D’Amour Creates New Study Spaces for Student Use

In response to student requests, D’Amour Library has been working to create more group workspace in the library.

Last semester, D’Amour Library installed two new partitioned study rooms on the first floor. Located by the Clarke Reading Room in the northeast corner of the building, the study areas can accommodate four to six students and are outfitted with conference tables and chairs, whiteboards, and outlets. During the day, both study rooms receive abundant natural light, as well. We hope that these spaces will foster collaboration and conversation among those looking for a somewhat more private setting in the Library.

“They are a fantastic first-floor alternative to the study rooms upstairs,” says Librarian Vicky Ludwig, “more accessible, airy, and well-lit.”

These workspaces are first-come, first-served, so don’t be shy about using an unoccupied one. As always, laptops and dry erase markers are available for check out at the Circulation Desk.

There are changes to other library areas as well. Beginning last fall, D’Amour Library implemented a new floor-based noise policy. Signs have been posted throughout the building to let users know about the changes. The noise policy for each floor is as follows:

1st Floor: Individual study and group collaboration is encouraged using normal conversational noise levels. Please be considerate of your fellow patrons.

2nd Floor: Lowtalking individual and group study.

3rd Floor: Whisper quiet. Groups are encouraged to use other areas of the library.

In addition, headphones may be used on any floor as long as the noise from headphones is not audible to others. While D’Amour is no longer a “whisper-only” library, within the building, cell phones must be set to “silent” or “vibrate.”

The Parents’ Lounge (formerly Java City) on the first floor near the building entrance is our “cell phone friendly” area. In the Lounge coffee and tea are available for a dollar. The Lounge also has soft seating and study tables and is well-suited for group work. Please use this area to make or receive calls.

-Damian Biagi, Cataloging Librarian

D’Amour Offers a Study Break for Students - Board Games

Tired of staring at a computer screen? Students may now check out board games as a break from their studies. The Library has such classics as Scrabble, Clue, Risk, Life, Monopoly, and many more. Library users can check out games for seven days. Come by the Circulation Desk to borrow one today!

A full color version of D'Amour Library Newsline is available (in pdf format) online through the D'Amour Library Homepage. We also have archived issues of Newsline going back to 2007.
From the Library Director’s Desk

For those of you who use D’Amour Library regularly, the sight of a staff member making tally marks on a clipboard is quite familiar. You will hear us quietly telling our users that we are only counting. All libraries track such things as circulation activity, printing expenses, collection growth, interlibrary loans requested, monies spent, reference questions answered, and instruction sessions offered. Some of this data collection is done in order to complete association and government surveys; some is used to justify budget requests and changes to the collections.

Knowing that our students checked out 4,549 DVDs and 1,536 books during the fall semester while conducting 135,397 searches on the Library’s 70+ online databases helps us prioritize our expenditures and services. Knowing which databases and books were used as well as what journal articles were requested via interlibrary loan enables us to purchase additional resources in the subject areas most in need of them. And knowing that the study rooms were checked out 4,178 times during the semester informs our decisions about guest user access and space utilization.

We are fortunate that a great deal of D’Amour Library’s data is collected by the Library’s automated system, Millennium, but some is still collected the old-fashioned way – by hand. Thus the clipboard and the tally marks as each hour the staff counts the number of people in the Library and categorizes the data so that we have an idea of how the various areas of the building are being used. Over the years this headcount data has tracked the increased use of the Library as a place to study, to collaborate with others, and to access technology. This trend continued in fall 2011, with evening use of study tables alone increasing 38.6% from fall 2010, with a headcount of 20,748.

Having all of this data is only helpful if we can use it to make the Library a better place for the entire campus community. So the Library staff is constantly analyzing the information it collects about how the Library’s resources, services, and building are used in order to make changes to improve everyone’s library and research experience.

In this issue of the newsletter you will read about the new graduated noise system being implemented to provide work spaces that support noisy collaboration as well as quiet individual study; about the new study spaces created in the expanded Collaboratory, and about some of the new resources that are available for research projects and papers.

These are just a few of the changes that have resulted from the data collection done by the Library. So when you see a staff member making tally marks on the clipboard this semester, remember they are just counting. But counting so that the Library can continue to meet the needs of all of the Western New England community! – Priscilla Perkins, Director, D’Amour Library

Database News

ASME Digital Library The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, ASME, was founded in 1880 and currently has 127,000 members. ASME has a broad range of publications including numerous books and journals. The ASME digital library contains all ASME transaction journals from 1970 onwards and all conference proceedings from 2002 to the present. ASME also has an eBook collection of more than 100 titles available in full text. This is a premier resource for mechanical engineers.

Communication & Mass Media Complete (CMMC) includes articles from Comm Search (formerly produced by the National Communication Association) and Mass Media Articles Index along with numerous other journals in communication, mass media, and closely related fields. Many of the journals are available in full text.

RefWorks has undergone a major interface change. This popular citation management tool has the same functionality as before, but added improvements make it far easier to use. In 2012 RefWorks users will no longer need to enter a campus code for logging in from off-campus. RefWorks workshops will be offered during the Spring Semester.

Simmons has been conducting research on the American Consumer since 1950. Its annual National Consumer Survey on buying preferences has long been an industry standard. D’Amour Library’s License Agreement allows up to five users to access this database at any time. This product is available to off-campus users as well.

- Dan Eckert, Head of Electronic Resources & Interlibrary Loan Librarian

Reference Hours
During these hours, professional staff are available for research assistance in person, by phone, IM, and email.

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Do you have an idea that might help improve the library? We’d like to hear from you!!

D’Amour has a suggestion box at the circulation desk, as well as an online form on the D’Amour Library homepage. Let us know what you think!**
Annual Faculty Authors’ Tea Honors Publishing Achievements

On October 25, 2011, members of the Western New England University community gathered in D’Amour Library’s Clarke Reading Room to celebrate the Library’s Ninth Annual Faculty Authors’ Tea which honored faculty who had published books, journal articles, conference proceedings, poems, screenplays, as well as other scholarly works during the past academic year.

It was a lovely gathering with more than 40 attendees. If you were unable to join in the festivities, you can still catch up on what was published. D’Amour Library maintains a cumulative directory of faculty publications on its website. 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 hosting the Tenth Annual Faculty Authors’ Tea next fall. Please don’t hesitate to contact Dan Eckert if you have published something in the last year.

Unique Ways of Seeing - D’Amour Welcomes More Student Work

Selected art works by Western New England University students are on view in D’Amour Library’s Clarke Reading Room and Stairwell Galleries. Each semester the works change, highlighting exciting new works by students. Students in Professors Lorna Ritz and Patricia Jenks’ art classes explored the techniques of composition, line, color, texture, volume, perspective, and space, to create the 35 unique works of art now on display.

The works of art span a variety of genres including images of self, figure studies, landscapes, still lives, abstract sculptures, and conceptual art. Similarly, a variety of media – from charcoal drawing to pastel drawings to oil paintings - can be seen. The styles range from realism to abstract works as students use color, composition, perspective and space to express the physical, emotional, psychological, and/or conceptual story of the subjects. For example, three-dimensional memory boxes visually capture and document significant events in the art students’ lives.

Like a signature, each student’s work is unique – revealing his or her way of seeing, recording, and interpreting his or her culture and world. Stop by the D’Amour Library and enjoy the students’ unique ways of seeing, expressing, and interpreting their lives and environment.

- Mary Jane Sobinski-Smith, Head of Instruction

Project SAILS Update

During the fall of 2011 795 students participated in the Standard Assessment of Information Literacy Skills (SAILS) Test. The 45 question test measured student knowledge of information literacy skills and concepts.

D’Amour Library would like to thank the 33 faculty members who agreed to have their classes participate in SAILS. Preliminary data suggests that our students have demonstrated improved positive performance in all of the areas tested. The Library will analyze the results over the spring and share the findings in the coming months with departments and colleges.

Notable New Books

Charles Dickens: A Life
by Claire Tomalin. A new and enlightening biography of Dickens by a well-known and prolific biographer.

The Ecstasy of Influence: Nonfictions, etc.
by Jonathan Lethem. Engaging, funny and intellectual essays on contemporary life with a great novelist’s spin.

Howard Cosell: The Man, the Myth, and the Transformation of American Sports
by Mark Ribowsky. A brilliant portrait of a sports media icon.

Life Upon These Shores: Looking at African American History 1513-2008
by Henry Louis Gates. A sumptuously illustrated and definitive history by a most prominent scholar.

Life Without Oil: Why We Must Shift To a New Energy Future
by Steve Hall and John Wright. A comprehensive and sobering look at the energy crisis we all must face.

The Marriage Plot
by Jeffrey Eugenides. Much awaited and very highly acclaimed novel by a prize winning novelist.
Who we are

Isabel Barbeau,
Library Associate for
Collection Development

Deborah Beagle,
Evening Circulation
Supervisor

Joshua Becker,
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Editor

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Sherrilynn Chelkonas,
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Kyle Hutchinson,
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Vicky Ludwig, Collection
Development Librarian and
Reference Coordinator

Rosemary O'Donoghue,
Archivist

Priscilla Perkins, Director

Lindsay Roberts,
Circulation Associate

Valerie St.Claire,
Head of Circulation

Mary Jane Sobinski-Smith,
Head of Information
Literacy and Instruction
Services

D’Amour During Finals

In the week before finals, more than 6,000 student
users were counted in the library. This number
exceeds that in any other time of the year. The vast
majority of these library users were students who
visited the library to study, work on papers, com-
plete last minute projects, and to decompress.

To meet this need the library remained open for
extended hours, closing at 1 a.m. instead of
midnight. As students headed into the final stretch,
they found that the dedicated library staff had
provided cookies and warm drinks in the Parents’
Lounge every night at 9 p.m.

As the pictures above illustrate, students
definitely brought their appetites with them. At
the end of the week, more than 1,000 cookies
and dozens of gallons of coffee had been
consumed. The D’Amour Library staff hopes
students did well during finals week and wishes
them continued success during the Spring of
2012.

D’Amour Library - Spring Calendar of Events

Athenaeum Series

Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m., Anthony
Scaramucci, fund manager, hedge fund visionary,
CNBC commentator, and founder of Skybridge
Capital, will present a lecture titled, “America: An
Empire at its Crossroads – America’s Geopolitical
Position in the Coming Decade.” (Sleith Hall)

Mr. Scaramucci will talk about the financial future
of the country, the issues that confront it, and
what needs to be done to resolve them. This pro-
gram is sponsored by the College of Business and
D’Amour Library.

Thursday, February 23 at 4:00 p.m., Jackie Lages-
on, lecturer of Sociology at the University of Mas-
sachusetts Boston, will present a lecture titled,
“Is the Deck Stacked Against Reentry?: How to
Beat the Recidivism Odds –Restorative Justice as
the Ace in the Hole.” (Room 319)

Techno-Smarts Series

Thursday February 23 at 12:30 p.m.
Workshop: “Introduction to RefWorks”
D’Amour Library, Digital Learning Center

D’Amour Library Event Locations:

Digital Learning Center (DLC): Located in
D’Amour Library room 215 on the second floor,
this computer classroom faces east towards
the faculty/staff parking lot.

Room 319: Located on the third floor of
D’Amour Library, this room can be found at the
top of the stairs from the main entrance.

William H. Sleith Hall Auditorium (Room 100):
Located in the center of the first floor of the
Sleith Hall, this auditorium can be found sev-
eral yards from the various entrances to the
building.