Surveys evaluate Libraries’ instruction program

How effective are the Libraries’ bibliographic instruction (BI) sessions for UM-St. Louis students? We asked the students and faculty this question and this is what they had to say: “What impressed me the most was the amount of resources that are available at the library!” “Great instructors; they’re very interested and enthusiastic about the library!” “I learned how to access articles from our home computer!”

Earlier this year the Libraries’ Survey Committee conducted two surveys to evaluate the effectiveness of the Libraries’ instruction program and to gain insight into how better to serve the campus community. Survey participants consisted of faculty who brought their classes to an instruction session in the 2003 Winter Semester, and the students who attended those sessions.

Faculty members were given a separate questionnaire for each of the BI sessions that their classes attended. Fifty-two instruction sessions were taught that semester, so 52 questionnaires were sent to the 32 faculty members that participated in the sessions; of these 36 were returned.

625 students compared their ability to do research in the Libraries before and after attending the instruction session. Initially, 11% considered themselves novices, compared with only 1.5% after the session(s). After the session(s), 15% considered themselves to have advanced knowledge of methods of library research, almost tripling the percentage of those who considered themselves advanced before.

79% indicated that the BI session introduced them to new ways of finding information in the library. Also, 81% of the students indicated that the instruction session was helpful for their class assignment [see graph at right], and 83% indicated that these skills could help them in other classes as well. Since the majority of our attendees were seasoned students by the time they received library instruction, two librarians currently are working with campus initiatives geared toward assisting new students. When we asked faculty if they had seen evidence that their students were using more appropriate research sources after the library instruction session, 85% agreed that there was evidence of this in the completed assignments. One faculty member wrote, “I would do this again, my students need higher standards set for their writing.”

It should be noted that most library instruction is initiated at the request of a faculty member. We encourage you to share this valuable resource with your students by scheduling BI sessions for your classes.

---Lisa M. Carman
liam@umsl.edu

Copyright in the Digital Age

Did you know that recent legislation may allow you to place copyrighted materials on MyGateway? How can you tell something is NOT under copyright, or in the public domain? What are the consequences of unintended violation of the copyright laws? Though the Libraries and Librarians cannot and will not dispense legal advice, we can point you to the resources needed to better understand for yourself what you may or may not do, and assist you in their use. You may also contact Reference Librarian Raleigh Muns (muns@umsl.edu; x5059) for personal assistance.

The perfect place to start for all issues on copyright is to go to the source: The United States Copyright Office at www.loc.gov/copyright. Select the choice for CIRCULARS AND BROCHURES for the most concise information regarding copyright issues. We highly recommend Circular Number 1 on COPYRIGHT BASICS which gives the clearest overview of all current copyright issues. At this site you can also access the actual text of current copyright law, as well as all recent and pending legislation.

One of the most important pieces of recent legislation is the Technology, Education And Copyright Harmonization (TEACH) Act. This new law which went into effect on November 2, 2002, liberalizes the rules for using copyrighted information by instructors at accredited educational institutions. Librarian colleagues at North Carolina State University have created a checklist for instructors to determine whether or not one can put a copyrighted item on a web site under the TEACH Act.

You can reach this useful site at www.lib.ncsu.edu/sec/legislative/teachkt/ which contains additional helpful information.

Among the broad provisions of the TEACH Act is that it is restricted only to instructors at an “Accredited nonprofit educational institution,” that “transmission (be) made solely for and reception limited to ... students enrolled in the course,” and that analog versions may be converted to digital formats (under some circumstances you could scan in an article from a journal and mount it for class use on UMSL’s MyGateway). Though it is still not clear to what extent the TEACH Act may be utilized, what is clear is that it offers opportunities for remote education that previously did not exist.

---Raleigh Muns
muns@umsl.edu
In Memory
John Mark Scheu
Feb. 15, 1850 – May 3, 2003

It is with sadness that the Library posts this memorial to (John) Mark Scheu. Mark passed away on May 3, 2003. He worked in the Thomas Jefferson Library for over 20 years, first in the Reference Department, and most recently as Head of Collection Development.

Mark was an alumnus of the University of Kansas and Penn State University. He was a member of the Progressive Librarians Guild and the American Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table.

Mark’s absence is felt; his expertise will be missed.

--Frances Piesberger
spries@umsi.edu

Collection Development Selectors and Their Disciplines

Some collection development responsibilities have been reassigned. For updated information, see the list below.

Anthropology--Mary Doran
mdoran@umsi.edu; ext. 7455

Art/BFA--Clinton Berry
clinton@umsi.edu; ext. 7453

Biology--Mary Zettwoch
zettwoch@umsi.edu; ext. 5082

Black Studies--Dan Crocker
crocker@umsi.edu; ext. 5571

Business--Raleigh Muns
muns@umsi.edu; ext. 5059

Chemistry--Chris Dames
cdames@umsi.edu; ext. 6473

Communication--Amy Arnott
aarnott@umsi.edu; ext. 5053

Criminology--Frances Piesberger
spries@umsi.edu; ext. 5084

Economics--Chris Daniel
cdaniel@umsi.edu; ext. 5071

Education--HeLEN Shaw
hsawh@umsi.edu; ext. 5350

Foreign Languages--Chris Daniel
cdaniel@umsi.edu; ext. 5071

Gender Studies--Chris Niemeyer
niemeyer@umsi.edu; ext. 7008

Gerontology--Lisaandra Carmichael
lisaandra@umsi.edu; ext. 5070

Government Documents--Frances Piesberger
spries@umsi.edu; ext. 5084

Greek Studies--Chris Daniel
cdaniel@umsi.edu; ext. 5071

History--Frances Piesberger
spries@umsi.edu; ext. 5084

Library Science--Lisaandra Carmichael
lisaandra@umsi.edu; ext. 5070

Literature--Marilyn Rodgers
mrodgers@umsi.edu; ext. 5078

Math/Computer Sci--Chris Dames
cdames@umsi.edu; ext. 6473

Music--Lisaandra Carmichael
lisaandra@umsi.edu; ext. 5070

Nursing--Joan Miller
millerbo@umsi.edu; ext. 5350

Optometry--Cheryle Cann
cann@umsi.edu; ext. 5909

Philosophy--Dan Crocker
crocker@umsi.edu; ext. 5571

Physics/Astronomy--Chris Dames
cdames@umsi.edu; ext. 6473

Political Science--Chris Daniel
cdaniel@umsi.edu; ext. 5071

Psychology--Raleigh Muns
muns@umsi.edu; ext. 5059

Public Policy--Lisaandra Carmichael
lisaandra@umsi.edu; ext. 5070

Reference--Clinton Berry
clinton@umsi.edu; ext. 7453

Religion--Mary Doran
mdoran@umsi.edu; ext. 7455

Science, General--Mary Zettwoch
zettwoch@umsi.edu; ext. 5082

Social Work--Mary Doran
mdoran@umsi.edu; ext. 7455

Sociology--Dan Crocker
crocker@umsi.edu; ext. 5571

Julie Dunn-Morton

Julie Dunn-Morton is the Woodcock Curator of American Art for the St. Louis Mercantile Library at UM-St. Louis and is responsible for the care, exhibition, and interpretation of the Woodcock and Mercantile art collections. She creates online and physical exhibitions, monitors the safety of the artwork, and develops educational materials and teacher workshops in support of both collections.

Contributing to her position as curator are Julie’s undergraduate experience at UM-St. Louis, the many summers she spent doing Master’s thesis research on Harriet Hosmer at the Mercantile (Hosmer’s Beatrice Cenci is a key piece in the Mercantile collection), and the writing of her doctoral dissertation on art collectors in St. Louis, beginning with Mercantile members.

Joan Miller

Joan Miller, the Senior Reference Librarian at the Ward E. Barnes Library, supervises Barnes Reference and Library Instruction for the Nursing, Education and Optometry faculty, staff and students on South Campus. She works as a liaison with the faculty to enhance their students’ research skills.

Barnes Library benefits from Joan’s previous positions as Health Sciences Reference Librarian at the University of Louisiana at Monroe and as Coordinator of Public Services at Tarleton State University (extension of Texas A&M).

Joan also has been a practicing artist in jewelry and weaving, with a shop/studio in Santa Fe.

--Mary Doran; mddoran@umsi.edu

Education,
B.A. Art History, University of Delaware; Ph.D. ABD Art History, American Art before 1945, University of Delaware.

Education,
B.A. Art, University of Texas, Austin; M.A. Art History, University of North Texas, Denton; M.S. Information Science, University of North Texas, Denton.

In the Spotlight:
Julie Dunn-Morton

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