



Emmanuel d'Alzon LibraryLink

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

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Fall 2004

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

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Carole Myles

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Fall 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

Voter Registration Drive – A Success Story!

By John Degon

As a result of our successful registration drive, from late August to mid-October, 230 people became registered voters and another 230 requested absentee ballots for the November election.

In the months leading up to the November election, citizens were bombarded with information. It came from the campaigns, their supporters and detractors, and the news media. Every demographic was targeted with special messages. One very important group, unregistered voters, was the target of many diverse independent efforts. Within the larger set of the unregistered, young voters, those from 18 to 25, were the prize catch. Large scale campaigns from diverse corners of the entertainment industry did what they do best, selling their message. From MTV's Rock the Vote to MoveOn.org's Vote for change to P Diddy's Vote or Die to PunkVoter.com they reached into every niche of the youth market.

So, what does d'Alzon Library have in common with Bruce Springsteen, Good Charlotte, Dave Matthews, and The Donnas? An academic library at a small Catholic college may not have the cool factor of an Eminem performance, but we serve the same audience and share a common concern. We know that the U. S. Census Bureau reports that half of the country's college students were not registered to vote in 2002. We borrowed a little more from The American Library Association's Your Vote Matters Campaign than from Vote or Die, but our intent was the same. We successfully pulled together a registration drive to reach the elusive young voter.

Originally we intended to set up a station in the library where students could use the ALA's website to complete and download registration forms. This would have required heavy promotion and canvassing everyone who walked through our doors. Fortunately for us, Mark Bilotta of the Presidents Office took interest in our plan. He arranged a table for us in the Plourde Center during fall registration when students were returning to campus.

We were ready early in the morning on August 27th, the day freshmen arrived. Clipboards in hand we greeted students and parents. While two librarians canvassed the longest lines, a third worked the table. Many that
(cont. p2)

(cont. from p1)

we approached were happy to complete forms on the spot. Others were busy with tasks but found their way to the registration table before leaving the Plourde. Both students and parents were glad to see us. Voter registration was a last minute details many had overlooked. We had similar reactions when we returned on the 29th to meet the returning classes.

Some students chose to vote in Worcester and used Assumption as their home address. Many others chose to register in their home towns and states to vote for local candidates. Assumption students living on campus were eligible to vote in Worcester. We provided both Massachusetts voter registration forms for in-state students and federal forms for people registering out of state. We asked all students voting outside the city if they needed absentee ballots and provided request forms.

The Students Advocating Change (SAC) volunteered to run a registration booth in the Student Center for two days in September. We also continued to register students from the reference desk in the Library until early October. The library's dedicated student staff took on the task of overseeing all the forms and preparing them for mailing.

When the last of the forms were delivered to the post office and the Election Commission at City Hall, our job was complete. The combined efforts of everyone in the library made the campaign a success.

New Weekend Supervisor

By Janice Wilbur

We are very happy to have Bruce Plummer join the d'Alzon Library staff as Weekend Supervisor. Bruce started his training in the library on August 30th and has quickly adapted to being the only staff member in the library on weekends. This is not a surprise to any of us as Bruce had retired from his position as Library Director at Becker College. Previously he was Director of the Learning Resource Center at Worcester State College for 25 years. He is well prepared to address all issues with the public immediately, be they circulation or research needs.

Bruce stated that the weekends are quiet right now but “..I’m expecting that by midterms there will be more students in the library needing help with their research.” Bruce admits he is acclimating to the Voyager Library System and learning all of its idiosyncrasies and finds it an interesting challenge. As far as working weekends Bruce told me that when you are retired your weekend can be any day. Also, the job ends at 5PM leaving the evenings free.

Bruce said that he is very pleased to be here and that everyone has been very helpful. The staff joins me in welcoming Bruce and telling him that we, too, are very pleased that he has joined us!!



New Administrative Secretary and Serials Assistant

By Carole Myles

Joan O'Rourke is our new Serials Assistant and the Administrative Secretary to the Director of the Library. She will be taking Kristina Rearick's place. She lives in Sutton with her family. Prior to coming to Assumption she was the Office Manager for her husband's welding business, O'Rourke's Welding Inc., for the past twelve years. She also worked for National Grid for six years as a Cobol programmer. Joan is a Clark University graduate with a degree in Information Systems. During her down times Joan likes to garden, and volunteer with her church and in the local public schools. She's delighted to be here. Welcome to Joan O'Rourke!



New Student Workers at the Library

By Janice Wilbur

We are pleased to have fifteen new student workers with us this academic year. Fourteen of the new workers are also new to the college and bring with them great enthusiasm and desire to learn along with adjusting to life as first year students. Our student staff are called upon to assist us in a great many tasks in the library and to know a variety of skills. We gratefully acknowledge our new library assistants and would like them to know how much we appreciate their work.

- Randy Imperial
- Lynn Billier
- Kaitlyn Booth
- Julie Gilligan
- Mike Valalik
- Lauren Miller
- Emily Hetel
- Vasilios Voyiatzis
- Alissa Tatro
- Matt Brewer
- Jon Ricciarelli
- Doug Viglioni
- Ryan Hollingsworth



For man, autumn is a time of harvest, of gathering together. For nature, it is a time of sowing, of scattering abroad.

-Edwin Way Teale, *Autumn Across America*, 1956

Evaluation Project To Improve Library Collection

By Larry Spongberg

Your staff at the d'Alzon Library is evaluating the book collection to improve its usefulness to our patrons.

As we have evaluated the collection, it has become obvious that a large number of formerly useful items have become outdated or otherwise unusable. Removing these books will prevent students from inadvertently using materials that would be unacceptable for assignments, as well as enable all users to find other items more easily on less crowded shelving.

This evaluation has begun with the science collection. Members of the science faculty have used their expertise to help identify and remove no longer needed books. During the first three months of this project, nearly 800 volumes have been removed. Nearly 400 duplicate works also have been removed from the philosophy, psychology, and theology collections, leaving ample coverage for assignments. Some of these duplicates proved to be very popular during our recent book sale.

Our thanks to everyone involved, especially those members of the science faculty who have helped to identify books that should continue to remain in our collection, and items that have become superfluous or misleading due to being out of date.



Book Sale

By Nina Tsantinis

On September 8th, the d'Alzon Library held its first Annual Book Sale. Coinciding with other celebrations taking place on campus that day, including the Mass of the Holy Spirit, and the Community Picnic, the Book Sale definitely added an air to the festivities.

By all accounts it was a huge success and faculty and students were impressed with the wide selection of titles in literature, theology, (cont. p4)

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culture, and popular fiction. The Library realized a tidy profit which, according to Library Director, Dawn Thistle, 'will be used for the purchase of new library materials.'

Most of the items offered for sale consisted of unused donations and library discards. Only after a strict screening process does a book make it to the Book Sale table. Yet even so, hundreds of books found new homes among the Assumption Community and those books left over have been sent to a Mission Library in Nigeria.

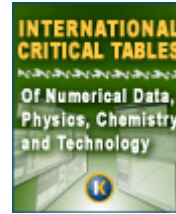
Many thanks to all who took part in this successful event!

Worcester Art Museum Cards

By Carole Myles

Assumption College is an institutional member of the [Worcester Art Museum](#). Benefits of this membership are numerous. The main benefit is that faculty, staff, and administrators can gain free admission to the Museum with the institutional pass. Students are admitted free with their student ID card. Passes admit four adults per pass, and children under 17 are free. The Assumption College community can check out the passes from the Emmanuel d'Alzon Library.

Additional benefits of the institutional membership include discounts in the Museum café and shop, invitations to special member events and discounts on educational classes.



Knovel's *ChemEssentials*

By Carole Myles

Assumption College and 475 other academic institutions across the world are taking advantage of permanent, free access to Knovel's ChemEssentials. Access is available online via the library's web site. Knovel is a fee based provider of leading science and engineering books and databases. The company is offering access to four online titles. Users will also find interactive tables that allow data manipulation and filtering. The e-books are

- Knovel Critical Tables
- International Critical Tables of Numerical Data, Physics, Chemistry and Technology
- Smithsonian Physical Tables (9th Revised Edition)
- Handbook of Mathematical Functions with Formulas, Graphs, and Mathematical Tables

According to Knovel access to ChemEssentials expands our e-book collection free of charge, offers a reliable chemistry resource, and delivers interactive tools. For more information about this database, contact the Reference Department at x7273.

Free Newspaper Service for the Blind

By Carole Myles

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners is again offering free access to NEWSLINE through the Braille & Talking Book Library. This electronic system, which was developed by the National Federation for the Blind, allows access for the visually impaired or blind to several Massachusetts newspapers including the Boston Globe. Other major newspapers from around the country are also available. Funding for this service is provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Users call into a local or toll-free number and can choose to listen to any newspaper in the electronic system. Various options allow users to listen to the previous day's paper, the Sunday edition or that day's paper. Users can also select any section they'd like to hear, and/or adjust the speed or voice quality.

To access the service users should contact the Braille & Talking Book Library by phone at 1-800-852-3133 or via email at library@perkins.org. More information about this resource can be found at www.perkinslibrary.org.

New Features in xreferplus

By Carole Myles

If you're looking for a quick way to convert measurements or if you like to cheat when doing crossword puzzles, we have a great database for you. For those of you that like gimmicky things, try these two features in xreferplus, the online reference database. One feature is new and one is not so new.

New this past summer is the xreferplus conversion tables. Users can easily and quickly convert units in area, distance, energy, fuel consumption, power, speed, temperature, volume, and weight. To access the conversion tables, go to the following URL <http://www.xreferplus.com/conversions/>

The xreferplus Crossword Solver is the cure to your crossword headaches. The Crossword Solver works in two ways. It can unravel anagrams by giving every possible combination of a group of letters, and it also offers solutions to words with blanks in when you replace each blank letter with a '?'.

You can try the solver by going to: <http://www.xreferplus.com/topic.jsp?sub=17> (look for the solver about midway down the page)



Blaze the mountains in the
windless autumn,
Frost-clear, blue-nooned, apple-
ripening days.

-Sarah N. Cleghorn, *Vermont*, in
Portraits and Protests, 1917

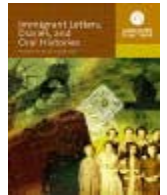
NEW - Alexander Street Press Databases

By Carole Myles

The Emmanuel d'Alzon Library is pleased to announce the addition of eleven new databases from Alexander Street Press, a small scholarly publisher of large collections of primary texts in the humanities and social sciences.

Alexander Street Press is unique in their approach to digital publishing. In an interview last January, Stephen Rhind-Tutt, President of Alexander Street Press, said "we look for areas that have been poorly served by existing publishers or where our Semantic Indexing can enable new kinds of scholarship. Often this leads us to collections that lend voice to underrepresented or disenfranchised groups."

The following titles are now available for use and can be found on our main web page under Databases/Indexes. They are



- *Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000*
- *Scottish Women Poets of the Romantic Period*
- *North American Immigrant: Letters, Diaries, and Oral Histories*
- *Early Encounters in North America: Peoples, Cultures and the Environment*
- *The American Civil War: Letter and Diaries*
- *British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries*
- *Black Thought and Culture*
- *Black Drama*
- *American Film Scripts Online*
- *Asian American Drama*
- *North American Women's Letters and Diaries*



New Phone System For Reference Department

By Larry Spongberg

To enable the d'Alzon Library's Reference Department to respond more effectively to your needs, a new phone system has been implemented.

If you have a question or concern that you would like handled by whoever is on duty in reference, your best option is to call x7273. (Call 508-767-7273 if you are calling from off campus). Calls to x7273 will be answered by the librarian who is on duty. Or, email the reference librarians at library@assumption.edu.

If your question or concern is for a specific reference librarian, you may call his or her specific extension:

- John Degon x7375
(508-767-7375)
- Liz Maisey x7384
(508-767-7384)
- Carole Myles x7020
(508-767-7020)
- Larry Spongberg x7036
(508-767-7036)

Calls to the above extensions will go into voice mail if the specific librarian is not immediately available to answer the phone. If you forget a specific extension, you may continue to call x7273. The person answering the phone will direct your call to the appropriate extension.

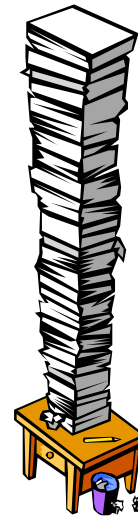
Our hope is that this new system will enable us to respond to your needs more quickly and effectively. Thanks so much to Mary Toomey at the switchboard for her role in making this improvement possible!



From The Director's Desk

By Dawn Thistle

Periodicals Predicament—The Sequel



In last December's issue of *Library Link* I wrote that, because of skyrocketing periodical subscription costs and reductions in our budget, library staff and faculty would have to look closely at periodical subscriptions. The goal was to identify and cut any titles which are no longer useful or needed to support the curriculum. Julie O'Shea, Serials Coordinator, compiled lists of periodicals for each academic department which included information about Assumption holdings, Worcester holdings and online availability.

In the spring of 2004 these lists were distributed to department chairs at Academic Council with the request that they share them with department faculty and rank each title on a five-point scale from "Don't need" to "Must have." Over the course of the summer and fall, I received these prioritized lists from departments and was able to identify 88 titles that seemed to be expendable.

These titles were then assembled into one alphabetical list that included holdings and online availability information. This new list was distributed to all faculty members via e-mail for further revision. In response, professors requested that several titles be retained, which we are happy to do. Library staff members then reviewed the list for a final time, and the list of titles to cut was reduced to 59, for a total savings of \$16,767.00.

I would like to thank all academic departments and individual professors for their cooperation and assistance with this project. Although we may need to make some additional cuts next year, these cuts for '04-'05 will make it possible to look at some of the new titles which have been suggested.

In autumn, when the leaves are brown,
Take pen and ink, and write it down.

-Lewis Carroll





D'Alzon Library Welcomes Mallet Collection

By Mary Brunelle

On Wednesday, October 13, the Emmanuel d'Alzon Library celebrated the arrival of the Mallet Collection with a small gathering of guests, many of whom traveled from all over New England to see the collection in its new home at Assumption.

As we highlighted in previous library newsletters, the Mallet Collection is a unique and fascinating collection of 18th, 19th and early 20th century materials on French Canadians, Franco-Americans, and Native Americans. These materials comprised the personal library of Major Edmond Mallet (1842-1907), a Franco-American Civil War veteran from Oswego, N.Y., who served as Inspector General for Indian Affairs under President Grover Cleveland. L'Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste, a society dedicated to Franco-Americans and French ancestry, acquired the collection in 1913, six years after Major Mallet's death. The collection stayed with the U.S.J.B. until 2004, when the society transferred it to Assumption.

Members and friends of the U.S.J.B. were pleased to view the collection, which is housed on the third floor of the d'Alzon library.
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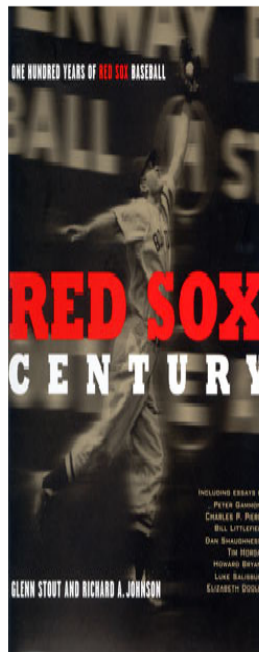
Try out the New Titles List in the Library's Online Catalog

By Liz Maisey

As the new academic year begins we want to remind you of how to locate new books and media that we have received at the library. It's a great way to browse new books or DVD's. Go to the Library's online catalog, and click on the *New Titles* tab. You can then search for new items in a variety of ways, such as author or title, a reference book or video. You can also just browse through all the new titles we received over the past week to the past four weeks. We also have a featured title of the month.

[More Tips for Searching](#)

FEATURED TITLE OF THE MONTH



Red Sox Century: One Hundred Years of Red Sox Baseball

by Glenn Stout and Richard A. Johnson

"Drawn from countless interviews and tireless research and illustrated with more than two hundred photographs, many never seen before, *Red Sox Century* is far more than a picture book."

-- [book jacket]

Call No.
GV
875
.B62
S76
2000

[Recommend a book](#)

To recommend a book, please fill out our [online form](#) or contact your Department's [Subject Liaison](#).

(cont. from p7)

Here, scholars and students may take advantage of the many extraordinary items in the collection, which boasts rare, primary documents relating to French exploration in the New World. Following the reception, U.S.J.B. members happily browsed the shelves, explaining they rarely had the chance to explore the collection at their leisure.

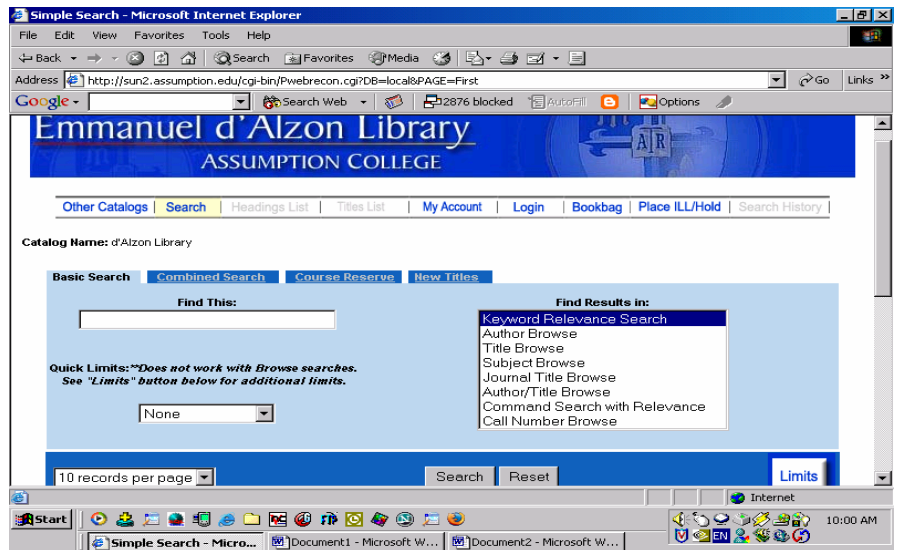
For the reception, the library staff arranged a small display of about 30 of the collection's most interesting books. Titles included *Nouveaux Voyages aux Indes Occidentales* (tr: New Voyages in the West Indies), *Travels and Adventures in Canada and the Indian Territories, Between the Years 1760 and 1776*, and *Indian Captivities, Or, Life in the Wigwam*. Many of the books feature elaborate etchings and engravings of landscapes and portraits of prominent American figures, such as Presidents Washington and Lincoln, as well as historic foldout maps of the New World from the 18th and 19th centuries. Because many of these items are considered "rare," the library staff is taking measures to secure valuable items; however, the recent reception allowed the staff to spotlight these marvelous books for the public.

The event was a fitting welcome for the library's newest addition. Although items in the Mallet Collection cannot leave the library, we invite everyone to browse the shelves and explore the Franco-Americans' and Native Americans' cultures and histories.

Check Out the New Look

By Laurie Stamper and Carole Myles

We thought our first summer here at d'Alzon Library would be quiet and that we'd be looking for things to do. Little did we know that the revamping of the Library web site and online catalog would take up a good part of our summer. We aren't quite done but we're well on our way.



The online catalog redesign started with an updated color scheme incorporating shades of blue, gray, yellow and white. With the help of a new style sheet, the font style was also changed. To keep the look consistent throughout, new buttons were created to match with the new color scheme.



Our goal was to integrate the web site and catalog with the same look. We think we've achieved that goal. Let us know what you think. Your comments are appreciated.