



Emmanuel d'Alzon LibraryLink

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

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Editor:

Callie Curran Morrell

Contributors:

Mary Brunelle, Liz Maisey,
Carole Myles, Julie O'Shea,
Larry Spongberg, Dawn This-
tle, Nina Tsantinis, Laurie
Welling, Janice Wilbur



Semester Hours

Monday-Thursday, 8 AM - 1 AM

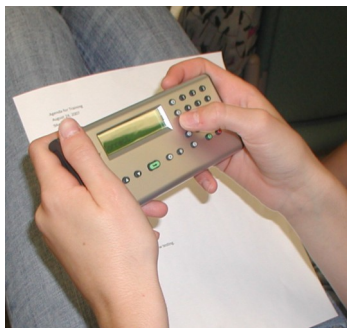
Friday, 8 AM - 6 PM

Saturday, 10 AM - 8 PM

Sunday, 1 PM - 1 AM

"Is That Your Final Answer?": Using Clickers to Assess Student Learning

By Mary Brunelle



This semester, reference librarians are rolling out a new audience response technology commonly called "Clickers" during Library instruction classes. The Clickers system is a cool new tool for assessing student learning and reinforcing concepts taught in class. They look and act like a television remote control and were developed with the same technology as used in the "Ask the Audience" segment of the game show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* The system, which operates via radio frequency with software from Interwrite Learning, interfaces with Microsoft PowerPoint on the fly and allows the instructor to gauge student comprehension at the point of need. Detailed information can be found on the Interwrite Learning Web site:

<http://www.interwritelearning.com/products/prs/radio/detail.html>.

Clickers are becoming extremely popular in the academic world. Teachers and librarians rapidly are adopting the system for all ages of students, from elementary through college. While some schools choose to assign a Clicker and I.D. number to each student and use the system to develop a virtual grade book, the Library staff believes the option for anonymity encourages students to be more forthcoming with their answers, without fear of appearing "dumb" in front of their classmates. Now, when a librarian asks the class a question, such as "which tool would you use to look up a book title," the students all answer using their Clickers, and the librarian can determine if students are following along and grasping the material s/he is teaching.

The librarian begins preparing for the instruction session by developing a set of questions and answers in PowerPoint; multiple choice and true/false questions work best. During the class, the librarian hands out a Clicker to each student. When the librarian reaches a question in

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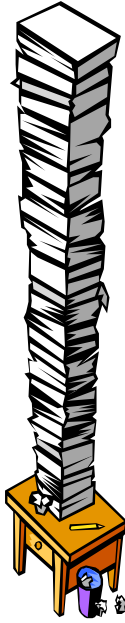
Using Clickers

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PowerPoint, the timer begins and the students log their answers by hitting the appropriate key and the enter button on their Clickers. When the timer runs out, a bar graph with the number of correct and incorrect answers appears. In this way, the librarian immediately ascertains how well the students comprehend a topic and if additional explanation is required. Furthermore, the bar graph for each question is saved automatically in the system for the librarian to review at a later time.

Although no prize money will be awarded for correct answers, like on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*, the Library staff is confident Clickers will prove a valuable tool in assessing student learning and give the students a cool toy to play with during instruction sessions.

To see a demonstration of our Clickers system, faculty can join us in the Library for our new series "Workshop Wednesdays" on Wednesday, November 14, at 4:30 p.m..



From the Director's Desk

By Dawn Thistle

In our last *LibraryLink* newsletter I mentioned that the Emmanuel d'Alzon Library will turn 20 years old next fall. Even as we are planning to make changes with this building in order to provide better service and more comfortable space, we want to celebrate the building that has served us so very well for the last 20 years.

One of the ways we want to celebrate is to publish a booklet of essays on the "Assumption Best Books." This is just a working title for now, but the idea is to gather essays from members of the Assumption community about books (or maybe even musical or artistic works) that every Assumption person should have read, learned and thought about. These works may be books that you teach about or read in class, or they may be ones that have had a profound influence on your life.

I expect that there will be examples of literature, theology and philosophy. I'm hoping for a representation of American as well as European authors, of non-Western as well as Western thought, of female as well as male authors—you get the drift! To a large extent the contents should reflect the College's curriculum and Mission, while also including varying points of view as appropriate.

Shortly we will be forming an ad hoc committee of faculty, administrators and students to develop some guidelines and to serve as selectors of the essays and/or essayists. Please let me know if you would like to serve on the committee or if you would like to submit an essay. More details will be forthcoming!

Fall Holiday Hours

By Larry Spongberg

Fall holidays are just around the corner; our holiday hours are as follows:

Columbus Day Weekend

Fri., Oct. 5: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sat. – Sun., Oct. 6 – 7: Closed

Mon., Oct. 8: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Thanksgiving Break

Tues., Nov. 20: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Wed., Nov. 21: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Thurs. – Sat., Nov. 22 – 24: Closed

Sun., Nov. 25: 4 p.m. – 1 a.m.

The Library's regular semester hours are listed on the front cover. Holiday hours are subject to change. Additional announcements about our hours are available at the entrance of the library, on our Web site and by phone at 508-767-7273. Watch for our postings of Extended Hours during Finals.

Don't Just Tell Me, Show Me!

By Callie Curran Morrell

The Library's new series of video tutorials, which teach different library skills, is sure to appeal to visual learners. Instead of a set of written instructions, these tutorials allow viewers to watch the process actually happen screen-by-screen. So far, we've created tutorials on "Basic Catalog Searching" and "How to Find an Article from a Citation." Each runs about 3 minutes.

To create the tutorials, we used a software called Camtasia, which recorded our on-screen movements, along with accompanying narration. We hope to create tutorials on more topics in the future.

The tutorials are available 24/7 from the Library Web site, making it easy to get help no matter what time it is or where you are. To view them from our homepage, click the link for Video Tutorials (under Research Tools). A list will appear on the right. We've also included a few helpful tutorials on databases made by EBSCOhost.



Library Wins LSTA Grant

By Carole Myles



D'Alzon Library has won a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Academic Library Incentive grant in the amount of \$5000. The grant will fund a special project to bring instructional commercials on library skills and services to the undergraduate student community.

The Theater and Television Arts Department and Media Services submitted letters of support for the grant application. Key to winning the grant, the departments will supply student actors, equipment, and pre- and post-production staffing. Also, three students, taking an independent study in advanced television production, will direct the making of the instructional commercials in conjunction with Library staff.

Grant funds will be used to purchase and lease library materials related to the theater arts, television production, and cinematography. Plans for launching the commercials with a "red carpet" gala and other marketing efforts are slated for National Library Week next April.

Blackboard or Bust

By Callie Curran Morrell

Attention faculty: This fall, the Library is forging into new online territory—Blackboard. As an extension of our library instruction program, we can now add library content into your class's Blackboard site.

Many faculty members have already experienced how convenient the Blackboard course management system can be for their students. Having the syllabus, assignments, readings, and other class materials electronically posted in one place, allows even the most disorganized students to keep track of them. Now, we can complement your own course materials by posting items like subject-specific research guides, lists of helpful databases, books or Web sites, citation style sheets, links to e-Reserves, and more. We will work with you to customize the best content for your course needs.



As you're scheduling an instruction session for your class, let us know that you're interested in incorporating the Library into your Blackboard site. To learn more, join us Oct. 24th at 4:30 p.m. for a workshop on our Blackboard offerings (part of our "Workshop Wednesdays" series of in-house workshops for faculty and administrators), or contact the Reference Department for more information.

Library Hosts NELIG Conference

By Carole Myles

Assumption College was the site of the annual conference for the New England Library Instruction Group (NELIG), an interest group of the New England Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL-NEC), this past June. The central location of the College makes it a favorite for conferences with New England regional groups like NELIG.



The conference theme this year was *Demystifying Assessment: Evaluating Student Learning*, a one-day program that examined the ways in which instruction librarians assess what students learn through library instruction and information literacy classes. The morning's keynote speaker was Dr. Megan Oakleaf, Assistant Professor at the School of Information Studies, Syracuse University. Dr. Oakleaf's presentation (available at <http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/nelig/2007/oakleaf.ppt>) covered the "purposes of assessment, the assessment cycle, major assessment tools, choosing the best tools for the campus, reporting assessment results, and facing challenges."

New Databases and e-Books Available

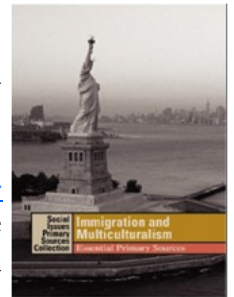
By Carole Myles

The d'Alzon Library is pleased to announce the addition of several new e-Books and databases that are available courtesy of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). The MBLC resources are paid for with state funds approved by the Legislature and funds available from the Federal Library Services and Technology Act.

- ProQuest's [Massachusetts Newspapers](#) – 12 Massachusetts newspapers including *The Boston Globe*, *The Boston Herald*, and *The Telegram & Gazette* (therefore, we no longer have access to newspapers through NewsBank)
- EBSCO's [Literary Reference Center](#) – a literary reference database with thousands of full-text articles
- [Encyclopedia of Espionage, Intelligence, and Security](#) – a "subject specific guide to the history, uses, scientific principles, and technologies of espionage, intelligence, and security"
- [Encyclopedia of Population](#) – covers demographic topics as diverse as low fertility rates and problems of old-age support
- [Fashion, Costume, and Culture](#) – "costume traditions of diverse cultures from prehistoric times to the present day"
- [Encyclopedia of Landforms and Other Geologic Features](#) – the "physical and geological aspects, structure, and features of 48 of the earth's landforms"

The Library has also independently purchased one new e-Book:

- [Immigration and Multiculturalism: Essential Primary Sources](#) – primary source documents on some of the leading social issues of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries



Rosenstock Exhibit

In celebration of the inauguration of Dr. Francesco Cesareo as President of Assumption College, d'Alzon Library was delighted to host photographer Ron Rosenstock's *The Best of Italy: "Una Mostra Speciale"* from September 5th through October 14th. There is still time left to see his wonderful photos of Italy around the Library's first floor.

Mr. Rosenstock's work can be found in the permanent collections of The Fogg Art Museum, The International Center of Photography, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Polaroid Corporation, Torre Guelfa Gallery, Florence, Italy, and The Worcester Art Museum, among others.

Additional information about the d'Alzon Arts Series can be found at: <http://www.assumption.edu/dept/library/events/dalzonartssched.html>

Hound Hunt: Take the Guesswork Out of Searching

By Liz Maisey
& Carole Myles



This past spring the Library launched a beta test of a federated search engine that we affectionately call Hound Hunt.

Hound Hunt lets users search across multiple databases at the same time. For example, it allows you to search Academic Search Premier, JSTOR, and our own online catalog simultaneously. Students often complain that they don't know which database to choose for their research. Hound Hunt takes the guesswork out of searching.

As part of the beta test this spring we launched Hound Hunt in one subject area, [Business & Economics](#). We now have Hound Hunt available in [Literature](#), [Theology](#), and a [Quick Search](#) option. Quick Search pulls together our most popular general databases and the online catalog. We plan to expand Hound Hunt to the remaining subject areas this fall. Users can access Hound Hunt from the Library's home page or by clicking on Databases under Research Tools.

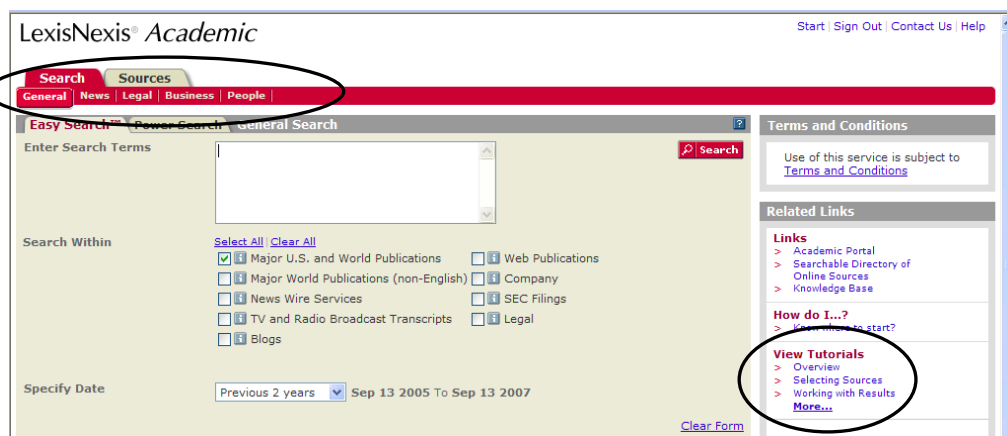
The New and Improved LexisNexis

By Liz Maisey

This past summer, LexisNexis premiered a new search interface. If you were a frequent user of the old version you may want to take some time to get to know this new interface, which includes several new features. When you access the new LexisNexis you will see there are now five tabs to choose from. There is a **General** tab which includes **Easy** and **Power** search options, as well as tabs for **News**, **Legal**, **Business**, and **People**. Under each tab, you will find new features and new searching strategies available to you.

One new innovation that is especially helpful is that it groups your results into several different categories, such as publication type, publication name or subject. For example, you can see all articles from *The Boston Globe* or just the articles on a particular aspect of your topic. Choosing a source has also been improved. Instead of just browsing an alphabetical list of available sources, now you can select a source based on subject or geographic area, for example. LexisNexis searches can result in many thousands of results, but these two new features allow you to focus your result list before and after conducting your search.

These are just a few of the advances you will notice. Please take a look at the new LexisNexis Academic and get in touch with us if you have any questions or would like a personal tour of the new interface. There are several tutorials available, which can be found on the main search screen of each topic area. You can find a link to LexisNexis Academic on the Library's home page under Frequently Accessed Databases.



Screen shot of the General search screen of the new LexisNexis. Notice the tabs for available topic areas at the top, as well as available tutorials to view on the right.



Annual Book Sale Successful

By Nina Tsantinis

The staff of the Library would like to thank all those who donated books to the 4th Annual Library Book Sale held in the courtyard and lobby of the Library during a beautiful stretch of September weather. The sale raised \$1400, and we estimate between 800 and 1000 books were sold! We were delighted to see the students of Assumption supplement their personal collections with books donated by faculty and friends of the College. Student worker Christine Marotto said, “It was great to see so many people leave the library with stacks of books they don’t have to return!”



Library Donations

By Dawn Thistle



The d’Alzon Library continually receives donations of books—gifts large and small. Our readers already know about our Annual Book Sale, which is a great way to turn unneeded items into cash for future book purchases. However, we also try to find other library homes for some of the books we accumulate. Recently we have been working with Prof. Leslie Choquette, Director of the French Institute, to compile lists of materials—donations and duplicates from d’Alzon and the French Institute—relating to Franco-Americans and French Canadians. We have sent these lists to selectors at Brown University, Yale University, the University of Southern Maine and Fairfield University, offering the materials to them for the cost of postage. The response has been wonderful, and we have been able to send off hundreds of items that otherwise might have ended up in recycling.

One of the recipients, Donat Boisvert of the Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine, reported on our donation in the Lewiston, ME, *Sun Journal* on July 12, 2007. In the article, Mr. Boisvert describes several of the books that have particular relevance to his collection, including works written by “local Francos,” another about Jesuit missionaries in Maine, and others focusing on Acadian genealogy. He concludes by saying, “This wonderful donation of books from Assumption College complements our already sizable holdings on the French race in North America.”

We are happy to assist these other libraries in their collecting efforts. We are especially proud that our own holdings of materials related to Franco-Americans and French Canadians are large enough that we can give the extras away!

New Student Workers

By Janice Wilbur

The d’Alzon Library is lucky to have 16 new student workers. The role of our student staff is to learn how libraries work so they can help Library users by circulating books and answering general questions. We welcome:

Dan Dowling	Alissa Fallesgon	Mallory Howard
Colleen Lally	Nichole LeBlanc	Julie Malinowski
Christine Marotto	Katherine McClafferty	Jessica Parks
Elizabeth Penta	Andrew Polidoro	Jarrod Pouliot
Kristen Rennell	Diana Romano	Shayne Saulnier
	Melanie Shortall	

These new students, all from the class of 2011, are a valuable addition to the Library staff.

Inventory Recap

By Liz Maisey

This summer the Library completed our annual inventory of part of our book collection. A library inventory gives us a chance to discover many things and solve problems. For example, we:

- Find books that are in the wrong place on the shelf and reshelve them in the right place
- Find books that we thought were missing
- Find and resolve problems in the Library's online catalog
- Find multiple copies of books (and then offer the duplicates in the book sale)
- Find damaged books on the shelf to repair or replace.

We inventoried 62,500 books this summer, bringing us to a total of 129,000 books inventoried over the past two summers. The process was completed by a team of Library staff and student workers armed with a spreadsheet listing the books in our online catalog and their correct order on the shelf. Through this process we were able to discover and resolve many problems, which were then sent to the appropriate departments: Cataloging, Circulation, or Preservation. We hope that the work we do through this library inventory will make your library experience more productive, pleasant and efficient.

The Air Up There

By Janice Wilbur

So why was a middle-aged college librarian driving up to Jumptown, a skydiving dropzone in Orange, MA, at the end of July 2007, alone, to jump out of a plane 13,500 feet above the ground?

Parachuting and flying an airplane were both goals in my life that I had wanted to accomplish for years. I flew a plane four years ago out of Worcester Airport—a gift from my husband. After surviving a heart attack two years ago, it was just time to parachute down to Earth! Although I asked for company—first family members, then friends, then strangers (it's amazing how you can fit that question into a casual conversation)—no one had shown an interest in jumping with me, and many thought I was insane.



After arriving at Orange Airport I was required to sign four pages basically agreeing that Jumptown and their affiliates would be blameless if any injury or death were to occur because of the jump. Then, two college students and I attended a 30-minute lesson on the parachute we would trust our lives to and were shown how to spread our arms and legs out upon jumping from the plane.

I wouldn't be going down alone. During this tandem jump, an instructor, Cam King, would be attached to my back. I found that this was definitely an advantage when it came time to step out of the plane, as the *idea* of leaving a plane 13,500 feet above the ground and the actual *doing it* can be two different things. I might have hesitated a bit longer had Cam not decided to jump for both of us!

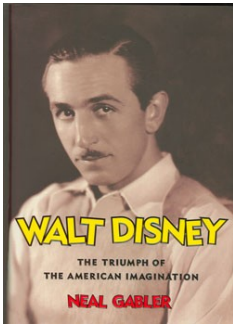
Cam had told us that we would free fall at 730 miles per hour before the chute would deploy and jolt us to a slower speed down to Earth. Believe me, whatever expression you have on your face when you jump from the plane at that speed remains there until you fight the force of the wind to change it or until the parachute deploys and slows you down! After the chute opened I was given control of the slower float down to the landing site. For six minutes I made circles and moved from one area of air to another, all the time enjoying a birds-eye view of the western Massachusetts countryside.

Would I do this again? The views are beautiful from up above and the feeling of accomplishment is exciting. For now though, I enjoy the memory and knowing that I could do it again.....soon maybe.

From the Back Cover

By Liz Maisey

Here are some highlights of new books we've recently added to the collection. Check out other recent additions on our New Books Display at the front of the Reference Room.



Walt Disney: the Triumph of the American Imagination

By Neal Gabler

“Seven years in the making and meticulously researched – Gabler is the first writer to be given complete access to the Disney archives – this is the full story of a man whose work left an ineradicable brand on our culture but whose life has largely been enshrouded in myth.” – Book jacket

The Definitive Drucker

By Elizabeth Haas Edersheim

“*The Definitive Drucker* captures his visionary management concepts, applies them to the key business risks and opportunities of the coming decades, and imparts Drucker’s views on current business practices, economic changes, and trends—many of which he first predicted decades ago.” – Book jacket

Readings in World Christian History Volume I: Earliest Christianity to 1453

Edited by John W. Coakley and Andrea Sterk

“This inventive anthology mingles familiar, classic texts from well-known patristic and medieval figures with a judicious selection of sources representing ancient Christian traditions in Asia and Africa. The book is a model for the new history of Christianity.” – Bernard McGinn, University of Chicago

Thirteen Ways of Looking at the Novel

By Jane Smiley

“In her inimitable style—exuberant, candid, opinionated—Smiley explores the power of the novel, looking at its history and variety, its cultural impact, and just how it works its magic. She invites us behind the scenes of novel-writing, sharing her own habits and spilling the secrets of her craft.” – Book jacket

Advocate for Libraries

D’Alzon Library patrons have access to over 40 databases and e-reference books made available to us from the state via the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). Included are the ProQuest newspapers and the Gale / Infotrac databases. In addition, the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System (CMRLS), which receives funding from the MBLC, pays for our LexisNexis subscription. These databases were searched here over 36,000 times last year and would have cost the College \$75,000-\$100,000 to purchase individually. The MBLC also distributes money from the federal government in the form of small grants to libraries. Over the last nine years we have received four of these grants, totaling \$35,000. Finally, our Interlibrary Loan service is made possible by delivery provided by the Regional Library System.

Each year the state legislature creates the state budget, which includes lines for supporting the MBLC and libraries. In 2001 there were severe cuts in those lines, from which the Regional Library System and library services have never fully recovered. Please contact your legislators and ask them to support libraries and the Regional Library System. Thank you!