

Books and Bytes

September 2013

A Newsletter of the Hiram College Library

Volume 8, Number 2

Library Has Improved Wireless Access

The library has greatly improved wireless coverage in the building thanks to the addition 21 additional wireless access points. Special thanks to Frank Ventura, Director of Computing Services, Bryan Drennen, Network Administrator, and the entire team at the Dray Computer Center for making this big improvement possible.



Remember, the library has ten laptops that can be checked out at the front desk for two hours' use in the library.

Library Forums Schedule for 2013-14

The library is pleased to announce the Library Forum series will continue again this year. Library Forums are a chance to hear what faculty members are doing in their research through presentations of about 30 to 45 minutes with questions following the presentation. All Library Forums are on Wednesdays at 4:15 p.m. in the Pritchard Room of the library. This year's schedule is:

September 18	Dr. James Kercher
September 25	Dr. Xinlu Yu
October 9	Professor Rick Hyde, MFA
October 16	Dr. Janet Pope
November 6	Dr. Mark Taylor
January 15	Dr. Carol Shreiner
January 29	Dr. Dawn Sonntag
February 12	Dr. Erin Lamb
February 26	Dr. Jennifer McCreight
March 19	Dr. Acacia Parks

Join us to learn more about the interesting research that is taking place at Hiram College.

Coming to the Library in October

Friends of the Library Book Sale – Tuesday, October 1, through Saturday, October 5, from 8 a.m. (9 a.m. on Saturday) to 5 p.m. each day. The book sale is located just inside the entrance. See the article below for more information on the Friends Book Sale.

Library Forum – Wednesday, October 9, at 4:15 p.m. in the Pritchard Room of the Library. Professor Rick Hyde, Professor of Theatre Arts, will speak.



Fall Weekend Hours – Special hours will be:

Thursday, October 10	7:45 am – 5:00 pm
Friday, October 11	8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday, October 12	CLOSED
Sunday, October 13	6:00 pm – 11:00 pm

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

Friends of the Library Book Sale

The first Friends of the Library Book Sale will be held from October 1 through October 5. Yes, the book sale now runs Tuesday through Saturday and will be on Weekend College weekends. Hours will be 8 a.m. (9 a.m. on Saturday) to 5 p.m. You will see changes in the way the books are displayed, but the prices remain \$1.00 for hardcovers and 50¢ for paperbacks, CDs, and DVDs. Multi-volume items are priced so that a 3-volume hardcover set would cost \$3.00, while a two-volume paperback set would cost \$1.00.



Future book sale dates are:

December 10 – 14, 2013
February 4 – 8, 2014
April 1- 5, 2014

Hiram College Library: Learning Unshelved

Library Matters

The Evolution of Databases/Indexes, Part 1

Periodical indexes developed to help readers and researchers identify where articles on a particular topic had been published. The first such index is generally considered to be *Poole's Index to Periodical Literature*, first published in 1848. The editor, William Frederick Poole, was then a student at Yale who went on to become the head librarian at his alma mater.

The initial publication was more bibliography than annual index and published a second edition in 1853 and a third edition in 1882. But by the turn of the century, the publication environment began to change. In 1901, H. W. Wilson Company began publishing *The Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*, which soon became an annual publication and, ultimately, a bi-weekly publication.

At about the same time, however, scholarly disciplines began to organize professional associations. The American Chemical Society, for example, was founded in 1876, the American Historical Association in 1884, the American Psychological Association in 1892, and the American Sociological Association in 1905.

These societies soon began publishing scholarly journals and eventually began their own indexing services with *Chemical Abstracts* beginning in 1907 to cover the literature in chemistry and *Psychological Abstracts* appearing in 1926 to cover psychology. Wilson continued with *Readers' Guide*, but also added additional indexes to cover more scholarly and specialized fields.

And there things remained for most of the 20th century, at least for most users. One found the appropriate index, checked multiple issues to gather a bibliography, and then consulted elsewhere to determine if the library owned that particular journal. It was time-consuming, but about as effective as possible.

In the 1960s dial-up access to computerized databases began to appear, mostly through companies, like DIALOG, that made available many, many indexes, often running into the hundreds. Competing products appeared; *Periodical Abstracts*, for example, competed against *Readers' Guide*. In some cases, these indexes, now called databases, began to add the full-text of the articles. This full-text was in plain text with photos, charts, and tables omitted.

In some ways, this was a great step forward; one could search a number of years at once and sometimes even get the text of the article. Dial-up services, however, tended to be expensive. One paid a phone charge, plus connect time, the cost of which varied depending on the database, plus a per-citation charge in many cases. That meant a quick, simple

search with a dozen or so citations could easily run \$30 or more. As a result, searches required a librarian to serve as intermediary. Needless to say, the result in most college libraries was low usage.

By the 1980s, however, the digital world began to arrive in the consumer market, coming first in the form of CD-ROMs. Many indexes began to be published on CD-ROM, allowing one to search easily across multiple years without the need for an intermediary. The CD-ROMs were mailed to the library on a regular basis and often installed on computers set up solely for that purpose. More full-text became available, with the same limitations noted above, but the library often had a way to indicate if it owned a periodical or not.

The situation was definitely looking up for researchers. But, once again, the years around the turn of the century brought significant changes that continue to evolve. Check out next month's newsletter to learn more!

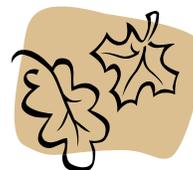
By David Everett, Library Director

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

Library Hours for Fall Weekend

The library will have reduced hours for the Fall Weekend break. Those hours will be:

Thursday, October 10	7:45 am – 5:00 pm
Friday, October 11	8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday, October 12	CLOSED
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Have a fun and safe break, everybody.

Friends of the Hiram College Library

Did you know Friends of the Library support meant:

- The purchase of one of every three books bought by the library this past year?
- The new digital sign board as you enter the library?
- A one-year trial subscription to VAST, a database of more than 17,000 videos you can view on your computer?

Learn more about the Friends, as well as how to join, at <http://library.hiram.edu/index.php/support-the-library/friends-of-the-library>.