BCCC Library Newsletter
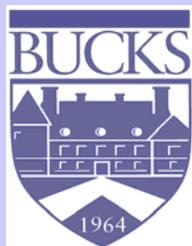
Bucks County Community College Libraries

Newtown Campus Library
275 Swamp Road
Newtown, PA 18940
(215) 968-8009

Bristol Center Library
1280 New Rodgers Road
Bristol, PA 19007
(215) 781-3941

Upper County Library
One Hillendale Drive
Perkasie, PA 18944
(215) 258-7721

In This Issue...

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I've been settling into my new position as Interim Director, Library Services since the end of October when Brandi Porter left to assume a new library position at Syracuse University. Previously, I was the Branch Librarian at the Upper County Campus. Thanks to the flexibility and support of the library staff, needed staffing adjustments were made and Carolyn Woods took over my Upper County responsibilities.

As I write this article, the Fall Semester is in its last week. All three libraries are buzzing with activity. Students are busily working on those last minute assignments and accessing WebAdvisor to complete their course selections for the Spring Semester. It's been a semester filled with lots of changes: library renovation, computers and the Technology Learning Center (TLC) moving to the top floor of the library and new part-time librarians at the extension sites.

I look forward to the upcoming Spring Semester and hope that you will stop by to check out a book or video, schedule library instruction, access our databases, or to just say hello. My door is always open.

Linda McCann
Interim Director

Spotlight on Technology: *Tiny URL*

This free service provides short alternatives to lengthy web URLs. What's the benefit of a shorter URL? It's easier to remember and less prone to errors. A smaller URL is also unlikely to break up when pasted into an email, making it ideal when you want to email an article to a colleague or refer your students to a site. How does Tiny URL work? Go to *http://tinyurl.com*, enter the original URL, and click on "Make TinyURL." In seconds, you will be provided with a shorter URL.

Issue Update: Libraries & the USA PATRIOT Act

The basic intent of the USA PATRIOT Act, originally enacted on October 25, 2001, was to give law enforcement authorities additional powers to combat terrorism both at home and abroad.

While the Act has more than 160 sections, sixteen provisions that amended a number of federal statutes and expanded the government's surveillance powers have long been criticized for their potential for abuse.   Unless extended, these sections of the law are due to expire on December 31, 2005.

The American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom states that, "These amendments expanded the authority of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and law enforcement to gain access to business records, medical records, educational records and library records, including stored electronic data and communications. It also expanded the laws governing wiretaps and 'trap and trace' phone devices to Internet and electronic communications. These enhanced surveillance procedures pose the greatest challenge to privacy and confidentiality in the library."

One section in particular , 215 – Access to records and other items under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance, has become known as the "libraries provision" even though it never specifically mentions libraries. It is feared that the provision could be used to demand the production of patrons' reading records. The Justice Department says that the law has never been used against libraries.   However, critics argue that there in no protection against possible future abuse of this power.

Although House and Senate negotiators agreed to some revisions of these provisions, a coalition of Senators who claim that the proposed changes do not sufficiently address civil liberties concerns used a filibuster to prevent the compromise agreement from coming to a vote. And since the Act in its original form was only extended until February 3rd, renewed debate was continuing as we went to press.

Dateline: January 5, 2006
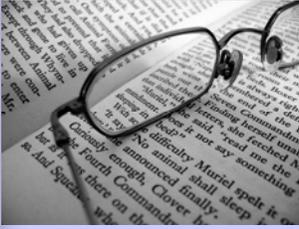
Looking for a Good Book?

Whatever is your reading taste, the BCCC libraries have a book for you. Check out one of these titles new to our collection -

The Improbable Swervings of Atoms (2005), by Christopher Bursk, Call#811.6 B972 I34 , Upper County and Newtown

Arthur Miller's America: Theater & Culture in a Time of Change (2005), Call#812.52 M647 A789, Newtown

Film Writing and Selected Journalism (2005), by James Agee, Call#791.437 A265 F487, Newtown

All Possible Worlds: A History of Geographical Ideas (2005), by Geoffrey J. Martin, Call#910.9 M381 A416, Newtown

Lucian Freud, 1996-2005 (2005), by Lucian Freud, Call#759.2 F889 L937, Newtown

Design of Dissent (2005), by Milton Glaser, Call#741.609 G548 D457, Newtown

Google Book Search Explained

In 2004, Google announced plans to collect, scan, and upload millions of books from throughout the world. The complete text of these books would then be searchable in an online database available to anyone, any time, any where in the world.

Google would make available the full-text of those titles in the public domain, while it would only provide excerpts of those titles protected by copyright law. Users interested in purchasing print copies of the books would be provided with details on how and where the books may be found. The project was initially called Google Print, but has been recently renamed ***Google Book Search***.

On the surface, ***Google Book Search*** works similar to a library catalog. Users enter key information and the system returns those titles that match the search terms. However, the ***Google Book Search*** interface differs from a library catalog in that it searches the entire text of the books in its system, rather than just the titles, author, subject terms, etc.

Google Book Search will also allow users to then view a limited number of pages from those books. Currently, the subscription database ***NetLibrary*** and the online retailer ***Amazon.com*** offer similar features. However, the ***Google Book Search*** project is a much bigger project than either ***NetLibrary*** or ***Amazon.com***'s Search Inside, and Google plans to scan protected titles without first receiving approval from copyright holders.

It is the issue of copyright that has drawn the most criticism, especially from publishers and many authors. The act of digitizing an original work protected under copyright law is viewed by some as a major infringement of the rights of copyright holders. Although Google provides a method for opting out of the project, the burden is on the copyright holder.

Google Book Search is still in beta stage, but it is believed that, to date, Google has scanned more than a hundred thousand titles voluntarily added by publishers and authors. Google has also scanned approximately 10,000 titles in the public domain. In response to the concern of copyright holders, Google temporarily halted its efforts to scan protected titles as of January 2006.

New Librarian at the Upper County Campus

The BCCC Library is pleased to announce that Reference Librarian Tracy Maleef has joined the staff. She will be working evenings and alternating Saturdays at the Upper County Library. Tracy comes to BCCC from the University at Pittsburgh where she earned her MLIS. She also holds degrees from Penn State and Temple University. You can contact Tracy by email at *maleefft@bucks.edu* or by telephone at (215) 258-7721.

Please introduce yourself to Tracey the next time you visit the Upper County Library!

Free Multimedia Resources from *MERLOT*

The Multimedia Education Resource for Learning and Online Teaching, known as ***MERLOT***, is a collection of free multimedia sources that can be used by faculty and students in institutions of higher learning.

This collection of links has annotations and often includes peer reviews of the resources, as well as examples of assignments. Membership is free.

The information is broken down into seven subject specific categories -

- **Arts**
- **Business**
- **Education**
- **Humanities**
- **Math and Statistics**
- **Science and Technology**
- **Social Sciences**

Each category includes several subtopics. For example, the social sciences category provides resources on law, sociology, criminal justice, and statistics, as well as anthropology, psychology, and geography. Under law, you will find references to lectures and presentations such as *Indian Affairs: Law and Treaties* (a digitized project that contains over three hundred treaties), *Scout's Honor Documentary* (a video originally aired on PBS), and *Argument Online (*an interactive electronic book that teaches users how to research and write persuasive arguments).

MERLOT can be accessed for free, online at *http://www.merlot.org*.

Ask a Librarian

Question:

Does BCCC have access to any online books?"

Answer:

Yes. *NetLibrary* is an online collection of thousands of books and other materials.

Just like the print books available in the BCCC libraries, these materials are "owned" by BCCC, searchable in the library catalog, and available for check-out. However, these materials are located online and accessible only through a computer with Internet access.

NetLibrary is not a free website. It is a subscription-based database, which means that only subscribers may access the materials. BCCC is a subscriber, so all faculty, students, and staff have access to *NetLibrary*.
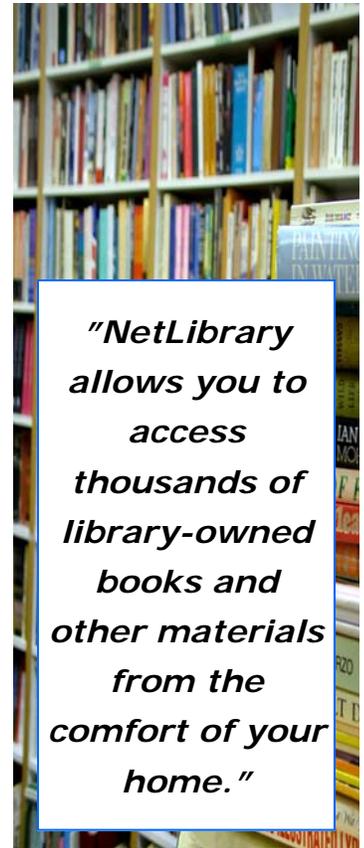
There are several benefits to using *NetLibrary*.

- *NetLibrary* allows you to access thousands of library-owned books and other materials from the comfort of your home.

- *NetLibrary* is available 24 hours a day, even when the libraries are closed.

- *NetLibrary* may contain items not available in print in the BCCC libraries.

- *NetLibrary* has a search feature that allows you to

search for specific words and phrases within a book.

NetLibrary is meant to compliment the library collection at the BCCC libraries. It is not a replacement. At this time, BCCC subscribes to only 5,932 *NetLibrary* titles — only a fraction of the materials available in print in the BCCC libraries.

Although *NetLibrary* is free to BCCC faculty, students, and staff, registration is required. You must register with *NetLibrary* from a computer station at any of the BCCC campuses.

Interested in learning more about *NetLibrary*? Contact a librarian in the Reference Department by phone at (215) 968-8013 or by email at *infobc3@bucks.edu*.

"NetLibrary allows you to access thousands of library-owned books and other materials from the comfort of your home."

Untangling the Web: Evaluating Internet Resources

With so many resources being added daily to the already vast Internet, it can be hard to tell if you've found a worthwhile source for your research.

Therefore, it's important to use a critical eye when choosing online resources. Regardless of how authoritative they look, you must establish trust in the sources you choose. And, while there's no hard and fast rule for determining trustworthiness, here are some points to consider when evaluating a site:

Authority determines whether the creator of the site has the knowledge and/or expertise to properly address the topic.

Accuracy indicates the reliability and truthfulness of the in-

formation contained within the page.

Objectivity addresses the *purpose* of the website, and whether the opinions expressed contain bias.

Currency determines the timeliness of the information in a resource.

Coverage indicates how well the topic has been presented, and if the source adds anything to your research.

If you have doubts about the quality of a source, don't give up. Look at other sources (i.e., encyclopedias, articles, books, and other websites) to verify the accuracy of the information you've found. And, while it's always important to use critical evaluation when choosing resources from the Web, some resources are already available that have done an initial evaluation for you:

- *Librarian's Internet Index*
  http://www.lii.org/
  Built by librarians, this site provides a searchable list of useful Web pages.

- *INFOMINE*
  http://infomine.ucr.edu/
  Librarian reviewed websites and other online resources.

- *Internet Searching*
  http://www.bucks.edu/ library/eresources/ internet.html
  Web selections by BCCC librarians.

For more tips on evaluating Web resources, stop by your local campus library and pick up a handout on Evaluating Resources, or talk to your librarian.

Information Literacy

The library sponsored an Information Literacy Poster Session during Technology Days on January 5th and 6th. Do you want to know more? Visit our website at *http:// www.bucks.edu/library/ infolit/index.html* for a listing of information literacy tutorials and other resources. Watch for more opportunities to learn about Information Literacy in the near future!
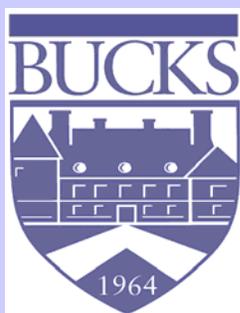
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The mission of the library is to provide the information services and resources required to meet the needs of Bucks County Community College students and the community, to enrich their lives, advance their careers, and enable them to become lifelong learners and more responsible citizens. One way in which the library achieves its mission is by selecting, acquiring, and/or otherwise providing access to the information resources necessary to satisfy the information needs of the community.

For more information, please e-mail the library staff at *infobc3@bucks.edu* or call us at (215) 968-8009.

A Closer Look at Music Resources in the BCCC Libraries

Although the library does not supply an online reference tool specific to music, there is much research that can be performed online.

Take, for example, the tried-and-true **EBSCOhost**. A quick look at the "Title List" for one of its databases, **Academic Search Elite**, shows us that full-text articles are available for **American Record Guide** (reviews of recordings since January 1, 1994), and **Computer Music Journal** (articles since March 1, 1997). In the case of **Computer Music Journal**, though, the publisher has embargoed the last twelve months. This simply means that a certain amount of the most recent issues are not available free online.

Bibliographic records can be found for other music periodicals such as **Musical Quarterly** (since July 1, 1990) to find out in which issue to find

articles on your topic. Then turn to the library's collection of print and microfilm periodicals to find the issue you need.

While **Academic Search Elite** is more of an academic database, you will find more popular magazines in **MasterFILE Premier** (also found in **EBSCOhost**). In this database, **Opera News** can be read in full text since May 1, 1990. Check the "Title Lists" in these databases for more musical periodical titles of interest.

For biographies of musicians, try **Biographies Plus Illustrated**. Some biographies will be supplied from the **New Grove** series, the quintessential music reference sources. A search for information about Hildegard von Bingen, for example, will turn up an encyclopedia article from the **New Grove Dictionary of Women Composers**, and

various general, medieval, and religious encyclopedias. A search for information about B.B. King yields information from **World Musicians** and **The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians**.

A favorite, newer online resource is **Oxford Reference**. This is a collection of trusted Oxford reference sources that researchers have been using for decades in print form. Now, these selected sources are online and searchable. By clicking on the subject link for "Performing Arts," you will find such tools as **The Oxford Companion to Music**, **Who's Who in Opera**, and **The Oxford Dictionary of Dance**. Also take note of the web links for this subject. These are reliable websites deemed worthy by the Oxford editors themselves.

Did You Know...

The Smithsonian Global Sound (SGS), a project of the Smithsonian Institute, preserves and distributes a broad range of the world's music? SGS works with institutions around the world to document, record, archive, catalog, and digitize music and other audio expressions of culture. These artifacts are then made available to the public via the Web. For more information, consult the SGS website at *http://www.smithsonianglobalsound.org/*.