

Books and Bytes

September 2012

A Newsletter of the Hiram College Library

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Database Changes

OhioLINK has ended its support of databases on its OSearch platform. We have moved the links to the new versions:

- *ATLA Religion Index* is now on the EBSCO platform
- *Biosis Previews* is now on the ISI Web of Knowledge platform. Biosis Previews combines the journal coverage of Biological Abstracts with the non-journal coverage of Biological Abstracts/RRM (Reports, Reviews, Meetings).
- *PsycINFO* is now on the EBSCO platform
- *Compendex* and *Compendex Historical* are now on the Engineering Village platform as a single database.

Did You Know . . .

The Hiram College Library and OhioLINK provide access to some 72,000 e-books, through OhioLINK's Electronic Book Center (often called simply the EBC)?

Checking out a Feature Film on DVD?

Don't worry if the case is empty; we've decided to change the way we store some of our DVDs.

When you come in, you'll still see the cases lined up on the shelves on the first floor, but the DVDs are now being kept behind the circulation desk. **All you need to do is bring the case for the movie you want to person at the front desk and he or she will get the DVD for you.**

Easy as that.



Let us know if you have any questions about this change in policy.

Coming to the Library in October

Library Forum – Wednesday, October 3, at 4:15 p.m. in the Pritchard Room of the Library. Dr. Vivien Sandlund, Professor of History, will be the speaker.

Banned Books Readout – Thursday, October 4. Look for more information to follow on our recognition of Banned Books Week.

Fall Weekend Hours – Special hours will be:

Thursday, October 11	7:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday, October 12	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 13	CLOSED
Sunday, October 14	6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.



Library Forum – Wednesday, October 17, at 4:15 p.m. in the Pritchard Room of the Library. Dr. Audrey Cunningham, Assistant Professor of Communication, will be the speaker.

Library Forum – Wednesday, October 31, at 4:15 p.m. in the Pritchard Room of the Library. Dr. Ryan Honomichl, Assistant Professor of Psychology, will be the speaker.

Copyright Decision to be Appealed

The three publishers (Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, and SAGE Publications) have announced their intention to appeal the decision of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia in the case commonly referred to as the Georgia State case. The appeal will be heard by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

In the original case, the publishers sued on the grounds that Georgia State had violated copyright and the use was not covered by Fair Use. The court's decision found heavily in favor of the defendants and was seen as helping define fair use, although applicable only to the area served by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. The Appeals Court decision, far down the road, will broaden the geographic area to which the decision applies, as well as help to further define fair use, either positively or negatively, depending upon the decision.

Stay tuned for updates on this legal adventure in copyright.

Library Matters

The Golden Age of Undergraduate Research?

While meeting with a senior seminar class the other day, I was reminded again of how much research material was available to undergraduates. While it is tempting to compare it to my own undergraduate experience with a senior seminar, it is also true when I think back to the library when I started here a little more than 14 years ago.

At that time, we subscribed to about 800 print journals and had access to several hundred more in one database. Most disciplines had the most important journals, but there was little breadth or depth. While this limited everyone, it probably affected students in the sciences the most, given that those disciplines are heavily journal dependent.

Today, the library provides access to more than 9,000 journals in the Electronic Journal Center (EJC) at OhioLINK, more than 13,000 journals in EBSCO databases and the backfiles for about 1,000 journals in JSTOR. That is more than 25 times the number of journals in 1998. Roughly 9,000 of those journals are in the sciences.

The biggest potential, however, lies in the humanities where primary source material, usually of a historical nature, is rapidly being digitized. Fourteen years ago, the library had the *New York Times* and the *Plain Dealer* on microfilm, along with scattered research collections, such as historical Ohio newspapers, the *James A. Garfield Papers* from the Library of Congress, *American Women's Diaries*, and the *Suffragette Fellowship Collection* from the Museum of London. Plus, *Mansard's Debates* and several other collections on opaque microcards, for which we had no machine to read, let alone to print.



Today, the library has digital scanners for all micro formats with the ability to read, print, and scan into digital images. And there are online databases, such as *Civil War: Antebellum Period to Reconstruction (1840-1877)*, *African American Newspapers, 1827-1998*, and *19th Century British Pamphlets*.

For the social sciences, there is membership, currently provided by the Friends of the Hiram College Library, in the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), the largest collection of data sets in the world.

What the library provides is just the tip of the iceberg, an iceberg that seems to grow daily. While the number of free resources on the Internet continues to grow, most of these are smaller collections. Larger ones generally come with a fee as the database producers and the document owners seek new revenues from their digitization projects.

Companies like Readex, ProQuest, Gale, Alexander Street Press, and others are making available huge collections of historical newspapers, diaries, films, and other materials available to subscribers in digital formats.

Yes, there is a lot out there within easy reach. But two questions remain. Are researchers, especially students, able to find the resources they need in this ocean of information; and, while some see the Internet as a democratization tool giving everyone equal access, have we, in fact simply created a digital divide in information?

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!).



Friends of the Hiram College Library

Learn more at

<http://library.hiram.edu/index.php/support-the-library/friends-of-the-library>

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Hiram College Library: Learning Unshelved