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## Myrin Library News, Vol. 20 No. 1, August 2007

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**Reference Desk Hours  
Fall 2007:**

**Monday & Tuesday**

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

**Wednesday**

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

IM Reference 6-8 p.m.

**Thursday**

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Friday**

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday**

BY APPOINTMENT

IM: MEEBO Us on our Homepage!

For all library hours, visit:

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

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Visit us on the web at:

<http://myrin.ursinus.edu>

# The Myrin Library News

## New In the Library:

### Liaison Program Begins; New Website in the Works; Computer Lab Re-Modeled; E-Resources; New Catalog System May Be Coming in 2009

We've been working hard all summer to improve our services. Here's an overview of what's new in Myrin.

#### LIAISON PROGRAM

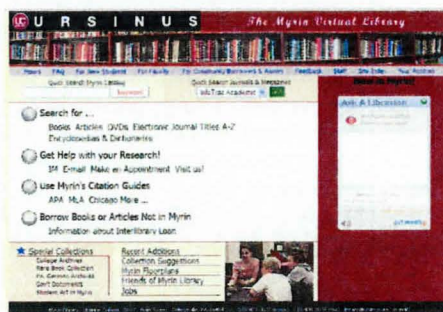
Beginning this Fall, Myrin's new Library Liaison Program links a librarian to each department on campus. Liaisons will spend time getting to know each department's faculty members, course offerings and research needs. They will be available to, among other things, assist with research questions, provide research workshops, develop the library collection to better support the department, set-up database trials and work to acquire new databases. Faculty members should feel free to contact the Librarian assigned to liaise with their department about any questions and expect a quick response.

Full details for the new Liaison Program can be found at: <http://myrin.ursinus.edu/liaison.pdf>.

The list of assigned Liaisons for each department is in the Box on Page 3. Stay tuned for e-mails with more details.

#### NEW WEBSITE IN THE WORKS

This Summer, the Library Website Re-design Team has been hard at work re-envisioning Myrin's webpage, which hasn't been substantially revised since 1997. The team has worked together to modernize the look of the webpage, update the information there and simplify the layout. The new version will be tested for usability during the Fall Semester, and we aim to have it completely replace the old site by January 2008. Stay tuned for e-mail updates and please give us your much needed feedback!



Coming Soon: The New & Improved Myrin Website!

#### COMPUTER LAB RE-MODELED

Last semester, Myrin worked with Computing Services to remove the old, mostly broken computers in Room 030 in the

*Continued on page 3*

## Welcome Back!

From Charlie Jamison, Library Director



On behalf of the Myrin Library staff, I welcome you back to what I hope will be a productive and enjoyable fall semester. We are here at the Myrin Library to help you with any and all of your information and research needs. Please take advantage of the remarkable resources and comfortable study space that Myrin has to offer.

This issue of our Newsletter talks about a number of new programs and services Myrin is in the process of beginning. We hope you'll enjoy! If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, feel free to contact me or any of the Librarians.

## Staff News

**Gwen Marshall** has joined the Library Staff as the new Technical Services Assistant for Periodicals & Government Documents. She comes to us after working 5 years as Administrative Assistant in the Center for Continuous Learning here at Ursinus. She started work in July and we're very excited to have her with us! Gwen spends much of her spare time with her 18-month old daughter Jordan, and loves to sing. Gwen takes over for Theresa Tuscano, who passed away last March.



**David Mill's** sabbatical study article has been accepted for publication in the prestigious ACRL publication *College & Research Libraries*.



"Undergraduate Information Resource Choices" is tentatively scheduled to appear in the September 2008 issue of the journal, which is one of the most highly visible ones in the Library world. David presented a Baden lecture in the Spring of 2007.

## The Changing Nature of Reference

Myrin is changing its Reference Desk Hours slightly this Fall (see Front Page side-panel), and is also looking to purchase more online reference sources than print ones. These changes will address the fact that Reference Desk transactions have been in decline in academic libraries, in general and at Ursinus particularly, for quite some time now. Myrin's Reference Desk sees very few traditional reference questions – questions like "When did World War 2 start" or "What's the average temperature in Alaska." Students generally turn to the web for these answers.

Librarians spend most of their time with students on what are better termed "Research Consultations" than "Reference Questions." In the simplest of these, we direct students to the proper database they should use for their particular project. In the more complex consults, we work with them to find articles for their papers and research projects, guiding them to the right resources and helping them to formulate effective searches. In some cases, we even help them to refine their topics and develop arguments, showing them new ways to look for different kinds of information. The majority of the resources we use are online – like *InfoTrac* and *MLA Bibliography* – and many provide at least some full text. We want to encourage students to make appointments with us for these kinds of consultations.

With neither Librarians nor students relying on traditional print reference books, Myrin is looking into online reference sources that can compete with the World Wide Web and its popular, but academically controversial, sites like Wikipedia and About.com. Students will likely still turn to the web for many of their information needs, but if the library has authoritative, full-text resources available online, librarians can guide them to more academically acceptable and consistent sources available on the Web.

A Reference weeding project is underway to create a smaller, more manageable and most importantly more *useful* print "Research Collection" to support student research as opposed to the reference questions that are seldom asked any more. This Research Collection will include specialized Encyclopedias, dictionaries, bibliographies, indexes, study guides, and other relevant books.

In the future, the Reference Department, will likely purchase more online materials, including e-books, than print ones. Just as indexes and bibliographies are easier to use as online resources, so too are encyclopedias, dictionaries and other traditional reference resources. Most students are already on the web, and we need to meet them where they are with authoritative and reliable sources.



Wanna know the definition of "axenic"?  
Forget that dictionary!....

*Librarians spend most of their time with students on what are better termed "Research Consultations" than "Reference Questions."*



More and more people are logging on to the Internet for their basic reference questions.

## First Year Library Orientation Site in Blackboard

Diane Skorina worked with Instructional Technologist Jean Bennett — whose office is conveniently located on the 3rd Floor of Myrin — over the summer to set up a First-Year Library Orientation site in Blackboard. This site is intended to introduce new students to the Library, and includes how-to information, a brief tutorial on the differences between using the Web and Google, staff photos and biographies, and pictures of Library sponsored events. This special site is tied into the general First Year Blackboard Orienta-

tion, and presents relevant information in a way that is easier for First-Year Students to explore than the website.

Diane and Jean also included 4 videos on Plagiarism and how to avoid it. One video shows a group of First-Years talking about plagiarism and its consequences, and another features Professors Ross Doughty, Robin Clouser, and Robert Dawley talking about the same issues from the faculty perspective.

## New in the Library, cont'd

Basement of Myrin, replacing them with 4 new desktop workstations. Survey results from the Spring 2006 Library survey indicated that the majority of students and faculty on campus didn't use the lab very much.

This summer, the room benefited from some cosmetic improvements that will make it more suited to teaching and learning.



The New Teaching Space in Myrin 030

Facilities Services removed

the foam from the walls and re-painted. Librarian Diane Skorina and ILL Supervisor Sarah Penniman worked with Instructional Technologists Jean Bennett & Tori Waskiewicz to rearrange the tables into pods where students can sit together, work together, and comfortably use their laptops. We hope to see some faculty, staff and students in Research and IT Workshops in the new space!

### PERIODICALS A-Z LISTING

Starting this Fall, Myrin will have an A-Z listing of most of the electronic journals available in the library. See the link on the website for this much needed improvement, which will allow you to search through Myrin's many Journal Titles to find the ones you need and the ones you didn't know we had. Contact Kerry Gibson for more information at kgibson or ext. 2460.

### EARLY AMERICAN IMPRINTS SERIES 1 CATALOGED

Myrin has added over 30,000 catalog records for the primary sources of Early American Im-

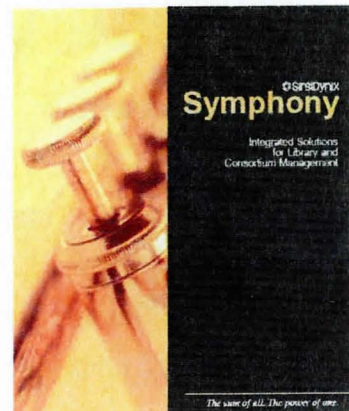
prints. This wonderful electronic resource provides access to everything printed in America from 1639 to 1800 — and now you can find it all! A search in the Catalog on "Early American Imprints" will allow you to browse these materials, and each record contains a direct link to the digital document.

### NEW CATALOG POTENTIALLY COMING IN 2009

Myrin's catalog has served the Library and the campus well over the past 19 years, and now exciting changes are coming. SirsiDynix Corporation is discontinuing support for DRA in February of 2009, which means that Myrin must migrate all of its information to a new system. This will require a significant investment of time and money, but the new technology will catapult Myrin and its ability to support the extensive amount of research at Ursinus College into the 21st Century.

SirsiDynix's new catalog system, called Symphony, will greatly improve the search capabilities and display properties of the catalog. Symphony will allow Myrin to streamline its technical services processes by combining acquisitions, cataloging, circulation and serials management into one centralized computer system. Symphony also serves as a Content Management system for the Library, and will potentially allow us to create online subject guides for each academic discipline.

The migration to the new system and staff training are tentatively set to take place in the Summer of 2008. For more information, see <http://www.sirsidynix.com/Solutions/Products/integratedsystems.php> or contact David Mill.



*Sirsi's Symphony platform for the catalog will catapult Myrin into the 21st Century with its new features.*

## Liaisons

**Charlie Jamison** is the Liaison for:

Art & Art History  
Environmental Studies  
Philosophy & Religion

**Kerry Gibson** is the Liaison for:

Dance/Theater  
Government Documents  
Modern Languages  
Music

**Diane Skorina** is the Liaison for:

African American Studies  
American Studies  
Classics  
Business & Economics  
East Asian Studies  
Education  
English  
Exercise & Sport Science  
Gender & Women Studies  
History  
Media & Communications  
Politics & IR  
Sociology/Anthropology

**David Mill** is the Liaison for:

Biochemistry  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Math and Computer Science  
Neuroscience  
Physics  
Psychology



**Myrin Library,  
Ursinus College**

601 E. Main Street  
Collegeville, PA 19426  
(610) 409-3000

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Circulation: ext. 2290  
Reference: ext. 2283  
E-mail: [library@ursinus.edu](mailto:library@ursinus.edu)



Visit us on the web at:

<http://myrin.ursinus.edu>

**The Myrin Library News**

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Myrin Library at Ursinus College  
Director: Charles A. Jamison  
Editor: Diane Skorina  
Web Edition: Diane Skorina &  
David Mill

## Upcoming Events: First Fridays & Exhibits

Myrin has an exciting line-up of First Friday Events this fall. **The events begin at 3 p.m. in Jazzman's Café.** Stay tuned for e-mail updates:

**October 5:** WHYY TV-12 broadcaster Ed Cunningham will speak about his Philadelphia documentaries.

**November 2:** Dr. F. Donald Zucker, Emeritus, Political Science, will read from and talk about his two books, *I Remember Trieste: a Post World War II Army Memoir* and *I'm Still Here: Incidents From his Life starting with the First Grade.*

**December 7:** 2nd Annual Holiday Celebration and Sing-a-Long led by Tech Services

Librarian Kerry Gibson. Students & Faculty are invited to perform! The session concludes with Kerry leading the audience in holiday songs.

**Exhibits:**  
**Lobby cases:** Summer Fellows Papers on display for September!



Ed Cunningham

**2nd Floor Archives Exhibit:**

Football Season is here! Photos and memorabilia from Ursinus football teams of old are on display. Check out the football from the November 12, 1932 game where Ursinus defeated Swarthmore, 20-0.



## Staff Recommendations

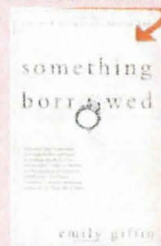
When a recommendation is available in the library, the call number and floor location are noted after the title.

**Diane Skorina** recommends *If On a Winter's Night, A Traveler* by Italo Calvino [3rd Flr, 853.914 C139if], her new favorite book. She hasn't liked a book this much since she read *Lolita* nearly 10 years ago.

While doing research for a journal article on Southern Rock music, Library Director **Charlie Jamison** recently read *Midnight Riders: The Story of The Allman Brothers Band* by Scott Freeman and *Skydog: The Duane Allman Story* by Randy Poe. Both are recommended to anybody interested in this genre of American popular music.

**David Mill** recommends Ian McEwan's *Saturday* [3rd Flr, 823.914 M158s]. This novel documents, in extraordinary detail, a single, unsettling day in the life of a London neurosurgeon. It is a wonderfully written work, both suspenseful and revealing. David read McEwan all summer.

## FROM THE STACKS



Greetings Fellow Bibliophiles! The summer has given me ample opportunity to read! The first book I am going to review is *Something Borrowed* by Emily Giffin ( St. Martin's Press 2005). This book tells the story of two best friends, Rachel and Darcy, who have known each other since grade school. The night of Rachel's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, she starts to think about when she and Darcy looked forward to turning thirty. Rachel had wanted a house with a white picket fence, 2.5 kids and maybe a dog or two. She has none of this. Darcy, on the other hand, has an exciting, fast-paced PR career and a wonderful fiancé named Dexter, who Rachel had introduced to Darcy seven years previous. The main plot revolves around the fact that Rachel has slept with Dexter. As the story progresses, a clearer picture of the relationship between Rachel and Darcy develops. Before I started this book, I thought for sure I would be firmly on Darcy's side and absolutely appalled at Rachel. Surprisingly, this did not turn out to be the case. This book delves into what friendship really is and what it means, and I guarantee it will make you look more closely at the friends you have. I suggest reading this book over a weekend, because you will not be able to put it down! As always if there is a book you think I should review, e-mail me at [Lisakmann@ursinus.edu](mailto:Lisakmann@ursinus.edu). Until then Happy Reading!