



Emmanuel d'Alzon LibraryLink

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

Vol. 8 No. 2
Winter 2005

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

Table of Contents:

Faculty Publication Event	1
Word Processing Computers	2
Disaster Plan	2
Finding Gold or Tin	3
Online Catalog	3
Job Searching on the Web	4
E-reserves Pilot Project	4
DVDs, CDs, and Players	5
New Student Workers	5
Requesting Materials	5
What's in a Name?	6
New CMRLS Databases	7
NetLibrary	7
From the Director's Desk	8

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Carole Myles

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Semester Hours

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 AM -
Midnight
Friday, 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday, 1 PM - Midnight

Faculty Publication Event "Celebrates the Writer"

By Carole Myles



Faculty and guests peruse publications

The first faculty publication event was held on Thursday, November 9, 2004 at the Emmanuel d'Alzon Library. The gathering celebrated Assumption College faculty who had published articles, books, and book chapters over the last two years. The event enabled faculty to hear about one another's area of research - an opportunity that doesn't often present itself according to some faculty who attended.

The Library staff organized the event as a way of supporting faculty research. Staff sought out and organized the faculty publications, and made a display of the articles and books where any Library user could browse through them. On the day of the event, 15-20 faculty members came to celebrate and speak about their latest research.

Due to the event's success the Library plans to schedule another faculty forum in the future, and provide them with another opportunity to discuss their latest research.

The following honorees were recognized at the event:

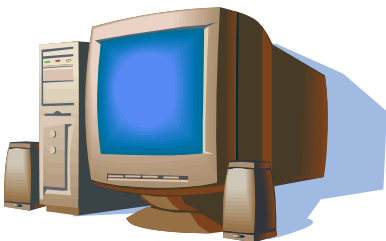
Cheryl Amantea	Dana Aspinall	Alexis Babineau, A.A.
Barbara Beall	Barry Bercier, A.A.	Chris Beyers
Richard Bonanno	Bonnie Catto	Leslie Choquette

Gavin Colvert Anita Danker
 Magda Castellvi DeMoor
 Egidio Diodati Leonard Doerfler
 Adrian Dumas Steven Farough
 Amy Gazin-Schwartz
 Arlene Guerrero-Watanabe
 Carol Harvey Jim Hauri
 Eric Howe Jeffrey Hunter
 Maria Kalpidou Demetrius Kantarelis
 Dona Kercher Deborah Kisatsky
 James Lang Matthew Lenoe
 Stuart Lynn Paul Mahon
 Daniel Mahoney Charlene Martin
 John McClymer Jeanne McNett
 Hubert Meunier Saeed Mohaghegh
 Kenneth Moynihan
 Ann Murphy Jennifer Niece
 Claire Quintal Rachel Ramsey
 David Siddle David Thoreen
 Paul Ziegler Anthony Zielonka

Library Adds More Word Processing Computers

By Laurie Stamper

Due to demand for word processing computers, the Library recently reconfigured five existing computers which can now be used for both research and word processing. This brings the total number of available word processing computers to ten. Microsoft Office XP, which includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access, is installed on these computers and Internet access is available.

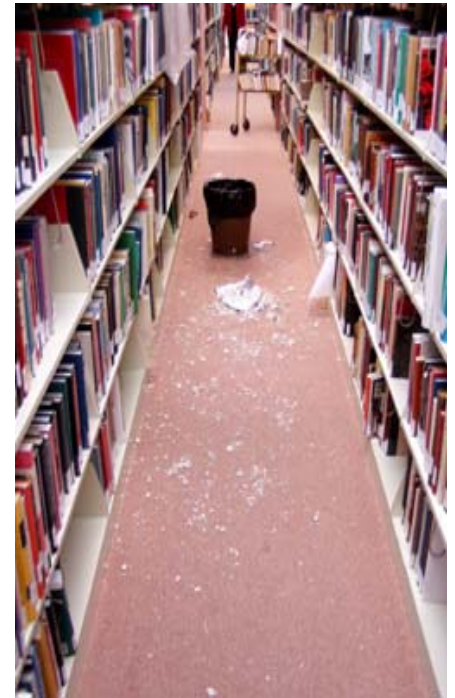


Disaster Plan

By Nina Tsantinis

In today's world, the word 'disaster' conjures up images of terrorist attacks and tsunamis. But society has always been threatened by natural disasters such as fire, flood, hurricanes and earthquakes. Increasingly, federal, state, and local governments are urging people to be aware of emergency assistance plans that have been developed in case of a disaster. The d'Alzon Library, with the support of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, is in the process of revising and updating its Disaster Plan. A committee, chaired by Julie O'Shea, has the task of assuring that policies are in place for the safety of staff and patrons as well as the salvage of collections in the event of an emergency.

On Friday, January 14, 2005 the committee had the opportunity to test its readiness when a substantial leak in the ceiling of the third floor was discovered by a student worker after a night of a severe winter rainfall. A steady stream of water was pouring from the ceiling onto the stack shelving. Several waterlogged ceiling tiles had fallen to the floor and a large patch of carpet was rapidly getting wet. Several staff members quickly assessed the situation and determined that the salvage of books on the affected shelves was the first priority. At the same time it became clear that the leak had to be redirected immediately to prevent further damage to the collection.



The "mess" after the ceiling caved in on the 3rd floor.

As part of the overall plan, the Library has a Disaster Relief Kit on each floor. These kits include emergency supplies of plastic tarp, flashlights, first aid kits, extension cords, caution tape, sponges and other items. Having these supplies near at hand allowed for quick work by the staff. The damaged books were removed and set to dry, the affected and nearby shelving was covered with tarp, and the leak was redirected into a large plastic bag. Soon the Buildings and Grounds crew arrived with a more permanent fix.

This was not a huge disaster in the scheme of things, but preparedness and quick attention were the keys to addressing a situation which could have been much worse.



Finding Gold Or Tin!

By Bruce Plummer

The d'Alzon Library, as all libraries must do, de-accessions material that is outdated, surplus, or that have too many copies filling the shelf.

After Library staff has made preliminary selections, prior to examination by faculty, I check several web sites to ascertain the value of books and make recommendations on pricing for those books that are to be sold at the Library book sale. In some cases the Library may be able to receive more money from a book dealer for a book because of the demand or rarity. Some web sites that can be useful in checking the value of the items are:

www.bibliofind.com,
www.abebooks.com,
www.bookpricescurrent.com.

There were items found that are in the \$30 to \$50 price range. A couple of books were in the several hundred dollars category. One five volume set on bird identification was worth \$500. (The d'Alzon Library has decided to retain that set.)

So, if you see a book at a future Library sale that is priced at \$10, you will know that is a fair price for the item, as it may be worth twice that. The money from the Library book sale goes to purchase new material.

Don't Forget The Library's Online Catalog For Your Research Needs

By Liz Maisey

This is just a reminder to everyone about some helpful features in the [Library's Online Catalog](#) to aid you in your research needs this semester.

As you all know the Catalog is the database to use to locate all the books, journals, and media that are available to you in our Library. You can search by the "traditional" card catalog method of author, title, and subject but here are just some of the features you may not know about.

1. Quick Limits: From the main Catalog page, you can choose to limit your keyword search to a certain location or type of item. (Again, Keyword only search.) If you are looking for a video recording to watch on "American history", do a keyword search and a quick limit to videos on that topic. You will retrieve all the videos that have that phrase in the title, subject, summary or any field in the record.

***Remember that when you are doing any keyword search in our Catalog, if you put your terms in quotations it will search those words as a phrase. If you don't use quotes you will get results that will have both terms or just one or the other term and may be less relevant to your needs.

There is a more detailed limiting feature available which includes limiting by date and language for example, which is available for more than just keyword searching. Please come and see us at the Library to learn more about this feature.

2. Sorting by Date: After you retrieve a result list in your search look for the "Sort" option on the upper left hand side of your list. This will allow you to display your results by title, author, publish date, or publish date descending. This way you can quickly find the most recent publications we own on a certain topic or by a certain author.

3. Browsing the shelves from your computer: Although we love to have you visit the Library, a feature in the Online Catalog allows you to see what is on our shelves without leaving the warmth of your dorm room or office. Here's the trick: when you locate a book in the Online Catalog, go to the detailed or brief record. If you click on the call number in that record it will bring you to a list of all the books on the shelf around that book. You can browse forward and backward, through the whole collection if you want. The Library of Congress call number system we use arranges books topically. So if you find a book of interest to you, clicking on the call number will show you the other books we have on that subject, and this will lead you to the resources you need.

If you want to learn more about these features or the many other features available in the Online Catalog, please call or visit us at the Library.

Job Searching On The Web

By Carole Myles

Due to popular demand, a job search workshop will take place on Monday evening, March 21, from 7-8 p.m. on the first floor of the d'Alzon Library. John Degon, Head of Reference, and Carol McGuigan, from the Office of Career Services, will be sponsoring this event as they have in the past. The Assumption community is invited to attend this workshop which will contain something for everyone: student, advisor, alumnus, staff, or community member.

John and Carol will highlight resources that one should use in a job search, and show you how to organize your job search as well. They will talk about resumes and cover letters, job boards, and career specific web sites to name a few topics.

This is the third time this helpful workshop has been offered to the Assumption community. Members of the Class of 2005 will especially appreciate the timeliness of this workshop as they prepare to enter the job market. For more information, call either John at x7375 or Carol at x7248.



E-Reserves In The Library: Reserves At The Ready!!

By Janice Wilbur

This semester the d'Alzon Library asked professors if they would like to participate in a pilot project to make their reserve material available electronically. The current reserve process requires students to come to the Library to check out the reserve photocopies, remove the staples to photocopy the material, and then re-staple and return the materials to the library reserve window. E-reserves, or electronic reserves, offers reserve material that can be called up at any computer on or off campus. Professors Fitzpatrick (PSY 395) and Warnken (PSY295) volunteered to beta test this new service and help the Library work out possible problems before offering it to all classes.

However, the pilot project has brought up many concerns, that we hope to address before the fall semester. Among these concerns are that the students need to make sure that their ID barcode information is current and correct in the Library database, that they don't have any lost material, and that the computer they are using has Adobe Acrobat in order to read the reserve files. Other concerns are the staff time needed to scan in each article to make it available electronically, and issues with copyright. We are making every effort to address these concerns.

The big advantage in providing this service is CONVENIENCE!! Students will save time by not waiting for the photocopy to be retrieved and checked out, and save time and money by not having to stand at the photocopy machines. Plus, they will be able to retrieve their reserve materials from any computer on campus, in their dorm or from home.

We will be encouraging professors to utilize our new service beginning in the fall 2005 semester. Look for more information on this service when you return from summer break.

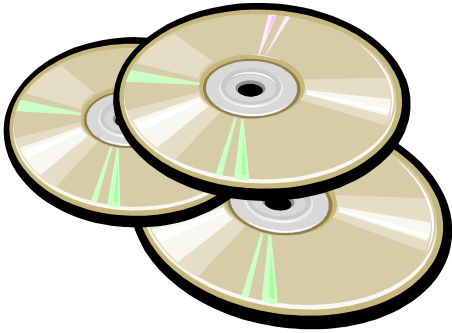


New Faces At D'Alzon Library

By Janice Wilbur

The d'Alzon Library would like to welcome new student workers to its staff. We would not be able to offer the hours, nor all the services to our users if it weren't for our students. New student workers on staff are:

Jon Atchue, Class of 2006
 Jennifer Clark, Class of 2005
 Bill Egan, Class of 2006
 Craig Devaney, Class of 2008
 Marie Malonson, Class of 2008
 Suzanne McGinn, Class of 2008



DVDs, CDs and Players

By Carole Myles

Did you know that the Library's collection contains over 1300 VHS movies and documentaries, 250 music CDs, and 40 DVDs? All are available for borrowing. We also have VCR and DVD players available for use within the Library.

Our movie collection in VHS and DVD format includes titles from the last 30 or so years, including titles as varied as *Almost Famous*, *Three Kings*, *Nixon*, and *The Mayor of Castorbridge* to *The Windsors*, *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*, *The Roman Empire*, and *Art of the Western World*. Our CD collection includes mostly jazz and classical music.

Check for titles via our Catalog if you are interested in finding films or music for a class or leisure.



Another Option For Requesting Materials From Other Libraries

By Larry Sponberg

You may be aware that you can request materials from other libraries by using the link that is available from the Library home page.

Depending on your situation, another method may be easier for you to use. A number of our databases, including the WorldCat worldwide catalog, display an ILL (interlibrary loan) icon after you have found a record for a book or other item that you are seeking. If you click on that icon, a form appears that enables you to input a request. The advantage is that you do not have to type in any of the citation information, since that data transfers automatically when the form is submitted. Consequently, this process avoids the risk of typos that can delay or prevent your request from being fulfilled.

For WorldCat and similar (FirstSearch) databases:

- Something must be entered on each line that has an *.
- For the address, use "500 Salisbury St., Worcester MA, 01609" on the appropriate lines.
- For "Max Cost", enter "0." Regardless of your entry, we will request the item from a library that does not charge if at all possible.
- After clicking on "submit", a message should confirm that your request was sent successfully. If an error message appears that you cannot remedy, don't hesitate to consult a librarian.
- If you make additional requests before leaving WorldCat (or a similar database), the information that you entered the first time will reappear on the request form. Many people enjoy avoiding the repetitive typing that otherwise may be involved with submitting requests.

Best of luck with your research. Again, don't hesitate to contact a librarian if you encounter any problems with any of our Library services.

What's In A Name?

By John Degen

A reference book is a book that is not meant to be read in page order from cover to cover. Generally readers use them to find discrete pieces of information such as definitions, statistics, biographical information, or names and phone numbers. Common reference book formats include dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks and directories. The print reference collection at d'Alzon Library covers every academic discipline in the college curriculum plus materials for general use. Librarians often recommend the reference collection to students doing background research for assignments and term papers. Specialized subject encyclopedias and dictionaries provide excellent general articles on all facets of various disciplines. Heavily used resources from the fall semester included the *Encyclopedia of Medieval Literature*, the *Encyclopedia of Mental Disorders*, and *Encyclopedia of Religion*.

For the past year the reference staff has been tallying reference book usage and compiling statistics. Several times daily we count the books that have been used in the reference area and then reshelve them. This information helps us develop a collection that meets our users' needs. It also helps us recommend resources and instruct patrons how to use them.

In the past year patrons have consulted the print reference collection over 3300 times.

D'Alzon Library's top 10 print reference titles:

1. *Anchor Bible Dictionary*
2. *Dictionary of Literary Biography*
3. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders : DSM-IV*
4. *Mental Measurements Yearbook*
5. *New Interpreter's Bible*
6. *HarperCollins Bible Commentary*
7. *Encyclopaedia Britannica*
8. *Harper's Bible Commentary*
9. *Tests in Print*
10. *Collegeville Bible Commentary*

These titles offer an accurate reflection of the departments that give the entire reference collection the most use. By far, students working on assignments in theology classes take items from the shelves most often. Students doing work in English followed by Social Rehabilitation and then Psychology keep the collection revolving. Students working in all other disciplines spend their fair share of time in the reference stacks as well.

Besides choosing titles from the print reference collection, Library users are also taking advantage of the electronic reference collection. The xreferplus Digital Reference Library allows users to search simultaneously across 100 electronic dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference sources. The electronic collection is accessible from off campus and is growing in popularity. The electronic reference collection, including xreferplus, is located under the General & Reference link on the Library's Databases/Indexes page.

D'Alzon Library's top 10 electronic reference titles:

1. *The American Heritage® Concise Dictionary*
2. *The Columbia Encyclopedia*
3. *Ramson's Dictionary of American Quotations*
4. *The Hutchinson Encyclopedia*
5. *CLA World Factbook*
6. *The New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy*
7. *Collins English Dictionary*
8. *Who's Who in Christianity*
9. *The American Heritage Stedman's Medical Dictionary*
10. *Mosby's Medical, Nursing and Allied Health Dictionary*



CMRLS Adds Two New Databases

By Carole Myles

D'Alzon Library is pleased to announce the addition of two new databases through its membership with CMRLS, the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System. The databases are Issues and Controversies, and Today's Science, both from Facts on File. Members can now access sixteen databases for free through CMRLS.

[Issues and Controversies](#) provides in-depth and objective information on the hot topics of the day, similar to *Congressional Quarterly* which the Library carries in print. Each month a topic is analyzed in detail and objectively by providing opposing viewpoints from experts in the field. Users can link to related web sites and peruse bibliographies, which are just a few things that one can expect to see in this database. Remote access is also available.

[Today's Science](#) delivers more than a decade of science news to students and researchers. The database is updated on a weekly basis and includes biographies, images, a glossary, indexes, and hyperlinks to related web sites. Today's Science covers the environment, health and medicine, physics, chemistry, math, technology, genetics, and archaeology. Users can access the database from home and link to other related web sites.

To access these databases go to <http://www.assumption.edu/dept/library/resources/databases/indexes1.html>



Emmanuel d'Alzon Library Offers Anytime/Anywhere Access to Academic eBook Collection

eBooks Can Be Searched and Borrowed Over Internet

By Carole Myles

Emmanuel d'Alzon Library wants to make students, professors and faculty aware of an innovative way of accessing information: a collection of eBooks from [NetLibrary](#). eBooks are full-text electronic versions of published books that library patrons can search, borrow, read, and return over the Internet. The Library subscribes to a collection of several thousand titles, which is a subset of NetLibrary's larger collection.

According to NetLibrary, eBook titles are available to all Library users at terminals in the Library and from their personal computers via the Internet. Robust search technology allows users to quickly search across all the eBooks in the collection to identify the reputable published sources of greatest interest at any point in time. Users can search by author, title, or keyword, and they can search within eBooks for keywords and phrases. eBooks are available for checkout and are automatically checked back into the Library collection when the checkout period expires, making the eBook available for another user.

Emmanuel d'Alzon Library eBook titles range in scope from core academic areas of science, social sciences, and the humanities to collections of specialized study in areas such as business, education, library science, medicine, religion and philosophy, computer science, and engineering. As an added feature, the Houghton Mifflin 4th Edition of *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language* is embedded into NetLibrary eBooks. Faculty, staff, students, and other users can obtain dictionary definitions simply by clicking on a word in any eBook, or by entering a word in the dictionary search window. Some word definitions are accompanied by audio.

In order to access NetLibrary, a user must first register for the service in the Library. A NetLibrary account is free and there are no membership/annual fees. The NetLibrary web site provides access to the content collection the Library has purchased. A free account lets you access the collection of eBooks from any Internet connected computer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from campus, home or work just by entering a password. Your free account allows you to view the full content of eBooks, listen to audiobooks, make notes in individual eBooks, and customize your account preferences.

For more information on this resource contact a reference librarian at x7273.

From the Director's Desk

By Dawn Thistle

We have all been hearing the “A” word a lot lately. Assessment is a hot topic throughout higher education. Here at Assumption, assessment was identified in our 2000 re-accreditation self-study as a “number one priority,” and steps are being taken to develop a program of assessment for the College. The draft New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) standards for accreditation include items for assessing “institutional effectiveness.” This will ensure that for our next re-accreditation each area of the College will need to show that it is effectively supporting Assumption’s mission.

Of course, the d’Alzon Library is not exempt from this process, and, like other academic libraries across the country, we are working to come up with a plan for evaluating library services. Library staff members have attended numerous conference sessions and workshops related to assessment of library collections, staff evaluations, and measurement of service quality and student outcomes. In the past we have done an OK job of measuring our inputs (budget, staffing, etc.) and outputs (circulation and reference transactions, numbers of volumes purchased, number of instruction classes offered, etc.), but we have not done well in measuring student learning outcomes as related to our services.

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) has been working with its member libraries to develop standard instruments to help libraries measure their services. One such initiative, still in development, is Project SAILS (Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills). According to the SAILS web site, the Project SAILS goal is “to measure information literacy and assess its impact on student learning.” The SAILS instrument is in its final phase of testing and may be available to the general higher education library community in 2006. Another ARL assessment project is LibQual+. LibQual+ is an instrument that assesses library service quality. Survey participants rate different areas of library service according to three dimensions: library as place, effect of service, and information control. In addition, they respond to each question from the perspectives of their minimum expected service level, their desired service level, and their perception of existing library service performance. LibQual+ has been in use for several years and has been tested extensively in all sizes of academic libraries. LibQual+ participant libraries are able to pinpoint areas of concern and also to compare their results to other libraries.

The d’Alzon Library is applying for a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to participate in the 2006 LibQual+ round of surveys. There is a very high likelihood that we will receive the grant, and we are eager to implement the survey next year. Together with our current, less formal assessment efforts we hope that LibQual+, and possibly SAILS, will enable us to provide the College with a meaningful assessment of the services that we are providing the Assumption Community. We look forward to hearing what you think about the library!

