Penrose Primer; the Penrose Library Newsletter

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Looking Ahead.....

During these challenging economic times, the Library continues to be committed to Whitman's academic core and programs supporting Whitman's students. Library staff have been working on many projects aimed at making your experience even better. We will continue to work with consortia partners to improve Summit borrowing and access to resources. Penrose will also expand research services by implementing a new chat reference service this summer. As always we welcome your feedback and suggestions on these initiatives and on ways to improve library services and spaces. Don't forget that library staff are here to assist you during this time of final papers and exams. Best wishes for the rest of the semester and beyond.

Sincerely,

Dalia Corkrum
College Librarian
corkrum@whitman.edu

Quiet, Please?

Meeting at the library to work on a group presentation? Need quiet to finish that last-minute essay? Recognizing that users have different needs for library space, the staff have positioned signs throughout the building designating areas as quiet use or group study use. It is our hope that this mixed use of library space will accommodate the needs of most library users. Please send comments or suggestions about this project to Dona LaFran (lafrand@whitman.edu) or the online suggestion box.

Coming this Summer: Ask-A-Librarian

Beginning June 1st, Penrose's "Ask a Librarian" live chat service will be available from the library homepage. During library hours members of the Whitman community will be able to chat with a librarian whether they are on campus or across the state, country, or world. This chat will provide patrons with the ability to have a real time interaction with Penrose librarians. Lee Keene, Head of Reference and Information Literacy says, "We hope that 'Ask a Librarian' will offer assistance to the Whitman community wherever they may be this summer." To access this service click on the "Ask a Librarian" link on the Library homepage.
Reference @ Penrose

Busy with papers, reports and group projects? Need to find books, articles, or websites? Just send your questions to reference@whitman.edu.

Reference desk hours are:
Monday–Thursday: 1 pm–5 pm & 7 pm–10 pm
Friday: 1 pm–5 pm
Sunday: 2 pm–5 pm & 7 pm–10 pm
Phone: 527–5918

Climbing the Summit

While many changes have been implemented in the look and feel of the new Summit catalog, there are technical challenges that are still ongoing. Due to changes in software and procedures, Summit requests have been taking a little longer than expected to be processed and delivered. The library staff are working to improve processing times of requests, but please allocate at least five working days for Summit materials to arrive.

New enhancements to Summit include the ability to specify volumes or issues of multi-volume materials. A box appears on the request screen where a particular volume number can be entered.

Ongoing developments in Summit will allow different library services to be incorporated more seamlessly. Look for enhancements to include the ability to manage ILLiad and Summit requests through a single user interface and inclusion of Summit requests back into your Penrose library account.

Please send us suggestions and comments about the new Summit borrowing system.

Your Thesis and the Library

The time to turn in theses is coming soon. Penrose keeps two copies of all honor theses. Copies are due on Reading Day, May 13th. Guidelines and requirements for submissions can be found at http://www.whitman.edu/penrose/theses/. Please direct any questions regarding thesis submission to Dona LaFran at x.5191.

Journal & Database Review

Penrose Library recently initiated a comprehensive journal and database review project. Based on input from faculty and other users, the review will allow the Library to determine if our holdings are appropriate for Whitman’s curriculum and research needs.

Over the past few years the Library has earnestly pursued alternative methods of accessing scholarly information through resource sharing, consortial purchases, and electronic subscriptions. All of these circumstances have enabled the Library to defer a cancellation until the present time. However, the long-term effect of rising prices that continue to exceed increases in the Library’s budget creates a serious challenge in our efforts of acquiring material to support the full spectrum of College programs. This difficulty is being fueled by the ongoing crisis in scholarly communication. Two of the more problematic symptoms of this crisis have been the dramatic growth in the number of scholarly publications as well as price increases that persistently exceed the rate of inflation.

Beginning April 19, 2009 faculty and students are encouraged to comment on proposed cancellations and format changes. For additional information, please visit: http://www.whitman.edu/penrose/content/serialsreview.html

Questions? Comments? Suggestions for upcoming issues?
Contact Julie Carter at carterja@whitman.edu