Kudos to Our Student Workers

D’Amour Library’s student workers help make our library what it is. You’ll find our students offering assistance seven days a week. Student workers answer directional questions, check materials in and out, shelve books, and perform many other functions that are described in the Library Director’s letter (see page 2). The library is fortunate that many of our student workers who begin working in the library during their freshman or sophomore year remain with us until graduation.

D’Amour librarians and staff greatly value the commitment that student workers bring to their tasks and their willingness to help library users with their concerns. We wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.

Students: We Want Your Feedback

Students, do you want to help us improve the D’Amour website? Let us survey you! We want to know what you hope to find when you come to the D’Amour Library website. Can you find what you need? How often do you use our website?

We want to make the D’Amour website more useful for you. Your answers can help us put the library services you want and need front and center.

All members of the Western New England Community are invited to participate. Surveys will be completely anonymous. No names will be used.

So please, let us know what works or doesn’t work for you on the website! You can make your voice heard by filling out a comment card, emailing us, or participating in our in-person poll at locations across campus during the month of April. Keep an eye out for librarian Kyle Hutchinson as she recruits students for a brief survey that will take less than two minutes to complete.

Over the summer we will examine your responses and implement selected changes. Look for an update on what we found in the next issue.

If you don’t get the chance to participate in the survey, feel free to email Kyle at khutchinson@wnec.edu. We value your thoughts and opinions.
From the Library Director's Desk

Spring is survey season for academic libraries. The surveys we complete are for various government agencies and library organizations. Many of you will remember last spring’s LibQUAL+ survey where we asked you to rate your satisfaction with the Library and its services. And we all thought that survey was long! Try doing multiple surveys each with up to 56 statistical questions requesting data from “how many volumes were added to the Library last fiscal year” (2,435) to “how many times the Library’s website was contacted” (342,579 so far this year)!

Lots of my time is spent gathering information for and responding to these surveys, and other staff members devote hours to data gathering throughout the year as well. This time is well spent as this data tells us much about the Library and how it is used by the college community and thus assists us in making the Library as responsive to the community’s needs as possible.

Each spring, one key statistic reminds me of the essential role student assistants play in D’Amour Library. That statistic is the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff members made up of student assistants. Each semester D’Amour Library employs between 21 and 25 students. In addition to the responsibilities outlined elsewhere in the newsletter, our student workers help us open and close the building, collect library use data through hourly headcounts, clear printer paper jams, answer more questions than they probably care to count, identify pictures, mount displays, and help us in our efforts to be as “green” as possible by assisting with our recycling efforts.

I doubt that any of our students would say their positions are glamorous, but I think they would agree that they are often challenging, educational, and fun. What perhaps we don’t acknowledge enough as their colleagues is how vitally important their efforts are to everything D’Amour Library does.

Without their 5,700 hours last year, we would have been without the equivalent of three full-time staff members and that would certainly have negatively affected the quality of service provided by the Library! So the next time you see one of our 24 student assistants this semester, please take the time to say hello and remember that their hard work helps each library user in some positive way!

And to the eight seniors who will be leaving us at the end of the spring semester, Ashley Arpino, Josh Grabiec, Andrew Killips, Martha Roberts, Emily Taillon, Emily Oswald, Skyler Gabriel, and Megan Oliver, we extend a very, very special thank you.

All of you have made D’Amour Library a richer place and it has been our distinct honor and pleasure to watch you learn and grow!

Priscilla Perkins, Director, D’Amour Library

Database News

America: History and Life with Full Text is the most comprehensive index of history and culture of the United States and Canada. The index provides references to more than 1700 journals as well as full-text from more than 200 journals.

APA Handbook of Industrial and Organizational Psychology contains the official handbook of the American Psychological Association. Additionally there are thousands of articles on psychology related topics as well as electronic books available in easily printable format. The database also has a wide collection of grey literature that is not found in our other databases.

Checkpoint is a web-based tax research service that includes a wide range of materials on federal and state taxes. Other features include personal calculators that can be used to balance a checkbook, keep a budget, calculate interest, and more.

Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text offers the full text of over 200 magazine titles and over 300,000 records. This upgrade over Criminal Justice Abstracts provides hundreds of additional sources that can be viewed in their entirety.

PsychiatryOnline provides full-text access to a broad range of psychiatric materials including: the DSM Library, journals, textbooks, self-assessment tools, and medication information handouts.

Sports Market Place Directory offers a wealth of information about the people, organizations, and events in the world of sports. More than 100 sports are included at both the professional and collegiate levels.

Value Line Investment Survey contains current and historical market information for thousands of US companies and related institutions. Additionally, the online database contains different types of analytical tools, specialized rankings, and a range of expert analysis.

Dan Eckert, Head of Electronic Resources & Interlibrary Loan Librarian
Faculty Authors’ Tea Honors Publishing Accomplishments

On November 16, 2010, members of the Western New England College community gathered in D’Amour Library’s Clarke Reading Room to celebrate the Library’s Eighth Annual Faculty Authors’ Tea which honored faculty who had published books, journal articles, conference proceedings, and other scholarly works during the past academic year.

It was a lovely gathering with nearly fifty attendees. If you were unable to attend, you can still catch up on what was published. D’Amour Library maintains a cumulative directory of faculty publications on its web site. To visit the page click on the “For Faculty” link in the left-side menu of the homepage. The D’Amour Library staff looks forward to the Ninth Annual Faculty Authors’ Tea this fall.

D’Amour Users Can Now Watch Tutorials in Real Time

The D’Amour Library is proud to offer library users new online tutorials as a tool to help locate and use relevant information. These tutorials are available through a prominent link (see photo at right) directly from the homepage.

These instructional aids usually run between 2-4 minutes in length and are available to remote users of D’Amour Library as well as the on-campus community. Many of these tutorials allow users to watch a librarian demonstrate a product or feature in real time.

Currently the most popular tutorials are geared around such topics as using e-reserves and highlighting and note-taking on electronic documents. Special tutorials in the fields of business are available as well. Additional learning aids on specific software and databases will be created in the coming months.

“We see tutorials as a way to complement library instruction and to offer opportunities to students who are unable to visit campus,” remarks Head of Instruction Mary Jane Sobinski Smith.

“These learning aids will provide outreach to students who want to use a specific tool. Students who come to Western New England from high school, or a different institution, may not be aware of how to use a specific database or how to find a book under the Library of Congress Classification System. We hope all members of the Western New England Community will use this new service,” remarks Smith.

The library intends to add more tutorials beginning this summer. Are there any library services, databases or research strategies your students would find useful to learn about through online tutorials? If so, let us know. Send an email to jbecker@wnec.edu.

-Josh Becker, Instruction Librarian

Notable New Books
In D’Amour Library

Alone Together: Why We Expect More From Technology and Less from Each Other by Sherry Turkle. How new technology changes the way we interact by a prolific scholar.

Autobiography of Mark Twain. The eagerly anticipated and surprisingly controversial autobiography of our beloved Samuel Clemens.

Humanity on a Tightrope: Thoughts on Empathy, Family and Big Changes for a Viable Future by Paul Ehrlich and Robert Ornstein. Two well-respected writers highlight the need for cooperation and global change.

The Last Boy: Mickey Mantle and the End of America’s Childhood by Jane Leavy. A great addition to our large collection of sports literature.


Sunset Park by Paul Auster. A stunning novel by the well-known contemporary author.

FOLLOW US ON twitter

D’Amour Library now has a twitter account! Sign up now to receive short messages about the Library and related events. Click on the D’Amour homepage for details.
Past and Present: Changing Styles - Same Focus

Email, cell phones, laptops, the internet; today all of these products seem indispensable. But when the picture above was taken they were all foreign concepts. In the 1980’s print volumes were essential to produce useful research, and D’Amour Library provided access to what students needed.

The technology at D’Amour Library continues to adapt to fit the times, but our commitment to research and inquiry has not changed. D’Amour Library remains a comfortable study space where students, faculty, staff, and the local community can do work individually or in groups. In the past year we have enjoyed greater use of our work tables, study carrels, and study rooms than at any time in our history.

Our library is always changing, whether those changes include placing comfortable furniture on each floor, installing computer labs, or creating new workspaces, D’Amour library wants to ensure that students will have a comfortable, quiet, and productive environment to complete their coursework.

D’Amour Library - Spring Calendar of Events

Techno-Smarts Series

Tuesday, April 12 at 12:30 p.m., Ted Wesp, Assistant Professor of English at Western New England College, will offer a workshop titled, “Serious games: pedagogy and politics in simulation.” This presentation will offer a look at some of the ways that interactive media – including both mainstream and education video games – are being used as pedagogical tools to give students new perspectives on social, political and economic issues. D’Amour Library, Digital Learning Center.

Thursday, April 14 at 12:30 p.m., Josh Becker, Information Literacy/Reference Librarian at D’Amour Library, will offer a workshop titled, "Can't Find It At Barnes & Noble? No Problem!" D’Amour Library, Digital Learning Center.

Athenaeum Arts Series

Thursday, April 28 at 12:45 p.m., Performance: Improv I Class. D’Amour Library, Clarke Reading Room. Expect the unexpected. Refreshments will be served.

Clarke Reading Room: first floor in the addition towards the back.

Digital Learning Center (DLC): the computer classroom in the addition on the back of the second floor.

Room 319: on the third floor, at the top of the stairs near the lobby.