



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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**SAVE TIME! ASK US
FIRST!**

Library Instruction Sessions Increase

By John Degon

You may have noticed that the Library's back corner was busy this past fall with library instruction classes. Perhaps you were even part of one of those classes. We are pleased to report that there was a marked increase in the number of library instruction classes provided during the fall semester. We delivered 36 sessions to 526 students between September and December compared to 29 sessions offered to 484 students during the same time period in 2002. This represents a concerted effort for a library of our size, and is due, in part, to our efforts to publicize our services. The greater force, however, is the increased needs of our student and faculty library users.

As information sources multiply, the need for organized approaches to research increases. Electronic journal and book holdings have greatly increased the size of the library's collections. Once upon a time, our library instruction consisted of a library tour and an explanation of the card catalog. Today, with our online catalog, over 80 journal databases, print collection and the Web, instruction focuses much more on an organized research process rather the use of one or two products.

We have not abandoned past practice. We still give tours. We still demonstrate the catalog and article indexes, but we have augmented our instruction. Our goal is to train information literate students who can distinguish between a variety of information sources and formats. To do good research students must make informed decisions when choosing between electronic databases, indexes and catalogs. They need to interpret records to find the items described. With so much information available to them, they must become adept at judging the authority and credibility of the materials they retrieve.

Of course, we cannot accomplish all of these goals in one session. We reach students in formal classes requested by faculty members, but also in informal transactions at the reference desk and on the library floor. As student research needs become more intensive, the level of instruction we provide increases. We are working on a more formal, goal-oriented instruction program to address student's research and information literacy skills as they progress through college and prepare for graduate school or careers.

(continued on p. 2)

(Instruction, cont. from p. 1)
We will continue to provide tours, orientations and assignment-specific instruction. As the information universe broadens, so will our range of services.

SerialsSolutions
Get what you're paying for.

Staff Presents at NELINET Conference

By Liz Maisey

John Degon, Head of Reference & Instructional Services and Liz Maisey, Reference/Catalog Librarian, gave a joint presentation at a conference held by Nelinet, New England's Library & Information Services Network, on November 21. The conference took place at the College of the Holy Cross and was entitled *Serials Reloaded: Cataloging, Management & Access*. John and Liz's presentation, *Linking to Full Text: Using SerialsSolutions*, discussed the issues surrounding the growing online journal collection owned by the Library and how best to ensure our patron's knowledge of, and access to those journal titles. The focus of the presentation was on the Library's *Full Text Journal Locator*. This product allows patrons to search in just one place to determine if a journal title is available online in full text through one of our many subscription databases, such as JStor or Lexis -Nexis Academic.

Library Raffle Winners Announced

By Larry Spongberg

The following people were winners in the recent raffle that was held as part of the Dracula's Database Demonstrations at the Library on October 30, 2003:

Stephanie Queripel won an MP3 Player for attending a demo of PubMed.



Stephanie Queripel receives her MP3 player from "Larricula" Spongberg.

Gift certificates to Charlie's were won by:

- Nicole Blondin (EBSCO)
- Sister Laetitia Byukusenge (Lexis/Nexis)
- Christine Mihal (xrefer)
- Charles Soldevilla (catalog)

Congratulations to the above winners, and thanks to all who attended our database demonstrations in October.



ILL System Enhanced

By Laurie Stamper

The library is pleased to announce enhancements to its Interlibrary Loan system (ILL). The ILL system allows patrons to request books and articles from other libraries when the Emmanuel d'Alzon library does not own them. Patrons now receive an automatic email notification when their requested items arrive in the library. Another enhancement is that patrons are now able to access their patron records and view the status of their ILL requests.

Requesting an ILL is easy. Simply click on the ILL link on the Library's home page (<http://www.assumption.edu/dept/library/libraryindex.html>) This links to the Patron Authentication page, which requires patrons to enter their barcode and last name. Authentication ensures that only valid members of the Assumption Community place requests. The next step is to fill out an article or book request form and click on the submit button. The ILL system and library staff will do the rest!



Buy A Mug – Save A Rug

By Janice Wilbur

Have you noticed that the Library has new rugs in the foyer, stairway and reference area? Do you like our new computer workstations? They look great and work well, and

we would like to keep them that way for as long as possible. Although we expect normal wear and tear (and even some spillage), we know how expensive it is to replace carpeting, furniture and equipment. Spilled drinks destroy computer key-boards and leave unsightly stains on the rug. Stray food crumbs attract insects and mice and make our library unattractive.

Since 1999, at the request of the SGA, we have allowed patrons to bring drinks into the library in sealed travel mugs, water bottles, or capped containers. Paper or Styrofoam cups and soda cans, items that can tip and spill easily, are not allowed. To encourage drinking from an acceptable container, the library is offering for sale a dark blue, attractive travel mug sold at our cost—\$2 each. Stop by and get yours!!

 SPRING 2004	
<p>Lora Brueck HIDDEN TREASURES: Vintage Volumes Behind Closed Doors January 12 - February 27 Opening Reception Wednesday, January 14, 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Poetry Reading Judith Ferrara & John Gaumond Featured Poets Friday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Poetry Reading DINER Editors, Eve Rifkah & Abby Millager Featured Poets Friday, February 20, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Poetry Reading Student Poets from the <i>Phoenix</i> plus Michael Milligan Featured Poet Friday, April 16, 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Judith Ferrara Selections from RECIPROCITY: PAINTINGS & POEMS March 1 - April 16 Opening Reception Wednesday, March 3, 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Senior Seminar ARTWORKS April 19 - May 16 Opening Reception Wednesday, April 21, 4:00 p.m.</p>

More Full Text “PREMIERS”

At Assumption

By Larry Spongberg

The d’Alzon Library is proud to announce an agreement with EBSCO that enables us to more than double our offering of journals available in full text from that database supplier.

Many library users are familiar with Academic Search Elite. Elite offered access to nearly 1850 scholarly journals, including nearly 1300 peer-reviewed titles most desired by faculty (and students who are trying to meet the expectations of their professors). By contrast, Academic Search Premier provides full text for nearly 4000 scholarly publications, including more than 3100 peer-reviewed journals.

As an added benefit, launching Premier provides more links to full text from the specialized databases that your library gets through EBSCO: ATLA (for religion), ERIC (for education and social rehabilitation), MLA (for literature), and PsycINFO (for psychology).

Finally, announcing this new service gives one of your librarians a chance to increase his repertoire of puns by at least one, as shown in the title of this article.



Subject Liaisons

By Carole Myles

Our departmental liaisons change from time to time. Please feel free to contact your liaison with any questions you may have about library collections or services. Below is an up-to-date list of liaisons. All email addresses end with assumption.edu.

Subject Area	Library Liaisons
Business Studies	Paul Johnson 7271 – pjohnson@
Computer Science & Mathematics	Laurie Stamper 7136 – lstamper@
Continuing Education	Janice Wilbur 7271 – jwilbur@
Economics, Global Studies & Geography	Dawn Thistle 7272 – dthistle@
Education	John Degon 7273 – jdegon@
English	Julie O’Shea 7137 – joshea@
Fine Arts	Carole Myles 7273 – cmyles@
Foreign Languages	Larry Spongberg 7273 – lspong@
History	Julie O’Shea 7137 – joshea@
Music	Dawn Thistle 7272 – dthistle@
Philosophy	Nina Tsantinis 7076 – etsantin@
Politics	Larry Spongberg 7273 – lspong@
Psychology	Liz Maisey 7384 – emaisey@
Science	Carol Barnitt 7201 – cbarnitt@
Social Rehabilitation	John Degon 7273 – jdegon@
Sociology	Carole Myles 7273 – cmyles@
Theatre Arts	John Degon 7273 – jdegon@
Theology	Nina Tsantinis 7076 – etsantin@
Women’s Studies	Janice Wilbur 7271 – jwilbur@

Welcome to Our New Librarians

By Nina Tsantinis

Two professional vacancies were filled recently much to the relief of the rest of the staff! Laurie Stamper, Systems Librarian, fills the position left by Sharon Hu, while Carole Myles, Reference & Electronic Services Librarian, takes the place of John Degon, who has been promoted to Head of Reference and Instructional Services.

Before coming to Assumption, Laurie was the Librarian and Webmaster at the Boston Renaissance Charter School. She has a B.A. in psychology from the University of Denver, and a M.L.S. from Texas Woman's University. She is continuing her education at WPI in Oracle Certification. As Systems Librarian, she makes certain that all computers and systems are running smoothly 'especially during crunch time'. She is also responsible for maintaining the ADA software and hardware that is utilized by Assumption students with disabilities. Laurie says that she 'loves her job here at Assumption and has found that the entire community is warm and welcoming'. She is the mother of twin daughters, is an avid runner and reader, and likes to experiment on her computer in her spare time.

Carole comes to the library from xrefer Ltd., where she was the Senior Vice President of Library Services for North America. (cont. on p. 6)

The Bridgeman Art Library Now Available in Grove Art Online and xreferplus

By Carole Myles

Founded in 1972, The Bridgeman Art Library works with museums, art galleries and artists to make the best art available for reproduction. This is an outstanding archive of images drawn from collections throughout the world. Besides Fine Art, the database also includes images of design antiques, maps, architecture, furniture, glass, ceramics, and anthropological artifacts. The images are available in two databases to which the d'Alzon Library currently subscribes, [Grove Art Online](#) and [xreferplus](#).

Grove Art Online was compiled over a period of 15 years and includes information from over 6,800 scholars from around the world. The dictionary contains 45,000 articles on every aspect of the visual arts - [painting](#), sculpture, graphic arts, architecture, [decorative arts](#) and photography - from prehistory to the present day. Currently 30,000 images are available via an exclusive web site that [Bridgeman](#) created for subscribers to Grove Art Online. The partnership between Bridgeman and Grove will eventually make available 100,000 images to illustrate the 45,000 articles in Grove Art Online.

Though Bridgeman created an exclusive web site for Grove, there is one drawback to this partnership, the lack of complete integration between the two products. Each is still a separate and distinct database. Users will have to execute two searches, one in Grove Art Online to find the background information, and then another search in Bridgeman Art Library to find related images. For instance, a search in Grove Art Online about the painting, *The Starry Night* (1888) by [Vincent van Gogh](#), will retrieve information on his life. To view the painting in Bridgeman, one will have to go back to the main search page in Grove Art Online, select the link to Bridgeman and then execute a search for [The Starry Night](#). In addition to the Bridgeman Art Library, Grove also provides many links to museum web sites with images. These links can be accessed directly from within Grove articles, but may be to files which have moved or no longer exist.

Xreferplus is a giant online reference library that provides access to a selection of reference books. Xreferplus includes [encyclopedias](#), dictionaries, thesauri and [books of quotations](#), and a range of subject-specific titles covering everything from art to accountancy and literature to law. Their unique technology generates a network of cross-references that provide an easy-to-follow trail to related information contained anywhere within the library.

Xreferplus crafted a different business arrangement with Bridgeman, and therefore, only has access to 17,000 images from the Art Library. Although it connects to fewer images, it provides a seamless integration of the image library and the reference sources. (cont., p. 6)

(**New Staff**, cont. from p. 5)
 During her time at Xrefer (www.xrefer.com), their online reference product grew from two accounts to over thirty. Carole has a B.A. in French from Trinity College in Vermont, and an M.S.L.I.S. from Simmons College. While she is responsible for maintaining the library web page, she also provides reference and database instruction to students and faculty, a role she says she enjoys. "I really like working with the students and helping them with their research" On a personal note, Carole is married and has one daughter. She loves to hike and is an avid reader of suspense, mystery and intrigue!

Please join us in welcoming Laurie and Carole to Assumption!

(**Bridgeman**, cont. from p. 5)
 For instance, a single search for "Vincent van Gogh and Starry Night" in the Art subject area will retrieve background information on van Gogh as well as the reproduction of his famous painting.

A caveat: copyright restrictions prevent the reproduction of much contemporary art. A Bridgeman search for images related to Picasso came up with no results in either Grove Art Online or xreferplus, although Grove does provide many links to museum sites with images. Despite their shortcomings, these databases will prove useful to all students interested in art.

Senior Student-Workers

By Erin St. Thomas

This year the library has been fortunate enough to have fifteen fantastic, senior student workers. Spring semester will be their last stint as library workers. In their final semester the seniors will all be busy finishing their classes, taking job interviews, and preparing for life outside of Assumption. These seniors will be greatly missed; the library relies on them to complete many of the daily tasks necessary to keep the library running smoothly. Here's what some of the seniors have to say looking back on their years working here:

Pat LaVigne – I learned how to answer politely to obvious questions. I can use that in the future because there are always going to be stupid questions.

Jennifer Sequeira – Spanish - library knowledge – The library is a great place to work for a number of different reasons. The customer service aspect has helped in many ways. The experience learned will help in the future while in the classroom teaching students.

Julie Wasik – Julie feels that the customer service abilities that she has gained from working at the library for all 4 of her years at Assumption will help her work with customers in her new job. Julie majored in accounting and has just been hired at PricewaterhouseCoopers, one of the top 4 accounting firms.

Meg Savage - A seasoned student staff worker, Meg has worked here since her freshman year. She believes that working at the library has helped to improve her time-management as well as multi-tasking skills. She feels these are important skills that will be helpful to her throughout the rest of her life.

Sarah Gouthro – Working at the library throughout her entire Assumption College career, Sarah feels that she has gained extensive knowledge of library database skills as well as how to function effectively in a teamwork atmosphere. Sarah is a social rehab major and will have completed her degree at the end of this semester, so she will not be returning to work in 2004. She intends to utilize the skills that she has learned here in her future work endeavors.

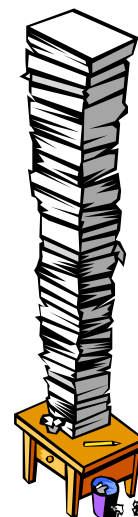
Tyler LaFrance - Tyler is a business communication major who feels that his Assumption experience would not have been the same had he not worked here at the library. It has become a vital part of who he is and he will take all that he has learned here into the "real world" with him. Tyler will always keep a piece of the library close to his heart.

From The Director's Desk

By Dawn Thistle

Periodicals Predicament

At Assumption we have been fortunate because our library budget has not been cut very much. For the most part our materials budget lines have held their own. However, due to increases in the prices of books and especially periodicals, a static budget is almost the same as a cut. Each year, for the last several years, journal subscription prices increased at a rate that was significantly greater than book prices, and even the book prices increased at a rate higher than the budget increases we have been receiving from the College. Our subscription agent, Ebsco, along with some more objective library periodicals specialists, predicts periodicals increases for each coming year. Unfortunately, their predictions are published several months after Assumption departments submit their budget requests, making it difficult to determine an appropriate increase. As a result, the percentage of the materials budget going to book purchases has decreased as more money has been spent to maintain periodicals subscriptions.



It is now time to look closely at our subscriptions, because the FY05 budget will not cover their cost without cutting too heavily into the book budget, and FY06 is not likely to improve so much that we can maintain periodical subscriptions and return our book buying levels to those of previous years. We estimate that we will need to cut approximately \$12,000 worth of journal titles, or find that amount elsewhere in the budget (which is not likely!) How will we determine which titles to cut? Some journals may be duplicated by online subscriptions, making it easier to do without the hard copy versions. These will be looked at first.

The library has no data on usage because journals have traditionally not circulated outside the library. We do have some historical data about which department or professor requested particular subscriptions, but it is not complete. Nonetheless, we expect that some of our journals may no longer be needed or used by the departments that originally requested them. In order to identify those journals and make good decisions about whether and what to cut, the Library is asking for faculty input.

Using the historical data, some common sense and a little guesswork, the Library staff is compiling lists of journal titles that we associate with individual academic departments. The lists will include the subscription price for each title and information about its online availability as well as a scale for ranking its importance and/or usefulness. We hope that each faculty member in every department will take a few moments to go through their list and rank each title. We are also interested in knowing about titles professors use, but which may not be associated with any particular department.

Based on faculty responses, we will return a ranked list to each department with possible cuts identified. After departments have seen the ranked lists, all titles slated to be cut will be sent out to the entire faculty to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to let us know whether a title is important, even if it didn't appear on their own department's list.

Our goal is to make the necessary cuts as painless as possible by enabling all professors to let us know which journals they—and their students—need and use. Depending on future College budgets, after the journal collection has been “weeded,” we may even be able to look into subscribing to new or different periodicals that are often requested.

Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation with this important project.

Exam Week Activity

By Dawn Thistle

On a fairly regular basis I am asked to keep the library open longer at night. During exam weeks this request takes on greater urgency.

We try very hard to accommodate students' study needs. Our staff has proven itself to be flexible and willing to change schedules in order to be here during the late, late hours. Still, we like to know that we are making these changes because students really want—or need—to be here.

In order to get a sense of that need, we “count heads” at different times during each evening. We then try to adjust our hours accordingly.

Last semester during exam week (Dec. 14-19) there were only three students in the building after 1:30 a.m. on both Sunday and Monday nights. On Tuesday night there were six. On Wednesday and Thursday we closed at 1:00 a.m. instead of 2:00 a.m. While on Wednesday there were 11 students in the library at 12:30 a.m., on Thursday the library had emptied out by 11:00 p.m.

What does this tell us? It's hard to say for sure, because so much depends on the exams being given. I think that being open until 1:00 a.m. on nights preceding exams is easy to justify. It's harder to ask staff members to stay until 2:00 a.m. when only three students use the library. Think about it, and let me know what you think.

Assumption Acquires Mallet Library

By Dawn Thistle

The Mallet Library collection consists of 6000 volumes of books, research studies, and other materials about the French in North America, and includes a large number of books relating to Native Americans as well. The collection was gathered by Civil War officer Major Edmond Mallet (1842-1907). Mallet served in the 81st Volunteer Regiment of New York State and was wounded at the Battle of Cold Harbor in 1864. In recognition of his “distinguished gallantry in battle,” he was promoted to the rank of Major. Mallet's passion was collecting books relating to his French Canadian heritage and to the history of the French in North America. His interest in



collecting books about Native Americans came from his long career in the Department of the Interior, which culminated in his appointment by President Grover Cleveland as Inspector General for Indian Affairs.

Shortly after his death, the Union de St. Jean-Baptiste (USJB) began negotiations for purchasing the collection. The cost was \$1979.50! In 1913, six years after Mallet's death, they had raised the money and taken possession of the collection. Ten years later, due to space problems at the USJB headquarters in Woonsocket, R.I., the collection moved to Assumption College where it was housed--and used by the priests and students--for four years during the construction of the new USJB building, which was completed in 1927.

The Union de St. Jean-Baptiste has been a strong supporter of Assumption College for many years. USJB donated the funds to build La Maison Française. In addition, Union contributions were vital to the creation of the Institute Français, located on the third floor of the d'Alzon Library. It seems entirely fitting that this collection return to Assumption, where it can once again be used by faculty and students and made available to the wider world for research purposes. We hope to receive the Mallet Library sometime in March.

A catalog of the original Mallet Library collection was published by the USJB in 1917 and reprinted in 1935. A copy of the catalog can be found in the Reference department, call number: *Ref. Z881.A13 W66 1935*. A brief biography of Major Mallet, written by his grand-nephew, Bill Young, can be found at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyoswego/military/malletcw.html>.

Information about Union de St. Jean-Baptiste may be found in the book, *Looking Back – Forging Ahead: A Centennial History of Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste*, by Professor Emerita of French, Dr. Claire Quintal. Call number: *E184.F85 Q56 2000*.

