

Library Lines



Post Learning Commons
& Drexel Library

Fall 2017

From the Director

"Do You Have My Textbook?"



A question all too familiar to library staff. Usually the student asks this at the beginning of the semester, but sometimes before mid-terms or finals. Students normally ask this question for two reasons: they have waited too long and the bookstore no longer has their book in stock; or they do not want to pay \$200 for a textbook, probably one of many textbooks required

for their courses. The Library does not acquire textbooks for the same reason. Textbook publishers produce new editions fairly regularly and the Library's budget does not allow for acquisition of textbooks chosen by each faculty member for each course or section. When we do have a textbook currently used in a course, we place the book on reserve so that all students may have access.

Avoiding textbook purchases is not exclusive to Saint Joseph's. As a response to high costs, universities have created open educational resources (OER) repositories to provide free online textbooks to students.

Recent student surveys have found that the cost of required textbooks is an obstacle to purchasing. Some students share a textbook; some may not acquire the textbook at all. A survey from the College Board in 2016 reported that the average student spends about \$600 on textbooks every year. Prices for new textbooks rose by 1041% from 1977 to 2015, over three times the rate of inflation.

How does the cost of textbooks affect students?

A 2016 survey from Florida Virtual Campus' Office of Distance Learning and Student Services* investigated the effects of textbook costs on university and college students. Due to textbook cost:

- 66.6% did not purchase a required book, 37.6% earned a poor grade, and 19.8% failed a course
- 47.6% took fewer courses, 45.5% did not register for a course, 26.1% dropped a course, and 20.7% withdrew from a course.

Open textbook initiatives have been implemented at Penn State and University of Massachusetts, Amherst. At UMass Amherst, faculty are given a stipend to create their own textbook for the repository. Penn State is a member of the **Open Textbook Network** which provides resources and workshops on textbook creation.

Even without a membership to a textbook initiative, there are many other open educational sources to peruse: **College Open Textbooks**, **MIT Open Courseware**, **OER Commons**, and **OpenStax**.

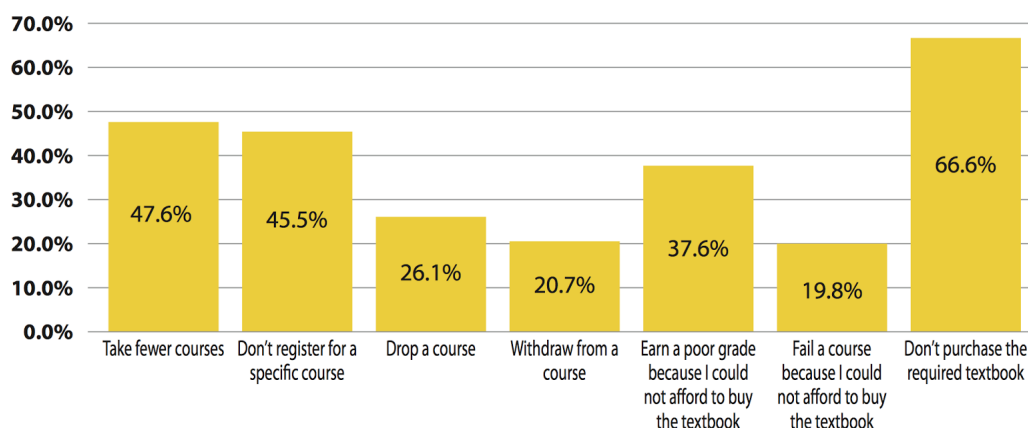
If you are interested in creating your own open educational resource or textbook, I encourage you to contact Mary Ann McMenamin at mstrecke@sju.edu to discuss copyright and publishing rights.

As always, the Library would be happy to place textbooks on reserve for your courses. Please see the library web page on **faculty services** for more information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Krakow".

Anne Krakow
Library Director

Chart 1: Impact of Textbook Costs on Students



* Survey participants included over 22,000 students studying at Florida's 40 public colleges and universities. **Florida Virtual Campus Survey**

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

HawkShare Replaces ILLiad

We are excited to announce that one of the Library's Interlibrary Loan services, ILLiad, has been replaced with a new system called HawkShare. HawkShare allows current SJU students, faculty, and staff to borrow books and obtain PDF files of articles and book chapters from other libraries.

You'll notice a few differences from ILLiad, but rest assured that HawkShare will provide access to all of the same resources. Detailed instructions on how to use HawkShare can be found on the Library's



Interlibrary Loan page.

Please note that all ILLiad users will have until October 25th to access their ILLiad articles and histories.

We hope that these changes enhance your library experience and streamline how you manage your requests. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at ill@sju.edu.

Library System Moved to the Cloud

Sierra, the integrated library system (ILS) that powers the library catalog and serves as the administrative back office for inventory management, was moved to a cloud-based server and then upgraded to the most current release over the summer. This change frees staff from performing hardware and software maintenance and permits them to focus on more system-specific work. New and improved

functions allow library staff to perform more detailed analyses of the collection, to work from mobile devices throughout the building, and to create a new public interface for the catalog, all with the objective of providing quality service to library users.



ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Long Ago Conflict Not Forgotten on Campus

Two recently published books are bringing about a new focus to the history of the Vietnam War, almost a half century after the conflict ended. The first is Mark Bowden's *Hue 1968: A Turning Point of the American War in Vietnam*. This well-researched work interviews participants from all sides in the battle for the old imperial capital of Hue during the Tet Offensive. One of the American stories from the book is that of United States Marine Corps Captain James J. Coolican, who graduated from Saint Joseph's College in 1960. A second new book is *The Vietnam War: An Intimate History*, the companion work by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns to the 18-hour documentary series which was shown on PBS in September. Burns' Florentine Films is well known for its exhaustive examination of subjects for historical productions.

Saint Joseph's University remembers its servicemen lost to the conflict in Southeast Asia on a small bronze plaque located inside the main entrance archway to Barbelin Hall. The Saint Joseph's College coat of arms appears on the tablet with those of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force. A short dedication is also included. The panel lists the name, service branch, rank and class year for each of the men

memorialized. The names below, taken from the inscription, are linked to brief record entries at [Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund](#), which was responsible for building "The Wall" in Washington, D.C.

Lawrence J. Bolger, LT., USMC, '66

Richard McSweeney, Capt., USAF, '58 *

Thomas G. Dineen, Jr. LT., USMC, '65

Robert J. Piatowsky, Corp., USA '68

John M. McKenna, PFC., USA '60

Francis E. Smiley, Maj., USAF '56

Vincent J. Connolly, LTC., USAF, '55

Joseph T. Kearns, LTC., USAF '58

*The name of Capt. McSweeney should be spelled McSweeney.

It should be noted that a number of people associated with Saint Joseph's University were in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War or know someone who was. Their stories are all important, so listen to them and learn if you have the opportunity.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Brendan Johnson, Instruction & Engagement Librarian



Brendan Johnson recently joined our staff as the Instruction and Engagement Librarian.

Why were you interested in working at Drexel Library?

I wanted to work at a place where I could work with students on a daily basis and impact their learning. Drexel Library, and Saint Joe's in general, has such a great reputation among other area libraries that I wanted to be a part of a team that was doing exciting things. but still had that personal connection with their students.

Where did you work before you came to Saint Joseph's University?

I was previously employed at Kistler Library at Rosemont College, right up Montgomery Avenue, for several years. Before that, I worked at Hagerty Library at Drexel University while getting my MSLIS.

What skills and experience do you bring to Saint

Joseph's University?

My previous career was in K-12 teaching so I bring a lot of instruction and assessment experience to the Library. I have worked and volunteered in several different libraries, from high school and special libraries to community colleges and research universities, so I have a good understanding of the different ways libraries can serve their patrons.

What do you see as your first order of business as the Instruction and Engagement Librarian?

My first order of business is to learn how instruction is done here at Drexel Library and determine how, if at all, we can better reach our students and help them develop their research skills.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

When I'm not in the library, I like to go for walks and hikes with my wife, daughter, and dog, run, and, after all that, be a couch potato.

Brendan can be reached at bjohnson@sju.edu or (610) 660-1913.

Redesigned Library Instruction Lab

Over the summer, the Library Instruction Lab was renovated and redesigned. The lab had been a traditional-style classroom with 24 individual student workstations facing front. The new lab has six pods, each with five workstations and a wall-mounted screen. Using Mersive Solstice software, the instructor can deploy the screens in lecture mode or cede control in breakout group mode. Users can share content within the pods or, with the instructor's permission, to the whole class.

Library Director Anne Krakow was inspired to create a more flexible space for collaborative learning after attending the Active Learning

Space Symposium at Philadelphia University in spring 2017. In addition to serving as a space for library instruction, the renovated lab will be used for enhanced faculty workshops provided by two other departments located in Drexel Library: ATDL (Academic Technology and Distributed Learning) and OTL (Office of Teaching and Learning). When not in use for instruction, it will also continue to serve as a student lab, now suitable for group projects as well as individual work.

For more information on the lab's technology, visit ATDL's page on [The Dynamic Classroom](#).



Books – They're Not Just in the Stacks

Did you know that the Library now provides access to 200,000 academic ebooks, ranging from encyclopedias and dictionaries to scholarly monographs and handbooks? Looking to read something really old? Early English Books Online (EEBO) contains digital facsimile page images of virtually every work printed in English from 1473 to 1700. Care for something more recent? Collections from Cambridge, EBSCO, ProQuest, and JSTOR provide more recently published content on almost any topic you can imagine.

Most ebooks can be read online or chapters can be downloaded to read later. While you can use our [Databases A-Z](#) list and select eBooks as the Database Type, using the Discover search box on the [Library's home page](#) is probably the best way to find these books. You can refine search results to limit source type to eBooks. For help finding, downloading, or reading ebooks online, check our [Research Help Center](#) or ask a librarian.

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It's free!

The Library's site license provides you with Premium Access to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

- Read premium content
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- On-campus? Use any device on the SJU network
- Subscribe to the Daily Briefing
- Mobile friendly? Yes, use any device: desktop/laptop/mobile
- Off-campus? Use a registered sju.edu email address

More information can be found on our [guide](#).

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Director: Anne Z. Krakow

Design & Layout: Catherine Collins

Copy Editor: Naomi Cohen

Contributors: Naomi Cohen, Marian Courtney, Christopher Dixon, Tom Ipri, Deb Lenert, Kristine Mudrick, Laurie Palumbo, and Alex Williams

Our Mission Statement

Post Learning Commons and Drexel Library supports academic excellence by serving as the primary physical and virtual resource for information, research, and information literacy education; creating a focal point for collaborative learning and a center for intellectual and cultural activity; providing excellent physical and virtual collections and services; and assuming a leading role in the development and integration of library technologies that enhance study, teaching, research, and the academic reputation of the University.

For more information, visit the [Library's home page](#).

**But Wait,
There's More!**

Would you like to browse the library collection for a recreational read, a video, or an audiobook? Or perhaps you want to see what the Library has recently added to the collection? Check out our catalog's online [Featured Lists](#).