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SAILS Testing for Seniors Announced for Spring Term

The SAILS (Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills) Test will be available for Pitt Johnstown seniors to take online, beginning about January 19th and is expected to run through Friday, April 22nd. This test allows the Pitt Johnstown campus to assess the information literacy skills attained by seniors during their four years of study. It identifies areas of strength and weakness. It also allows for comparison to other institutions. It is based on the information literacy standards of the Association of College & Research Libraries and congruent with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education’s Guidelines for Information Literacy in the Curriculum.

If you are a faculty member teaching a capstone course or an upper level course, please support this effort by encouraging seniors in your class(es) to complete the SAILS Test, which they can find located on the Pitt portal. A “thank you” page is generated when the test is completed, which may be printed out by the student and handed in for extra credit and/or turned in to the Library Circulation Desk to be entered in a raffle drawing to be held in April.

Database Spotlight: American History in Video & Theatre in Video Introduced

The University Library System (ULS) has subscribed recently to two databases which provide Pitt users access to a growing library of streaming video. The following is a brief introduction to these databases.

American History in Video provides a rich online collection of streaming video for the study of American History. Partnering with the A&E Television Network, Alexander Street Press provides users access to documentaries and series from The History Channel, A&E Network, and Biography, plus PBS, Media Rich Learning, Bullfrog Films, and others. Also available are the entire series of newsreels from United News (the U.S. Government Office of War Information) and Universal Pictures. Originally shown before feature films in movie theaters, these newsreels provide contemporaneous news coverage of American history, society, and culture. Public affairs video, from series such as Longines Chronoscope (Columbia Broadcasting System), include political debates and interviews with leaders and scholars. In all, American History in Video currently includes 5,471 titles equaling approximately 1,375 hours.

Basic searches can be limited by subject, title and series, topic, or transcript and notes, using a drop-down menu. Users can further refine searches by using the filters to the right of results. The Advanced Search function allows users to combine one or more search fields. Users can specify video type (archival, documentary, newsreel, or public affairs), collection, person discussed, historical era, historical event, place discussed, and others. Terms can be added to a search field from a suggested list. Users can also browse video by many of the same fields.

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Looking for ways to improve your research skills? Wondering how to get ahead in class or at work? Become Research Ready with Open Sessions at Owen Library!

Spring 2011 Open Sessions

Distinguishing between Primary and Secondary Resources (Owen Library, Room 209)
You’ll learn the definitions of primary and secondary materials, and characteristics to help you identify each type of source. You’ll also find out where and how to locate primary sources in print and electronically.

- Wednesday, February 9, 2011          4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- Thursday, February 24, 2011            2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- Tuesday, March 1, 2011                   6:00 pm – 7:00pm

Tips for Effective Internet Research (Owen Library, Room 209)
In this session, you’ll learn how to find and use reliable and valuable web sites using alternative search engines and subject directories. You will also learn how to evaluate information found on the web using the CRAAP test.

- Thursday, February 17, 2011            5:00pm – 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 2, 2011              6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 16, 2011            5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Exploring Psychology and Medical Online Resources (Owen Library, Room 209)
This session focuses on research tools for medical, psychology, and life science majors. Resources covered include PSYCInfo, Pubmed/Medline, and other APA databases. You will learn how to navigate thesaurus-based databases.

- Tuesday, February 15, 2011              2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- Wednesday, February 23, 2011         10:00 am-11:00 am
- Thursday, March 3, 2011                   3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to attend, but seats are limited and these sessions fill up fast! Please RSVP at least one week in advance to Julie Dewey (judewey@pitt.edu or 269-7289) or stop by the Circulation Desk in Owen Library. We will have completion certificates available for students attending as homework or for extra credit for class. Sessions are approximately 1 hour duration.
Put your Reading in “OverDrive”

Did you receive a Kindle, iPad, or another e-reader for the holidays? If so, you may want to check out OverDrive Media, the new way to check out popular audio books or eBooks available through the University Library System. Pitt users now have access to over 15,800 digital materials in e-book PDF format or audio MP3 and WMA formats. The digital collection is a combination of fiction and non-fiction titles, including both recent bestsellers and classic materials. This includes the “coming soon” addition of 15,000 titles from Project Gutenberg in e-pub format.

Like most electronic resources, they can be accessed at any time by downloading the material to a user’s personal computer or personal device. However, formatting differences prevent OverDrive from working with all e-reader devices. While Amazon’s Kindle will accept books in MP3 audio format, it does not recognize the e-pub format at this time. Before starting, please check with OverDrive's website at http://www.overdrive.com/resources/drc/ and verify that your e-reader device is compatible with OverDrive Media.

Up to ten titles may be checked out and downloaded at a time. Users are asked to choose one of three loan periods: seven, fourteen, or twenty-one days. At the end of the loan period the materials delete themselves from the user’s e-reader or computer. While materials cannot be renewed like physical print or audio material, OverDrive material may easily be checked out again.

Audio books in OverDrive present an easy way to “read” a book while doing other projects as you listen. Many mobile devices will allow the patron to download or transfer materials allowing the user to carry several books with them in a much smaller format. If your materials are already checked out or you don’t have time to read them, you can add them to an electronic wish list, which identifies which books you would like to read.

We hope you find OverDrive to be a useful addition to the ULS collection.

Requesting Course Reserves Online

Library staff will now retrieve items that are held in the Owen Library collections for Course Reserve. Providing the call number for any material to be placed on Reserve, you will allow us to expedite the processing of your reserve list. Pitt-Johnstown faculty members may submit requests to place library materials on Course Reserves by using the online form at: http://www.library.pitt.edu/john/reserveform.html.

Titles located elsewhere within the University Library System, should have their location noted in the comments field on the form or you may provide this information directly to Stephanie Beyer, the Owen Library Senior Circulation Assistant responsible for Course Reserve, by calling her at 269-7300.

In order to place a personal copy on Course Reserve, simply print and complete the online form and send your personal copy along with it via campus mail to Owen Library Course Reserves.

Photocopy requests (copies of journal articles or book chapters) and Electronic Reserves requests can be submitted via campus mail using the appropriate forms found linked from the online Owen Library Course Reserves Request Form.

For more detailed guidelines about Course Reserves click on the following link: http://www.library.pitt.edu/john/howto/facreserves.pdf.

News from Owen Library
Database Spotlight: *American History in Video & Theatre in Video*  Introduced

(Continued from p.1)

Also from Alexander Street Press, *Theatre in Video* contains more than 250 definitive performances of the world's leading plays, together with more than 100 film documentaries, representing hundreds of leading playwrights, actors and directors. Performances are the actual original productions, captured and recorded while performed for a live theatre audience. The collection covers 20th Century Theatre and includes such video as television broadcasts of New York productions from the 1950s and the BBC's productions of Shakespearean plays in the 1970s and '80s as well as contemporary performances. As with *American History in Video*, users of *Theatre in Video* can perform basic and advanced searches or browse the collection. Search fields include title, actor, playwright, company, and theatre.

Additional features include printable transcripts for most videos (*American History in Video* only), PDF files of liner notes for commercial releases (*Theatre in Video* only), and thumbnail images, which allows for a quick preview of a video’s contents.

Both databases enable users to create personal playlists containing whole videos, tracks, clips, and other links to any URL, such as an online course syllabus or article in another database, which can be used as a teaching resource for in-class use or shared with students for class assignments. To save a playlist from session to session, one must register a profile and sign in. Once created, playlists may be made public for everyone to see within the database, limited to only those users at the University of Pittsburgh, or kept private. Each item in the database, including playlists, videos, and clips, has a permanent URL that can be placed into Blackboard, PowerPoint presentations, emails, or as bookmarks in web browsers. Permanent URLs are found by clicking on “Embed/Link” (or the small globe icon) located directly above each item or in the upper right part of the screen.

However, please note that videos found in *American History in Video* and *Theatre in Video* cannot currently be accessed from off campus.

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**Owen Library Hours Spring Term**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1:00 pm - 12:00 Midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday-Wednesday</td>
<td>8:00 am - 12:00 Midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:00 am - 11:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8:00 am - 6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:00 am - 6:00 pm</td>
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**Computer lab closes 15 minutes prior to closing of the library.**

**Hours vary during holidays and between terms. Call x7300 for times.**
This past September marked the 40th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for Owen Library on the Pitt-Johnstown campus. This is a significant milestone in the history of the Library serving the information needs of the students, faculty and staff of the Pitt Johnstown programs and curriculum.

The history of the library of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown goes back many years. In 1927, the library was first established within the old Johnstown High School building. It was first housed within a converted classroom, with seating for only 30 students. Initially the loaning of library material was done on the honor system, with students only permitted one week loan periods. Students would place the book card with their signature in a small box in the library. Returns were made to the administrative office and clerical staff re-shelved the material. In the early years prior to 1945, the library’s collection was only about 3,600 books.

In 1946 the college moved to a 3-story brick school building on Cypress Avenue in the Moxham area of Johnstown. A 2,755 sq. foot area, formerly two classrooms, housed the library which offered an attractive fireplace within its study area. It was slightly larger, accommodating approximately 100 persons for study. By 1958 it had again outgrown its area and the library expanded into another former classroom across the hall. By 1962 another expansion was required.

In 1967 the college moved to its present location in Richland Township. Initially, the library was located on the first floor of North Hall (present day Krebs Hall) in one wing and was able to house approximately 34,000 volumes and seat about 175 persons. As the campus became a four year college, it became apparent that a larger library with a more bigger and more balanced collection was necessary. In the spring of 1970 the Pennsylvania General State Authority allocated $2.37 million for a new library. The plan for the library on the top two floors of the building was for it to include a capacity for 200,000 volumes. The building also originally included the college bookstore in the basement.

On September 11, 1970 a ceremony was held at the patio entrance to the building (still under construction) for the laying of the cornerstone of what later was named Owen Library. A time capsule including a special edition of The Panther student newspaper, commemorative stamps, a brief history of the college library, sheets of paper containing the signatures of all the faculty and photos of the ceremony taken with a Polaroid camera was also placed with the cornerstone.
New Resources: A Selected List

The following is a selected list of new acquisitions in the Owen Library.

*Just Kids* / Patti Smith
Winner of the 2010 National Book Award for Non-Fiction. Singer-songwriter Patti Smith’s memoir of her friendship with Robert Mapplethorpe.

*Food Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know* / Robert Paarlberg.
A good source book of information on food policy and politics, including the topics food safety, food shortages, organics and political lobbying.

The long awaited release of the first volume of the author and humorist’s autobiography.

*The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration* / Isabel Wilkerson.
Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson provides a wonderful and well researched study of the Great Migration when more than 6 million black Southerners left the terror of Jim Crow to resettle in the North and Midwest.

*Green Plastics: An Introduction to the New Science of Biodegradable Plastics* / E.S. Stevens
A concise introduction to bioplastics, plastics derived from renewable raw materials.