donating books for next year’s book sale, please contact Julie O’Shea at x7137 or joshea@assumption.edu.
The Help, by Kathryn Stockett

My summer highlights list includes reading The Help. The story takes place in Jackson, Mississippi during the 1960’s, one of the most tumultuous times in U.S. history. Told from three different perspectives, there is emphasis on the good and the bad on each side of the racial divide. For the reader, it’s decent people vs. not so decent people, regardless of their race, and the end result is a satisfied, hopeful feeling which is unexpected, given the story’s setting. I was absorbed in this story even after I read the last page. Highly recommended.

Review by Joan O’Rourke

Isles-Rizzoli mysteries by Tess Gerritsen

This past summer, I started reading a series of mystery novels by Tess Gerritsen. These novels have become the basis for the new TV show on TNT called Rizzoli and Isles. Set in Boston, Jane Rizzoli is a detective and Maura Isles is one of the city’s medical examiners. It’s kind of fun to pick out the places Gerritsen mentions and to think “Gee, I’ve been there” and to be able to picture the characters as they go through the scenes. The plots in her books are taut and well written. She is a former surgeon so the medical aspects are a bit technical, but she also doesn’t write pages and pages describing a scene when a paragraph will do. The stories move right along and certainly encourage you to turn the page. If you are looking for a fast, easy read that doesn’t require a lot of concentration, I would suggest this series.

Review by Carol Pappas

God, Grace, and Creation edited by Philip J. Rossi

“Sixteen peer-reviewed essays that explore the work of God’s grace in today’s world. Major contributors include David Burrell (Notre Dame and Uganda Martyrs University) and Denis Edwards (Flinders University in Australia) on the role of God’s grace in creation, and Ilia Delio on the Trinity (Georgetown University).” — Google Books

Complexity: A Guided Tour by Melanie Mitchell

“What enables individually simple insects like ants to act with such precision and purpose as a group? How do trillions of individual neurons produce something as extraordinarily complex as consciousness? What is it that guides self-organizing structures like the immune system, the World Wide Web, the global economy, and the human genome? These are just a few of the fascinating and elusive questions that the science of complexity seeks to answer.” — Google Books

Inventing the Job of President: Leadership Style from George Washington to Andrew Jackson by Fred I. Greenstein

“From George Washington’s decision to buy time for the new nation by signing the less-than-ideal Jay Treaty with Great Britain in 1795 to George W. Bush’s order of a military intervention in Iraq in 2003, the matter of who is president of the United States is of the utmost importance. In this book, Fred Greenstein examines the leadership styles of the earliest presidents, men who served at a time when it was by no means certain that the American experiment in free government would succeed.” — Back cover

Maimonides in His World: Portrait of a Mediterranean Thinker by Sarah Stroumsa

“While the great medieval philosopher, theologian, and physician Maimonides is acknowledged as a leading Jewish thinker, his intellectual contacts with his surrounding world are often described as related primarily to Islamic philosophy. Maimonides in His World challenges this view by revealing him to have wholeheartedly lived, breathed, and espoused the rich Mediterranean culture of his time.” — Back cover