Information Literacy
Clarissa Erwin, Library Director

Welcome back, faculty! We have placed a new feature on the Web at www.csn.edu/pages/1532.asp. Use the link to access a new page on CSN’s Library website that you will eventually make your own. The new page is meant to assist faculty in teaching and assessing information literacy skills in coursework across the curriculum. As you may know, the Association of College and Research Libraries sets national standards for information literacy skills. Students who meet these standards are said to be information fluent. Information fluency is truly a survival skill in the information age.

The new web page gives an introduction to information literacy, defines national standards and related student competencies, and offers practical tips and examples for designing research assignments. For the moment the examples are drawn from other colleges. Eventually, assignments will be drawn from our own classrooms and become part of the CSN Research Assignment Hall of Fame. Ideally, your research assignments will encompass both the ACRL information fluency competencies and those of our own CSN general education skill sets.

Please take a few minutes to explore our new Web pages. Working together we can help students gain essential general education skills in new and exciting ways. As always, we are here to support your instructional and professional priorities.

New Library Home Page a Goldmine for Instructors
www.csn.edu/pages/213.asp

Librarians spent much of the spring and summer developing tutorials, research guides, pathfinders and other content for the Library home page. Please consider incorporating these new additions into your courses and course web sites:

Tutorials: Several tutorials are available to help students do research and use library databases and print materials. SearchPath teaches students how to effectively use library resources and how to cite sources for research assignments. Instructors can assign individual modules and the accompanying quizzes. Other tutorials are flash based with audio and demonstrate how to find a scholarly journal article and how to search specific databases.

Research Guides: Over a dozen research guides, such as “Writing a Thesis Statement” and “Evaluating Web Sites” are available in PDF. Instructors can use the guides as handouts in class or link to them on their course web sites.

Online Chat with a Librarian: CSN students and instructors can use this instant messaging link to get help from a CSN librarian during library hours.

Resources by Program: Under the “Find Web Resources Link” we’ve listed web sites relevant to programs offered by CSN. For example, under “Dental Hygiene Resources,” you’ll find links and descriptions of web sites for professional associations, careers, safety and more. More programs and web sites will be added soon.

Gale Virtual Reference Library

The Gale Virtual Reference Library has been added to CSN’s Library home page under the “Find Electronic Books” link. This database contains more than 140 full text encyclopedias and specialized reference sources covering a broad range of subjects and disciplines. We’ve purchased many of the titles that frequently get used in the reference area of the library. Instead of just one person being able to look at the book at a time, unlimited users can search and browse the electronic books 24/7.

Titles include the popular “For Students” series (Drama, Novels, Short Stories and Poetry). Other titles are the College Blue Book, Countries & Their Cultures, Diseases & Disorders, West’s Encyclopedia of American Law and many more. Publications can be viewed by subject or alphabetically by title. Users can search a single book or across the entire collection by keyword, article title and full text. Image captions can be searched as well.

Persistent urls allow instructors to integrate material from the books into online courses or syllabi. The content can be translated into French, Spanish, German, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Italian and Portuguese. Citations can be generated in MLA or APA format. For more information about this database, stop by any campus library reference desk.

Gale Database Training for Instructors on Oct. 17th

A trainer from Thomson Gale will demonstrate how instructors can take advantage of the resources and features available through the Gale Virtual Reference Library. Emphasis will be on how to embed links to articles, reference books and other Gale resources in WebCT courses. CSN’s librarians participated in this training session during the summer and found it to be extremely worthwhile. Check CAPE’s schedule of workshops later in the semester for the time and room location.

Information for DE Faculty: DE instructors and faculty who use a course web site will find links to online journals, books and other electronic resources plus information on how to help your students use them. There is also a guide to embedding library resources into WebCT, along with copyright information and links to full text journals for teachers of distance education.

Effective Assignments for Information Literacy: This part of the Library’s web site explains what information literacy is and how instructors can help students acquire information literacy skills. The basic elements of a well designed research assignment are given, along with ideas for effective assignments based on the Association of College and Research Libraries’ (ACRL) Information Literacy Standards for Higher Education.

Information Literacy Competency Exam: This 26 question exam, based on the information literacy competencies outlined by ACRL, tests the information-seeking and research skills students are expected to obtain in college level coursework.

CSN Research Assignment Hall of Fame: This is a showcase of exceptional research-based classroom assignments developed by CSN’s instructors. We’re looking for original, engaging assignments that challenge students while developing information literacy skills. Check the web page to see criteria for inclusion and instructions for submitting your assignment.
What We’re Reading…

_The Power of One_ (1989) by Bryce Courtenay

In his very first chapter, Bryce Courtenay makes you feel the anguish of facing irrational bigotry. As a five-year old on his first day in boarding school, the lead character Peekay suffers torture ONLY because he speaks the language the reader is reading: English. According to Paul Dean’s article in the _Los Angeles Times_, Courtenay was incensed by comments at a dinner party which exemplified the weakness of an over-intellectualized opposition to racism: “I got home and said: ‘Nothing ever gets done unless you feel it emotionally... I’m going to write about apartheid. Not as a statement. Not as a flaming sword. I am going to write it so that people feel it.’” _The Power of One_ makes you feel it.

— Jack Sawyer, Reference Librarian, Cheyenne Campus.

_The Power of One_ is available at the Cheyenne Campus Library (PR9619.3.C5964 P69 1989)

Norwegian Wood (2000) by Haruki Murakami, Translated by Jay Rubin

Published in Japan in 1987, this novel catapulted Murakami to international fame, selling 4 million copies in Japan alone. Superbly translated by Jay Rubin, professor of Japanese Humanities at Harvard, the novel in the English translation reads effortlessly and stylishly. Set in Tokyo in the late 1960’s, _Norwegian Wood_ tells a coming-of-age story about Toru, a quiet and gentle 18-year old university student, as he maneuvers his way through the confusions of first love. Naoko, Toru’s girlfriend, is ethereal and beautiful but also afflicted with an unstable and fragile mind. She eventually retreats to a sanitarium in the mountains near Kyoto. Despite the fast disintegrating condition of Naoko that renders her non-communicative at times, Toru remains unfailing in his love toward her. The novel opens with Toru, now 37, sitting in an airplane that has just landed in Hamburg, Germany. The Beatles’ “Norwegian Wood” is flowing from the ceiling speakers, and it sends him back to his university years and to the memory of Naoko, as it always does. This novel is highly recommended to Murakami fans and to the uninitiated in modern Japanese literature. The theme is as universal as the pang of first love.

— Won Ha, Reference Librarian, Cheyenne Campus.

_Norwegian Wood_ is available at the Cheyenne Campus Library (PL856.U673 N6713 2000)

Research Workshops on Fridays at Charleston Campus

Please tell your students about this great learning opportunity! Visit the Library home page or the campus libraries for a printed schedule of workshops and dates. For more information, contact Won Ha, Reference Librarian, at 651-4622 or won.ha@csn.edu

For Students:

All workshops are on Fridays as listed, from 10 am to noon at the Charleston Campus, Bldg. C, Rm. 133

- Each workshop begins with a 30-45 minutes presentation by a librarian
- Remainder of workshop is for students’ individual questions & research assignments

- Sept. 14: Getting the most out of CSN’s libraries
- Sept. 21: Starting your research
- Sept. 28: Finding credible, authoritative sources
- Oct. 5: Scholarly (peer-reviewed) journal articles
- Oct. 12: Finding pro and con information
- Oct. 19: Finding credible web sites for your research topic
- Nov. 2: Finding credible, authoritative sources
- Nov. 9: Citing books, journal articles and web sites in your research paper
- Nov. 30: Research doctor

For Instructors:

Librarians will be available from noon to 1 pm on each of the above dates to assist instructors with developing assignments that help students acquire information literacy skills. Room 133, Bldg. C, Charleston Campus.

New Films: AFI’s Most Inspiring

College Library Services recently added movies to each campus library from the American Film Institute’s “100 Years, 100 Cheers: America’s Most Inspiring Movies.” Titles include _Apollo 13, Norma Rae, The Color Purple_ and many more. CSN students, faculty and staff can check out the DVDs for free with a valid CSN library card.

Campus Library Information & Fall Semester Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEYENNE</td>
<td>651-4014</td>
<td>651-4419</td>
<td>M-Th, 8 am to 8 pm; F &amp; Sa, 9 am to 3 pm; Closed Sundays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HENDERSON</td>
<td>651-3066</td>
<td>651-3039</td>
<td>M-Th, 8 am to 8 pm; F &amp; Sa, 9 am to 3 pm; Closed Sundays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHARLESTON</td>
<td>651-5723</td>
<td>651-5729</td>
<td>M-Th, 8 am to 5 pm; F, 8 am to 5 pm; Sa, 9 am to 5 pm; Su, 11 am to 3 pm</td>
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