



Emmanuel d'Alzon LibraryLink

<http://www.assumption.edu/dept/Library>

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

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Summer Hours

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 AM -
7:00 PM
Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Saturday, Closed
Sunday, 1:00 – 7:00 PM

New Reference Librarian Joins Staff

By Carole Myles



We are pleased to announce that Callie Curran has joined our staff as the new Reference & Instructional Services Librarian. A native of West Boylston, Callie earned her B.A. in Communications from Villanova University and her Masters in Library and Information Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Sciences. Callie formerly worked as a research coordinator for the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance. She also worked in London,

England for six months as a Communications Consultant for Bounce Consulting, where she did market research, event planning, and generated press releases. In her new position, Callie will be part of the reference team, and will be coordinating and teaching in the Library's instruction program. Given her marketing experience she will also serve on the marketing committee.

In her spare time Callie likes to read fiction and in the winter likes to knit. She also likes to travel and has toured extensively in Europe, including Great Britain, France, Spain, Italy, Ireland, and Greece. Callie is also big Red Sox fan which fits in well with the other fans on the staff.

Please join us in welcoming Callie to the community. She can be reached by phone at x7375 or by email at ccurran@assumption.edu.

Book Drop

Did you know that the Library has a book drop? If you can only return books while the Library is closed then this is the best way for you to do that. The book drop is a tall metal container situated in an alcove at the Library's side entrance. As you're facing the Library the alcove is on the right-hand side just off the Library's paved parking lot. The drop is checked several times a day for items.

Book Jackets

By Dawn Thistle

Do you love browsing in book stores? Do you enjoy reading the synopsis, reviews and information about the author that are printed on book jackets? Have you ever bought a book just because the book jacket was appealing? If so, you will be glad to know that the library is no longer discarding book jackets—at least until they become torn or damaged. We now create two call number labels (one for the book and one for the book jacket), so that you can browse our shelves and find out more about our books from the book jackets before borrowing them. Enjoy!

Faculty Publications

By Dawn Thistle

This spring we have added some new features to the Faculty Publications web site. First, we linked each professor's name to his or her own web page as found in the "Meet the Faculty" web pages. People who want to know more about professors can then find out biographical information or information about the courses they teach. Next, we added images of book covers to the lists of professors who have published books, and, finally, we linked the book cover images to the Library's online catalog record. Now you can find out more about the book and even find out whether it is available for borrowing.

Please keep us up-to-date with your publications and let us know your ideas for improving the Faculty Publications list.

New Databases Review

By Callie Curran



Thanks to funding from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the Library has added two new databases from Thomson Gale this spring.

InfoTrac OneFile

Boasting 39 million records, InfoTrac OneFile offers a wide range of coverage for researchers. This database contains more than 9,200 publications—both mainstream and specialized, general interest and academic—with over 5,000 of them offered in full-text. Coverage dates back to 1980, and the content is updated daily.

The topics covered include business and industry, engineering, general news, health care, law, literature and art, religion, social sciences, and science and technology. A user-friendly search interface offers basic or advanced search screens. Users can limit their searches to full-text documents, articles from peer-reviewed journals, or entries with images. They can search within a specific resource, explore possible subject headings, or browse a title list.

Business and Company ASAP

The Business and Company ASAP is a scaled down version of another one of our InfoTrac databases, General BusinessFile ASAP. The interface and most of the content is the same, however, General BusinessFile ASAP has the added benefit of investment analyst reports. Both of these databases often prove difficult for the novice, therefore some information on using them may prove helpful.

These databases are valuable resources for researching companies, products, markets, industries, and business topics as they contain citations and many full-text articles from business, finance, management, and industry periodicals. They also provide access to a directory of 150,000 company profiles.

Patrons interested in utilizing these databases should consider using the "Advanced Search" option, which allows them to specify the type of information sought based on the databases' four components. Each of the components has a different content and purpose.

- *Business Index ASAP*- the default search option which retrieves articles from newspapers, trade journals, PR Newswire and other periodicals.

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- *Company ProFiles*- search by name to research an individual company, or combine search terms to gather a list of companies in a certain industry (index: SIC code), of a certain size (index: Employees), and of a particular profit range (index: Sales).
- *SIC Description*- use this segment to research an entire industry. Search by SIC code to retrieve a description of and articles on the industry, as well as profiles of companies within it. If you are not sure of the SIC code, type in a word (e.g. *restaurants*) to learn under which SIC it is classified.
- *Investext* (only in General BusinessFile)- offers investment reports on company and industry performance from various financial institutions.

Users must click the blue links near the bottom of the advanced search page in order to switch between these different components. The search results will not automatically display in a new page; instead, users must scroll down to find the number of citations retrieved and then click on the “View” link beside this number.

Despite the initial complexities of searching these two databases, users will likely deem them worth the effort. Happy searching!

From the Director’s Desk

By Dawn Thistle

Following the publication of an article in *Le Provocateur* that complained about d’Alzon Library hours, we decided to see what we could do to extend them. We spoke with members of the College administration, Library staff and students, and I also met with the SGA to hear their suggestions. We explored a number of options and decided that we would ask some of our most faithful student workers to extend or add to their shifts to keep the library open longer. Since Spring Break, as a pilot program, the Library has been staying open until 1:00 a.m. on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, and until 9:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. In addition, we are opening earlier, at 8:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.

The students who have been willing to take on this added responsibility are: Jackie Cariveau, Brian Foley, Dan Germano, Ally Giblin, Ashley Gomes, Molly Greco, Kristen Hannigan, Marie Malonson, Rod Payva, and Mike Valalik. They have been great!

Looking at the usage of the Library during these extended hours is interesting. On Sundays at 12:30 a.m. the average number of people in the library is 6.5. April 23 was the busiest Sunday with 18 people at that hour. On Tuesdays at 12:30 a.m. the average has been 12 people, and on Thursdays the average has been almost 9 people.



On Saturday evenings usage has been pretty good with an average 8 people in the building at 7:00 p.m. (we had previously closed at 5:00 p.m.), and somewhat fewer than 4 people in the building at 8:30 p.m. However, at 8:30 p.m. on Fridays there is typically no one, other than student staff, in the building. Even at 7:00 there are usually 3 or fewer people in the library. It appears that students really do not want to study on Friday evenings!

Although our test has been fairly brief, it appears that the extended hours are needed more on week nights than on the weekends, as the members of the SGA had indicated when I met with them. So, I am hoping to continue the extended hours next fall, and to add additional evenings during the week.

If all goes as planned, the hours for next fall will be:

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (returning to previous hours!)

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (not 9:00 p.m.)

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

I encourage all “night owl” and “early bird” students to continue to use the Library during these hours next year so that we can keep this program going!

From the Back Cover

By Liz Maisey

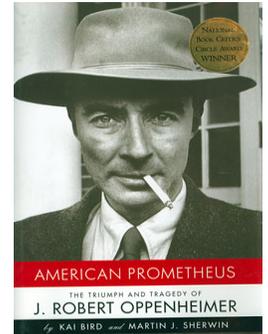
Check out some of the new books on our New Book Display at the front of the Reference Room. Here are some highlights from new books cataloged since the last newsletter.

American Prometheus: the Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer

By Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin

“Oppenheimer is the single figure who will be remembered when the history of the Manhattan Project has blurred away...American Prometheus is the first full biography of his life, rich in new revelations.”

– Richard Rhodes, *The New York Times Book Review*



The Unknown American Revolution: the Unruly Birth of Democracy and the Struggle to Create America

by Gary B. Nash

“*The Unknown American Revolution* plunges us into the swirl of ideology, grievance, outrage, and hope that animated the Revolutionary decades. It tells of the efforts of a wide variety of men and women who stepped forward amidst a discouraging, debilitating, but ultimately successful war to inscribe on the clean slate their ideas for the kind of America they hoped would emerge from the blood-soaked eight-year conflict.” – Book jacket

When Trumpets Call: Theodore Roosevelt after the White House

By Patricia O’Toole

“*When Trumpets Call* is a fascinating description of the last years of Teddy Roosevelt’s life, involving frustrated ambitions, Republican politics, Third Party strategy, and top-level contention about war and peace.”

–Jimmy Carter, author of *An Hour Before Daylight*

Ecclesial Mediation in Karl Barth

by John Yocum

“*Ecclesial Mediation in Karl Barth* deals with one of the most important and controversial themes in Barth’s theology, the relation between divine and human action.” – Book jacket

Jesus in America: Personal Savior, Cultural Hero, National Obsession

By Richard W. Fox

“Individuals from every historical period come alive with all their passions, loves, hopes, and fears, as their own words grace nearly every page...Fox is keenly aware that most Americans view Jesus as much more than a cultural icon: they view him as a divine person who transcends both history and culture.”

– Reviews in *American History*

Summer Library Hours

By Larry Spongberg

The d'Alzon Library normally will be open as follows during the summer sessions:

Sunday: 1 PM – 7 PM

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 AM – 7 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Saturday: Closed

Exceptions will be posted on the library web site and at the front door of the library. Usually, the library will be closed weekends and close at 4:30 during the week if summer classes are not in session. The library also will be closed during the Memorial Day and Independence Day holiday weekends. We will be open until 9PM on Monday through Wednesday of the last week of each summer session.

Although we normally will close at 7PM during the week, the library will be available for evening instruction sessions (see related article).

To enable your librarians to complete various projects during the summer that will help us to better serve you in the future, the reference desk may not be staffed at certain times. You should not hesitate to ask any librarian in the building for needed assistance if you do not see someone at the reference desk.

Let us hope that our summer weather continues to be as nice as it has been for much of this spring. Good luck with summer classes or other activities.

Library Displays Holy Cards During Lent

By Mary Brunelle

In honor of Lent, Library staff members displayed a unique collection of holy cards in the Reference Room display cases. The collection, comprised of various prayer cards, memorial cards, litanies, and prayer pamphlets, highlighted many staff favorites—ones that present brilliant images and eloquent prayers, and others that simply hold special meaning.



While some staff members lent cards from their personal collections, most of the items had been collected from various books donated to the library over the years. Many of the previous owners of these books placed prayers cards between pages, perhaps as a way of preserving the cards. These little cards always bring a smile to catalogers' faces, as they come across the buried treasures.

Because the cards were culled from many sources, the collection is quite eclectic. Some of the cards feature prayers in French or Polish. Some present replicas of well known icons, such as Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Many of the memorials honor the deceased with a photo and a prayer for the repose of the soul. There are even a few small Christmas cards, which the original owners presumably received and cherished.

To complement the collection, the display also featured the book *Holy Cards*, by Barbara Calamari and Sandra DiPasqua (New York: H.N. Abrams, 2004). This book, a new acquisition for the Library, instructs the reader how to interpret the symbols of prayer card imagery. For instance, did you know that hyacinths signify power and peace (p. 139), or that a peacock represents immortality and the resurrection (p. 142)? A figure extending a hand symbolizes protection (p. 143), while a vase suggests healing and soothing (p. 141).

The Library staff always enjoys displaying unique and fascinating items, such as these lovely holy cards. If anyone wishes to offer suggestions for future displays, or if anyone wishes to display his/her own personal collection, s/he is welcome to contact the Library.



Summer Library Instruction Sessions

By Larry Spongberg

Although we normally will close at 7 PM during the week, the library will be available for evening instruction sessions.

Faculty members who are interested in making their students more aware of library resources are encouraged to book a session in the library as soon as feasible. Advanced booking is needed so that we can arrange for a reference librarian to be present for the session since all staff normally will be off duty by 7 PM. Also, booking a session early will reduce the chances that the library already will have been booked for another session or another purpose on your desired evening. We will do our best to honor requests to schedule a specific librarian, but vacation plans may prevent that possibility. In such cases, another librarian will be scheduled.

Bring your class to take advantage of an air-conditioned building and to have full use of our computers at a time when the library would be closed to other users. Our databases and services are constantly changing; last year's knowledge may no longer be enough for this year's students to take full advantage of our many resources.



Coming Home: Alumnae Read at d'Alzon Arts Poetry Reading

By Mary Brunelle



On Friday, April 21, 2006, alumnae Jennifer Ryan and Kristina England returned to Assumption to read at this year's last d'Alzon Arts poetry reading. Far from novices, both women read occasionally during their undergraduate years, so it was appropriate that they returned as the evening's featured readers. Each read a substantial number of poems—some old, some new, some polished, some raw—from her personal collection.

Assumption College can be proud of these home-grown poets, as both received training in Professor John Hodgen's advanced poetry workshop. Professor Hodgen has kept in touch with Ms. Ryan and Ms. England and wrote recommendation letters for their graduate school application portfolios. Professor Hodgen said that, when he learned from Director Dawn Thistle the women were going to be featured readers, he felt so proud. Professor Hodgen said he knew that, as students, "they had that ability and talent" and that, now as readers, they demonstrated "real poise."

Both Ms. Ryan and Ms. England continue to stretch their skills in writing and literature. Since graduating in 2005, Ms. Ryan has been working in the publishing world as a production assistant and photo researcher for Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc., a publishing house that specializes in educational textbooks. Although her work life may not allow her to explore her creative, poetic side, Ms. Ryan spends much of her free time reading and writing poetry. This fall, she will begin work on a Master's in English with a concentration in literature at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Ms. England, '03, currently works at University of Massachusetts Medical School. In 2005, she received her Master's in English with a concentration in creative writing from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Her thesis, *To Be Frank: a collection of poetry*, was awarded the prestigious David A. Kennedy Award for outstanding poetry by a graduate student. In addition to publishing in the webzine *Underground Window*, Ms. England was recently published in *From a Common Spring: Volume 2*, which marked her first publication in an anthology.



As an added treat to hearing both AC graduates, the audience heard students from Professor Hodgen's Introduction to Literature class recite favorite poems during the Open Mic portion of the evening. Most read works from published poets, and one brave student read an original poem.

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The evening was the perfect ending to a successful season of Friday night poetry readings. For more information about poets Jennifer Ryan and Kristina England, or for more information about the d'Alzon Arts series, please visit the Library's Web site at <http://www.assumption.edu/dept/library/events/dalzonartssched.html>.

Graduating Student Workers

The d'Alzon Library is losing eleven valued members of our working student staff. These students will be graduating from Assumption College on Saturday, May 13. Many thanks for their contribution of time and effort to the running of the Library over the last few years. The student workers are

Justin Mara
Connie Lee
Bill Egan
Joshua Stevenson
Becky Klotz
Pat Palladino
Kelly Beeman
Vanessa Ranieri
Rebecca Jacobsen
Allison Smith
Eamon O'Donnely

We will miss having these students as part of our team and wish them well as they go out into the world beyond Assumption College.

WE HEAR YOU NOW! THANKS!

Your Feedback From the LibQUAL+ Survey



Thank you for completing our recent LibQUAL+ survey. Almost 300 of you took the extra time to pay us compliments, offer suggestions or even complain about d'Alzon Library service. As you can see from the following examples, these comments are providing us with a lot of solid feedback that we can now use to set priorities for improving service. Although the LibQUAL+ survey is over, I encourage you to continue to let us know how we are doing and where we can improve. Not only have we heard you, but we are really listening. Thanks again! —*Dawn Thistle, Director of Library Services*

Staff

... The staff at the library are different from teachers in the sense that it's difficult to develop a relationship with them as we do with our teachers, but it's nice when someone from the library remembers you and says hello outside of the library. The staff is extremely nice and always an enjoyable experience.—*Undergraduate, Undecided*

Excellent, dedicated, caring staff that are always willing to go the extra mile to help students and faculty. Best college library I have ever encountered.—*Faculty, Social Rehabilitation Services*

Some of the employees are anything but friendly, by the employees I do not mean the students that work there. The librarians have given me quite some attitude before and at times have not been helpful when I need to find something.—*Undergraduate, Business Studies*

...My son and daughter have also used the library's resources even though they attend other colleges. They also found the staff very helpful in showing them how to retrieve information or searching for books.—*Graduate, Business Studies*

Resources

... The electronic resources are both extensive and easily accessible. The library even has reasonable print resources for my field, despite its being one of the smaller departments on campus.—*Faculty, Sociology/Anthropology*

I think the library services are quite superb, despite a few shortcomings. One would be many outdated books, and perhaps not enough newer books on certain subjects, including travel, philosophy, and English.—*Undergraduate, English*

I think the library does a great job, however I wish that there were more resources available especially for science majors because it's hard to get the articles that we need for papers online.—*Undergraduate, Natural Sciences*

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I very much like the fact that the library special programs in the past several years have encouraged people to think of the library as a source of knowledge and literary/art inspiration beyond the printed page--the art exhibits and the poetry readings are a great idea. —*Faculty, Sociology/Anthropology*

I have however had difficulty finding information on non-western topics especially those located in the Middle East/Africa area. The inter library loan sometimes takes too long , I wish the library had as much information about the other parts of the World as it does on the Western World.—*Undergraduate, History*

Being able to connect to the databases and do research off campus or in your dorm room is extremely useful.—*Undergraduate, Natural Sciences*

Computers

...Also, perhaps more computers could be added in some location, because they are all often filled up and require students to sit in the noisy IT center, or even elsewhere, away from all other conveniently located sources which is the main reason students use the library as the primary work location. Other than that, great job.—*Undergraduate, English*

Everyone's really nice there. I just wish there were more computers available for typing papers. When I go there, they're usually full.—*Undergraduate, English*

... some more computers would be helpful, on busy nights it is often hard to find one. Maybe they could be put upstairs in the "quiet" area for people who need to do papers but don't want to be in the noisy computer lab.—*Undergraduate, Business Studies*

The library is great... I wish there were more computers on the upper floors maybe even in the individual rooms.—*Undergraduate, Undecided*

Facilities

The downstairs is used as an area where groups can meet which is nice, but people also come to this area to find a quiet place. I think that in order to solve this, more tables/desks should be put upstairs where it should be a designated quiet area and the downstairs should be the designated group work area. —*Undergraduate, Business Studies*

I enjoy going to the library to study, I love being able to go onto any floor, and find it comfortable and quiet enough to get all of my work and studying done. I especially enjoy the up to date technology that the library provides the students with.—*Undergraduate, Mathematics/Computer Science*

I think a good cafe space would be great--with decent coffee.— *Faculty, Business Studies*

...I come here all the time to study, research, etc. Quiet environments are a very essential feature that correlate with my academic status.— *Undergraduate, Psychology*

I really enjoy the library, I have to go there to study or else I would never get anything done...the only issue that I have ever had is there are only 3 group study rooms...I know it's hard to build a room, but maybe a few more would be nice...keep up the good work. —*Undergraduate, History*

The library is a great way to get together to do projects-especially for science labs. The setup is great because it allows students who need to work in groups and talk to be on one floor, but if you need complete silence there are alternative silent floors for that. —*Undergraduate, Natural Sciences*

