How To Serve the “Millenial” Student

As we approach spring with the cherry blossoms in full bloom on campus and the squirrels whirling across the beautiful El Camino College green spaces, it is an appropriate time to look at our services and how responsive we are to the El Camino College community. That community is composed of traditionalists (born before 1943), Baby Boomers (born 1943-60), Gen Xers (born 1961-81) and the Millennials (born after 1982) as characterized by economist and demographer Neil Howe. The Millennials, also known as “generation why” because they never stop questioning the status quo, are El Camino College’s typical students.

The Learning Resources Unit has begun a study of whether there is a “disconnect” between library culture and the values of the millennial generation. The basis is an article by Chuck Thomas and Robert McDonald that was a part of the Flex Day discussion and will also serve as the theme for the annual Learning Resources’ spring retreat.

The disconnects that challenge all institutions serving the millennium generation, also referred to as the “echo gen,” are centered on three areas for learning resources services, technology, policy and opportunity. How do we effectively serve these students who are accustomed to media rich entertainment and computing, who feel that reality is no longer real because you cannot assume the truth or authenticity of anything online and that computers are not technology because they are too commonplace?

How does the library connect with these students when our values and policies diverge…the use of the library’s open lab for the production of new digital products, work-sharing via the campus network, application of rss feeds, and full access to wireless technology?

To create more connects rather than disconnects, the unit will look at how to integrate popular external search tools into library systems while dealing with the copyright implications that are often ignored by the new generation of users and staff technology and media capabilities. New ways to package the information available via learning resources and how to deliver information literacy skills in alternate channels and spaces will also be explored.

The millennium students and employees are characterized as confident, team-oriented through a sense of empowerment, conventional thinkers, environmentally sensitive, feel pressure to succeed and take academic achievement seriously. Organizations, such as learning resources, will have to adapt in order to effectively serve, employ and motivate millennials.

Alice Grigsby
Director
Learning Resources Unit
Have You Considered Videoconferencing?

Using videoconferencing equipment, the Media Services Department regularly facilitates live interactive training (audio & video) for El Camino College managers and HR department personnel. The training is provided by the law firm of Liebert Cassidy and Whitmore who are connected via videoconferencing equipment to a large number of community colleges across the state. Media Services staff regularly provides this service for many members of the campus community.

Using classroom videoconferencing equipment, the Media Services staff has provided the technical assistance necessary to enable El Camino College faculty and students to interact with students and faculty at other institutions around the world. Most recently, Media Services staff facilitated a videoconference that allowed El Camino College students and faculty to hear a lecture and to interact with anthropology students and faculty at a university in Australia.

Videoconferencing allows real time face-to-face meetings around the world without the travel. These can be classroom exchanges, administrative dialogues, or any sort of interaction that is enhanced by face-to-face communication. The connecting sites can be just about anywhere, provided both locations have equipment that is compatible. For more information contact Mike King at ext.6726.

Use your imagination and let us know how Media Services may best serve you!!!

Office of Media Materials

What does a monarch butterfly like to eat? Who the heck is Bix Beiderbeck? Where did all those terra cotta soldiers come from? If the search for the answers to these or other questions has kept you up nights, look no further. The Media Materials office has nearly 2500 programs on videotape and DVD for use by faculty and staff. From art history to literature to welding, Media Materials has titles to fit nearly every subject. We can’t offer you the latest box office smash, but if you’ve never watched Citizen Kane, To Kill a Mockingbird or A Streetcar Named Desire, give us a call. Latest acquisitions include Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Movement on DVD, National Geographic’s Guns, Germs and Steel, based on the Pulitzer Prize winning novel by Jared Diamond, A Jury of Her Peers, adapted from the short story by Susan Glaspell, and two DVDs offering a selection of Sherlock Holmes episodes.

The Media Materials office is located in the east basement of the library, Room 74. Stop by and take a look at our collection or feel free to contact Charlie Fox by phone (extension 6714) or by e-mail (cfox@elcamino.edu). Last-minute media requests for classroom use are not a problem!
Audiovisual Equipment Available
Do you need audio visual equipment? If you’re planning a presentation or program that requires audiovisual equipment, Media Services can help. We have laptop computers, LCD projectors, overhead projectors, sound systems, podiums, projectors and video recording equipment available for classroom and administrative use. To schedule equipment and technical assistance please contact Charlie Fox (extension 6714 ~ cfox@elcamino.edu).

Charlie Fox
Media Services

A LION in the Library
New Literature Database Offering

The Library has added a new database, Literature Online Reference Edition, to our online information database offerings. While it is available to all El Camino College faculty, students and staff, it is particularly relevant to the Humanities Division. Literature Online Reference Edition is a collection of literary reference and criticism resources.

We have decided to add this database to the Gale Literary Databases subscription that we already have because of its attractive promotional pricing and the many literature and literary criticism class assignments that are given to students. However, in light of budget limitations, it is unlikely that we will be able to afford continuing two subscriptions beyond this calendar year, so we invite faculty to take advantage of the new database and give us feedback on its value during the course of the year. For access, a user should go to the Library's Home Web page at http://www.elcamino.edu/library/library_ser and follow the directions in the Library databases section for on-campus and off-campus use.

Moon Ichinaga
Reference Librarian

Artists Wanted
The Schauerman Library is seeking artists for exhibitions for the 2007-08 academic year. If you are an artist or know artists who would like to display their talents in our Library lobby gallery, please contact Ed at ext. 3876.

READ Poster Celebrities 2007
As a part of the Library’s annual celebration of National Library Week, we will once again be honoring local “celebrities,” with our READ Poster unveiling. The event is scheduled for Thursday, April 26th, 12:30 – 1:00, in the lobby of the Library. This year’s honorees are: Lyman Hong, Humanities; and, Kathy Oswald, President’s Office.

We hope you will join us in this recognition of the fundamental aspect of the education process; that of reading and literacy.
Moving Art on Display
During March the Schauerman Library is pleased to present, “MOVING STILL IMAGES,” a collection of photographic art and short multimedia pieces by seven South Bay artists. These artists have extracted selected still images from their short multimedia pieces and framed them alongside the multimedia of origin. The exhibit demonstrates how great still images are further enhanced by music and image movement.

The artists are from the PhotoSavvy and Life’s Eyes group and include the following: Constantine Lackides, Rudy Rodriguez, Francis Goroszko, Al Goroszko, Myrna Nakamurna, Jim McKinniss and Don Goss.

Future art exhibitions for the Schauerman Library include: Matt Ebiner’s (Natural Sciences) photography in April; Lisa Chakrabarti’s ink renderings in May; also in May, Steve Nothern’s (Fire Science) firefighting display; and, Mary Jane Casey’s mandalas in June and July.

Book Fair Cometh
The annual Spring Book Fair will be held May 1-3 (Tuesday – Thursday), from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the East Lounge of the Student Activities Center. This is your opportunity to purchase some great summer reads and/or gifts to give to your students. On sale at incredible prices are books, periodicals, videotapes, records and other items.

In addition we will have some local authors on hand, signing copies of their books. One of the featured authors is our own, Laurie Pelayo, of the cataloging department. Her first book, An Old-Fashioned Murder, is an intriguing genealogical mystery that is bound to keep you guessing.

Hope to see you at the Fair.

For Your Reading Pleasure
Selected New McNaughton Titles

Fiction
Albom, Mitch  For One More Day
Allende, Isabel  Ines of My Soul
Andrews, V.C.  Broken Flower
Andrews, V.C.  Scattered Leaves
Anthony, Piers   Stork Naked
Atwood, Margaret   Moral Disorder
Baldacci, David   The Collectors
Barry, Dave   The Sheperd, the Angel, and Walter the Christmas Miracle Dog
Beaton, M.C.   Death of a Maid
Beaton, M.C.   Love, Lies, and Liquor
Binchy, Maeve   Whitethorn Woods
Black, Daniel   The Sacred Place
Bohjalian, Christopher   The Double Bind
Bova, Ben   The Sam Gunn Omnibus
Bradbury, Ray   Farewell Summer
Bradford, Barbara   The Ravenscar Dynasty
Braun, Lilian   The Cat Who Had 60 Whiskers
Brown, Rita Mae   The Hounds and the Fury
Brown, Rita Mae   Puss 'n Cahoots
Card, Orson Scott   Empire
Churchill, Jill   The Accidental Florist
Clark, Mary Higgins   Santa Cruise
Contant, Susan   Gaits of Heaven: A Dog Lover’s Mystery
Cookson, Catherine   The Hamiltons
Crichton, Michael   Next
Cussler, Clive   Treasure of Khan
Dahl, Roald   Collected Stories
Daily, Janet   Eve’s Christmas
Delinsky, Barbara   Family Tree
Dick, Philip   Voices From the Street
Evanovich, Janet   Motor Mouth
Evanovich, Janet   Plum Lovin’
Fluke, Joanne   Key Lime Pie Murder
Foster, Alan Dean   Trouble Magnet
Francis, Dick   Under Orders
Friedman, Kinky   The Christmas Pig
George, Elizabeth   Sin Testigos
George, Elizabeth   What Came Before He Shot Her
Giovanni, Nikki   Acolytes
Gould, Judith   The Secret Heiress
Greeley, Andrew   Irish Linen
Greeley, Andrew   The Senator and the Priest
Griffin, W.E.B.   The Hunters
Grimes, Martha   Dust
Hall, Parnell   You Have the Right to Remain Puzzled
Hambly, Barbara   Patriot Hearts: A Novel of the Founding Mothers
Heinlein, Robert   Variable Star
Hemingway, Ernest   El Viejo y el Mar
Herbert, Brian   Hunters of Dune
Hiaasen, Carl    Nature Girl
Hillerman, Tony   The Shape Shifter
Hoffman, Alice    Skylight Confessions
Johansen, Iris    Stalemate
Jakes, John       The Gods of Newport
Kaminsky, Stuart  Always Say Goodbye
Kellerman, Jonathan Capital Crimes
King, Stephen     Lisey’s Story
Koontz, Dean      Brother Odd
Le Carre, John    The Mission Song
Lescroart, John   The Suspect
Ludlum, Robert    The Bancroft Strategy
Macomber, Debbie  Christmas Letters
Mailer, Norman    The Castle in the Forest
McCall Smith, Alexander The Right Attitude to Rain
McInerny, Ralph   The Letter Killeth
McMurtry, Larry   When the Light Goes
Medvei, Cornelius Mr. Thundermug
Michaels, Fern    Free Fall
Michaels, Fern    Lethal Justice
Min, Anchee       The Last Empress
Mortimer, John Clifford Rumpole and the Reign of Terror
Mosley, Walter    El Caso Brown
Mosley, Walter    Fear of the Dark
Mosely, Walter    Killing Johnny Fry
Munro, Alice      The View From Castle Rock
Oates, Joyce Carol Black Girl/White Girl
Parker, Robert    High Profile
Parker, Robert    Hundred-dollar Baby
Parker, T. Jefferson Storm Runners
Patterson, James  Cross
Patterson, James  Step on a Crack
Perry, Anne       Christmas Secret
Pynchon, Thomas   Against the Day
Qiu, Xiaolong     A Case of Two Cities
Rice, Luanne      The Edge of Winter
Robb, J.D.        Innocent in Death
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Scottoline, Lisa  Daddy’s Girl
Smiley, Jane      Ten Days in the Hills
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Steel, Danielle   Sisters
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Spoto, Donald  Joan: The Mysterious Life of the Heretic Who Became a Saint
Library Construction Update

Construction of the Library’s new wing is already underway. The preliminary groundwork has already been completed and before long walls will be springing up. The new wing will include a large meeting room for Distance Education classes, an expansion of the LRC, virtually doubling the space for their services, a room for Nursing students and resources, and, the ECC archives. Construction is expected to be completed by 2008.
As mentioned in Alice Grigsby’s essay at the start of this issue of the Lamppost, we are indeed in the midst of yet another generation gap. As a proud and graying member of the Baby Boomer generation where we never trusted anyone over 30, I find it somewhat ironic that we now are the target of this same distrust.

One look at our social, environmental and political situations certainly provides ample evidence of why we earned such distrust; hard to believe that we peace and loving types became such the antithesis of the Haight-Ashbury credo.

But here we are, now in the driver’s seat, leading the way for the next generation. These days, however, it is hard to declare just who is doing the driving. Perhaps, the growth of technologies clearly is driving us all. For those who have known of no life before the Net or cellphones it is clear that their drive through life views things like libraries and books as less significant than those of my contemporary hipsters.

Today’s generation can tell you plenty about Britney Spears, Anna Nicole Smith, and countless others who “made it,” seemingly without much effort, and they made it fast and in a shallow way, not unlike the typical Google research. That sphere of cultural influence is pounded on us all whether we want it or not. It is that same depth, or lack thereof, that permeates our media and the lives of those who read, watch and believe in the importance of their reports.

Many young students grunt at the thought of having to use a reference book or any book over 100 pages for research. They can get the answer by Googling the question on their cellphone. They can even download a paper that is already done for them for a small cost.

The slow, methodical pace that was required of those folks living in the BC era (before computers) is no longer appreciated. Slower is not better according to many in the new g-g-generation. Life is too short. They want it fast, they want it now, they don’t care how it got there or the underlying essence of what that information is or even if it is factual.

Of course it is our job to educate this next generation of the value of the educational process. There is a reason for the scientific process. There is plenty of great Shakespeare criticism that was written before databases came to our Library. Our task as instructors and librarians is to remind today’s students that there is a time and place for quick information but also that there is a critical need to uncover that which must be searched for in that classic old technology called a book.

This semester we will be honoring true “celebrities;” those who inspire others by using that old fashioned book technology. The notables for this year, Kathy Oswald and Lyman Hong, will be featured in our READ posters and will be our guests at the annual poster unveiling program, on April 26th. We hope you will meet these everyday celebrities and hear their tales about the value of reading books in their lives.

Ed Martinez
Editor

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