

THE LIBRARY @ LINK

A NEWSLETTER FROM ALBRIGHT COLLEGE'S F. WILBUR GINGRICH LIBRARY

Library Use Growing and Growing

Fall 2007 is off to a great start in the library! Foot traffic in the library during September increased 14% over September 2006 and 22% during October over the same month last year. Students are spending more time in the library studying and doing homework alone and in groups.

Last summer the staff took care to rearrange our public computers to increase the number available to students on the first floor. We now have 22 computers available for research, Blackboard, e-mail and writing papers, and there have been *many* times when they are all in use. Currently our computers are open for use (they do not require one to log on to the campus network). We do not ask patrons to sign up to use the computers, we do not have actual numbers, but the watchful eyes of the Reference Librarians and the Circulation Staff have seen many moments when all computers are full of students busily searching databases and completing assignments. The library is pleased to consider a variety of ways to handle this very good growth.

Why are more students joining us in the library throughout the day? It might be our gorgeous, new, welcoming plaza. (See back page) Another reason could be the encouragement given to them by our faculty. This semester the library has seen an increase in the number of complex, research-oriented reference questions based on projects that faculty have assigned.

In addition, the library has increased the number of tours given to freshman classes including English 101 and Freshman Forum. An in-depth tour is a great way to make students feel comfortable using the library and its resources.

According to the results of informal surveys, students reported overcoming feelings of anxiety and being overwhelmed at the size and complexity of the library. Many students mentioned that before the tour they hadn't even realized that the library has a 2nd and 3rd floor! Before students can become effective, efficient, and information literate researchers, they must be comfortable being here and aware that the library has more to offer than they might even realize. Students need to know that it pays to ask, and it's not cheating to seek help from a librarian.

The library will continue seeking ways to welcome students into the library and to instruct them in using the resources and services we offer.

The Library staff would like to thank the many faculty members who have incorporated library resources directly into their assignments or set aside class time to bring their students into the library. We welcome and appreciate your support and we look forward to continuing our partnership with faculty to provide students with an Awesome Albright Education!

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LexisNexis Keeps Improving

Regular users of the LexisNexis database know that the new interface is still a work in progress. The LexisNexis listserv has been very active with questions from experienced users trying to navigate the new look. LexisNexis staff has developed a “Getting Started” guide available for download at the following web address:

<http://www.albright.edu/library/bbhelp.html>

Tutorials are also available at this site and guides on news, legal, and business research, as well as a guide on working with sources, are in the works. If you have any comments about the guide or suggestions for other topics to be addressed in a guide, please contact your liaison

librarian and we will forward your suggestions to LexisNexis support.

With the advent of the new LexisNexis interface it became possible to create links to specific articles that could be used in web pages and in Blackboard. However, the instructions to build these links were confusing and the Library frequently found that attempts to create these links were unsuccessful. In order to make the process easier, LexisNexis staff have created an “Article Link Tool” available at this address:

http://amdev.net/doc_link.php

While it is still in beta testing, it looks promising. Some things to be aware of when using this tool:

- You must have the publication name, date and a partial author and or title.
- Less is more. Start with the minimum amount of information and then add more specifics as needed.
- If you are off-campus, you will be required to log into LexisNexis as a remote user before you can use the link.

Use the help feature for more complete instructions and for assistance in troubleshooting your link.

If you have any problems, please contact Sandy Stump (x7205, sstump@alb.edu) or your liaison librarian.

*Celebrate National French Week
all month long at the Gingrich Library.
During November, see our display of
Academy Award winning and nominated French
films.*

Best Wishes to Kristin Brumbach!



Photo by John Robert Pankratz

We send congratulations and best wishes to Kristin Brumbach, who has started a new library position at Alvernia College. Kristin began her work here at the college as an administrative assistant and subsequently received her MS from Drexel University. She was instrumental not only in our instructional program, but also in spearheading library outreach projects such as City Lights, the Edible Book Contest, and the FaculTEAS. We know that all of you join us in wishing her well.

New for 2008!

The Gingrich Library is planning to upgrade its 2008 journal subscriptions for titles published by Sage from print to electronic access. For a small increase in price over the amount spent in 2007 for 15 Sage print journals, the library will be able to offer access to over 450 titles. In addition to the current year's subscription, our faculty and students will have access to the backfiles to 1999 as long as the subscription is maintained. Sage publishes journals across 40 disciplines and this conversion is a wonderful opportunity to grow the collection without incurring significant price increases. We are looking forward to the 2008 launch of Sage. Watch the library homepage for more information.

Campus Buildings Noted

At the request of the Council of Independent Colleges, Albright College contributed to the "Historic Campus Architecture Project." Sidney Dreese, Special Collections Librarian collaborated with Barbara Marshall and Richard Androne, to decide that the campus has seven buildings that are historically and architecturally significant. After much research in the college archives, the team discovered that Albright's buildings had experienced many transformations and had been used for various purposes.

The seven buildings selected for the project are; Sylvan Chapel, White Chapel, Merner-Pfeiffer-Klein Memorial Chapel, Teel Hall, Pushman Cottage, Merner-Pfeiffer Hall of Science,

and the Center for the Arts. You can view the project from the Special Collections Digital Collections page at <http://www.albright.edu/library/sc/Digital/index.html>. Once you log into the CIC site, you can also view a number of other buildings from colleges in Pennsylvania that are represented in CIC's project.

The Historic Campus Architecture Project website was launched in November 2006 with generous support from the Getty Foundation. The website provides extensive information about significant buildings, landscapes, campus plans, and heritage sites of American higher education, documenting nearly 2,100 campus sites of historical significance that have been provided by nearly 400 institutions.

City Lights Returns

City Lights, the end of semester tutoring sessions that the library, faculty and academic support staff offer for our first year students, will return as soon as classes end on Friday, December 7.

The 4 study sessions are at 4-5:30, 6:15-7:45, 8-9:15 and 9:30-11:00. These will be held on the second floor of Master's Hall in classrooms with white/black boards, Internet access, overheads and computer projection (laptops can be borrowed from the library). The library will be open until midnight for open study.

Food and entertainment will

stay in the Library. We are hoping to have some relaxation sessions starting in the afternoon and music in the library after the sessions are over. Of course, sandwiches and cookies will be available at selected times during the evening.

Please consider leading a session to help your students prepare for their exams. If you cannot participate, but would like to recommend a student tutor, we would like to know that also. **RSVP to Rosemary Deegan (rdeegan@alb.edu x7202) ASAP if you are willing to teach. Please include during which session(s) you**

Library Hours

Here's our annual listing of the library's special holiday hours through Interim. All the best through finals and have a great holiday season!

November

Tues. November 207:45am-6:00pm
Wed. November 217:45am-Noon
November 22-24Closed
Sun. November 254:00pm-12:00am
November 26-297:45am-12:00am
Fri. November 307:45am-7:00pm

December

Sat. December 112:00-5:00pm
Sun. December 21:00pm-12:00am
December 3—77:45am - 1:00am
Sat. December 812:00pm-5:00pm
Sun. December 91:00pm-1:00am
December 10-127:45am-1:00am
Thu. December 137:45am-12:00am
Fri. December 147:45am-2:45pm
Sat. December 15Closed
Sun. December 16Closed
December 17-217:45am-3:00pm*

*Closed to the public in the morning.
Call x7517 for admittance.

Due to scheduled electrical repairs, library service may be limited on December 17.

December 22nd—December 31 Closed

January

Tues. January 1Closed
Wed. January 27:45am-10:00pm
Thu. January 37:45am-10:00pm
Fri. January 47:45am-4:00pm
Sat. January 512:00pm-5:00pm
Sun. January 63:00pm-9:00pm
January 7-107:45am-10:00pm
Fri. January 117:45am-4:00pm
Sat. January 1212:00pm-5:00pm
Sun. January 133:00pm-9:00pm
January 14-177:45am-10:00pm
Fri. January 187:45am-4:00pm
Sat. January 19Closed
Sun. January 203:00pm-9:00pm
Mon. January 21

Resume Regular Semester Hours

Albright College Library

P.O. Box 15234

13th & Bern Streets

Reading, PA 19612-5234

Circulation Desk: 610-921-7517

Reference Desk: 610-921-7211

libraryref@alb.edu

We are on the web at www.albright.edu/library/

Library Plaza Gets a Much-Needed Makeover

Under the hot August sun an unforgettable transformation created a stunning, new welcoming space in front of the library. Our pictures here don't convey the enormity of the project, so we hope you'll spend some time in the plaza to see for yourself.

Cement walls were torn down, aging cobblestone was lifted and shifting bricks were replaced with lovely patterned pavers. The plaza is now a much more inviting place to use the wireless network that is still in place.

Through the generosity of alumnae sorority, Phi Delta Sigma and the hard work of Mrs. McMillan and the Albright Beautification Committee (ABC) the plaza is now a gathering space with trees which

will fragrantly flower in the Spring, colorful plants and fun furniture to enjoy on sunny days all year round.

Perhaps most appropriately, the Library plaza became the home of Albright's 150th Anniversary Time Capsule. The capsule to be opened in 2106 preserves the College's past and reminds us to imagine the College's future. In some ways, that reflects the purposes of the library, only, while the capsule sits underground waiting, the library will be busy shaping the future of the College, providing services to our community and otherwise, growing in the sunshine.

Additional pictures of the reconstruction are available at www.albright.edu/library/index/plaza.html.



Before: A mishmash of crumbling brick and cobblestone aren't enlivening to the library's landscape.



After: As soon as the plaza is open, students gather to enjoy our new surroundings.