

Spring 2007

Library Ledger

University of Southern Maine Libraries

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Library Ledger

Newsletter of University Libraries & ITMS
Volume 1, Issue 1

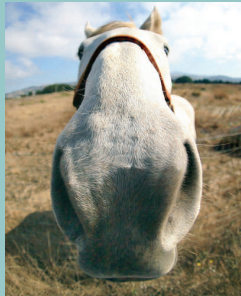
The latest news from Portland, Gorham, & Lewiston-Auburn

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2007

Special points of interest:

- Interlibrary Loan is usually free to students
- Academic Search Premier contains full-text articles
- Citation Machine creates your APA/MLA citations for you. Try it @ citationmachine.net



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Chat With Those Cool Librarians



“Hey, dude! What’s up? You find any information for that assignment in American Lit on Thursday? No? I didn’t find much on Google either.”

Does that conversation sound familiar?

Librarians at USM know how to find the information you need and find it fast.

To get the help you need right from home

click on [Ask a Librarian](#), on the library home-page [library.usm.maine.edu], and chat or email us that question you need to answer. We can help you find articles, books, and other information that is far better than what you spent the last hour looking for in Google.

Our librarians know their stuff and you can tap into that wealth of mysterious library knowledge by just doing your chat thing.

You can choose from



four chat systems or email or call us. Either way we will go out of our way to help you.

We’re waiting!

Oh, and while you’re at it...



Stand Up And Be Heard!

This is your chance! Tell us online how you rate the library and its services...and we will never know who said it...so you can be entirely honest. At the end you will be able to type in comments, too, which are the most

useful part of it for the library. After all, the library is constantly striving to improve and your input will strongly influence those changes.

So help us! Participate in LibQual March 5–24 @ library.usm.maine.edu



10 Minutes of your time = Improved Library Service

Students, Faculty and Staff
Be Heard
coming March 2007!!!

Coordinator of Information Literacy Hired



Bill Grubb is the new *Coordinator of Information Literacy* at USM, replacing Barb Mann. Bill comes from Fairmont State University, in Fairmont, West Virginia, where he served as *Librarian for Distance Learning Library Services and Reference Coordinator*.

Bill looks forward to developing a close working relationship with

faculty to foster a practical, focused program for teaching USM students how to find information effectively to support their class work.

“According to one survey”, he said, “98% of students use Google and 2% use the library for class research. We must do better.”

He hopes to meet many

USM faculty members soon to begin a dialogue concerning the best ways to integrate information literacy into the curriculum.

Please, schedule a class session or a time to discuss your class needs today.

**bgrubb@usm.maine.edu
780-4672**

**An
investment in
knowledge
pays the best
interest.**

Benjamin Franklin

What Is Information Literacy?

Information literacy is simply the ability to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate and effectively use the needed information. This is fundamental to all learning.

Many people know bits

and pieces of these skills and procedures, but lack a systematic way of explaining it.

Most students struggle to find scholarly, peer-reviewed books and articles, as well as raw data. Yet these are the things needed for success in any class.

The library seeks to provide this training to students by working directly with faculty to integrate information literacy into every class, especially the lower-level coursework, thus providing a solid foundation for subsequent academic pursuits.

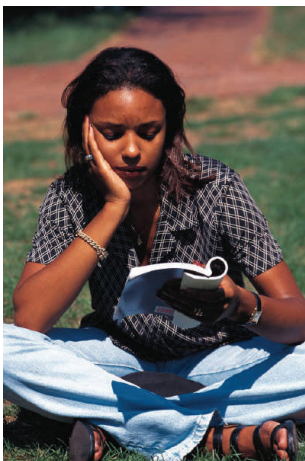
Librarians Produce Results For The General Education Program

Working in partnership with the General Education faculty, USM librarians provided information literacy instruction to Entry Year Experience students in the Fall semester 2006 ...with positive results.

Faculty members expressed excitement about this working relationship based on feedback from their students.

The libraries were thrilled to work collaboratively with faculty and students and look

forward to integrating Information Literacy into the General Education Program.



New Glickman Library Entrance & Addition Underway Soon

As part of the new University Commons being built between Glickman Library and the Abromson Center, Osher Map Library will expand from its present space within Glickman Library into a new addition towards Bedford Street. A new library entrance will be constructed making the

library more easily accessed from the university community. This change signals the continuing efforts of the library to stand at the heart of the university both academically and symbolically. Far from the stereotypical image of a stuffy place, libraries

nationwide are vital community centers for universities, serving as learning centers that provide the resources and services demanded by students and faculty.



Computers and Library Engaged For Summer Wedding



The wedding bells are ringing in Gorham as the computer lab and

library announce their engagement to wed this summer. Yes, the computer lab is giving up its cramped basement apartment to move in with its long-time neighbor and best friend, the library. Following a national trend, improved service

and more space will benefit library users and IT. "It's a match made in heaven", Library Director David Nutty said. "The Information Commons is a win-win for IT and libraries."



A university is just a group of buildings gathered around a library

— Shelby Foote



Let Us Rejoice! Project Muse Is Ours!



You're going to love this one! Project Muse is composed entirely of full-text articles from 300 scholarly journals. Fields covered include

literature and criticism, history, the visual and performing arts, cultural studies, education, political science, gender studies, economics, and others. This is a wonderful database. It's easy to use and display and print articles beautifully.

Suitable for undergrad and graduate levels, Project Muse also provides a list of all the journals it contains with a link to each title for browsing per issue. Students and faculty will love Project Muse. Find it on the library homepage under Indexes & Databases.

Did you know?

The Math and Music collections of **JSTOR** provide the back issues of many Project Muse titles, thus creating a more complete collection for research purposes. Every article is provided in full-text format from scholarly journals.



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Lewiston-Auburn
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Gorham
780-5356

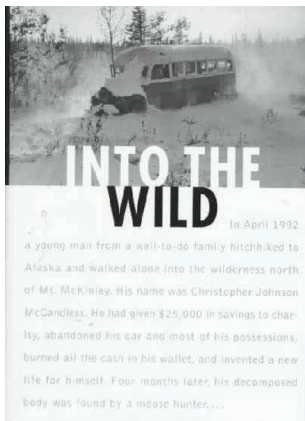
libraryadmin@usm.maine.edu

We're on the Web @
library.usm.maine.edu
Check us out!



UNIVERSITY OF
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Smart Starts @ the Library



Book Review Central

So maybe your semester is off to a rocky start, and you've been fantasizing about bailing on school, packing a few of your most prized possessions into your vehicle and going mobile. Maybe you'll be taken in by some hippies on an organic farming commune or find an abandoned cabin full of good books and hole up for a while. Anything's better than facing the upcoming onslaught of papers and tests, right? We've all entertained vagabond fantasies, but Christopher McCandless (known to many by his self-appointed pseudonym: "Alexander Supertramp") lived them. Well, at least until he

perished in an abandoned old city bus in the Alaskan wilderness.

Some people thought he was a wackjob who took Jack London novels way too seriously, and had no business hazarding the harsh elements with few provisions. To others he was a hero, a hobo bodhisattva who gave his life savings to charity and struck off on the kind of adventure that many have dreamed about at least once in their lives. One thing is certain though: his life was anything but ordinary. *Into the Wild* chronicles McCandless's adventures thoroughly and eloquently. Jon Krakauer explores the possible rationale behind a life that seems anything but rational, and he does so with admirable objectivity. This is a book that pulls readers deep into the fascinating world (and mind) of Alexander Supertramp and lets them draw their own conclusions about a colorful and free-spirited character who lived life on his own terms.

Written by Barret Havens, Glickman Library

Having Trouble Finding The Books You Need?

Confused about **finding "hard to find" books**? Clip these tips and put them next to your computer.

A proven strategy for finding a "borrowable" copy of practically any book in existence consists of the following:

1. Go to URSUS, ursus.maine.edu the University of Maine System catalog of books. This searches simultaneously in about 15 libraries around Maine. It is always a good starting place.
2. If URSUS fails you,

go next to MaineCat infonet.maine.edu because it searches more, including the libraries of Bowdoin, Bates, Colby, Portland Public Library, and many other specialized and public libraries in Maine.

3. If you still are not finding what you need go to WorldCat libraries.maine.edu/auth/auth.asp?db=WorldCat because it simultaneously searches for books owned by tens of thousands of libraries around the world. Many of these books, though,

will need to be ordered through Inter Library Loan. It may be helpful to think of these options as *concentric circles* with URSUS in the smallest circle, the next largest one MaineCat, and the largest one WorldCat. And if this approach doesn't work feel free to contact a reference librarian in Portland (780-4272), Gorham (780-5344), or Lewiston (753-6540).

