WHAT IS THE LEARNING COMMONS?

The Learning Commons, or Information Commons, has become a regular feature in academic libraries, but it can have a variety of meanings. In general terms, the Learning Commons is a trend in academic library design and service that marries the collaborative learning styles of our students with the best research tools, flexible spaces, flexible furnishings, high-end technology and readily available expertise.

We envision the Saint Joseph’s Library version as a space that responds to all types of learning and offers both formal and informal spaces, from “sit up straight” quiet chairs and tables to cushy chairs with foot stools, to a lively café environment. The Library’s expansion plans include collaborative workstations and collaboration rooms that accommodate 2 to 6 students with an over-sized monitor. By working with the production staff from ITDL, students will have access to the best research and technology assistance, all in one location.

LIBRARY HOSTS ACADEMIC SUPPORT LUNCHEON

On Tuesday, September 25th, Drexel Library hosted the first annual Academic Support Luncheon. The purpose of the event was to create an informal environment for staff and administrators who serve in these departments to get to know each other and become familiar with the focus and services of each.

5 YEAR PROGRAM REVIEW

As part of the University’s administrative planning and review process, each campus department is asked to conduct a comprehensive program review or self-study each five years. The Library has recently completed its self-study document including benchmarked Library services and resources, identified strengths, weaknesses and trends, and recommended changes.

The process will culminate with a full day of interviews by two external reviewers in early October. The Library’s program review was ably chaired by Kristine Mudrick, Serials and Electronic Resources Librarian. An Executive Summary of the Self-study and a Plan for Improvement will be shared with the President, Cabinet members and the Institutional Planning Committee.

The Library’s program review document is available for review at the Circulation Desk of Drexel Library.

NEW SERVICE TO FACULTY AND STUDENTS

A new means of delivering Interlibrary Loan (ILL) articles via e-mail that was successfully tested with the faculty this summer, is being extended to students this fall. Articles received from other libraries in electronic format will be forwarded directly to a student’s valid SJU e-mail address (non-SJU e-mail addresses like Hotmail or AOL accounts will not work).

The small percentage of articles not available electronically will still need to be picked up in person at the Library. In those cases, the Interlibrary Loan staff will send an e-mail when those copies are available. Additionally, all interlibrary loans will be free of charge.
STUDENT SURVEY

Drexel Library conducted a student survey in January 2007 as part of the planning process for the Learning Commons library addition. Along with some predictable responses, such as requests for coffee and snacks, better noise control, more computers, longer hours, more comfortable seating and additional group study rooms, the survey also yielded more surprising results.

For instance, when studying or working in the library, students seek a quiet environment away from distractions. Upon tallying the results, we found that 38% of all respondents wish for a "totally quiet area" and 54% prefer "mostly quiet".

For more information on the building project, contact University Librarian Evelyn Minick at minick@sju.edu.

From the Director continued from page 1

REFERENCE COLLECTION

To prepare for a massive shifting and redistribution of the Library's book collections next summer, Drexel librarians have been vigorously weeding the print reference collection. Many of these reference sources are now available in electronic formats.

The Online versions are not only preferred by students, but are available for use 24/7. Some reference sources are dangerously outdated and need to be updated. Other resources with very limited use, but still valuable, are being re-shelved in the Library's circulating collection, and resources that are outdated and outside the scope of the Saint Joseph's curriculum are being removed from the collection.

AJCU ARCHIVES PROJECT

Drexel Library is participating in an exciting archives project with all of the Jesuit University Libraries in the U.S. Each library is contributing 50 historical photographs with the appropriate metadata. This collective photo archive will mark the first stage of national archive of the Jesuit contribution to Catholic education and scholarship. The site will also contain links to existing digital collections at all of the Jesuit institutions.

Evelyn

NEW IN REFERENCE

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Several new information sources have been added to the array of e-resources available to you from the Library's web site @ www.sju.edu/libraries/drexel/

DIGITAL NATIONAL SECURITY ARCHIVE: THE DOCUMENTS THAT MADE U.S. POLICY

This database is the most comprehensive collection available of significant primary documents central to U.S. foreign and military policy since 1945, tracking important, declassified documents, many of which are being published now for the first time.

DNSA currently contains twenty-nine collections with each containing a diverse range of policy documents carefully selected by top scholars in the field.

In its totality, DNSA offers the most powerful research and teaching tool available in the area of U.S. foreign policy, intelligence and security issues during the pivotal period of twentieth-century history.

DNSA's newest collection is U.S. Intelligence on Weapons of Mass Destruction: From World War II to Iraq.

This database was acquired with Competitive Advantage Funds awarded to the Department of History, a grant from the Office of Diversity, Latin American Studies, and Francis A. Drexel Library funds.

EUROMONITOR INTERNATIONAL

THE GLOBAL MARKET INFORMATION DATA (GMID)

The GMID is an integrated database produced by Euromonitor that provides key business intelligence on countries, markets and companies, provides users with historical statistics (from 1977) and forecasts, analysis of consumers' lifestyles, information sources, brand and company information, plus full-text market analysis. 205 countries are researched, with extended coverage of 52.

Highlights:
- Provides marketing data and reports on countries, companies, markets, and consumers.
- Data can be sorted and downloaded in Microsoft Excel format.
- Market Research including market analysis reports, major market profiles, consumer lifestyles, and the retailing industry.
- Registered users may save their research.

GMID is relevant to the disciplines of economics, health services, marketing, and others.
WHO WAS FRANCIS A. DREXEL?

This question first caught my curiosity in the early 1990s when I started working at the Drexel Library. Being an amateur historian and, of course, a reference librarian I had to begin researching the answer. The inquiry has taken me to library catalogs in search of resources, electronic databases for articles, archives for the review of documents and to the office of a local author. It has been very challenging detective work with its moments of frustration and gratification. The picture that has emerged of Francis Anthony Drexel is one worth sharing with the University community because of his beneficence toward the Catholic Church in Philadelphia, Old Saint Joseph’s Church and the College.

Born in Philadelphia in 1824, Francis Anthony Drexel was the eldest son of Catherine Hookey and Francis Martin Drexel, an artist from the Austrian Tyrol. At the age of 13, Francis and his younger brother Anthony (later the founder of Drexel University), became apprentices in a brokerage firm established by their father in 1837. That business would later become the banking partnership of Drexel and Co. The company played active roles in the Mexican War (1846-1848), California Gold Rush (1849) and Civil War (1861-1865) periods. With the assistance of the youngest brother, Joseph, the business expanded its influence internationally with a Paris branch (Drexel, Harjes & Company) and another joint venture with the British banker JP Morgan (Drexel Morgan and Co.).

Francis was married twice, first to Hannah Jane Langstroth in 1854 with whom he had two daughters Elizabeth (1855) and Catherine (1858). Widowed shortly after the birth of his second daughter, Drexel married Emma Bouvier in 1860 and together they had a daughter Louise (1863). All three daughters would follow in the religious and philanthropic footsteps of their parents. Catherine entered the convent as Katharine and in 1891 founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored Peoples. In 2000, she was proclaimed a saint by Pope John Paul II.

When Francis Drexel died in 1885, he left 10% of his approximately 15,000,000 estate to charity. Both (Old) Saint Joseph’s Church and Saint Joseph’s College were among the beneficiaries. The gift enabled the College to reestablish itself near the Church of the Gesu in 1889. Per the terms of their father’s will, the Drexel daughters received the income from a trust. Much of this was used by them to assist charitable organizations. Elizabeth and Louise predeceased Mother Katharine leaving no heirs. When Mother Katharine died in 1955, the trust reverted to the 1885 will with the named charitable beneficiaries dividing the estate. In the 1960’s, Saint Joseph’s College named its new library building in honor of Francis A. Drexel.

During November, the Library will host a display on Francis Drexel incorporating information and images gathered during my research.

Christopher O. Dixon

FOR ALL THOSE LATE NIGHT AND LAST MINUTE SCHOLARS:
INSTANT MESSAGING REFERENCE 24/7

The Drexel Library joined the Ask Here PA virtual reference service in August, 2007. Students can ask reference questions anytime, from anywhere, and a librarian will respond using instant messaging to chat back and forth with them via computer. SJU librarians are contributing five hours per week, joining colleagues from dozens of other academic libraries in Pennsylvania to provide answers to questions 24/7.

CONSIDER THE LIBRARY

Looking for a place to hold a presentation or gathering? The library has several areas you may want to consider and we are available to assist you, should you so desire.

For more information, contact:
Evelyn Minick, minick@sju.edu or x1905
Marian Courtney, mcourtne@sju.edu or x1905
WHERE IN THE WORLD DID YOU GET THAT T-SHIRT?

This is the question that Georgetown University Professor and author Pietra Rivoli tries to answer in her book The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy. The work is this year's selection for Saint Joseph's University Reads (SJU Reads), a program “designed to engage the entire campus community in a common reading experience with the theme of the Ignatian value of social justice.” Freshmen read the book for orientation and attend faculty-led discussions. The title will also be used in 35 classes during the Fall Semester.

Dr. Rivoli takes the reader on an interesting trip around the world following the production of a t-shirt from the cotton fields of Texas to the textile mills and factories of China. She then picks up the trail after the t-shirt has been sold in the United States, worn, donated to charity and finally shipped to Africa. As a backdrop to the present day, Dr. Rivoli takes a look at the history of “King Cotton” in the Southern states and the rise and decline of the American textile and manufacturing industries. She also looks at the issues of workers’ rights, farm subsidies, international trade negotiations and globalization.

There is a great deal of information for the reader to absorb and analyze. To help facilitate that process, the Library has compiled a reader's guide, available from the Library's homepage. The guide provides some background resources from the Library's book and periodical collections on the topics of globalization and the industrial revolution. As an added feature, a series of web links are offered to some of the companies, manufacturers, labor, trade, human rights and government organizations mentioned in the book.

For a complete list of updated programming and a guide to the book please visit the T-Shirt web site www.sju.edu/libraries/drexel/sjuresads/tshirtglobal.htm.

SAVE THE DATE!

You are cordially invited to The Fifth Annual Faculty Scholars Reception & Exhibit, honoring the Management Department. This year's event will be held on Thursday, October 4th at 3:00 PM in the Scholars Gallery, located on the second floor of Drexel Library. Mark your calendar as we look forward to seeing you there.

SUMMER INTERNS

This summer, Lauren Paustian, a library school student, joined the Drexel Library as a student assistant for Periodicals and Microforms. Lauren, originally from Lebanon, PA, received a BA in English from Franklin & Marshall College in 2005. Presently, Lauren attends the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, where she is studying to receive dual masters’ degrees in Library Science and Art History. She also works as a graduate assistant at the Pratt Library during the school year. Lauren enjoyed her summer where she helped process, shelve, and weed the journals and microfilm kept at the library, (though all the candy and baked goods brought in by the library staff were nice too!). Back at school in Brooklyn, Lauren has resumed classes and is doing research for her art history thesis.

NEW FACES

Marvin Weaver joined the Drexel Library staff in October 2006. Coming from the University of Pennsylvania, he has assumed the mantle of Associate Director for Library Systems and Technology. Marvin has developed a successful rapport with the library staff and with the IT Department. In addition, Marvin serves as the Library liaison to the Philosophy and Theology Departments. He brings with him years of experience as an IT professional, as well as two BA degrees, an M.Ed., an MS, and an MSIS.

Margaret Gasiewski joined the Drexel Library staff in September, 2006. As a Circulation Clerk, her responsibilities include faculty reserves, work study supervision, and other circulation duties. She has quickly become a valuable asset to the staff, students, and faculty who rely on her services. Margaret has exhibited an easygoing nature, energy, and dedication to her position.

Francis A. Drexel Library Lines

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