2-2009

Top of the Hill, Vol 1, #1

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.colby.edu/lib_newsletter

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation

Available at: http://digitalcommons.colby.edu/lib_newsletter/vol1/iss1/2

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Colby Libraries at Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Top of the Hill by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Colby. For more information, please contact mfkelly@colby.edu.
Colby’s librarians have been busy over the past semester updating our online subject guides. Our revised guides respond to student and faculty feedback collected during the spring of 2008, making them more user-friendly and department-specific than previous guides. Already, students are finding these web pages useful. The English guide, alone, has seen over 1300 visitors since it went up in September. While the guides are easy for students to access under Help with Assignments on the Colby Libraries Website (http://www.colby.edu/academics_cs/library/helpwithassignments/index.cfm), many students told us that they would use the guides more readily if faculty recommended them. During the spring of 2009, please help us to promote these valuable research resources. Additionally, if you would like a guide created specifically to address the information needs of a particular course you are teaching, please contact your Department Liaison Librarian (http://www.colby.edu/academics_cs/library/about/liaison.cfm).

Also, please let us know if there are Web sites, books, or other documents that you are discussing in class so that we can include them in the guides. Guides are a great way to supplement library instruction or to address research concerns when there isn’t time to visit the library as a class.

Please send any comments or suggestions for guides directly to your librarian liaison. As always, we look forward to working with you!

Sara Prahl, Reference and Instruction Librarian

Robinson Room Open for Study on Sundays

The Robinson Room is one of the most elegant rooms on campus. Originally dedicated as the Treasure Room in 1948, it was later re-named in honor of Maine poet Edwin Arlington Robinson. Our oldest and most handsome books are on display here. Now we have opened the Robinson Room for evening study on designated Sundays, providing students with a quiet, elegant space. We invite staff and faculty to enjoy this space as well. Hold a department meeting, arrange a class visit, or host a special event. Tours of Special Collections are also available and may be tailored to your particular interests. Contact Pat Burdick, Special Collections Librarian, 859-5151 or paburdic@colby.edu.
IMAGO: Beyond Google Image Search  Martin Kelly, Visual Resources Librarian

There is no shortage of Web-based image resources available to us at Colby. ArtSTOR’s Digital Library, a Colby subscription, will soon reach one million images. Our own Image Resources help page lists dozens of online image resources. And, of course, Google Image Search always promises a sea of millions of images only a click away. But what if your needs are more specialized? What if you don’t have the time to slog through all these options? In that case, we invite you to try IMAGO. IMAGO now features a collection of nearly 39,000 digital images from a variety of disciplines, a state-of-the-art scanning facility in Miller Library, and friendly instructional support from library and ITS staff. Since 2006, Visual Resources staff have scanned thousands of images at faculty request, made vast portions of the Art Department’s slide library available campus-wide, and launched the Colby College Museum of Art Collection. The next major IMAGO initiative, the Colbiana Photographs Collection, will make archived historical prints available online to the greater Colby community. IMAGO collections are linked from the Libraries’ home page. Library and ITS staff are available to train on topics such as IMAGO’s software interface (Luna) and the integration of images into your course flow. Need images for teaching? Try Imago!

Library Instruction  Darylyne Provost, Reference & Instruction Librarian

Information fluency, the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, and use information effectively, is a core competency of liberal learning and a crucial tool for professional success. Library instruction enables learners to develop proficiency in searching the vast and ever-changing array of information resources. Reference help is available at all Colby libraries, by appointment or on a drop-in basis, but instruction sessions allow for collaborative learning in a state-of-the-art electronic environment in which learners move from “button pushing” to a deep understanding of the scholarly process. We offer many types of instruction, customized to meet the needs of faculty and students. Classes range from a general orientation to library resources and services, to sessions supporting a specific research assignment. All instruction emphasizes hands-on group learning directed at the widest possible number of learning styles. To schedule a library instruction session, contact the library liaison for your department. (http://www.colby.edu/academics_cs)

Libraries trial campus-wide delivery service

The Colby Libraries are experimenting with a campus-wide delivery service for Faculty and Staff. You may request any item from our Catalog. Look for the Faculty/Staff Request button at the top of the page. Requests will be delivered within 24 hours to your office or your Department Secretary. This service is run by student workers; hence we cannot process requests when on break. Requests made during breaks will be processed once students return. At present, this service is only offered for items owned by Colby. Discussion will continue on the feasibility of delivering Interlibrary Loan Items.

We are pleased to announce a new book drop in the Diamond Building, for your convenience in returning Library items. It is located on the second floor, across from the Faculty/Staff Lounge.
Olin Science Library

Darwin Turns 200
Feb. 12, 2009 is the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin, author of Descent of Man and On the Origin of Species. In commemoration, our January/February book exhibit showcases the works of this famous naturalist, geologist, and explorer, his influence in evolution, natural history, the Galapagos Islands, and religion — and the controversy that he still provokes. Stop by and browse the display as you enter the Science Library. Then visit Special Collections in Miller to view an original letter by Charles Darwin.

Science Puzzles a Hit
In September we set out a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle (Emperor penguin and young) as a study break for students. The penguin bodies were constructed quickly, but vast areas of blue ice proved too stressful for exam week.

Student: I need something to make me feel satisfied: to come over, find a piece or two and feel like I’ve accomplished something!

So, we added a 500-piece tropical fish puzzle that was done in two days. An unidentified student even brought in a third puzzle to contribute. We’re delighted with the puzzles’ popularity. More contributions are welcome!

Announcing new library resources!

Colby recently became a member of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), a consortium of North American universities, colleges and independent research libraries. CRL holds over four million newspapers, journals, dissertations, archives, government publications and other traditional and digital resources for research and teaching. Holdings includes 800,000 doctoral dissertations (including those of Albert Einstein, Dag Hammarskjold and other Nobel laureates), some of the earliest African-American newspapers and the 100,000-plus-page archive of Cambodia’s Khmer Rouge security force. Emphasis is on materials produced outside the United States, and the Center has special strength in publications and archives from many developing nations.

Explore the CRL catalog from the Colby Library home page or bookmark http://0-catalog.crl.edu.library.colby.edu/.

Center for Research Libraries (CRL), acquires and preserves newspapers, journals, documents, archives and other traditional and digital resources for research and teaching.

Popular Reading Collection: New Titles Added

The next time you are in Miller, don’t forget to browse the libraries’ Popular Collection for leisure reading. Current fiction reviewed in New York Times Book Review and selected ‘popular’ books are regularly added to the shelves. Genres such as mystery, science fiction, graphic novels, biography, and much more are waiting for your bedside table! Not finding what you’d like? Let us know!

http://www.colby.edu/academics_cs/library/about/forms/feedback.cfm

And coming soon.... A large collection of Audio Books for your listening pleasure— stay tuned!

Peggy Menchen, Assistant Director for Public Service
Colby Library Mission Statement

The mission of the Colby Libraries is to provide resources and services to support the teaching and research needs of faculty and the information and research needs of students.

Top O’ the Hill

Clem’s Corner

In light of the recent economic crisis libraries across the country and around the world are having their budgets cut and services reduced. The Colby Libraries, like Colby itself, manages its resources carefully. Going forward we will be reviewing our resources and looking for ways to sustain the quality collections and services that support Colby’s academic programs. We will continue to work with our strategic partners, Bates and Bowdoin, to build a more holistic collection, reducing duplication of narrowly focused monographs and expanding the breadth and depth of the overall collection. As our curriculum becomes more global and international in its perspective, we are working to collect resources from around the world to support faculty and student needs and interests.

In order to build and effectively support a joint collection that is truly useful to faculty and students, Colby, Bates, and Bowdoin are collaborating on a new joint catalog that will allow users to see and access the resources that are available across all three schools. The new catalog will provide increased search functionality, enhanced records that include table of contents, and the ability to tag and annotate records. We expect that the new catalog will be available before the end of the academic year.