WILDPAC Adds A New Interface - Search Now

D’Amour Library, in conjunction with the Law Library, is pleased to introduce the new search interface to the WILDPAC online catalog, Search Now. Although the interface is very different from the one with which users are familiar, it searches the same WILDPAC catalog of the libraries’ holdings. The new results screen (pictured below) incorporates many Web 2.0 features and has been compared to an Amazon or Google search. Search Now is accessible from the D’Amour Library homepage under the heading “FIND Books, Media, and Journals” or from the main search page of WILDPAC.

The Search Now interface provides users with enhanced features that provide a more interactive search experience. Users will be able to limit the results by format, date, location, availability, and language by clicking on the appropriate facet, located on the left-hand side of the screen. A tag cloud located on the right-hand side of the results enables users to refine the list by associated subject terms with a simple mouse click.

Another Web 2.0 application, community tagging, will be especially helpful to the college community. Students will be able to add an identifying “tag” to titles that were useful in their research for a particular project or course. Professors can tag titles that will be of interest to students. Tags are attached to individual titles, and are visible to all Search Now users.

Search Now utilizes advanced spell-checking tools and provides book covers for many titles which link to Amazon.com as well as a list of “Recently Added” materials which enables users to locate recently purchased materials on the subject of the search. The Web 2.0 features of Search Now are only available in the new interface. However, “My Lists” is an enhancement for college users that is available in both Search Now and the “classic” WILDPAC. This feature enables users to save the results of a search strategy across multiple online catalog sessions. In order to create a list, a library user must log-in with a library barcode and PIN.

Although Search Now excels at standard keyword searching, not all searches lend themselves to this tool. Library users who wish to search by author, title, or to utilize advanced search techniques should continue to use the classic WILDPAC searches. These searches are available by selecting the “Advanced Keyword Search” link above the search box on a Search Now screen. Access to course reserves and the chat with a librarian service are provided by links under the logo in the upper right hand column of Search Now.

D’Amour librarians feel this service will make the collections more accessible to library users. Circulation librarian Valerie Bolden-Marshall notes: “This is a superior tool for the College because it is user-friendly. Not only is the display more attractive, it is more functional.”

The Libraries would like to give special thanks to the Office of Information Technology (OIT). Without OIT’s assistance the libraries would not have been able to launch this new search interface.

D’Amour Library will be offering several Techno-Smarts workshops this semester to familiarize members of the community with Search Now.
D'Amour Library

New DVDs
500 Days of Summer
Angels & Demons
Away We Go
Bedtime Stories
Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs
District 9
Fast & Furious (4 Movie Collection)
G I Joe
Hurt Locker
Inglourious Basterds
Julie & Julia
Monsters vs. Aliens
Public Enemies
Star Trek
State of Play
Taking of Pelham 1 2 3
Up
The Tudors Season 3
Lost Season 4
House Season 5
NCIS Season 6

From the Director’s Desk

The picture of my desk that appears with this column is a true picture of my work surface. Over the winter break I had hoped to clean my desk and start the New Year with a neater office than I had ended 2009. Unfortunately that did not happen, but for many good reasons! I hope that all of you will enjoy the fruits of the work that helped keep my desk a mess: the newly refurbished study/computer tables and “Search Now” – the enhanced search interface for WILDPAC.

Thanks to the careful work of Mary Jane Sobinski-Smith, in collaboration with Ariene Rock, the director of administrative services, many folks from the Office of Information Technology, and local craftsman Terry Stone, the study tables that have served D’Amour Library so well for its first 26 years have been resurfaced and re-stained. The new laminate tops blend nicely with the rest of the library’s colors and the newly stained bases now match the chairs that surround them. Larger grommets, wire management, and power strips mounted under the tables give the tables hosting computers a much neater look, not to mention lower the chances of a stray foot kick turning off the power and sending papers into AutoRecovery. And because so many laptops are making their way into the library, other tables have flush-mounted power and data outlets; thus eliminating the need for stretching extension cords across the floor. We hope that you will all enjoy the tables. We know that you will make use of them! Last semester we counted 18,975 uses of the tables (those without computers); an increase of 13.72% over the fall 2008 count.

On Monday, January 25, the new search interface to the combined Law Library and D’Amour Library online catalog, WILDPAC, debuted. We are deeply grateful to Steve Bobowicz and Pat Newcombe of the Law Library for assuming the “heavy lifting” for the project. Hopefully you have tried out this new interface and the “one-stop” searching it offers. If not, please read Josh and Dan’s article about it on page 1 of this newsletter. And then give it a try. We think you will like its ease of use and its enhanced capabilities.

Later in the semester you’ll have an opportunity to let us know what you think about Search Now and about D’Amour Library generally. In April we will be conducting the LibQual+ library satisfaction survey over Manhattan. This will mark the second time D’Amour Library has conducted the survey. In 2007 over 750 students and faculty let us know what services were meeting their expectations, which ones were not, and offered many constructive suggestions for improving their library experience. We hope you will take advantage of the survey to do the same this year. Watch for more information on the survey and the prizes that will be awarded for participation!

So my office is still messy, but the excitement with which the new semester is beginning is well worth the clutter. We hope that you will find the changes in the Library helpful as you work and learn this semester!

- Priscilla Perkins, Director, D’Amour Library

Database News

D’Amour Library has expanded its collection of online databases. The recent purchases of IBISWorld and Iter Bibliography provide access to an extensive collection of source material in the fields of business and the humanities.

IBISWorld has been a leading business product for more than 35 years. IBISWorld contains the largest online collection of industry reports in the United States. More than 700 different industries are covered in this country. Additionally there are Global Industry Reports, Company Profiles, and Demographic Profiles. Most reports are updated at least twice a year. Reports are typically 35 pages long and available to print.

Iter (Latin for journey) Bibliography contains one of the largest collections of sources relating to the Middle Ages and Renaissance (400-1700). This collection includes more than 1,000,000 records from more than 1,700 scholarly journals. In addition to articles visitors will find reviews, bibliographies, catalogs, abstracts, and discographies. These databases are accessible both on-campus and off-campus via D’Amour Library’s Web site.

- Dan Eckert

Outside of a dog, a book is man’s best friend.

Inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read.

- Groucho Marx

Three students using our refinished study tables on the third floor
New Directory and Shelving Grace D’Amour’s Entrance

D’Amour Library proudly unveiled its new floor plan directory last December. The color-coded directory contains a layout of every floor in the building, encompassing the library as well as student services, media services, and the Educational Technology Center. The floor plan is visible as one enters the foyer of the library. The improved display should reduce confusion when locating classrooms, public access computers, study room locations, and general meeting places.

Valerie Bolden-Marshall created the original design in 2007. The library worked with Marketing and External Affairs Department over the fall to update the directory and turn it into an oversized poster.

Fans of our Leisure Reading collection have probably already seen our brand new shelving in the D’Amour Library. As you walk in, you will surely notice that our spinning racks have been replaced with more contemporary dual-sided shelving. We are able to use this shelving not only to display many more new books, but to showcase student art and other display materials. New books are now in call number order and interesting titles are prominently featured. We hope that you like these New Book and Leisure Reading shelves and find them attractive and easy to browse.

- Valerie Bolden-Marshall & Vicky Ludwig

SAILS Results Reveal Our Students’ Strengths

During the Fall 2009 semester 619 Western New England College students from all academic levels and schools participated in the Kent State University designed Standard Assessment for Information Literacy (SAILS). Undertaken as part of D’Amour Library’s self-evaluation, the results provide a snapshot of student information literacy skills by academic level and major compared with other similar academic institutions.

The Association of College and Research Libraries Information Literacy Standards provide the basis for the assessment. SAILS assessed four of the information literacy standards by testing eight developmental skill sets that range from Bloom’s lower order skills (Selecting Finding Tools, Using Finding Tool Features, Retrieving Sources, and Documenting Sources) to higher order thinking skills (Developing a Research Strategy, Searching Evaluating Sources, Understanding Economic, Legal, and Social Issues of Information.)

Aspects of the SAILS results showed that first year students performed at about the same as the institution-type benchmark (Master’s Institutions) in all eight skill sets. These results were not unexpected since information literacy is written into the general college requirements: foundation level objectives and implemented in the First Year Student Information Literacy Program.

Looking at the data by department, a couple of standouts became clear. Students in Education performed better than the institution-type benchmark in “Selecting Finding Tools” and “Retrieving Sources,” while Math/Science scored better than the Western New England College average student in “Selecting Finding Tools” and “Documenting Sources.”

Since information literacy is a developmental process, it is expected that student scores will rise as they acquire more exposure, experience, and instruction. SAILS identified that sophomores and juniors continued to perform at or near the institutional benchmark level in the application of lower order information literacy tools. However, students in the (SAILS continued on page 4)

Notable New Books In D’Amour Library


An award-winning columnist provides easy to understand advice essential to anyone concerned about finances and retirement.


The first major survey of the work of contemporary African artists from diverse situations and genres, this book is lavishly produced and beautiful to look through.


A critique of a theory of social justice by a distinguished scholar.

Last Night in Twisted River by John Irving. PS3559.R8L37 2009

Described as a “richly observed journey,” Irving returns with another great novel.


A provocative and entertaining look at intellectual property piracy since the invention of print.
D’Amour Library is pleased to welcome Sherrilynn Chelkonas, who joined us as a staff assistant on January 11, 2010. Sherrilynn replaces Michelle Giangreco who filled this position with distinction for six years. Michelle welcomed a new son into her family in August. We also thank Mary Lou Hendrickson who served with great skill and greater kindness in an interim role this past fall. We wish both of these colleagues the best always!

A lifelong resident of Springfield, Sherrilynn had served as the administrative assistant for the former Our Lady of Hope Parish for over 20 years. Sherrilynn is the proud mother of two daughters. Sherrilynn’s husband is Michael Chelkonas who is also employed at Western New England College as the locksmith. Sherrilynn is pleased to be joining us at D’Amour. Welcome Sherrilynn!

**Research Coaching Available**

Faculty, do you have students who could use coaching in their information research? D’Amour Library is providing opportunities for students to work one-on-one with an information research coach to understand the information research process, and effectively use search strategies and techniques.

These sessions would be most effective early in the semester when there is abundant time for students to explore and practice new skills. Depending on each student’s individual needs, one or more sessions can be scheduled. These sessions can also be scheduled for groups working collaboratively on a project or for an entire class.

Faculty are encouraged to arrange a coaching session for groups by contacting Mary Jane Sobinski-Smith (msobinski@wnec.edu or X-1533) or Joshua Becker (jbecker@wnec.edu or X-1537). Students who wish to arrange an individual coaching session should contact the reference desk (X-1655).

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Students enjoying a live performance of the comedy troupe Improv on the Rocks