

Alma College Library News

Vol. 4, No. 1

Fall 2008

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From the Director

by Carol Zeile

Where did the summer go? It seems that only yesterday we were saying goodbye to the graduating seniors and here it is early September, preterm is over and all of the students are back on campus! September is always my favorite time of year. It is exciting to greet the first-year students as they begin their Alma College career, and it is fun to hear about all of the adventures of the returning students.

Summer 2008 was another time of renovation and moving bound periodicals. How many times have we moved the bound periodicals in the last ten years? Is it two, or three, or four times??? In order to allow for expansion of the periodical storage space and to gain four new group study rooms, the library staff and student assistants moved all of the bound periodicals twice during the summer. The result was well worth it and will be greatly enjoyed by students. In addition to changes in the library proper, space has also been added for the Academic and Career Planning office and the Information Technology Department. The renovation is not complete at this writing, so stay tuned for more news and photographs in the winter newsletter.

When the last *Alma College Library News* was written, I was away on sabbatical leave. My original research topic was collaboration between teaching faculty and librarians on small college campuses. As I began to visit small academic libraries it became immediately obvious to me that, while collaboration with teaching faculty is critical, there are many other campus constituents with whom the librarians need to collaborate. Considering the imminent arrival of the Academic and Career Planning office and Information Technology in the library building, it seemed appropriate to look at these types of collaboration as well.

Learning commons including, but not limited to, academic advising, career planning, first-year experience, orientation, reference and research help, IT help desk and off-campus study, are becoming increasingly popular in the small college world. In many ways, the integration of services into the library environment is in response to student requests. Students today are becoming increasingly used to having everything they need at their finger tips. The one-stop-shopping model that we are already using at Alma College for other student services is becoming the norm on college campuses.

I returned after my leave, energized and ready to implement some of what I had observed and learned. The renovation in the library's lower level will give library staff the opportunity to work more closely with both the Academic and Career Planning and with Information Technology to coordinate our services and make them more useful for students. I know that having those staff members right in the building and having a rapport with them will be a great help to our students.



New Databases Offered

by Steven Vest, Head Reference/Instruction Librarian

Over the summer the library added **eleven** new databases and greatly increased both the number of subjects available for research and the number of journals indexed. Ten of the new databases make up the “ProQuest Curriculum Package” and provide access to more than 2200 new titles in a range of subjects from Biology and Nursing to Religion and Military Studies. With the “ProQuest Curriculum Package” there are few departments on campus that won’t find something new and useful. The new databases include:

ProQuest Biology Journals provides access to over 320 titles, with more than 280 available in full text including thousands of articles available online.

ProQuest Computing includes over 390 titles, with over 310 available in full text from scholarly journals and trade publications as well as consumer titles. The database includes product reviews, database design and management, software, hardware, e-commerce, web site development, intranets and extranets, and technology management.

ProQuest Education Journals gives users access to over 760 top educational publications, including more than 600 of the titles in full text. It covers not only the literature on primary, secondary, and higher education but also special education, home schooling, adult education, and hundreds of related topics.

ProQuest Health Management provides complete, full-text information from leading publications covering all aspects of health administration, including public health and safety, hospitals, finance, personnel management, insurance, population studies, labor relations and law.

ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source™ provides healthcare information covering nursing, allied health, alternative and complementary medicine, and much more. It provides abstracting and indexing for more than 780 titles, with over 650 titles in full text, plus more than 11,000 full text dissertations representing the most rigorous scholarship in nursing and related fields.

ProQuest Psychology Journals provides abstracts and indexing for more than 640 titles, with over 540 titles available in full text. Additionally, ProQuest Psychology Journals includes 4,000 full text dissertations representing a range of psychology disciplines including behavioral, clinical, cognitive, developmental, experimental, industrial, personality, physiological, psychobiology, psychometrics and social psychology it also provides coverage of related disciplines including genetics, psychology of business and economics, communication, criminology, addiction, neurology, social welfare, and more. A number of the titles are heavily cited and have a strong set of ISI impact factors

ProQuest Science Journals features over 660 titles—with more than 540 available in full text. In full-text format, researchers have access to all the charts, diagrams, graphs, tables, photos, and other graphical elements so vital to scientific and technical literature.

These journals cover hundreds of topics relating to all major fields of study, including: Physics, Engineering, Astronomy, Biology, Earth Science, and Chemistry.

ProQuest Social Science Journals covers periodicals on social science subjects such as anthropology, culture, criminology, political science, social welfare, urban development, and more.

ProQuest Religion includes over 135 titles, with more than 120 available in full text. Designed to meet the needs of both religious studies programs and general library collections, the database is an excellent source of religious news and information. The database provides details on doctrines and philosophies, reports on religious history, and related archeology. ProQuest Religion also covers formal theological studies and commentary on topics of general interest from the perspectives of specific religions. Primary faiths represented in the database are Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Buddhism.

ProQuest Military Collection™ covers topics across all government and military branches, including international relations, political science, criminology, defense, aeronautics and space flight, communications, civil engineering, and more. It includes over 530 titles, with more than 385 available in full text. A backfile is available for a few select titles: Marine Corps Gazette dating back to 1916, Leatherneck dating back to 1921, and Foreign Affairs dating back to 1923.

We also replaced Basic Biosis with the industry standard Biological Abstracts. Biological Abstracts indexes articles from over 3,700 serials each year with over 350,000 new citations annually. Subjects cover the widest range of biological topics including botany, pharmacology, biochemistry, and evolutionary ecology.

All of these databases are available to anyone who has an Alma College network login. To get access, simply go to the library home page and go to “Search for Articles” under “Online Resources”. You can now search for a database by name or by subject. Click on ProQuest and choose the database you’d like to see. Let us know what you think!

Alma College Library provides services, resources and instruction to support the mission of the College. By creating an environment conducive to learning, exploration and group interaction, the Library strives to foster intellectual curiosity and academic excellence, to be responsive to changes in the delivery of information and to champion life-long learning.



Welcome Sarah!



We are very pleased to welcome Sarah Permoda to the library staff as Reference and Instruction Librarian. Sarah comes to us from Davenport University in Lansing where she served as LinC Specialist. She holds an M.L.S. from Wayne State University and a B.S. from Michigan State University.

Sarah's academic background is in the sciences and she will be working with all disciplines, and especially the sciences, to assist students with their research needs.

Paperback Collection

By Melissa Hovey, Circulation Desk Manager

Science fiction, Romance or Mysteries, what kinds of paperback novels are your favorites? Chances are we have something that would appeal to you in our paperback collection. The collection is located just around the corner from the main floor entrance. Paperbacks can be checked out for 3 weeks. We try our best to keep an interesting selection of current authors and bestsellers. If we are missing something you think would make a good addition, please be sure to let us know and we will try and add it to the collection.

One interesting recent addition to our collection is "Elephants on Acid and other Bizarre Experiments." It is an anthology of the most bizarre scientific experiments ever conducted. The Author, Alex Boese, first came up with the idea while a grad student studying the History of Science at the University of California, San Diego. The resulting compilation is fascinating and amusing.

Another interesting item in the collection is Fresh Water: Women Writing on the Great Lakes. The insightful essays cover territory from Chicago north to the straits and south to Detroit, illuminating the ever present lakes in our lives as Michiganders. It's also a good chance to become familiar with some great Michigan authors.

Whether it's the current bestsellers or some hidden gems, please do take a look next time you are in the library and see what we have to offer.

Michigan Author, Fleda Brown, Visiting Alma College

by Carol Zeile, Library Director

On November 12th, the library will continue our Michigan Author Speaker Series by hosting author Fleda Brown. Brown was born in Columbia, Missouri, and grew up in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She earned her Ph.D. in English (specialty in American Literature) from the University of Arkansas, and in 1978 she joined the faculty of the University of Delaware English Department, where she founded the Poets in the Schools Program, which she directed for more than twelve years. Her books, essays, and individual poems have won many awards. Her sixth collection of poems, *Reunion* (2007), was the winner of the Felix Pollak Prize from the University of Wisconsin. She served as poet laureate of Delaware from 2001-2007, and then retired from the University of Delaware and moved to Traverse City, Michigan. She teaches in the Rainier Writing Workshop, a low-residency MFA program at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA, and she spends summers with her husband, also a retired English professor, at their cottage on a small lake in northern Michigan. Ms. Brown will visit several English classes to discuss the craft of writing and will read from her work Wednesday evening in the library Anderson Reading Area (time to be announced.)



Library News

New Faces in the Library

After saying good-bye to nine student assistants graduating this past spring the library had some positions to fill. Adam Meininger, class of 2010 from Lachine, Michigan and Cassie McCarthy, class of 2012 from the Lansing area were welcomed to the library Circulation Department in May. The Library is also proud to add an additional six new student assistants this fall. We welcome Wallace Abramson, class of 2012 of Saginaw, Ruth Douglas of Williamston, and Jessica Saunders all the way from Ishpeming in the Upper Peninsula. You will find these first year students working at the circulation desk along with Jamie McArthur, class of 2011 of Weidman and Breina Field, class of 2010 of Midland. Marissa Cross, class of 2012, will be joining the workroom in processing area. Marissa comes from Redford, Michigan. Please join us in welcoming all their smiling faces to our library staff.

Textbook Award Congratulations

The library staff members are thrilled to be able to give four \$150 Textbook Awards for the 2009 Academic Year. The students are assessed on quality of service, dependability and growth in knowledge of library services. This year's recipients are: Brittany Fales '09, Antuan Davis Featherstone '09, Jacob Hanley '09 and Kim Lyon '09. Our student assistants are a vital part of the library operations and we are pleased to be able to say thank you through these awards.

Unneeded Books?

by Carol Zeile, Library Director

The Textbook Awards are funded by gifts from the library staff members and others interested in the library services. In addition, the library staff maintains a book sale area located across from the Circulation Desk. We are selling hardcover books for \$.50 and paperbacks for \$.25. The sale books are restocked often, so take a look whenever you are in the library. And, if you have any books you would like to donate to the library, please contact the Circulation Desk. In addition to the book sale we are also sending unneeded books to Better World Books, an organization that offers books for sale on the Internet and shares a portion of the profits with us and our literary partner, Room to Read.



Support the Alma College Library & Students PLEDGE/GIFT COMMITMENT

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Thank you! If you have any questions, please call Carol Zeile @ 989-463-7342 or email: zeile@alma.edu