el camino college

Lamppost

March 2006 Volume 22 Number 2

LEARNING RESOURCES UNIT NEWSLETTER

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." Anne Bradstreet.

Greetings,

The promise of spring is in the air and the Learning Resources Unit is bursting with news. After more than five years of investigating, procuring adequate funding, enduring numerous on-site sales pitches, balancing the lack of a systems librarian and evaluating which integrated library system best fits the needs of El Camino College, a choice was made and at the beginning of the spring 2006 semester, we went "live" with *Innovative's Millennium Integrated Library System*.



In late April the Schauerman Library will celebrate National Library Week and the grand roll out of the new system. However, if you can't wait, just access http://ecclib.elcamino.edu/. The basic features are operative including the reserve collection, circulation, cataloging and the online public catalog. Other features will come online later. The Library databases are accessible on or off campus via MyECC. Look for the Library Databases in your choice of Web Services on the left side of the screen.

The Learning Resources Center and the Public Access Departments were recipients of Foundation "I" grants. Soon, the LRC will have an updated collection of botanical and anatomical models for use by all students. The Public Access Department is acquiring supplies needed to facilitate the preservation of materials for the ECC Archive facility programmed for the LRC addition scheduled to begin construction in 2006-2007.

We complete this cycle with congratulations to two Learning Resources Unit faculty activists, **Susan Dever**, as she nears the completion of her first year as President of the Academic Senate and **Donald Brown**, also completing this year as co-president of the ECC Federation of Teachers. Until the next time....remember that each day is a new one...treat it with care.

Alice Grigsby

Director Learning Resources Unit

Information Literacy and Student Learning Outcomes

Today's society requires that citizens work with various communication media and information retrieval tools/formats. They not only need to understand how to manipulate the tools, but must also be able to evaluate, organize and use the information. Librarians and educators are advocating that institutions help their students succeed at college, and later in the workplace, by developing skills that emphasize and develop information competency & literacy. We further feel that these skills are vital to all disciplines, employment fields, and life-long learning. Information competency will also be a measurable component of Student Learning Outcomes – a concept that must be addressed for ECC's forthcoming Accreditation.

Information Competency it is the ability to recognize one's need for information, locate appropriate information, evaluate that information and use and communicate that information effectively. Information Competency (hereafter I.C.) combines elements of critical thinking skills, research skills, and technology skills.

In September 2002 an Information Competency Initiative was due to be presented to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. However, just prior to the meeting the item was pulled as the Dept. of Finance declared it was an unfunded mandate. Despite this setback, many institutions feel it is just a matter of time before this issue is revisited and approved, so colleges and universities have moved ahead with their planning and even with their implementation of I.C. graduation requirements. Our college, too, could only benefit from long range planning; and the real winners would be our students and the community.

These skills could be taught in a number of ways. Options are some type of dedicated classes – traditional method or online, stand-alone or linked as a co-requisite; or full inclusion into the curriculum, which involves infusing I.C. outcomes into all general education courses. Course structure, syllabi and outlines would have to be revised to include these components. A Challenge exam could be offered. El Camino already has a taskforce looking at a variety of Competencies which are staking a claim to be made part of graduation requirements. This taskforce rates the importance of I.C. very highly.

Of 55 California Community Colleges 17 have, or are in the final stages of planning for, I.C. requirements.

The library is the gateway to current, diverse, and objective knowledge/resources. Librarians help students learn how to use the information resources, and how to find and evaluate the information in these resources. Instructors help students incorporate, evaluate, and communicate the information creatively and effectively. We feel that all parties have a role to play in making students information competent, and thus that any Information Competency programs at El Camino should involve librarians and faculty on campus.

Claudia Striepe

Bibliographic Instruction Librarian x6006

Meet Sabrina Harris, Library Intern

This spring the library will be hosting a graduate student intern from the San Jose State University/Calif. State University, Fullerton Library and Information Sciences program. **Sabrina Harris**, currently employed by the El Segundo Public Library, as a Senior Library Assistant, is learning the nuts and bolts of working in a different type of facility, the academic library.

At El Segundo Sabrina has assisted at the reference desk, worked with their literacy group, helping adults learn to read, maintained the audio-visual collection and helped locate hard-to-find books and materials through their OCLC Interlibrary Loan Service.

She will be using the skills she developed at El Segundo in our library over this semester. You will see her at the reference desk or helping out with bibliographic orientations.

Sabrina enjoys working with young adults and has an interest in working in the academic arena. She has lived in southern California her entire life and enjoys reading, listening to all kinds of music, and watching foreign films and spending time with her son.

We hope you will come by and meet this soon-to-be librarian.

. . .

For Your Reading Pleasure Selected New McNaughton Titles

Fiction

Alexander, Robert Rasputin's Daughter

Atherton, Nancy Aunt Dimity and the Deep Blue Sea

Atwood, Margaret E.

Baldacci, David

Baxter, Stephen

Beaton, M.C.

Born, James

Bradford, Barbara Taylor

The Tent

The Camel Club

Transcendent

Death of a Dreamer

Escape Clause

Just Rewards

Braun, Lilian Jackson The Cat Who Dropped a Bombshell

Brookner, Anita Leaving Home Brooks, Terry Straken Sour Puss

Bruchac, Joseph
Capote, Truman
Chiaverini, Jennifer
Collins, Jackie
Collins, Max Allan
Connelly, Michael
Cookson, Catherine

Whisper in the Dark
Summer Crossing
The Christmas Quilt
Lovers & Players
Road to Paradise
The Lincoln Lawyer
The Cultured Handmaiden

Cornwell, Patricia Predator

Crais, Robert The Two-Minute Rule David, Peter Missing in Action

Davis, Thomas The Aluminum Christmas Tree

Deutermann, Peter The Cat Dancers
Deveraux, Jude Carolina Isle
Deveraux, Jude First Impressions
Doctorow, E.L. The March

Dunant, Sarah In the Company of the Courtesan

Dymmoch, Michael A. White Tiger Erdrich, Louise The Painted Drum

Evanovich, Janet Manhunt

Eversz, Robert Zero to the Bone Fielding, Joy Mad River Road

Fleming, Thomas

The Secret Trial of Robert E. Lee
Fluke, Joanne
Cherry Cheesecake Murder
Foster, Alan Dean
Running from the Deity
Franco Ramos, Jorge
Paradise Travel

Fraser, George MacDonald Flashman on the March King of the Pygmies

Gaiman, Neil Anansi Boys Garcia-Roza, L. A. Pursuit

Gardner, John Troubled Midnight
Godwin, Gail Queen of the Underworld
Goldreich, Gloria Dinner with Anna Karenina

Gordiner, Nadine
Grafton, Sue
Graves, Sarah

Gordiner, Nadine
Get a Life
S is for Silence
Nail Biter

Greeley, Andrew The Bishop in the Old Neighborhood

Greeley, Andrew Irish Crystal

Griffin, W.E.B. The Hostage
Grimes, Nikki Dark Sons
Haddix, Margaret Double Identity

Hall, Parnell Stalking the Puzzle Lady

Hammett, Dashiell Lost Stories: 21 Long Lost Stories

Herrera, Juan Felipe Cinnamon Girl

Hess, Joan Malpractice in Maggody

Hiaasen, Carl Flush

Hillerman, Tony Leaphorn, Chee and More

Howard, Robert E. The Coming of Conan the Cimmerian

James, P.D. The Lighthouse
Johansen, Iris On the Run
Norris, Chuck Justice Riders
Kaminsky, Stuart Terror Town

King, Stephen Cell

Koontz, Dean Forever Odd Krentz, Jayne Ann All Night Long LaHaye, Tim The Regime

L'Amour, Louis The Collected Short Stories

Lessing, Doris The Story of General Dann and Mara's Daughter,

Griot and the Snow Dog

Luceno, James Star Wars: Dark Lord: The Rise of Darth Vader

Ludlum, Robert The Ambler Warning

Marias, Fernando El Mundo Se Acaba Todos los Dias

Martinez, Guillermo The Oxford Murders
Matson, Suzanne The Tree-sitter

McBain, Ed The Gutter and the Grave

McCaffrey, Anne Changelings
McFadden, Bernice Nowhere is a Place
McInerney, Jay The Good Life

McNaught, Judith Every Breath You Take Mda, Zakes The Whale Caller

Miscione, Lisa Smoke

Mosley, Walter Cinnamon Kiss Mosley, Walter The Wave

Penzler, Otto Murder at the Foul Line
Murphy, Shirley Cat Breaking Free
Norton, Andre Return to Quag Keep
Norton, Andre Silver May Tarnish

Oates, Joyce Carol The Female of the Species

Parker, Robert School Days
Parker, Robert Sea Change
Patterson, James The 5th Horseman

Patterson, James Mary, Mary
Perry, Anne A Christmas Guest

Piercy, Marge Sex Wars
Pronzini, Bill Mourners
Reiner. Carl NNNNN

Rice, Anne Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt

Roberts, Gillian A Hole in Juan Roberts, Nora Blue Smoke Roberts, Nora Red Lily

Shreve, Anita A Wedding in December

Sparks, Nicholas At First Sight
Steel, Danielle The House
Steel, Danielle Toxic Bachelors

Saving Fish from Drowning Tan, Amy Thayer, Nancy Hot Flash Holidays Truman, Margaret Murder at the Washington Tribune Turow, Scott **Ordinary Heroes** Turtledove, Harry End of the Beginning Weber, Carl So You Call Yourself a Man White, Stephen Kill Me Iron Orchid Woods, Stuart

Nonfiction

Being Martha: The Inside Story of Martha Stewart

and Her Amazing Life

Fight Back and Win: My Thirty Year Fight Against Allred, Gloria

Injustice

The War That Made America: A Short History of

the French and Indian War

Patton: A Biography

Dave Barry's Money Secrets: Like: Why Is There a

Giant Eyeball on the Dollar?

Belushi: A Biography

Under the Sabers: The Unwritten Code of Army

Wives

Sandra Day O'Connor: How the First Woman on

the Supreme Court Became Its Most

Influential Justice

At Canaan's Edge

Philip & Elizabeth: Portrait of a Royal Marriage My Year in Iraq: The Struggle to Build a Future of

Hope

A Piece of Cake: A Memoir

Nascar

A Strong West Wind

Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis Take It Back: Our Party, Our Country, Our Future

Sobre Cultura Femenina Your Money or Your Life

Sea of Gray: The Around-the-World Odyssey of the

Confederate Raider Shenandoah

Blue Blood: Duke-Carolina: Inside the Most Storied

Rivalry in College Hoops

Integrity: The Courage to Meet the Demands of

Reality

Don't Know Much About Mythology

Preemption: A Knife That Cuts Both Ways Be Careful Who You Love: Inside the Michael

Jackson Case

The Autobiography of Donovan: The Hurdy Gurdy

Man

Chasing Lance: The 2005 Tour de France and Lance Armstrong's Ride of a Lifetime

The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust

Bowl

Life Is Not a Fairy Tale

Last Dance: Behind the Scenes at the Final Four

The Seven Ages of Man's Best Friend: A

Allen, Lloyd

Anderson, Fred

Axelrod, Alan Barry, Dave

Belushi, Judith Biank, Tanya

Biskupic, Joan

Branch, Taylor Brandreth, Gyles D. Bremer, L. Paul

Brown, Cupcake Buckley, James Caldwell, Gail Carter, Jimmy Carville, James Castellanos, Rosario

Cavuto, Neil Chaffin, Tom

Chansky, Art

Cloud, Henry

Davis, Kenneth Dershowitz, Alan Dimond, Diane

Donovan

Dugard, Martin

Egan, Timothy

Fantasia Feinstein, John Fennell, Jan

Flannery, Tim

Garbarino, James

Garr, Teri

Golenbock, Peter

Goodall, Jane Greeley, Andrew Halberstam, David Hansen, James Hawking, Stephen Hayworth, John D.

Jones, Thomas Jordan, Michael Judd, Naomi

Judd, Wynonna Karpinski, Janis

Klein, Aaron

Lewis, Jerry Liddy, G. Gordon Lowell, Christopher

Lynne, Diana

MacLeod, Elizabeth McCain, John McCourt, Frank McGraw, Phillip

McMahon, Ed McMurtry, Larry

McWhorter, John H. Mezrich, Ben

Moore, Alan Moore, James

Moriyama, Naomi

Morris, Dick Null, Gary

Phares, Walid Quinn, Jane Bryant

Roach, Mary Rocha, Sharon Rosati, Kitty Comprehensive Guide for Caring for Your Dog Through All the Stages of Life The Weather Makers: How Man is Changing the Climate & What It Means for Life on Earth

See Jane Hit: Why Girls are Growing More Violent and What Can Be Done About It

Speedbumps: Flooring It through Hollywood Miracle: Bobby Allison and the Saga of the

Alabama Gang

Harvest for Hope: A Guide to Mindful Eating

The Making of the Pope 2005
The Education of a Coach

First Man: The Life of Neil Armstrong

A Briefer History of Time

Whatever It Takes: Illegal Immigration, Border Security, and the War on Terror Sky Walking: An Astronaut's Memoir

Driven From Within

The Transparent Life: 30 Proven Ways to Live

Your Best Coming Home to Myself

One Woman's Army: The Commanding General of

Abu Ghraib Tells Her Story

Striking Back: The 1972 Munich Olympics
Massacre and Israel's Deadly Response

Dean & Me

Fight Back: Tackling Terrorism Liddy Style Christopher Lowell's Seven Layers of

Organization: Unclutter Your Home, Unclutter Your Life

Terri's Story: The Court-ordered Death of an

American Woman Harry Houdini: A Magical Life Character Is Destiny

Character Is Destiny Teacher Man: A Memoir

Love Smart: Find the One You Want—Fix the One

You Got Here's Johnny!

Oh What a Slaughter: Massacres in the American

Winning the Race

Busting Vegas: The MIT Whiz Kid Who Brought

Casinos To Their Knees

V for Vendetta

One Nation Under God: The History of Prayer in

America

Japanese Women Don't Get Old or Fat: Secrets of

My Mother's Tokyo Kitchen

Condi vs Hillary: The Next Great Presidential Race Gary Null's Mind Power: Rejuvenate Your Brain and Memory Naturally

Future Jihad: Terrorist Strategies Against America Smart and Simple Financial Strategies for Busy People

Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife

For Laci: A Mother's Story of Love, Loss & Justice

The Rice Diet Solution

Rule, Ann Worth More Dead and Other True Cases

Sansome, Leslie Eat Smart, Walk Strong: The Secrets of Effortless

Weight Loss

Scdoris, Rachael

No End in Sight: My Life as a Blind Iditarod Racer
Schiff, Karenna

Lighting the Way: Nine Women Who Changed

Modern America

Schlessinger, Laura Bad Childhood, Good Life: How to Blossom and

Thrive in Spite of an Unhappy Childhood

Simmons, Roy Out of Bounds: Coming Out of Sexual Abuse,

Addiction, and My Life of Lies in the NFL Closet

San Francisco is Burning: The Untold Story of the

1906 Earthquake and Fires

Spinner, Jackie Tell Them I Didn't Cry: A Young Journalist's Story

of Joy, Loss and Survival in Iraq

Spitz, Bob The Beatles: The Biography

Steinhorn, Leonard The Greater Generation: In Defense of the Baby

Boom Legacy

Stewart, Martha The Martha Rules: 10 Essentials for Achieving

Success as You Start, Build, or Manage a

Business

Stewart, Martha The World According to Martha

Swanson, James Manhunt: The Twelve-Day Chase for Lincoln's

Killer

Tannen, Deborah You're Wearing That?: Understanding Mothers and

Daughters in Conversation

Truss, Lynne Talk to the Hand: The Utter Bloody Rudeness of the

World Today, or Six Good Reasons to Stay

Home..

Viorst, Judith I'm Too Young to be Seventy: And Other Delusions

Vise, David The Google Story

Wallace, Voletta Biggie: Voletta Wallace Remembers Her Son

Wiseman, Nancy Could It Be Autism?

Zinczenko, David The Abs Diet: Get Fit, Stay Fit Plan

Subscription Databases

El Camino College/Schauerman Library

The El Camino College Library subscribes to many information databases to meet the needs of students and faculty. Here is a brief description of the databases that are available at the present time. Please note that the <u>Full-Text Periodical Title Locator</u> is only accessible from **on-campus** Internet-connected ECC computers at the present time—all the other databases are accessible from off-campus as well as on-campus computers. For on-campus and off-campus access directions, see the "Library Databases" section of the Library's Web page at http://www.elcamino.edu/library/library_ser.

Books in Print

Smith, Dennis

Use this database to find out what books are in print and which ones are scheduled for publication in the next six months. It also has a special children's section and a searchable section for current fiction mentioned in popular reviews. Audio book and video titles are included. CINAHL/Cumulated Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature offers abstracts and some full-text articles from nursing, biomedicine, and consumer health literature, 1982 to the present.

<u>Clinical Pharmacology</u> provides access to up-to-date **drug monographs** for all U.S. prescription drugs, hard-to-find herbal and nutritional supplements, over-the-counter products, and new and investigational drugs.

<u>CountryWatch</u> presents background information/profiles about **individual countries** and political and economic news from around the world.

The CQ Researcher

The <u>Congressional Quarterly Researcher</u> examines a **controversial issue** every week, offering background information, pro and con arguments, and references for further study.

EBSCO Encyclopedia of Animals features information on the nature and habitat of a wide variety of **animals**. Some images are included.

(EBSCOHost) Academic Search Elite

The database contains full-text articles from peer reviewed/academic journals.

(EBSCOHost) Masterfile Premier provides thousands of general magazine articles from 1986 up to last week, many in full text. It includes some academic journal, newspaper, and primary source document indexing.

<u>Ethnic Newswatch</u> features primarily full-text articles from **ethnic and minority** magazines, journals, and newspapers, dating back to 1991.

Full-Text Periodical Title Locator

When looking for a specific magazine, journal, newspaper title, or for any periodical title that addresses a particular subject, use the Locator to identify which ECC periodical database provides full-text online access to the periodical. Currently, the <u>Locator</u> is only available for use on-campus.

<u>Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia</u> offers over 25,000 **encyclopedic entries** covering various subjects. Some images are included.

<u>GaleNet/Gale Literary Databases</u> offers searchable online versions of three standard **literary** reference resources: Contemporary Authors, Contemporary Literary Criticism, and the Dictionary of Literary Biography.

Health and Wellness Resource Center includes the Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine, the PDR Family Guide for Nutrition and Health, along with articles from hundreds of health/medical journals and pamphlets.

<u>Health Reference Center - Academic</u> provides full-text articles from 150 **health and medical** journals and magazines.

<u>Health Source: Consumer Edition</u> has information on many **health topics** in the medical sciences, food sciences and nutrition, childcare, sports medicine, and general health fields. It features searchable full text for over 190 journals including *Consumer Reports on Health* and *Men's Health*, as well as abstracts and indexing for over 300 general health, nutrition and professional health care publications.

<u>Health Source: Nursing/Academic</u> provides nearly 580 scholarly full-text journals focusing on many **medical** disciplines. Also featured are abstracts and indexing for over 800 journals. This database is updated daily

Issues and Controversies

Use this database to research **controversial issues**. It "combines objective analysis [and] clear explanations of opposing points of view...so students and other users can quickly grasp the essentials of even the most complex topics."

<u>ProQuest Newspapers</u> provides full-text articles and abstracts from five **national newspapers** (Los Angeles Times, Wall St. Journal, Washington Post, New York Times, and Christian Science Monitor) from 1985 to the present.

<u>Today's Science</u> offers full-text articles on **contemporary scientific topics**. It includes a searchable subject index, a glossary of scientific terms, biographies of prominent scientists, and a photograph file.

<u>Wilson Omnifile Full-Text Mega</u> is **multidisciplinary**, providing citations, abstracts, and full-text **magazine/journal articles** from six databases: Education, General Science, Humanities, Social Sciences, Business, and popular magazines.

Wireless Access in the El Camino College/Schauerman Library

The Schauerman Library is now offering free wireless (Wi-Fi) Internet access to students, faculty, and staff. In order to use this service, you must have a laptop computer or other device such as a PDA that is equipped for wireless access, and you will be required to login to the ECC network via **MyECC** (formerly known as the "ECC portal") with a valid Web login ID and password. In

using the wireless network, you are agreeing to abide by **El Camino College Board Policy 6160-District Email, Internet and Network Use Policy**, the **Student Computing Access Agreement** and library rules, even though you are using personal equipment. Failure to comply with ECC policies and regulations may result in loss of access to this service and potentially, loss of library privileges.

Advantages of the Service

No waiting for an ECC computer to be available.

More flexibility in choosing a work or study location in the library.

Ability to download and save files to your own computer.

Limitations

Signal strength varies within the library, and a successful connection to the wireless network is not guaranteed.

A wireless network may be less secure than a wired network. The library is not responsible for the security of data transferred through the network.

No printing services are available at this time.

Do not leave equipment unattended—the library is not responsible for stolen items.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where is wireless access available in the library?

Coverage is available in the North Wing Reading Room (main floor of the library), in the adjacent patio, and in the Learning Resources Center (upper level).

Who is eligible to use the service?

All currently-enrolled students, faculty, and staff who have a valid Web login I.D. and password are eligible to use the wireless network in the library. To obtain a Web login I.D. and password, go to http://myecc.elcamino.edu and click on First Time User under "Login Help." Follow the directions given to obtain a login I.D. and password.

What network services are available?

Only Web (http and https) access is supported.

What equipment do I need?

You need a laptop computer (or PDA) with an installed wireless network card. Some laptops are pre-equipped with these cards, with others, you are required to purchase them separately. They are available at most computer retailers. The library does not provide the cards nor provide any installation/set-up services.

What if I don't have a laptop or other device equipped for wireless access?

Then you cannot use the wireless service, but you can access the Internet and online resources from ECC computers in the library building, specifically in the Reference Room and the Library Media Technology Center. You must have your ECC I.D. card with you in order to use ECC computers.

What are the guidelines for use?

You agree to be bound by the El Camino College Board Policy 6160-District Email, Internet and Network Use Policy, the Student Computing Access Agreement, and library rules, including rules related to the display of inappropriate material on the laptops and disturbing other users. (Use headphones at a low volume if necessary). Copies of these policies are available in the wireless access areas and at the Reference Desk.

How do I connect?

Start your Internet browser, and you will be prompted first to login with your "portal" or **MyECC** Web I.D. and password. If the Web I.D. and password are valid, you will be given access to the network.

What if I need an electrical outlet to power my laptop?

You may use the library's electrical outlets in any of the public areas where wireless access is available. Please avoid extending cables across the floor where they might be safety hazards. Also note that the library is not responsible for any damage to hardware or software due to electrical surges.

Are there any security issues?

With Wi-Fi, there is the potential for users to eavesdrop on the network. Whenever it is appropriate, you should take extra precautions to secure your data, for example, by using anti-

virus/firewall software. The library is not responsible for ensuring the privacy or security of information /data you transfer over the network.

What if I have questions and problems?

The ability to connect to the wireless network is not guaranteed. However, if you need help, visit http://myecc.elcamino.edu and click on the appropriate link in the "Login Help" section. The library staff will not be able to provide technical assistance.

Spring Book Fair

The Spring Book Fair will be held from $May\ 16 - 18$, $8:00\ a.m. - 7:00\ p.m.$ in the Student Activities Center. On sale at the Fair will be previously read books and magazines, as well as videos, records, and other items. Come by and pick up some real bargains.

The Fair is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society. Proceeds go towards the purchase of textbooks, scholarships and support activities of the Library.

If you would like to donate material please contact Ed at x3876.

Shakespeare's Women Gone Wild

During the month of March the Library lobby will feature "Shakespeare's *Unruly* Women Revisited," a mixed media exhibition from the personal collection of Rick Tyler, Speech Department.

On display will be a selection of prints, sculptures, and original artwork depicting women characters from Shakespeare's plays. Featured artists include Sir Joshua Reynolds, Henry Fuseli, John Singer Sargent, Edwin Austin Abbey, Rockwell Kent, Madeleine Lemaire, Anna Lea Merritt, sculptor Claire Heath, folk artist Brenda Bergen, and many more.

We hope you will come by and enjoy some time with the Bard and his women in this truly unique display.

Our gratitude to Professor Tyler for sharing his collection with us.



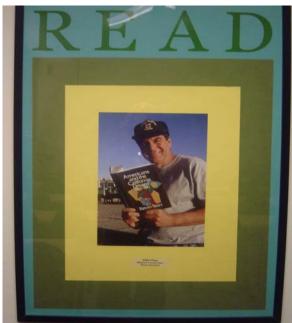
The Bard Looks Forward To Seeing You This Month

Grand Opening and Unveiling: 2006 READ Poster Celebrities

Everyone is welcome to the 2nd annual Celebrity READ Poster Unveiling, on Thursday, April 20, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in the Library Lobby. This year's celebrities are Dan Houston, Terry Spearman, Pete Marcoux from Humanities, and Carol Kubota, one of the campus switchboard operators.

In addition to meeting this year's celebrities, we will be officially unveiling our new library computer system, Millennium. This new system has many new features that we are certain will impress you and will make your academic experience easier.

We look forward to introducing you to our celebrity readers and celebrated new computer system.



2005 READ Poster Celebrity, Arthur Verge

Word is Out, The Print is Dead

"Books are the basis of civilized life and the fountains in the desert of being." Anonymous While on a brief sojourn to San Francisco earlier this month I saw the quote listed above etched in glass above the exhibition gallery in their public library. What a nice poetic way to think of books, the basis of civilized life. I think that has always been one of my attractions to the library profession, a civilized, orderly fountain that is available to all; a paradise in a desert of harsh realities of life in many ways. Of course that harsh reality of that desert existence jumped out immediately as I exited the doors of this literary paradise to the world of homelessness and seediness of the streets of the City.

It is ever a wonder to me how with all that we have in our fast e-world that our lives have not necessarily improved. We can get answers quicker, we can find our next mate/date with a click of a mouse, we can find out weather and news stories instantaneously, but have our lives improved. In a book review in this weekend's Daily Brook review of Kevin Brookmeier's

In a book review in this weekend's *Daily Breeze*, it was noted in a review of Kevin Brockmeier's *Brief History of the Dead*, by Ted Anthony, "At its best, the printed word provokes thought. It makes a human being stop and contemplate the fabric of existence through the wisdom of carefully chosen clauses, sentences and ideas...but the sad fact is that, in an age where image trumps all such text-and-paper epiphanies are increasing rare." The review sums up by noting the truism: "Each generation produces literature that reflects its own needs and wants and anxieties."

I thought of the dilemma facing educators/librarians of today. As custodians of civilization's biblio-treasures, we have a task not only to physically take care of our charges, these "bases of civilized life" but we have to make those fountain gifts available, appreciated and usable by the next generations.

Today's generation is like no other, however. They have been brought up in a world of icons, emoticons, graphic novels, blogs, and other such images and notes. The world of the printed word on paper is virtually dead to many young people, even my son tells me that libraries are no longer relevant. The new generation does read but it is all in quick snippets of newsflashes and pictures. They have much more information but much shallower in content. Reading is booorrrrrring to them, it is way too much work.

Our task is to not only let the next generation have print materials, as well as the quick/flash screen read, but also to ensure that they can understand just what value is in that printed word on paper. Are rappers the new poets, graffiti painters the new Picassos, as is often reported? Are they the literary heroes of the next generation? If so, how will those messages be preserved for the next generations, and what exactly are those messages?

We have many societal concerns these days but for those in the educational field perhaps nothing is more challenging than making the critical skill of reading an important part of young people's lives. We may never make it as important to young people as cellphones, and MySpace but we can certainly engender an appreciation for what the "fabric of existence" was to those countless generations before us, so that they will make sense of their own existence and fabric. If we are unsuccessful then that desert fountain will dry up and our civilization as we know it will cease to exist.

Ed Martinez

Editor

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