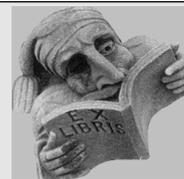


# Library Lines

November 2001 - Francis A. Drexel Library - Saint Joseph's University



## Library Program on Islam

The events of September 11, 2001 have changed the lives of all Americans and brought home the reality of our relationship and interconnectedness with the rest of the world. In an effort to help the Saint Joseph's community



understand some of the issues related to the terrorist attacks on America and their aftermath, the Drexel Library will be offering a series of programs for

our students, faculty and staff.

The first program, "Islam and the West: Civilizations in Conflict?" was held on October 23, and focused on the religion of Islam and its relationship to the non-Muslim world.

The program featured presentations by Dr. Irfan Omar, currently teaching a course on Islam in Saint Joseph's Department of Theology, and Simon Wood of Temple University. Dr. David Carpenter of our Theology Department moderated the discussion and also served as a responder during the question-and-answer portion of the program.

The Library has received positive feedback on the presentation and is currently planning a second program focusing on the political situation in the Middle East.

For ongoing study, the Library has also assembled a resource page of links to Web resources on Islam. The link can be found at the Library's homepage at <http://www.sju.edu/libraries/drexel/>

## Information Literacy Program

The Library will soon announce a program of workshops and training sessions to take place in our new Library Instruction Classroom (see related article on back page).

Faculty who wish to partner with a Librarian for class training on databases and electronic information sources should contact their Library Liaison or call the Library Reference Desk at 610-660-1904.

*Library Lines - Saint Joseph's University, Drexel Library*

## Come to the Drexel Library

on December 10, 2001

3:30 - 4:30 PM

For a ribbon cutting ceremony for the  
Library's new Instruction Lab

- food
- prizes
- demonstrations



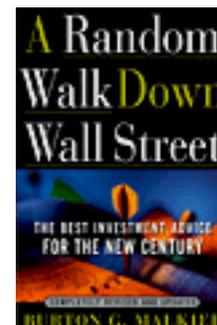
Learn how the library staff, in the new  
Instruction Lab, can assist you by  
showing your students how to do  
library research on the Library's many  
online databases.

## Jerome Gets New Image

The Library's Online Catalog, affectionately known as "Jerome," has been enhanced with the ability to display images. This new technology will allow us, for instance, to display a visual image of a book's cover along with the cataloging record.

For an example of this, visit Jerome at "<http://jerome.sju.edu>" and search for the title *A Random Walk Down Wall Street*.

Initially images will be added for our electronic books collection and for government publications where the copyright of the cover design is not an issue.



Visit us at  
[www.sju.edu/libraries/drexel](http://www.sju.edu/libraries/drexel)  
for all your information needs!

## Christine Schwarz...

### ..... role model for faculty

Christine Schwarz, of Saint Joseph's Education Department, took part in a program on faculty/librarian partnering sponsored by the Association of College and Research Libraries, Delaware Valley Chapter.



*Christine Schwarz  
Education Department*

In the program, Christine played the role of a faculty member discussing a library instruction session for her class.

The librarian's role was played by Evan Farber, Librarian Emeritus at Earlham College, who is famous for using this unrehearsed dialogue technique as a way of teaching librarians what questions to ask and how to interact with faculty to insure that a planned instruction session will meet the needs of the students, the faculty member, and the goals of the course.

## Update on PALCI

### Borrowing and Lending Books across PA

Many of our students and faculty have by now used PALCI (the Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium, Inc.) linked online catalog system to order books from libraries throughout Pennsylvania.

Last year the Drexel Library had the distinction of filling the largest ratio of requests based on the size of our collection. In effect, we loaned one book for about every 1000 we own.

The number of libraries in the PALCI "virtual catalog" has grown to 27. In order to keep searching more manageable, the libraries have been split into two search groups. When you search PALCI keep in mind if you do not find the item you are looking for in the first group, search again in second group.



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## Information Literacy and the New Library Instruction Lab

Katherine Furlong and Franklin Roberts of the Mantor Library at the University of Maine write of the following experience:

A student approached the Reference Desk and proclaimed, "I am trying to find out who invented the wheel."

There was a long, reflective pause before the librarian tackled his request. "We can look for which cultures are credited with first using the wheel...."

"Oh, no, my professor wants us to find the person's name. Each of us has to find someone who invented a significant object. I chose the wheel."

The temptation was to tell him that it was some guy named Og and let him leave. However, the librarian began to walk him over to The New Encyclopedia Britannica as a starting point.

He panicked. "Wait a minute, can't you just type this into the Internet and get this answered? I saw on TV that..."

He eventually left the library, muttering about what a lousy resource it was and how his professor would kill him. The librarian was frustrated, but rooting for the professor.

We can't promise success in steering every student to an appropriate print source when they find the Internet more appealing. We do hope, however, to teach students the skills they need to be able to discern the relative value of the great number of sources available.

An information literate individual should possess a set of competencies that will enable her or him to deal comfortably with a variety of resources. In our technology-saturated world, it is important to be able to discriminate between information that is poorly presented and that which is substantive. It is crucial that students feel comfortable using databases, but it is equally critical they

are able to discern that the best and fastest route to answering a particular question may be through a book on the reference shelf.

This semester, the new Library Instruction Laboratory will offer the perfect space for the librarians to offer an enhanced approach to our information literacy effort. We seek the cooperation of our faculty colleagues! Call us at the Reference Desk (x1904) to talk about the



*The new Library Instruction Laboratory in action.*

information needs of your students. Together we can plan a class session that will introduce students to the appropriate resources. Our new Instruction Laboratory is in the area in which the current periodicals were formerly held. We can accommodate 48 students at our new workstations. The space is newly carpeted, freshly painted, and - best of all - air-conditioned!