

4-1-2011

# The University Library: Your Partner in Teaching and Learning

Bryan Sinclair

Georgia State University, [bsinclair@gsu.edu](mailto:bsinclair@gsu.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/univ\\_lib\\_facpub](https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/univ_lib_facpub)



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Sinclair, Bryan, "The University Library: Your Partner in Teaching and Learning" (2011). *University Library Faculty Publications*. 64.  
[https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/univ\\_lib\\_facpub/64](https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/univ_lib_facpub/64)

This Flyer is brought to you for free and open access by the Georgia State University Library at ScholarWorks @ Georgia State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Library Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ Georgia State University. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@gsu.edu](mailto:scholarworks@gsu.edu).



## The Faculty Exchange



### Looking for new ways to engage your students?

Stop by The Faculty Exchange for help with:

- Instructional Design
- Instructional Technology
- Creative ideas for
  - engaging students online
  - utilizing ULearn

We're open  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Library South, Room 106

And on the web at:

[www.gsu.edu/exchange/location.html](http://www.gsu.edu/exchange/location.html)

## INSIDE

### Student Thoughts on Teaching

*Find out what engages and motivates your students*

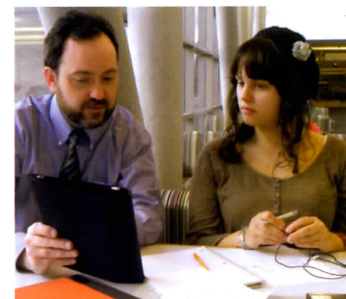
## The University Library: Your Partner in Teaching and Learning

by Bryan Sinclair, Associate University Librarian for Public Services  
[bsinclair@gsu.edu](mailto:bsinclair@gsu.edu)

The University's new strategic plan stresses the importance of the University Library in supporting research through technologies that provide "anytime/anywhere access to Georgia State's and the world's scholarly information and improved discovery tools to ensure access to purchased, licensed and electronic content."

While we recognize this important role within a growing research university, the University Library also embraces its role in the support of teaching and learning. The library itself is a learning organization that continually looks for new partnerships and innovations on campus. We believe that research, teaching and learning are interdependent in the life of the University and that teaching students how to find, evaluate and use information critically and effectively is more important than ever before. Following are just a few of the ways in which the University Library is your partner in the enterprise of teaching and learning:

**People.** Human relationships still matter, and people are our greatest asset. We hire and promote librarians and staff with the knowledge and skills needed to support



Bryan Sinclair and student, Aila Delleskoog

CONT. ON PAGE 5

## Thoughts from the Director

## Taming Technology for Teaching

By Peter Lindsay, Associate Professor of Political Science and Philosophy

It's cliché by now to point out that many "labor saving" technologies often create more labor than they save. E-mail and cell phones are quintessential examples. Less cliché – but equally obvious to anyone who's paying attention – is how technologies tend to grab attention away from the purposes to which they're put.

Nowhere is this more apparent than with educational technologies. Almost daily, teachers are bombarded with the latest, greatest technological way to present material, engage students, organize classes, capture cheaters and do just about anything else that was previously done with simpler technologies – pencils, chalk and the like.

Much of this push takes the form of an arms race: We deploy "clickers" and snazzy YouTube videos to capture the attention of Facebooking and texting students. We run papers through increasingly sophisticated cheating programs to defend against students who are using... increasingly sophisticated cheating programs.

At least clickers, snazzy videos and cheating software are relative successes. Other technologies fare less well. I've come to see PowerPoint, for instance, as an unmitigated pedagogical disaster; one that allows professors to disseminate terabytes of information at rates far exceeding the capacity of anyone – students, conference participants,

CONT. ON PAGE 6

teaching and learning in a fast-changing, technology-rich environment. A good example of this is our team of subject librarians. A subject librarian is assigned to each department, school, institute and program to provide assistance in crafting research assignments, defining learning outcomes, and providing general help to students and faculty within the context of their discipline. They're also good for bouncing ideas off of when prepping a new course. If you and your subject librarian have not connected this semester, please seek him or her out (Path: [Library homepage](#) > [How Do I...?](#) > [Find a Subject Librarian](#)).

**Instruction.** Librarians do not merely supply or connect campus users with information, they teach effective ways of accessing, evaluating and using that information. With so many online sources, teaching students to think critically about information is more important than ever before. A subject librarian is available for instruction sessions with students in the library's classrooms, in classrooms across campus, or through one-on-one consultations. Librarians also create research guides on specific topics and other online tutorials to support the teaching of research methods. For more information, go to the [Library homepage](#) > [How Do I...?](#) > [Research a Subject](#).

**Live Assistance.** This online service blends our commitment to teaching and learning with the ways students and faculty communicate. The Live Assistance service is available on the library website, allowing members of the campus community to chat or exchange text messages with library personnel in real time during the day, in the evenings, or on weekends. Of course, if a student is really stuck on an assignment or needs more in-depth assistance, a librarian is available to help that student in person or over the phone.

**Learning Spaces.** With an average



daily door count of over 10,000 – and growing – the library is a busy and popular place. Students can be found huddled around any of our 400 computer terminals, checking out one of our 100 laptop or netbook computers, or taking a study break on the 5th floor. But faculty may not be familiar with some of the library's most popular learning spaces, which are learning and study spaces specifically designed for out-of-class group work. Presently, GSU students can reserve one of more than 50 group study rooms, including two designed for group media viewing and one for practicing group presentations. A lot of interesting and engaging peer learning takes place in these spaces. See photos of group learning at the library's Flickr photostream: [www.flickr.com/photos/gsulibrary/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/gsulibrary/).

**Collections.** The University Library supports teaching, learning and research by providing databases, e-journals, books and other resources, but increasingly we offer online collections of original source material and primary data. Historical newspapers, early books, government and statistical information, business and scientific data, and streaming media collections can be explored by students and faculty firsthand, allowing for new connections and understandings.

In the classroom, an instructor can illustrate local historical events by showing full-page views of The

**“Librarians do not merely supply or connect campus users with information, they teach effective ways of accessing, evaluating and using that information.”**

*Atlanta Constitution* (1868-1945), one of the library's many online newspaper collections. In the lab, students can access chemical property data for a particular drug by drawing the molecular structure in *Reaxys*, one of library's many scientific databases, and then linking to related articles. Business students developing a marketing strategy for a new product can search *MediaMark Reporter* to find and compare demographic information of potential customers. In a music course, an instructor can create playlists of composers' works in *Naxos Music Library* for students to listen to outside of class.

**Visit Soon.** This is just a sampling of the many collections and services the library provides to support teaching and learning on campus and remotely. If you haven't visited the Georgia State University Library website in a while, take a look. Additional links and information for faculty can be found on our Faculty Services page (Path: [Library homepage](#) > [Information for You](#) > [Faculty](#)).