



Emmanuel d'Alzon Library Link

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

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Preservation Survey at the Library

Liz Maisey

In July of 2009 the Library was awarded a grant of \$2,500 for a Preservation Survey of the library. In the library world, preservation is a term used to describe activities that reduce or prevent damage to extend the life expectancy of collections. A preservation survey is the process of collecting and analyzing data about the physical condition of library materials. The library hired a representa-

tive from the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) to conduct the survey. The NEDCC was founded in 1973 in response to growing alarm about the monumental scope of the paper deterioration problem facing libraries and other institutions with print collections. The Center is now a national and international resource for preservation education.

On January 12th, a consultant from the NEDCC spent the day at the library. (Before the visit the library provided detailed information about the library building and our collections and policies.) The site visit included staff interviews and a detailed inspection of the library and our materials. We will receive a written report that we will use in preparing a long-range preservation plan.



We all can play an important role in the preservation of books by handling library books and our own books with care. For example, the image on the left shows the wrong way to pull a book from the shelf, because it can damage the "head cap" of the book. The image on the right is how we should all try to remove a book from the shelf. Small steps such as this will allow us to enjoy our books for many years to come.

Congrats to Liz and Ashley!

Phil Waterman



Congratulations to our colleagues, Liz Maisey and Ashley Malouin, who recently completed advanced degrees in archiving and library science

respectively. Liz received her post-master's degree Certificate in Archives Management from Simmons College, and Ashley received her Master of

Science in Library and Information Science from Drexel University.



"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically... Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."

Martin Luther King, Jr., The Purpose of Education Morehouse College, 1948



Library Instruction Sessions

Reserve sessions now!



We can help your students better understand the role of the Library and its resources in the research process. Each session is customized for your course. Students can be introduced to:

The Library's catalog & electronic databases

Print & electronic resources relevant to your course and/or a specific research project

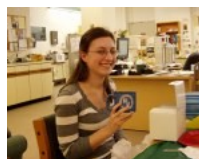
More advanced & effective search strategies

Evaluating search results

Contact: Phil Waterman, Reference & Instructional Services
x7375 or pwaterman@assumption.edu

Staff Changes

Janice Wilbur



Ashley Malouin, who has been responsible for Interlibrary Loan in the library, will leave us to work at the Jacob Edwards Public Library in Southbridge. Ashley has been on the d'Alzon Library staff for almost two years and has completed her MS degree in Library Science during this time.

Ashley brought her experience in Interlibrary Loan and knowledge of library work to the Assumption community after working part-time at Fitchburg Public Library. Her studies at Drexel, while employed at the library, added significantly to the organization and future planning of the department. The staff of the d'Alzon Library will miss her input and her strong work ethic.

While we are in the process of searching for Ashley's replacement, Larry Spongberg will be taking up some of the work in Interlibrary Loan. Since Larry will not be working at the library regularly, please address all questions regarding Interlibrary Loan/ Borrowing to Janice Wilbur jwilbur@assumption.edu, 508-767-7271.

From the Director's Desk

Doris Ann Sweet

From reading *Joey's First Duck Day* to attending Assumption Day to participating in openings for three different art exhibits in d'Alzon Library, I have been delighted to enter into the life and culture of Assumption College, and especially its Library, over the course of my first three months on campus. I am grateful to my predecessor, Dawn Thistle, for all the excellent work she has done in leading the Library, and for the fact that she is still available to explain those mysterious little details of budget items, invoices, and contracts that turn up from time to time.

This is an exciting time for libraries, although as we are reminded frequently by stories in the press, a vulnerable time as well. Hitting close to home, the state-funded

Central Massachusetts Regional Library System (CMRLS) on which we rely heavily for delivery services for Interlibrary Loan, for professional development workshops for staff, for access to certain databases, and for other less visible services, will be changing drastically. State funding for its parent body, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, has been greatly curtailed, and, as a result, the six state regions will be combined into one or two regions. Our colleagues in the regional systems are working diligently to make sure vital services are maintained, but we know there will be changes, some of which may shift work and expense to our own library.

At d'Alzon, we are in the midst of a search for a Head of Reference and

Information Literacy Services and hope to fill the position soon. Three candidates have visited campus and delivered presentations on how they envision an information literacy program for a college like Assumption. We learned from the perspectives, experiences, and ideas of each of the candidates, and are looking forward to having a new professional on board who will take the lead in working with campus colleagues to strengthen information literacy instruction for Assumption students.

The American Library Association held its Midwinter Meeting in Boston January 15-18, and several library staff members were able to attend meetings and visit the huge exhibits with hundreds of publishers and all kinds of providers of library services and supplies. One of the themes heard over

and over again throughout the conference was the growing need to deliver library services to a generation that expects all information to show up on mobile phones. Publishers are paying attention to this, as are library vendors. There was also a lot of focus on gaming and innovative ways that libraries can interact with their users. The d'Alzon staff is continuously looking at ways new technologies and user behaviors suggest enhancements to our services, so stay tuned. In the meantime, don't hesitate to call or email me with any thoughts, ideas, or requests you might have about d'Alzon Library services and collections.

Doris Ann Sweet
dasweet@assumption.edu
 508-767-7272

Or become a Facebook Fan of Assumption College Library and share a comment.

By The Numbers

2,731
books donated
to the library in
FY2009



4

wanna be
 Dog owners



By Liz Maisey

5 pet

OWNERS ON THE LIBRARY
 STAFF (CATS, DOGS, FISH,
 RABBIT, & PARROT)



103

Study carrels
in the library



Coffee Machine in the Library

Janice Wilbur



Studying hard this semester? You come to the library, toss off your heavy coat, unload all your books, open your laptop...you have everything just where you want it. Need a break but don't want to pack all your stuff, put on your coat and go over to Charlie's?

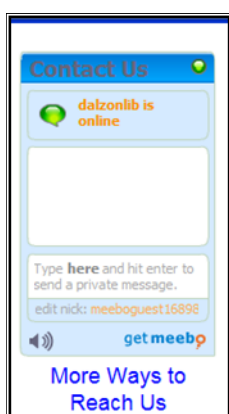
The Library, in cooperation

with Sodexho, has placed a coffee vending machine in the library....right under the main stairs on the first floor!

The vending machine dispenses a variety of Green Mountain coffees, teas, and hot chocolate, and will accept cash or deduct from your Assumption account with your ID card. For one dollar you can pick your beverage, place

the pod in the Keurig coffee machine nearby, and have a great hot drink in a matter of seconds! Fresh Half and Half or milk is available to add to your drink, along with sweeteners if desired.

Too hot to handle?! Put a cardboard sleeve around your cup. Take a napkin with you and DON'T FORGET THE LID!!!



Library explores new Instant Messaging Box Meebo on the Library Web site

The New and Improved Research Guides

Barrie Mooney

The reference librarians were seeking to come up with a more "Web 2.0" way of providing subject and course research guides, enabling students to have specific resource ideas for their research-heavy courses.

What we created is a site that is able to present information in a clear way, is easily updated, and avoids the need to scroll down the page endlessly to obtain content. There are resources for all academic

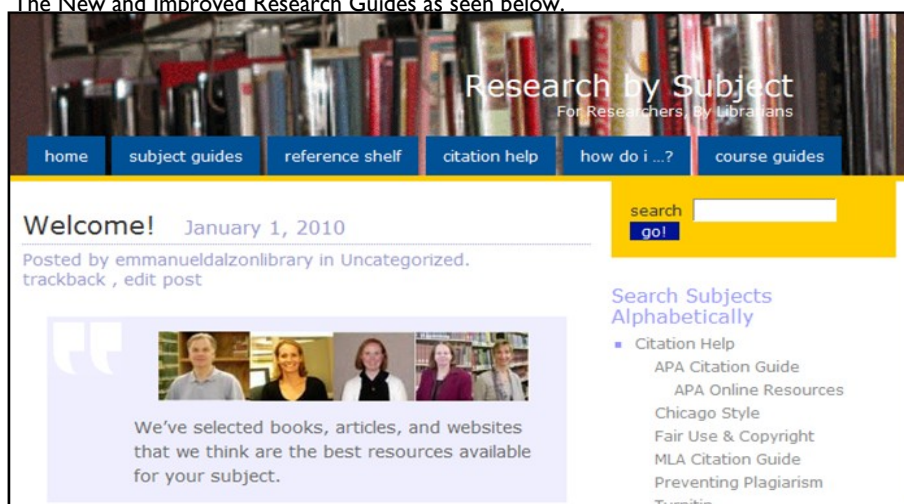
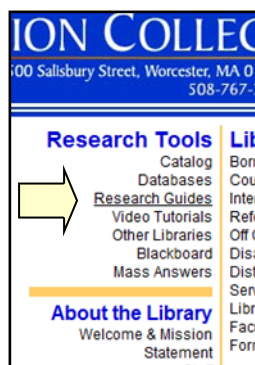
areas of study under the tab *Subject Guides*, including recommended books, articles, and Web sites. We are in the process of creating guides specific to individual classes, under *Course Guides*. The new research guides also give information on video tutorials, how-to's, plagiarism prevention guides, citation help, and more.

The overall goal is to help students "define[s] and articulate[s] the need for information," as well as help

them "identify[y] a variety of types and formats of potential sources for information." (ACRL *Information Literacy Standards 1 & 2*, 2008). We hope you'll agree that we've accomplished just that!

You can link directly at <http://emmanueldalzonlibrary.wordpress.com/> or just enter through our main [library page](#) under *Research Guides* (see picture).

The New and Improved Research Guides as seen below.



Field Trip to Concord MA

Julie O'Shea

On a sunny but frigid day just before Christmas the Staff of the d'Alzon Library set off on its annual field trip. This year our destination was Concord, MA. Although famous as the birthplace of the American Revolution we decided to bypass the battlefields and head for the Concord Museum which featured a special exhibit of Christmas trees decorated by volunteers who chose a children's picture book as their theme. For instance, the tree in the lobby was an artistic recreation of Dr. Seuss's *Green Eggs and Ham*, while further on were renditions of Ludwig Bemelman's *Madeline* and John Updike's *A Child's Calendar*. There were about 25 trees in all, each lovingly

and creatively crafted by museum members. A nice touch included a copy of the book near each tree so parents and children could sit down and re-read their favorites as they admired the decorations.

From the museum we stepped back in time about 100 years as we visited Orchard House, the home of Louisa May Alcott, author of *Little Women* and about 35 other books. The Alcott family had led a very peripatetic life before they came to Orchard House. They had moved 30 times in 20 years, surely almost a world record! Louisa May's father, Bronson Alcott, was a teacher with very advanced ideas about education - so advanced that most schools

refused to employ him. One of their stops along the way to Orchard House was at the short-lived utopian community, Fruitlands, in Harvard, MA. Orchard House is the setting for *Little Women* and Louisa May's sisters the original models for the March family. The novel was a huge success and made the Alcotts' fortunes. The novel has been adapted for film, television and the stage. Because of the popularity of *Little Women* in Japan it has even been adapted for anime at least 4 times.

Filled with Christmas spirit and a new appreciation of the literary heritage of Concord, we left the nineteenth century and returned to Worcester.

Interlibrary Loan

Ashley Malouin

During the Fall 2009 semester alone, d'Alzon Library users borrowed 325 articles and 332 loaned items – for a total of 657 interlibrary loan items borrowed! Curious about what we send to other libraries? We sent out 913 articles and 335 books to libraries across the country.

To find out more about our interlibrary loan services, or to submit a request, go to <http://ill.assumption.edu/illiad/>.

Check it out:

[Learn about the Alcotts and the Orchard House](#) from the Museum Web site!

Or, take a look at the [Concord Museum](#) Web site.

No time to bring your class to a library instruction session?

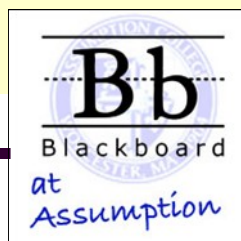
Then let us bring library resources straight to your class!

The Library can add its own content area to your Blackboard site.

Content can include subject guides, helpful databases, citation style sheets, links to e-reserves, and more.

Contact us to discuss how we can work together to bring library resources to your students through your Blackboard course site.

Phil Waterman, x7375
pwatman@assumption.edu



Barrie Mooney, x7036
bmooney@assumption.edu

D'Alzon Arts

Joan O'Rourke

Future d'Alzon Arts events include:

Poetry Reading
Matt Hopewell & Jeff Siegrist,
Featured Readers
Friday, February 19, 7:00 p.m.

Lucy Marcigliano (Sculptor)
March 1 – April 16
Opening Reception, Tuesday,
March 2, 4:30 p.m.

Poetry Reading
Featured Readers TBA
Friday, March 19

Senior Seminar Art Show
April 19-May 15
Opening Reception, Tuesday,
April 20, 4:30 p.m.

Student Poetry Reading
Assumption Student Writers
Friday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m.

On January 19, the first floor of the Library was the setting for the Opening Reception of SIFT, featuring the work of Lynn Simmons, an Assumption College faculty member. Lynn, a sculptor and graphic artist, produced many

new pieces specifically for the space she had to work within the library. The result is a unique, impressive exhibit. Included are fascinating sculptures made with materials that contrast and/or complement each other.

The remarks by the artist were as interesting as the display itself. Don't miss this wonderful exhibit which will be on display through February 26th.



The Library recently purchased comfortable new computer chairs for all public access computers. These swivel chairs come with

Stop by the Library to research and learn in comfort!

Laurie Welling

plenty of padding, and they offer pneumatic seat-height adjustment as well as back height adjustment.

In order to create more seating in the library instruction area, the room orientation was changed and additional

tables were purchased. The area can now seat up to 30 students along with their laptops. With more room to spread out, we believe this new arrangement offers an improved learning environment.

What we Librarians are learning from library instruction sessions

Phil Waterman

If your professor brought you into the library for one of our instruction sessions last semester, then you likely had the pleasure of taking our pre- and post-session surveys. If you recall, on the post-session survey we asked you to "Name one thing you learned from this session" and "Name one thing that you would change about this session." Based on your responses, what are we librarians learning about these instruction sessions?

Rather than patting ourselves on the back by focusing on all the things students told us they learned, I'd rather focus on what we need to change. Change is how we will make these sessions more useful to

students in their research efforts.

So what did students feel we needed to change most about the sessions? The following table shows the Top 10 responses:

1. Nothing to change	70%
2. Session was too long	7%
3. Wished had (more) chance for hands on practice	7%
4. Want more interaction with instructor	3%
5. Session was too boring	2%
6. Session was too fast	1%
7. Session was too short	1%
8. Shouldn't have to take session multiple times	1%
9. Use more/better examples	1%
10. Wished you had a handout	1%

By far, the number one response was that we need to change "Nothing." An incredible 70% of the students said that. Now, we know we're good...but we're not THAT good! We realize

that some students might not want to write something negative. We also realize it's possible that students responded "nothing" because it takes far less time at the end of the session to write "nothing" rather than a detailed response.

So assuming we are not quite 70% on our way to perfection, what else have we learned from student responses? Well, there were some contradictions. Some students found the sessions too long, others found them too short. Some students found them too boring/slow, some too fast. Despite these contradictions, it seems that the changes we need to make are not necessarily with

the content of what we present, but in the manner in which we present it. We need to make sessions more engaging and interactive, and make our search examples more relevant to student research topics.

This is valuable feedback, and we thank students for their responses! We will do our best to incorporate this feedback into our sessions for the spring semester. So if you do find yourself in a library instruction session this semester, hopefully not for the umpteenth time, know that we do read the surveys, and value your honest opinions.

February & March: Celebrating ourselves

Carol Pappas

February is National Black History Month, and March is National Women's History Month. Check out the many books and DVDs in the library on these two important subjects.

We have many new entries on the subject of African-American history. *This Far by Faith* is a DVD that documents the African-American religious experience during the last three centuries from early African slaves through the Civil War, through the Civil Rights era and into the 21st Century. *Three African-American Classics* is a compilation of the unabridged editions of Booker T. Washington's *Up from Slavery*, W.E.B. Du Bois's *Souls of Black Folk* and Frederick Douglass's *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an Ameri-*

can Slave. These three works are considered essential reading for students of African-American history. *Slavery in Colonial America, 1619-1776* by Betty Wood clearly explains the evolution of the transatlantic slave trade and compares the regional social and economic forces that affected the growth of slavery in early America. It also provides a window into the reality of slavery, presenting a true picture of daily life throughout the colonies.

To celebrate National Women's History Month in March, you might enjoy *1001 Things Everyone Should Know About Women's History* by Constance Jones. The 1001 things are divided into 10 sections: government, law and politics, religion and humanitarianism, education

and academia, science, medicine and technology, economics, work and business, daily life, literature and journalism, arts and entertainment, sports and adventure, and finally wild women! *Winning the Vote: the Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement* by Robert Cooney, Jr., is a comprehensive history of the struggle for American women to have the right to vote in local, state and national political elections. *Transforming the Disciplines: A Women's Studies Primer* by Elizabeth MacNabb is one of the first women's studies textbooks to show feminist scholarship as an active force, changing the way we study such diverse fields as architecture, bioethics, history, mathematics, religion, and sports studies.



APA citation style has changed!

The Library now has the revised, 6th edition of the APA publication manual. Also, check out our basic guide at <http://emmanueldalzonlibrary.wordpress.com/citation-help/apa-citation-guide/>

Mary Brunelle

LibraryThing

What's on your bookshelf?

Laurie Welling

Do you have a running list in your head of all the books you want to read, someday, when you actually have the time? Or, are you more like me—you listen to an author interview or you read a great review and you can't wait to read the book. Life intervenes, time passes and, then, when you finally have the time to start a new book, you can't remember the title. Or, perhaps you just want to keep a "catalog" of all the books you've read? What about connecting online with others who are reading the same book?

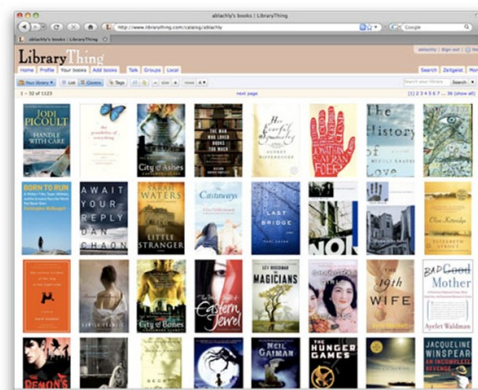
If any or all of the above apply to you,

then *LibraryThing* is for you!

LibraryThing is a cataloging and social networking site for book lovers that helps you create a catalog of your books. You can catalog your entire collection or just the books you are currently reading. You can also contribute book reviews and participate in member forums.

You can add up to 200 titles for free; unlimited is \$10/yr.

So what are you waiting for? Try it today!



Source: <http://www.librarything.com/tour/>

