



1-23-2006

Myrin Library News, Vol. 18 No. 1, January 2006

Myrin Library Staff
Ursinus College

Charlie Jamison
Ursinus College, cjamison@ursinus.edu

Diane Skorina
Ursinus College, dskorina@ursinus.edu

Carolyn Weigel
Ursinus College, cweigel@ursinus.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/library_news

[Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.](#)

Recommended Citation

Staff, Myrin Library; Jamison, Charlie; Skorina, Diane; and Weigel, Carolyn, "Myrin Library News, Vol. 18 No. 1, January 2006" (2006). *Library Newsletters*. 89.
https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/library_news/89

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Ursinusiana Collection at Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Library Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. For more information, please contact aprock@ursinus.edu.



Reference Desk Hours, Spring 2006:

Monday thru Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

For all library hours, visit:

<http://myrin.ursinus.edu/about/hours.htm>

Inside this issue:

New Acquisitions	2
Staffing News	2
Library Instruction	2
Myrin Library Survey	3
Wikipedia vs. Britannica	3
Upcoming Events & Staff Recommendations	4

Visit us on the web at:

<http://myrin.ursinus.edu>

The Myrin Library News

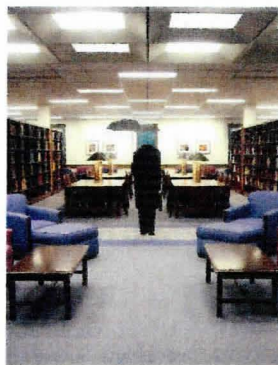
The Myrin Library Flood of 2003: Update

By Charlie Jamison & Carolyn Weigel

Christmas Break, 2003: On the evening of Friday, December 26, James Shuttlesworth, Senior Systems Engineer in Computing Services, recorded a sharp rise in humidity on the third floor of Myrin Library. The humidity gauge spiked ten points in the six minutes between 9:18 and 9:24 p.m. The culprit? A ruptured pipe in the third floor storage area that most likely burst around 9:15 p.m.

Water ran undetected throughout the library for approximately eighteen hours until Safety Officer Dwight Rhodes, on foot patrol Saturday, December 27, heard a buzzing sound coming from inside the Library around 3:30 p.m. He immediately radioed for help, but by that time an estimated 2,960 gallons of water had saturated the library. Water covered parts of all four floors. Count-

less books were drenched along with the ceiling tile, carpets, and furniture.



The newly remodeled post-flood main floor of Myrin. Photo by Bill Weigel

The library was devastated in the flood of 2003, but now, 2 years later, with the hard work of the staff, the renovation of Myrin Library is complete. Though much was lost, the flood made possible a number of exciting enhancements to update the library facility.

Welcome Back!

By Charlie Jamison

Welcome back to all! We hope you had a restful break.

This issue of the Myrin Library News, edited by Diane Skorina, our Reference and Instruction Librarian, is the first issue of the library newsletter published since the

Myrin flood in 2003. As you will see, the newsletter is full of interesting and informative articles on the library's program and staff.

We hope to be back publishing two issues a semester and will once again publish the newsletter in both print

Jazzman's Café has transformed the first floor into a popular meeting place on campus for both students and faculty. The library now boasts new computer terminals, wireless internet access throughout the entire building, and new study carrels with built in electrical and internet connections. There are two new lounges with new furniture, two new study spaces with work tables in the first level reference area, more group study rooms on the upper levels, a new reference desk and circulation and reserves counter, a new quiet study area on the third floor and another "current news commons" lounge area on the lower level.

Out of the crisis of the flood, these changes have made Myrin Library a very popular place for students and faculty to study and work. We look forward to seeing you this semester!

and electronic versions. The electronic version will be available at <http://myrin.ursinus.edu>.

We look forward to you coming back to Myrin and best of luck with the new semester! Visit us at the reference desk.

New Acquisitions: Oxford English Dictionary Now ONLINE & More

By Diane Skorina

Perfecto! Periwinkle. Per-fluorochemical?

Just a few of the words most recently added to the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED)



Online — one of the most exciting new additions to

Myrin Library's online resources this past fall. Now, instead of having to pull out your magnifying glass and peruse the 20-volume print OED, you can just hop onto the Myrin Library website, choose "Oxford Eng-

lish Dictionary" from the QuickLinks Menu, and voilà! The online edition provides quarterly updates of new words and allows you to sign up to improve your vocabulary with a Word-A-Day e-mail that gives you the etymology of words like "information fatigue" and "grandmother."

The OED online was suggested by Meredith Goldsmith in the English Department, and the library was able to get a great deal through its consor-tial membership in PALINET. If you and your department see

a need for online resources for Ursinus, be sure to let us know by e-mailing library@ursinus.edu or dropping by — we're always looking for ways to improve the ability of students and faculty to do effective research on-campus.

The library has also just received two excellent new Religion Reference works: The 2nd Edition of the 15-volume *Encyclopedia of Religion* and the 2-volume *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*. These specialized works are great starting places for research.

In other acquisition news, we've recently added a number of new films to the Media Services department. Be sure to check some of them out!

The Fantastic Four

Mr. & Mrs. Smith

Seven

The 40-Year-Old Virgin

Star Wars Episode 3

Cinderella Man

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Madagascar

Sisterhood of the Traveling

Pants

Staffing News: Many Changes in Myrin

By Diane Skorina

Myrin Library has recently had some important staffing changes that will affect the Spring Semester.

Departures

Doreen Kopycinski, Technical Services Librarian, departed on December 9th for a new position as Cataloging Librarian at Lehigh University. **Kim Sando**, Media Services Librarian, departed on December 2nd for a position as Systems Librarian at DeSales College. This has left

two major positions in the library un-staffed. A search is currently underway for a new Tech Services Librarian, to be filled by the beginning of the Fall 2006 semester.

In the meantime, **Diane Skorina**, Reference & Instruction Librarian, will be taking a maternity leave starting in mid-February. She will be available again via e-mail starting in April, and will return to work around the time of commencement.

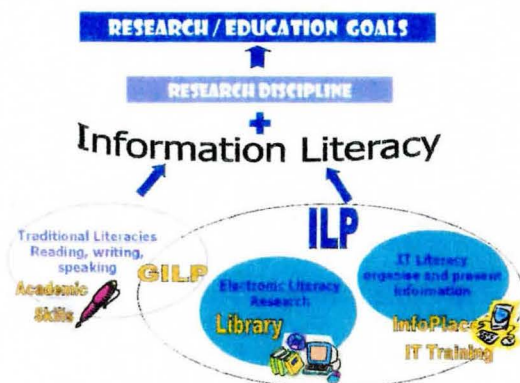
Re-Arrivals

To offset some of these staffing holes, **David Mill** (dmill) has returned from his sabbatical for the Spring Semester; he will finish his sabbatical later this year, in the Summer and Fall. **Judith Fryer** (jfryer) will stay on in a part-time capacity. David and Judith will assume most reference & instruction for the semester. Senior **Jessica Gallagher** (jegallagher), who has worked in Media Services for 4 years, has assumed a leader-

ship position there.

In addition, a temporary librarian will be starting sometime around the beginning of the semester to provide reference, technical services and media services support for the entire Spring Semester. An e-mail will be sent announcing this person's contact information when he/she has been hired.

All-in-all, this is a busy time for the Library, and we appreciate your patience! **Please e-mail Charlie Jamison (cjamison) with any questions.**



One University's graphical representation of Information Literacy. (<http://ilp.anu.edu.au/about.html>)

Library Instruction: Contact us for your class!

By Diane Skorina

InfoTrac? Google? The Library catalog? Often, students find themselves with a case of information fatigue, defined by the *Oxford English Dictionary* as "apathy, indifference, or mental exhaustion arising from exposure to too much information."

As the new semester begins, consider adding a library workshop to any courses with a research component. The web is a great resource that many students use well, but the resources the library provides can actually save students time as their research becomes more complex at the

college level.

We in the library work with all levels of students, from Freshmen through Seniors, tailoring workshops to the specific needs of each class.

While Diane Skorina is on maternity leave, contact Judith Fryer (jfryer) to plan and schedule a class.

Take the Myrin Library Survey! We want to know what YOU think

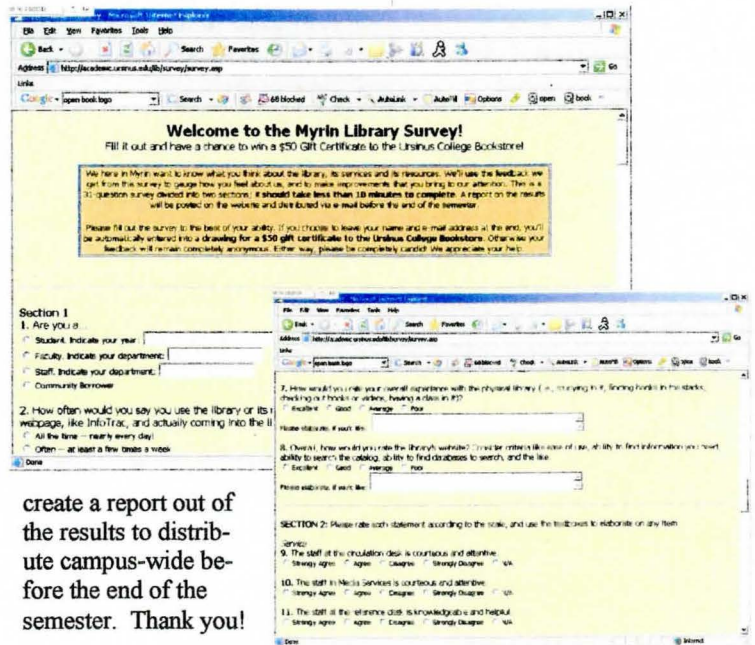
We here in Myrin want to know what you think about the library. Whether you are a student, a faculty member, or staff in any department, we need to hear from you about everything from whether or not you use the library at all to how you feel about the speed of InterLibrary Loan.

We've created an easy, quick online survey that can be accessed at: <http://academic.ursinus.edu/lib/survey/survey.asp>. The survey can take no more than five minutes, if you want it

to; but we've left ample room for comments and specific suggestions, so take all the time you need!

To show our appreciation for your time, we're offering a \$50 Gift Certificate to the Ursinus College Bookstore to one lucky survey-taker, should you choose to leave your name and e-mail address for us. You can, however, take the survey anonymously, too — we appreciate your feedback all the same.

We'll use your feedback to improve the library, and we'll



create a report out of the results to distribute campus-wide before the end of the semester. Thank you!

General Library News: Britannica vs. Wikipedia

By Diane Skorina

Everyone knows of that old stalwart, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, first published in 1768 and an indispensable resource in libraries everywhere ever since (now available online from Myrin's Homepage, through the QuickLinks Menu).

But maybe you haven't yet heard of Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page), the newer, entirely online encyclopedia. Wikipedia was started in 2001 and already it contains nearly 1 million entries (in the English-language version), dwarfing Britannica Online's 118,000. From up-to-date articles on intelligent design and Charles Darwin, to detailed entries on an abandoned theme park called "Dogpatch U.S.A.," Wikipedia contains information on just about anything you can think of.

Wikipedia is undoubtedly one of the most exciting resources on the Internet, but it

has been surrounded by controversy since its inception. The main reason for this can be seen right in its tagline: "the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit." Developed with a wiki, "a type of website that allows users to easily add and edit content" (quoted from the Wikipedia entry), anyone truly means anyone — from professors at the most prestigious universities, to 5th-graders who think they know a thing or two, to people playing a prank on a friend. In one recent high-profile incident, a "friend" of founding editor of *U.S.A. Today* John Seigenthaler wrote a prank article falsely linking him to the Kennedy assassination. An outraged Seigenthaler wrote an op-ed in *U.S.A. Today*, illuminating the problems with giving too much credence to an online encyclopedia editable by anyone (see http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2005-11-29-wikipedia-edit_x.htm).

Entries and edits are usu-

ally made with anonymous screen names, another source of controversy. Before the prankster in the Seigenthaler case came forward, there was no way to tell who had written the article. Though you can view the history of edits made on an article, you'll generally never know what an author's credentials are (or aren't). The ease of editing and anonymity of writing can lead to articles on controversial topics like climate change being heavily and repeatedly changed. Depending on what day (or hour!) you access the entry, the information you're reading could be biased one way or its polar opposite.

So the real question is: With these troubling issues, can we trust Wikipedia? Does this communal encyclopedia actually work? Perhaps surprisingly, for the most part, yes. A recent study in the journal *Nature* comparing science articles in Wikipedia to corresponding ones in Bri-

(Continued on page 4)

Some screenshots of the Myrin Library Survey, online at <http://academic.ursinus.edu/lib/survey/survey.asp>

*Can we trust Wikipedia?
Does this communal
encyclopedia actually
work? Perhaps
surprisingly... YES.*



Wikipedia vs. Britannica

Myrin Library, Ursinus College

601 Main Street

Collegeville, PA 19426

Director's Office: ext. 2243

Circulation: ext. 2290

Reference: ext. 2283

Media Services: ext. 2393/2286

E-mail: library@ursinus.edu



Visit us on the web at:

<http://myrin.ursinus.edu>

Wikipedia vs. Britannica

(Continued from page 3)

tannica found that the average number of mistakes in a Wikipedia article was four — compared to a surprising *three* in Britannica. Perhaps most importantly, only eight serious errors were found between the two encyclopedias: four in Britannica and four in Wikipedia. (See the Special Report in Nature online at <http://www.nature.com/news/2005/051212/full/438900a.html>, published Dec. 14, 2005).

So, while more studies need to be done, it looks as if Wikipedia is about as reliable as Britannica, even for scholarly types of information. Because of the way Wikipedia works, users are cautioned against trusting it blindly; but, of course, it's always best to verify information in more than one place, whether using online resources or print-based ones. As a librarian, I wouldn't suggest looking only at Wikipedia for your research anymore than I would encourage relying solely on Britannica.

But starting with Wikipedia when beginning a research project or looking for some background information is for the most part a good idea. The people writing accurate information in the encyclopedia far outweigh those trying to sabotage the project. And it certainly trumps Britannica for current information: check out the Wikipedia article on Hurricane Katrina. You'll be amazed.

Upcoming Events: Edible Books & More

Edible Books Festival

After a huge success last year, **the Edible Books Festival will return again this year** towards the end of March or the beginning of April (date to be announced soon!). The Festival is the only place where it's okay to eat your words and play with your food.

Anyone can enter a dish. The only rule is that edible materials are used to illustrate anything having to do with literature and books. Whether it be a representation of a character, a literal translation of a title, or a humorous spin on an old classic, the possibilities are endless. Some creative exam-



Lincoln's Cabin.
Photo by Jess Gallagher

ples from last year include: the DaVinci 'Coke,' Harry Pot-Pie, the Tortoise and the Hare, and the Velveeta Rabbit. After the judging and the



The Tortoise & the Hare. Photo by Jess Gallagher

prizes are awarded, the devouring begins! So, get your creative juices flowing and let your literary ideas burst forth to help make this year just as BIG as last year!

For more information and pictures from last year, please visit: webpages.ursinus.edu/jegallagher.

Staff Recommendations

When a recommendation is available through the library, the call number and floor location are noted after the title.

Diane Skorina, Reference & Instruction Librarian, has a long commute these days from South Philadelphia, but she fills that time listening to audio books. She's most recently been listening to **Walter Mosley's** *Always Outnumbered, Always Outgunned*, a beautifully written and wonderfully narrated (by Peter Francis James) story of an ex-con named Socrates Fortlow and his life in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles. Diane also recommends **Lorraine Adams' Harbor** (available in the Best Sellers section on the First Floor of Myrin), the story of a young, illegal Algerian immigrant and his fellow-countrymen struggling to get by in Boston.

Judith Fryer, Reference & Instruction Librarian, recommends *Detours: From Classrooms to a Guatemalan Coffee Farm* by **A. Gray Thompson** (at call number 371.1 T371 on the 2nd Floor of Myrin). In a witty, conversational style, the author describes his long career as a teacher, principal, and university professor, discussing many down-to-earth situations and techniques. After retirement, he moved to Guatemala and unwittingly found himself teaching again, but not in a classroom. He takes delight in giving tours of his small coffee farm, explaining the process from plant to steaming cup, and sharing the results of his experience and research on coffee growing and processing. This book is appealing on many levels.

Joan Rhodes in InterLibrary Loan recommends both the book and movie versions of *Memoirs of Geisha* by **Arthur Golden** (at call number 813.54 G5651m on the 3rd Floor of Myrin). The story follows a 9-year-old fisherman's daughter, Chiyo who is sold into slavery to a Geisha house. After much training she becomes the famed Geisha, Sayuri. Joan was pleased to see that the **recently released movie-version directed by Rob Marshall** followed the book very closely.

Theresa Tuscano in Periodicals & Government documents recommends watching **Joss Whedon's Serenity**. While it's a must-see for fans of the short-lived (but excellent!) television series *Firefly*, which it continues, the movie also stands alone as a solid, action-packed sci-fi/western adventure.

Myrin Library featured on cover of CHOICE

The photo on the front of this newsletter will appear on the cover of the library journal CHOICE in May of this year. CHOICE, a scholarly book review journal, is published by the Association of College & Research Libraries and is used by many academic librarians as an important collection development tool.

During the course of the year there are only 11 libraries chosen from around the country for the covers of CHOICE. This is indeed a fine compliment to the Myrin Library.

The Myrin Library News

is a publication of the
Myrin Library at Ursinus College

Director: Charles A. Jamison

Editor: Diane Skorina

Web Edition: David Mill

Thanks to:

Jessica Gallagher

Judith Fryer

Denise Hartman