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# Information Edge- Library Newsletter- Fall 2010

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# Information Edge

A Newsletter of the Pace University Library

Fall 2010

Volume 16, Issue 1

## Look inside this issue for information on :

Our new Rapid ILL service.

How to gain access to additional databases and library resources.

New spaces in the library.

How to find out about events in the library.

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## Are Students Information Literate? Results of the Spring 2010 Information Literacy Assessment

### The Test

In the Spring 2010 semester, 120 Pace University ENG 201 students took the James Madison University Information Literacy Test (ILT). The JMU Test consists of 60 multiple choice test questions, five pilot questions, and fifteen qualifying questions at the end of the test. The qualifying questions included demographic and psychometric questions.

### Results

Scores on the test questions ranged from 25% correct to 83.3% correct with an overall average of 57% correct. The 60 test questions were grouped into four of the five ACRL (*Association of College and Research Libraries*) *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education* ([http://](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency.cfm)

[www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency.cfm)). Results for each standard were:

**Standard 1:** defines and articulates the nature and extent of information needed: 70% correct

**Standard 2:** accesses needed information effectively and efficiently: 43% correct

**Standard 3:** evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system: 62% correct

**Standard 5:** understands many of the ethical, legal, and socio-economic issues surrounding information and information technology: 62% correct

⇒ There were two questions in Standard 5 that we did not believe were worded clearly. Removing those two questions

*Continued on p 3.*



## OPEN ACCESS, SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING, AND LIBRARIES

October 24 marked the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Open Access (OA)Week. This week of global events was begun in 2007 by SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition, an initiative of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). Designed to promote awareness of the current crisis in scholarly communication, this year's OA Week was quite a success. Approximately 900 people in 94 countries participated in conferences,

demonstrations, and seminars, and produced blogs, videos and Second Life "events." Supporters of Open Access are seeking alternatives to current publishing models which will help to ease the financial burden on libraries and researchers.

Open Access publications are digital and available freely online with few if any copyright and licensing restrictions. The Internet Age, along with the consent of the content creators, makes

such a thing possible. In the sciences, the movement toward OA is especially strong, with the purpose being to allow the fruits of scientific research to be shared within the academic community. In the Open Access vision, the peer-review process remains important, but barriers to access are lifted because a pricey journal subscription is not necessary to get to the material. Of course, publication continues to have costs associated with it. But the Open Access movement

*Continued on p 2.*

## Rapid ILL

**RapidILL** allows for the speedy delivery of articles – free of charge – between libraries.

New technologies and new systems that improve the performance and speed of Interlibrary Loan are being developed all the time. One of those new systems is called RapidILL. Pace University Library has joined the RapidILL system, and we have been using it now for about a year with great success.

RapidILL was developed by the Colorado State University several years ago following a devastating flood that destroyed part of their book collection. Since then, many academic libraries from many states have joined – including some major research universities with large collections – increasing the reach and value of the system. RapidILL allows for the speedy delivery of articles – free of charge – between libraries.

Our libraries have joined as members of the Connect NY consortium, which made the decision to join as a group (somewhat reducing the cost of membership.) Since RapidILL works seamlessly within the greater OCLC-supported Resource Sharing system, which includes ILLiad, every transaction

is tracked and recorded automatically. As an example, each morning after we sort out the new requests made by our patrons, the RapidILL system takes over: those requests from journals that are owned by any RapidILL library are automatically forwarded to that library, without any intervention by the ILL staff. Very often those requests are filled within a few hours, received here electronically and forwarded to the patrons in their ILLiad record. Speed of delivery is one important feature. Another benefit is that by having access to the collections of large libraries, RapidILL helps us reduce the cost of our ILL operations. Many of those university libraries would normally charge us a fee for borrowing within the traditional Resource Sharing operations, while within RapidILL all transactions are reciprocally free of charge.

Efficient operation and fast results make for happy patrons and we, the staff, feel gratified to be part of the system.

*Elisabeth Birnbaum, Head of Access Services, Birnbaum Library*

## OPEN ACCESS, SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING, AND LIBRARIES (cont.)

hopes to find new business models and creative solutions to eliminate barriers to access. With the current academic publishing model, scholarly journals are so astronomically expensive, that many university libraries cannot afford to maintain print or electronic subscriptions to important titles while continuing to offer the wide range of materials and services they are also expected to provide.

The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is a great way to find peer-reviewed journals freely available online (what is known as “gold OA”). You can find it at : <http://www.doaj.org/>. Another example is the Public Library of Science (PLoS), <http://www.plos.org/index.php>, which espouses the mission to make “the

world’s scientific and medical literature a freely available public resource.” On its website, You can freely download articles from their publications – peer-reviewed, high-quality journals in science and medicine on its website.

One of the ways university libraries have been supporting the move toward Open Access is through Digital Repositories. The Pace University Library hosts an institutional repository containing the full-text of papers that have been submitted by Pace faculty and students with permission to make them openly available to researchers. (Institutional repositories are known as “green OA.”) You can find the Pace Digital Repository through the Library’s web site and you can locate other institutional repositories through <http://www.oclc.org/oaister/default.htm>.

For more on the Open Access movement, see Peter Suber’s web page at: <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>

For more details on Open Access Week (and to find out how to get involved), see <http://www.openaccessweek.org/>

*Eileen Gatti, Head of Information Services and Resources, Birnbaum Library*

## Spring 2010 Information Literacy Assessment (cont.)

increased the score to 68% correct. No question in this area was missed by a large number of students.

JMU held a standard setting workshop in which the attendees decided **a score of 65% would define a proficient student** and a score of 90% would be advanced. This suggests, based on these standards, that our ENG 201 students are:

- ◇ **Proficient at Standard 1**
- ◇ **Approaching proficient in Standards 3 and 5**
- ◇ **Below proficient in Standard 2**

The final ten questions on the test included a set of *Student Opinion* questions. Students were asked in a variety of ways to indicate how much effort they had put into the test. The scale was Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree. **If you examine the results of those students who agreed or strongly agreed that they gave their best effort on the test (76 students), the average final score jumps to 61%.**

**For those 21 students who disagreed or strongly disagreed that they could have worked harder on the test, the average final score was 63.5%.** Since this question was a negative and needed closer reading to answer in a positive way, these students would most likely be the ones who read the questions carefully and may have had more analytic ability as well.

**The 22 students who agreed that they did not give the questions their full attention had an average score of 49%.** (One of these students did score an 81%, so we wonder what that student could have done if they paid attention!)

### Conclusions

In looking more closely at the results we were able to identify which questions the students had the most difficulty answering correctly. One trend we saw was difficulty identifying the type of source in a given citation. For example, they had difficulty distinguishing citations for book chapters from newspaper articles. This could lead to difficulty with writing citations for research sources, which is something we saw as a weakness in previous years of Portfolio Review activities.

We were also able to identify questions on which the students did well. Students were able to:

- identify effective keywords for searching
- identify the characteristics of a scholarly journal article
- identify newspapers as a source of current information
- evaluate a web site and determine who was responsible for the content of the site
- indicate the need for quotation marks and a citation when quoting from a source in their research paper
- identify the best way to narrow a research topic
- identify the Catalog as a research tool for locating books
- interpret data from a Census table on poverty in the United States

### Actions

The members of the Instructional Services Team have shared these results with the English departments on both the New York and Pleasantville campuses, and have met with the Pleasantville faculty who teach the Core Writing classes (ENG 110, ENG 120 and ENG 201). The librarians are working with the faculty to develop learning activities and assignments that will address the weaknesses seen in the performance by our students. For example, an activity has been developed and used in a number of ENG 201 sessions this semester in which students are given incomplete citations, and are asked to identify the type of source being cited, and to identify what essential piece of the citation is missing. Students can use online help from the Bedford Handbook, and after the librarian reviews the citations, they are given the complete and correct citations for future reference. Additional activities will be developed to address skill development in this area.

Thank you to the ENG 201 instructors and students who participated in this assessment initiative. This valuable data will allow us to make continuous improvements to our library research instruction programs.

*Sarah Burns Feyl, Assistant University Librarian for Instructional Services*

*In Spring 2010, some ENG 201 Students took the JMU Information Literacy Test. Their results gave us a snapshot of the skills they have acquired and the skills they still need to develop.*

## New Databases Available

**As a member of the Pace Community you have access to databases from New York State and through our local Public libraries for FREE.**

The New York State Library's mission has expanded to help ensure quality library and information services to all New Yorkers statewide through its Research Library, the Division of Library Development, the Talking Book and Braille Library, and NOVELNY – the statewide online library. (from [novelnewyork.org](http://novelnewyork.org)) The following databases can be found within the Pace University Library alphabetical listing of databases:

- Academic OneFile
- Agriculture Collection
- Business Economics and Theory
- Business and Company ASAP
- Business and Company Resource Center
- Communications and Mass Media Collection
- Computer Database
- Criminal Justice Collection
- Culinary Arts Collection
- Custom Newspapers
- New York State Newspapers
- Environmental Studies and Policy
- Expanded Academic ASAP
- Fine Arts and Music Collection
- Gardening, Landscape and Horticulture
- General Business File ASAP
- General OneFile
- Health Reference Center Academic
- Home Improvement Collection
- Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure
- InfoTrac Newsstand
- National Newspaper Index
- Nursing and Allied Health Collection
- Popular Magazines
- Psychology Collection
- The Twayne Authors Series

*Christina Blenkle, Electronic Resources Librarian, Mortola Library*

## Looking for additional resources and databases?

Being a member of the Pace University community living in New York State has its benefits. Not only do you have access to the many resources at the Pace University Library, but with your proof of residency in New York, you can also access many of the resources available through the local public library systems. With proof that you live in New York, Westchester or White Plains, you can obtain a public library card that will enable you to use the public library resources that are web accessible.

Getting a library card is a free service.

Remember the library is here to help you!

**New York Public** <http://www.nypl.org> Get your Branch Library card at any of our circulating libraries in Manhattan, Staten Island or the Bronx. Adults who live, work or attend school in

New York State may apply online by submitting a completed Branch Libraries Card application. Your application will be processed and the card will be mailed to the address you have provided within two weeks.

**Brooklyn Public** <http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/> If you live, work, pay taxes, or are a student in New York City, the library card is free. People who live outside New York State must pay a yearly \$50 fee and must renew their cards every year.

Some databases available from

**Brooklyn Public** include:

- Biography and Genealogy Master Index
- Career Library
- Music Online
- NetLibrary
- Opposing Viewpoints in Context
- Project Muse
- ReferenceUSA
- Standard & Poor's Money Market Directories

**Westchester Library System** <http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/> All Westchester County residents have access to these resources. Go to your local public library to get your card.

Some databases available from the Westchester Library System include:

- Ancestry Plus
- NoveList
- Ebsco Animals
- SEARCHASAURUS
- Tumblebook Library
- Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia
- Multimedia Encyclopedia
- New Book of Knowledge

**White Plains Public** <http://www.wpppl.lib.ny.us/> You must live in the City of White Plains to obtain a card. Westchester residents with a valid card may go to this library to have their card validated.

*Christina Blenkle, Electronic Resources Librarian, Mortola Library*

## New Faculty Office Hours Space at the Mortola Library

The Mortola Library now has desk space available for Faculty Office Hours meeting with students. There are two carrel desks located on the first floor behind the reference book stacks for faculty use. Since many students visit the library daily, it is an ideal area to meet with students on a face-to-face basis. There is also the added advantage of nearby computer work stations allowing faculty and students to review work assignments, Blackboard information and E-Portfolios, and incorporate updates to student work immediately without the back and forth of e-mails and phone calls.

To set up a faculty office hours schedule, please contact Steve Feyl at ext. 33233.




While you are in the Mortola Library, check out our popular fiction stack for light reading and our DVD stack for both current movies and a great selection of classics. They are located in the main lobby area on the first floor. We also have a variety of laptop computers, cameras and other electronic gear available for checkout. A reference librarian or student technical assistant will be happy to assist you.


*Tim Ryan, Reference Librarian, Mortola Library*


DVDs in the Birnbaum Library can be found at the Circulation Desk. Do a Keyword search in the Library Catalog with the Material Type: Visual Matl to find DVD and VHS items held at each library location.

## What's Going on in the Library?

Are you looking for ways to keep on top of what is going on in the Pace University library? The library has many ways for you to find out...

 The library is on Facebook – become a friend there of the Mortola library <http://www.facebook.com/Mortola.Library>, the Birnbaum Library <http://www.facebook.com/Birnbaum.Library> or both and we will post periodic updates.

 Not into Facebook? Then we have a “Lounging Around the Library” blog (<http://library.blogs.pace.edu/>) for you to check out from the library homepage.

 If you prefer a more sensory experience, we have a library minute video on the library homepage that is updated regularly – you can sign up for an RSS feed so you will be notified when there are changes. More information is

available on the library homepage at <http://www.pace.edu/library>.



There are also the more traditional ways of reaching us by either phone or email. You can call the reference desk in Birnbaum Library at 212-346-1331, in Pleasantville at 914-773-3505 or at the Graduate Center at 914-422-4384.



You can email the library via our online chat system or at [library@pace.edu](mailto:library@pace.edu).

*Christina Blenkle, Electronic Resources Librarian, Mortola Library*

### Other links from the library homepage explained:



The library has a flickr account where we have photographs of library events including the new collaborative learning room in the Birnbaum Library and library events such as game nights at the Mortola library.



The Pace University Library has a delicious account where the librarians have collected suggested Internet resource sites. Follow the icon from the library homepage and browse the sites using the tags on the right side of the page.

## Pace University Library Hours

### Birnbaum Library

Monday to Friday  
8 am to 11 pm  
Saturday  
10 am to 8 pm  
Sunday  
12 pm to 8 pm

### Mortola Library

Monday to Thursday  
8:30 am to 2 am  
Friday  
8:30 am to 11 pm  
Saturday  
9 am to 6 pm  
Sunday  
10 am to 2 am

### Graduate Center Library

Monday to Thursday  
10 am to 1 pm  
2 pm to 10 pm  
Friday  
1 pm to 5 pm  
Saturday  
10 am to 5 pm  
Closed Sundays

Exceptions: Holiday, Intersession, Summer Session and Final Exam hours vary and are posted at the library entrance and on the library website at <http://library.pace.edu>.

The Information Edge is published semi-annually by the Pace University Library. Please direct comments, suggestions and submissions to the editors: Karen DeSantis [kdesantis@pace.edu](mailto:kdesantis@pace.edu) and Ellen Sowchek [esowchek@pace.edu](mailto:esowchek@pace.edu).

## Hello My Name is...

*Please look for these new interns working at the Birnbaum Library this fall.*

**Kathleen Blair** is an intern at the Birnbaum Library's Reference Desk. She is a student at Pratt Institute's School of Information and Library Science, and she has a Bachelor's Degree in Literature. She used to work at a university writing center, so she is especially fascinated by the way a paper topic can shift in focus throughout the research process, and she loves how working in a library allows her to learn vicariously through students' research projects

**Eloise Flood** is a Reference intern at Pace's Birnbaum Library this Fall semester. She is studying for her master's degree in Library and Information Science at Pratt Institute, and is

hoping to become an academic or medical reference librarian. She comes to librarianship after a career in children's book publishing, where she focused on novels for teens and younger readers.



Kathleen and Eloise are interns at the Birnbaum Library this fall.