Good day! Is anyone else ready for spring?

Spring is the season for several annual Library activities, including National Library Week in April. Please share “your story” with the campus community by participating in the “My 5 Favorite Books” event (see details inside).

Spring also brings our annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. Please take a few minutes to respond. Your feedback is important to us! User feedback from the 2009 and 2010 surveys led to increasing the number of student workstations in the building, implementing this year’s “Quiet @ Your Library” campaign, and allocating more funding for video acquisitions – to name only a few examples. We are also working on a plan to add more quiet studies and two group study rooms. So, please, let us hear what we can do to improve our services and resources.

Your feedback is one of many mechanisms we use in our goal for continuous improvement. We also monitor the changing library technology scene so as to provide the best possible technology for our users. To that end, we will move to a new online catalog and circulation system in late May. Our current system (Horizon) is a dinosaur in library land. We will join with the Harford County Public Library in replacing it with a “next gen” catalog. Here are some of the improvements you will see: faceted searching (a quick way to modify your search results), results sorting by relevance, improved lists of new acquisitions (which you can receive via your RSS reader), an option for users to update their contact information and to maintain their reading history online, and a “mobile catalog.” Polaris will also enable us to update and maintain catalog and circulation records more efficiently. Most importantly, Polaris is a system that can grow flexibly as library technology continues to advance.

April brings the arrival of our newly-hired Instructional Services Librarian. Gina Calia-Lotz comes to us with experience at several university libraries including Towson, Loyola/Notre Dame, and UMCP, as well as experience as a web useability tester for Project Muse. Please join us in welcoming her to HCC.

Our other spring news is our “one-on-one research consultation” service. Please take a moment to read about it, along with all the other news in this issue of the LIRN Newsletter. Happy reading and happy spring!

Carol Allen
Director

Introducing one-on-one research consultations

This spring the library has initiated a new service for students, one-on-one research consultations. Librarians will work with individual students to help them on a variety of issues, such as providing help on choosing topics for research papers, forming search queries and using databases effectively, and using Noodlebib to create citation lists.

Outlining, proofreading or other mechanics of writing will not be covered, and we will continue to direct students to the Tutoring Center for writing support.

We have set up a web-based form available at http://www.harford.edu/library/faculty_services/infolit/consultation_request.htm, which students can use to schedule a consultation. Paper forms are also available at the Reference Desk.

This service will provide more in-depth support than we can usually provide at the Reference Desk.

Please feel free to recommend the service to “anxious” students.
Global Issues in Context takes both a macro and micro approach to issues of global importance, covering broad topics such as terrorism, global climate change, industrial accidents, the global economy and genocide as well as specific events related to those broader issues. This is the resource to use when looking for news and information such as the escalation of tensions between North and South Korea, the safety of Chinese imports, the outbreak of cholera in Haiti or the decline of the Euro.

Hundreds of international English language periodicals allow users to read the news as it happens where it happens. The database covers a variety of nations from multiple perspectives, including social, political, military, economic, environmental, health and cultural issues. Extensive multimedia features—including video and audio files and interactive statistics—are also available. Users can browse by issue or search by region of the world using an interactive world map.

To access Global Issues in Context, click on the “Articles & Databases” link on the left-hand side of the library homepage — http://harford.edu/library—and then click on either the letter “G” or select “News” as the subject.
Your Story @ Your Library

Ernest Hemingway wrote, “All good books are alike in that they are truer than if they had really happened and after you are finished reading one you will feel that all that happened to you and afterwards it all belongs to you.” There is nothing like the experience of being captivated by a wonderful book. So, to celebrate National Library Week 2011, the HCC Library invites everyone on campus to share their 5 Favorite Books.

All books, fiction and nonfiction, can be chosen for this activity. Suggested titles in the Reference Librarians’ office included the graphic novel, Watchmen, the children’s novel, Black Beauty, and the biography A Beautiful Mind.

Starting in mid-February, the campus community can access an electronic form available from the Library Website and the Owlnet Library tab and submit their 5 Favorite Books.

There will also be paper forms in the library, at the 2nd floor Reference Desk. All participants have the option of providing a picture of themselves that will be included on their 5 Favorite Books poster. Submissions will be accepted until Wednesday, March 16.

When National Library Week begins on April 11, the My 5 Favorite Books posters will be on display in the Library, on the Library website and on our Face Book page. The recommended titles will be linked to the library catalog.

Take advantage of this opportunity to share the books that have thrilled, inspired or entertained you with your fellow students and colleagues.

Janis Jordan

Help Us Celebrate National Library Week

What is the HCC Library’s favorite celebration? If you answered National Library Week, you are correct.

What is National Library Week? According to the American Library Association’s website, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation’s libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. This year, the week runs from April 10 through April 16.

During this week, there will be a quilt display, featuring The Heart of Maryland Libraries quilt. See the vivid quilt on the 2nd floor of the library during regular library hours. The Fall 2009 issue of The Citizen describes the project as follows, “The 27 squares in the quilt were completed by 18 county library systems, 2 college/university libraries, 3 county school systems, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Department of Library and Development Services, the Maryland Association of School Librarians and the Maryland Library Association provided squares for the quilt. Nearly 130 people were involved in creating the 27 unique quilt squares”

You can look forward to a variety of activities during the week of April 10.
Library offers more tutorials than ever

We now have 13 tutorials to help you and your students with information literacy needs. Some are course specific and some are for general research. Contact Jess Ambrose at jeambrose@harford.edu for scores.

Course Specific Tutorials

- Our newest tutorial is for psychology instructors. Entitled, Research Study, it covers the elements of a study and how to locate them. There is a quiz at the end of the tutorial.
- For nursing students there is Types of Nursing Literature-1 and Locating Nursing Literature-2.
- Locating Science Resources covers online databases and contains a quiz.
- Locating Literary Criticism defines literary criticism and tells students where they can find reliable sources.

General Tutorials

Library Catalog, Locating Web Sources, Online Databases, and Plagiarism all have attached quizzes.

Citation help can be found in the following tutorials: Noodlebib; MLA Basics; MLA, Part II; and APA. These also have quizzes.

There is also a tutorial on Google Scholar and Periodical Locator.
New Books of Interest

Cruising for Trouble: Cruise Ships as Soft Targets for Pirates, Terrorists, and Common Criminals

Mark Gaouette
G550.G362010

If you or a loved one has ever enjoyed a cruise, the last thing on your mind was worry over security on board the ship. Mark Gaouette, who served as director of security for Princess Cruises and Cunard Cruise Lines, and now does consulting for the Dept of Homeland Security, wrote this book to open the eyes of travelers everywhere. Read it to learn what dangers lurk and to learn Gaouette’s recommendations for meeting this challenge.

Hooligans, Harlots, and Hangmen: Crime and Punishment in Victorian Britain

David Taylor
HV6943.T392010

“Encompassing the crimes of the never-identified Jack the Ripper, as well as many other equally intriguing criminals... [This title] is a detailed study of the criminal justice system as it evolved from the accession of Queen Victoria in 1837 to the outbreak of the ‘Great War’ in 1914.” This summary from the title’s book flap makes it clear what a useful and fascinating trove of information readers will find here.

Violence and Security on Campus: From Preschool through College

James Alan Fox and Harvey Burstein
LB3013.3.F692010

“A remarkable book . . . This comprehensive volume covers a multitude of concerns, from safety on the school bus and the playground to bullying, gangs, and school shootings; from protecting school assets to emergency preparedness and crisis communication. This is an important book for professionals in all levels of education.”

Peter Langman, Ph.D. Author of Why Kids Kill: Inside the Minds of School Shooters

Disneys, Pixar, and the Hidden Messages of Children’s Films

M. Keith Booker
PN1995.9.C45B56201

The media’s effect on children has long been an area of interest. This book focuses on the history of movies for young people starting with Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and ending with Up from 2009. The author examines the influence of Disney and Pixar on their young audience.
Life on the Reference Desk

“The other day a person in full scuba gear (wetsuit, air tank, mask, mouthpiece, etc.) approached the desk and asked where she might find books about scuba diving. I printed out a list of titles and directed her to the 3rd floor. Someone was videotaping the whole transaction. Definitely the most holistic approach to research I have ever seen!”

Pam Sarno
Reference Librarian

Bones for Sale

Well, not actually for sale, but available for study.

Professor Wendy Rappazzo asked us to purchase a set of anatomy parts to help students study for their A & P course. The anatomy models have been so incredibly popular that we have added a second set. The models are kept behind the circulation desk of the second floor of the library. They are currently on reserve, and may be checked out by students for In Library use only. The collection includes more than just bones — lungs, heart, stomach, liver, gallbladder, and intestines are also available!

Your Story @ Your Library
April 11-17, 2011

National Library Week
Used Book Sale, April 11-15,
Heart of Maryland Libraries quilt display, April 4-17,
My 5 Favorite Books, April 11-30
Poetry Board, candy, amnesty for overdue library materials, free drawing for a $50 gift certificate to Laurrapin Grille and more!
A Day in the Life of the Library

On October 5, 2010, the HCC Library, along with libraries all over the state, celebrated Maryland Library Snapshot Day. This was an opportunity to collect statistics, pictures and stories that show how Marylanders love and use their libraries. It was designed to provide a picture of one day in the life of Maryland libraries.

This is what happened at the HCC Library on October 5:

- 3,727 people visited the library
- 144 questions were answered by the library staff
- 5 classes, reaching 72 students were taught
- 280 items circulated
- 5,870 database searches were executed

Clearly HCC students love and use their library!!

We’re looking for a few good books

We will be accepting your gently read books until the first week in April for our National Library Week Book Sale. The sale will take place April 11-15 on the library’s second floor.

Please consider donating your children’s books, cookbooks, travel books, fiction and nonfiction books, DVDs, music CDs, books on CD and games to the library. Donations may be books, recorded books, videos, music on CD, or computer games. We do not accept magazines—other than cooking magazines—encyclopedias, text books or Reader’s Digest Condensed Books. Please drop your donations off at the Circulation Desk, Library, 2nd floor.

The Book Sale is an annual tradition, but this year we’ve added a couple of twists: Customers will receive one entry form for every dollar spent to be entered into the drawing for a $50 gift certificate at Laurrapin Grille. In addition, customers attending the last day of the sale, April 15, can cram as many books as can fit into a grocery bag for the low price of $6.

All proceeds go toward a HCC Foundation Textbook Scholarship, supported by the Library.

So bring us those books you know you’ll never read again and we’ll find them a new home. And stop by April 11-15 for some new used books to fill those gaps in your shelves.
My favorite book

“It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.” I have read the opening line above several times, and each time, I am filled with anticipation for the quirky characters, surprising plot twists and elegant language that make up the book *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. I am not one to re-read anything. I have a very small home library because when I have finished a book, I give it away. Not *Pride and Prejudice*. It holds pride of place on my bookshelf.

What relevance can this book, written in the 18th century, have to today’s reader? I find more examples every time I read the book. Some might find the language stilted and uncomfortable to 21st century readers.

I discovered that the language in this book (or any other “period” piece) becomes more familiar and easy to understand the longer one reads. The plot has enough twists and back flips to satisfy anyone looking for variety. However, the single biggest element that keeps me coming back again and again is the characters. Has there ever been a sillier woman than Mrs. Bennet? Yet, almost everyone knows someone much like her. Mr. Bennet is, like many fathers even today, remote emotionally, but devoted when the chips are down.

The central characters, Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy, play out their convoluted romance in a manner that anyone who has ever been in love will identify with. It’s refreshing to discover that even in the 18th century, “men are from Mars and women are from Venus.”

If you’ve “always meant to” read *Pride and Prejudice* but just haven’t gotten around to it, I cannot recommend it highly enough. I guarantee you will find familiar situations and personalities, even though the book was written almost 200 years ago.

Mary Somers
Reference Librarian