

Books and Bytes

September 2011

A Newsletter of the Hiram College Library

Volume 6, Number 2

Jessica Olin to Present at Conference

Jessica Olin, Information Literacy/Instruction Librarian, will present a paper at the upcoming Midwest Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association annual conference in Milwaukee. Her paper, "Zombies 101: Humans vs. Zombies at a Small Academic Library" will be part of the Libraries, Museums, and Collecting Area panel.

The paper deals with the successful Humans vs. Zombies events that have been held at the Hiram College Library for the past two years. The most recent event was held on Friday, September 16, and drew 64 students.

While in Milwaukee, Olin will also attend a symposium on "The Future of the Liberal Arts College Library," co-sponsored by the Council on Library and Information Resources and Council of Independent Colleges. The symposium addresses a number of issues and challenges facing college libraries in the digital age.

Coming to the Library in October

Library Forum – Wednesday, October 5, at 4:15 p.m. in the Pritchard Room of the Library. Dr. Lisa Safford, Professor of Art History, will speak.



Library Forum – Wednesday, October 12, at 4:15 p.m. in the Pritchard Room of the Library. Dr. Vivien Sandlund, Professor of History, will speak.

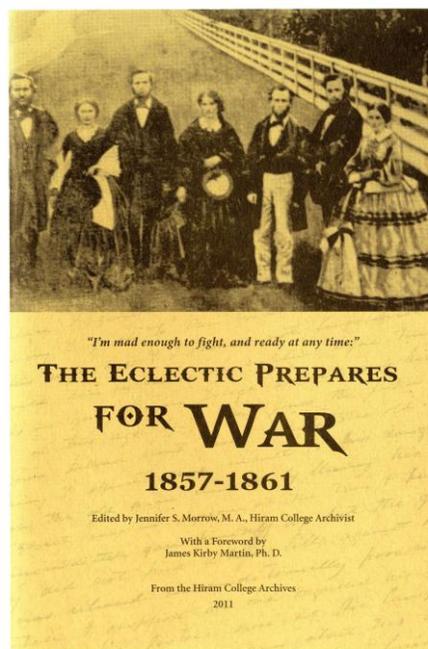
Fall Weekend Hours – Special hours will be:

Thursday, October 13	7:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday, October 14	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 15	CLOSED
Sunday, October 16	5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Library Forum – Wednesday, October 26, at 4:15 p.m. in the Pritchard Room of the Library. Dr. Robin Shura, Assistant Professor of Sociology, will speak.

Jennifer Morrow, Archivist, Publishes Book

College Archivist Jennifer Morrow and the Hiram College Archives have released *The Eclectic Prepares for War, 1857-1861*.



Using Hiram College Archives collections, Morrow has selected letters, as well as manuscript and diary excerpts, to illustrate what life was like at the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute (later Hiram College) for the students and faculty in the years leading to the Civil War.

This is the first of three chapbooks Archives will be producing over the next four years to commemorate the Eclectic's involvement in the Civil War both on the battlefield and at home.

The book is available for purchase at the Hiram College Bookstore for a low price of \$7.



Friends of the Hiram College Library

Library Matters

The Changing World of Journal Publishing Economics

This past summer, as usual, we reviewed the annual renewal list from our serials vendor. This is our opportunity to add or cancel titles. Most of the titles on the list are still received in print, although the number of print titles continues to decrease at what seems to be an rapid rate. The American Physiological Society, for example, announced it would no longer produce print versions of its *American Journal of Physiology* titles; only online versions would be available starting in January 2012. I expect more publishers to follow suit.

Having to renew before the Fall to avoid disruptions in service is always challenging since one does not yet know exact pricing. What became clear, however, was that, despite the current economy, many publishers were expecting 8% to 10% price increases. With flat budgets, that presents a real challenge to libraries, including ours.

What also became apparent was that two pricing models now seem to dominate. In the first model, print is not available on its own; a library can subscribe to the online version or a package of online and print. In this model, the package costs more than the online alone. As a result, we have moved some 40 titles to online only. Doing so allows us to cover other price increases without having to cut content as we did last year.

In the second model, publishers make available print, online, and online/print packages. In this case, print remains the cheapest as the publisher believes an online library subscription would result in the cancellation of other print subscriptions, resulting in a loss of revenue. So, print remains the cheapest option, online is more expensive, and the online/print package is the most expensive. This is the model followed by the publishers of *Nature* and *Science*, for example. In these cases, we continue the print since going online would, in most cases, double our subscription costs.

The trend, however, continues to be toward online versions of scholarly journals. Our print journals continue to shrink and one can see a future, no longer that far away, in which the only print subscriptions are for popular magazines, such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, or the *Economist*.

Popular magazines, however, face a different challenge – survival. *U.S. News*, for example, no longer produces a regular print journal, relying on its Web site that is a combination of free and subscription only access. The Web site has the advantage of being able to be updated constantly in real time, as well as to allow for almost unlimited commentary, blogs, videos, and other resources that could not be fit into a print publication of a certain size. *Newsweek* was finally sold this past year for \$1.

The Hiram College Library has relied heavily on OhioLINK

and its Electronic Journal Center (EJC). OhioLINK, however, has taken a 5.2% reduction in its operating budget and many of the libraries within OhioLINK face the same type of cuts. So far, however, no content has been lost, but most of the discussion has been about databases, not journals.

What will be key is whether the state of Ohio passes a capital budget, something it did not do in the last budget cycle. A large part of OhioLINK's buying power for online journals comes from that capital budget. While OhioLINK was able to adjust the last time, a second go-round with no capital budget might not be overcome and there would need to be deep cuts within the EJC.

We will not know the answers to those questions for several months. So, stay tuned. Meanwhile, those who build assignments based on print journals may want to re-think the assumptions behind those assignments. It is only a matter of time until students are no longer able to complete them.

By David Everett, Library Director

The opinions expressed here are his and do not represent the views or opinions of Hiram College (or even the other library staff!).

What is a Library Forum?

New faculty and staff may be wondering about the Library Forum advertisements they see. Library Forums are designed to allow faculty (and sometimes staff or students) to share their research with the Hiram College community. That research may be a soon-to-be-published article, ongoing research with students, or practice for a coming conference presentation.

Presentations typically last 30 to 40 minutes, with questions and answers after that. Refreshments are served, making it an enjoyable way to learn about the scholarly research on campus.

Library Forums grew from a requirement that faculty returning from sabbatical needed to give a public presentation related to their research. The Forums now go beyond that to allow more faculty to present their research.

Traditionally, the Forums have been on a Wednesday afternoon in the library. That tradition continues with all Forums beginning at 4:15 in the Pritchard Room of the Library.

A list of Library Forum dates, with speakers, is always available on the Library's Web site at <http://library.hiram.edu/forums.html>. Four dates in the Spring-12 semester are still open. If you have any questions, please contact David Everett at everettd@hiram.edu or x5353.

The Hiram College Library:

Learning Unshelved