



- IN THIS ISSUE:**
- **From the Director**
 - **U.S. Constitution First Amendment Exhibit**
 - **“Tholin Chicagoana Collection” Donation**
 - **At Your Service: New Information Services Desk**
 - **New Library Services Staff Member**
 - **Copyright Corner**
 - **Archives Exhibit**
 - **Library Orientations**
 - **The Final Word: 21st Century Online Scholarship**

FROM THE DIRECTOR



As part of North Central College Library Services’ ongoing assessment program, a library user survey is conducted every two years. In 2004 the survey was designed and distributed by library staff and analyzed by five students in Dr. Mary Galvan’s Market Research BUS 393 course. The students’ work was so exceptional that when faced with this year’s library user survey, the library asked students in Dr. Galvan’s class not only to analyze the results of the survey but also to design and distribute it. Again, the students’ work was exceptional!

The 2006 NCC Oesterle Library Assessment Survey was the combined effort of three students - Vanessa Guizor, Aimee Sayles, and Erin Welch. The students designed a survey that consisted of five “yes” or “no” questions; 10 questions formatted as a Likert Scale with “strongly agree,” “agree,” “disagree,” and “strongly disagree” as responses; and five questions using three types of measurement scales: dichotomous responses, category scales, and open ended questions. The three main areas surveyed were facilities, information resources, and services.

Faculty members were asked to distribute surveys to students in their classes, and the survey was sent electronically to faculty and staff. 341 responses to the survey were analyzed: 31.1% of those surveyed were freshmen; 21.7% sophomores; 18.5% junior; 20.02% seniors; 4.7% faculty; and 3.8% staff. Based on the findings from the survey, the authors made specific recommendations in their 100 page report, concluding that “the library is fulfilling the needs of the NCC Community.”

Carolyn A. Sheehy
Director of Library Services

U.S. CONSTITUTION FIRST AMENDMENT EXHIBIT

“We the People...,” an exhibit in the library lobby commemorating Constitution Day (September 18) and Banned Books Week (September 23-30) features resources highlighting the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, including the right to free speech. Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to read and reminds all Americans of their constitutional right to express their opinions, including those that are unorthodox or unpopular, and of the importance of safeguarding the rights of all who wish to read them. In observance of Banned Books Week, Oesterle Library holds a “Read Out” in which faculty, staff, and students read selected passages from books banned or challenged during the past year.

“THOLIN CHICAGOANA COLLECTION” DONATION



As fall term begins, Oesterle Library will have a new collection available in support of North Central College’s Urban and Suburban Studies Program and the “Chicago Term.” The “Tholin Chicagoana Collection” comes to the library courtesy of a donation from the Tholin family. Rare book collectors Richard ’49 and Phyllis ’49 Tholin, and their daughters, have donated their collection, which will total 2,500 volumes once completed, to Oesterle Library with the desire that the collection benefit students and faculty of the college. The collection deals with every aspect of Chicago and its history, and contains many fairly unique items, some of which may only be found at The Newberry Library.

The “Tholin Chicagoana Collection” is housed in Oesterle Library’s Haven Hubbard room. Patrons may use these materials, classified as a “special reference collection,” whenever the library is open. All items in the collection will be visible in the online catalog, CardinalCat. (Faculty only will have borrowing privileges.)

After graduating from North Central College, Richard Tholin went on to earn a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the Evangelical Theological Seminary (ETS) and a Ph.D. from Union Seminary in New York. He later returned to ETS, which eventually merged to become Garrett –Evangelical Theological Seminary, as Assistant Professor of Church and Society and Director of Field Education. He taught at ETS until he retired in 1993, serving as Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs for the final seven years of his career.

Her husband’s hobby of book collecting introduced Phyllis Tholin to the world of antiquarian books, an interest which in 1979 turned into a career as a used and rare book dealer with a specialty in women’s history. Her husband joined her after his retirement, adding Chicagoana as a second specialty of their mail order and online book business.

AT YOUR SERVICE: NEW INFORMATION SERVICES DESK

Do you have a question about finding library materials or doing research? Need to check out a book or pick up an interlibrary loan item? Located in the Oesterle Library lobby, the new Information Services Desk offers patrons a single point where library staff provide the full range of services formerly offered separately at the Circulation Desk and the Reference Desk. By integrating the two desks, the library is now able to offer better and more efficient service, while reducing patron confusion.

In addition to a student assistant, a library staff member is available at the Information Services Desk to answer quick and routine reference questions (such as those about how to look up a book in the library catalog or where in the building a specific resource is located). Three public computers have been moved into the lobby facing the Information Services Desk so that staff can use them in answering reference questions. In-depth and specialized reference questions are referred to the librarian “on call.” “On call” librarians (who wear pagers) will assist patrons with in-depth research questions anywhere in the library.

Please stop by to see the changes yourself. The staff at the new Information Services Desk will be happy to help you with your library needs.

NEW LIBRARY SERVICES STAFF MEMBER



A familiar face will be at the new Information Services Desk this fall, but with a new title. **Aimee Sayles ’06**, a three year library worker who quickly rose to the position of Student Coordinator, joins the library staff as a Reference Services Librarian Assistant. At the same time she will begin studies at Dominican University toward a Masters of Library and Information Science degree. Her dream is to become an academic librarian with an emphasis on instruction. “I’m so glad to be able to come back as a staff member at North Central. This job is a great opportunity for me to be able to work with the faculty, staff, and students who gave me so much support during my time as a student.”

COPYRIGHT CORNER by Ted Schwitzner

Issues of copyright and their impact on academia will be explored this year in “Copyright Corner.” The first in a series of three articles explains copyright basics and how they apply to libraries. Watch this space in the winter and spring editions of EX LIBRIS for information on other aspects of copyright law.

Copyright has been a highly-publicized topic in recent years, thanks largely to cases involving music file sharing. The concept of copyright is hundreds of years old, first introduced in early English law. Copyright in the United States was instituted in the Constitution, giving Congress the power to establish a system that balanced the rights of an author with the virtue of distributing knowledge to produce “a well-informed citizenry.”¹

The protections granted to authors—and to the creator(s) of any creative work (book, article, song, movie, photograph, etc.)—include the exclusive rights to do the following (17 USCS 106):

- Duplicate the work
- Distribute copies of the work publicly
- Prepare derivative works
- Perform the work publicly
- Display the work publicly

Fortunately, copyright law provides exemptions that limit the above exclusive rights. One such exemption, the “first sale doctrine,” allows libraries to exist and to lend books and other materials that were lawfully acquired to library patrons. The sale of a book, CD, or DVD to a library completes a transaction covering the copyright owner’s distribution rights. The library, while it doesn’t own the copyright, does become entitled to lend the work. The key element here is that there is only one copy of the work available for use.

However, digital objects, such as MP3 files, computer programs, web sites, and even electronic journal articles, may be exempt from the first sale doctrine because sharing this type of work commonly involves creating a copy, including transmitting or posting copies on the Internet, and also including printing copies. If the copy being made is permanent or fixed in some way, multiple copies become available for use, thus potentially violating the copyright owner’s rights of duplication. This violation forms the crux of most file-sharing cases.

Fortunately for scholars and students, using electronic articles and making printouts are usually permitted through license agreements and the doctrine of “fair use.” However, before you burn a CD of your iTunes files for a friend, be aware that in so doing you may be violating copyright.

For additional information about copyright and the legitimate uses of library resources, as well as information about creating links to journal articles in library databases, see the “Linking to Articles” web page, found under “Technical Help” on the library’s web site.

¹ Russell, Carrie. *Complete Copyright: An Everyday Guide for Librarians*. American Library Association, 2004. p. 1

ARCHIVES EXHIBIT: THE EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

To celebrate the dedication this fall of the newly renovated Kiekhofler Hall, both Archives exhibit spaces (in the Oesterle Library lobby and in the Archives Reference Room) will feature photographs, artwork, and publications from the Evangelical Theological Seminary. The Seminary was founded in 1873 by the Evangelical Association, the same denomination that founded the College in 1861. Before purchasing its first property in 1908, the Seminary rented rooms in Old Main. The building now named Kiekhofler Hall was built in 1913. Shortly after the 1968 merger formed the United Methodist Church, the Seminary merged with Garrett Seminary and relocated to Evanston, Illinois. The exhibits show various aspects of Seminary life, from the championship men's basketball team to graduating classes. The Oesterle Library lobby exhibit case may be viewed any time the library is open, while the Archives Reference Room exhibit is available for viewing only when the Archives are open (Monday-Friday 1-4pm or by appointment).

LIBRARY ORIENTATIONS

Orientations to Oesterle Library will be held Tuesday, September 19 from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. and Saturday, September 23 from 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. No advance registration is necessary. Participants meet in the lobby of the library.

THE FINAL WORD: 21ST CENTURY ONLINE SCHOLARSHIP by Rosemary Henders

“The Final Word” this year will explore various aspects of 21st century online scholarship. This first in a series of three articles summarizes a variety of opinions regarding the use of Wikipedia for academic research.

Encyclopaedia Britannica has long been recognized as the gold standard of reference books. But what about some of the non-traditional resources cropping up on the Web? Wikipedia is a free online encyclopedia that anyone can edit. It has been called “history’s biggest experiment in collaborative knowledge.”¹ This democratic nature is extremely appealing to students; many professors aren’t so sure. “How does the Wikipedia fit into college level research?” was one of the most frequently asked questions during Oesterle Library instruction sessions last year.

Of all the facts and opinions printed about Wikipedia, no doubt the most often quoted is *Nature*’s December 2005 article reporting on the magazine’s own comparison study of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and Wikipedia. *Nature* reports that “among 42 entries tested, the difference in accuracy was not particularly great: the average science entry in Wikipedia contained around four inaccuracies; *Britannica*, about three.” Subsequently, “*Britannica* demonstrated that *Nature*’s analysis was seriously flawed...and no one has produced a more authoritative study of Wikipedia’s accuracy.”²

One of Wikipedia’s most universally recognized strengths is its currency. “Unlike a paper reference source, Wikipedia is completely up-to-date, with articles on topical events being created or updated within minutes or hours, rather than months or years for printed encyclopedias,” according to Wikipedia’s “About” page. Wikipedia’s greatest strengths may also be its greatest weaknesses. Stories of vandalism committed by politicians and their staff members to “slam a rival or laud themselves” are common.³ Stacy Schiff, in the July 31, 2006 online edition of *The New Yorker* (posted July 24), states in the article “Can Wikipedia Conquer Expertise?” that “...the article on the ‘2006 Israel-Lebanon Conflict’ has been edited more than four thousand times since it was created, on July 12th, six hours after Hezbollah militants ignited the hostilities by kidnapping two Israeli soldiers.” While this level of currency is certainly impressive, one might question whether 4,000 edits to one article over twelve days by editors with unknown credentials guarantees accuracy.

Who are these editors and what is their expertise? *Nature*’s encyclopedia review also “surveyed more than 1,000 *Nature* authors and found that although more than 70% had heard of Wikipedia and 17% of those consulted it on a weekly basis, less than 10% help to update it.” Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales admits, “Most entries are edited by enthusiasts, and the addition of a researcher can boost article quality hugely.”⁴

The “Wikipedia: About” page is peppered with disclaimers cautioning users to be selective in their use of Wikipedia for research purposes. One never knows when the article being used is the one that was “created or updated within minutes or hours” and has not yet been reviewed by a volunteer editor with a strong knowledge in the field. Whether errors appear because open editing leads to abuse or through honest mistakes is immaterial. “Wikipedia: About” cautions that “...newer articles may still contain significant misinformation, unencyclopedic content, or vandalism.”

Wales himself probably gives the best advice for students tempted to use his brainchild: “It’s good enough knowledge, depending on what your purpose is...For God sake [sic], you’re in college; don’t cite the encyclopedia.”⁵

¹ Poe, Marshall. “The Hive.” *The Atlantic Monthly* 292:2 (2006):86. 16 Aug. 2006.

² Ibid. 94.

³ Hamby, Peter. “Campaign Manager Resigns Amid Wikipedia Flap.” 26 April 2006. *CNN.com*. 27 April 2006. <<http://www.cnn.com/2006/POLITICS/04/26/cox.wikipedia/index.html>>.

⁴ “Internet Encyclopaedias Go Head to Head.” *Nature* 438:7070 (2005): 901. 16 Aug. 2006. <<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v438/n7070/pdf/438900a.pdf>>.

⁵ “Wikipedia Founder Discourages Academic Use of His Creation.” 12 June 2006. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. 13 June 2006. <<http://chronicle.com/wiredcampus/article/1328/wikipedia-founder>>.

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http://www.noctrl.edu/library_ncc/about_us/exlibris/exlibris.htm

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