March 2009

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Online LibQual Survey

We had 748 DeSales community participants in our recent LibQual online library services survey which ended on March 16, 2009. Of these, over 572 were undergraduates, 93 were graduate students, 51 were faculty members, and 31 were staff members. The survey was hosted at the Association for Research Libraries site, and it has been used nationwide for a number of years. We received a Library Services and Technology Act grant, administered by Commonwealth Libraries, to enable us to run the survey. We will be able to compare our results with those of other institutions who are using the survey instrument this year.

The questions covered three aspects of library service: service attitude of library staff members; access to information (books, journals, electronic resources), and library as place (environment, quiet study space, group study space). The survey itself was complicated in that each question had three parts. We asked about minimum, desired and perceived service levels. The results should let us see where our services are below the minimum acceptable level, where they are better than the minimum and where they exceed expectations.

The last portion of the survey was an open comments box, and we have already downloaded some of these responses. A number of participants complained about the library being cold in the evening, so we contacted facilities and they are working on bringing the temperature up a bit. Students also made it clear that the building is noisy in the evenings. This is a harder problem to remedy quickly, but we have decided to make the McFadden Room on the second floor of the building available as a small group study area by reservation, and we have removed shelving in the periodical stack area on the first floor to provide space for a group study table area.

The results for the main portion of the survey will be available to us in the next few months. We will report back to the community about both our strengths and our weaknesses. Our grant included funds to send Lynne Kvinnesland, our Evening Public Services Librarian, to a week-long “Service Quality Evaluation Academy,” so we look forward to her assistance in getting great value from our data.
Trexler Library's Food for Fines Program

There is still time to reduce your library fines by $2 for each canned good you donate. The food will be donated to a local homeless shelter. Help yourself and your community at the same time! The food drive ends April 6th. Bring your non-perishable items to the circulation desk.

Spring 2009 Brown Bag Lunches

The following are upcoming Brown Bag Lunches:

Dr. Lujean Baab – Wednesday – April 22nd
“DeSales Virtual Island – Exploring the Value of Second Life in Education”

Session will be held in the library from Noon – 1pm.

Winners from the LibQual Survey

As incentives for participation in our recent LibQual online survey, we offered five prizes. The following lucky winners were randomly chosen from more than 700 entries.

iPod nano - Derek Long
iTunes gift certificate - Shannon Web
4 movie tickets - Sarah Nicholas
$50 DeSales Bookstore gift certificate- Emily Hoffman
2 tickets to a Labuda production - Timothy McDermott

Debut of Trexler Library Blog

The library has created a blog located on our homepage underneath student resources. We want to let the DeSales community know about library services, and we hope to receive feedback from all of you. Since its debut, we have placed notices on it about the newest additions to our media collection, new Business books, new books on Abraham Lincoln, Brown Bag Lunches, and our Food for Fines program. Please check it often. If you have any ideas you would like added, please contact us at ext. 1266.
More Group Study Space

Responding to students’ concerns about the library’s lack of group study space as well as quiet areas, we have decided to make the McFadden Room available for group study. The room is on the second floor of the library across from the small computer lab. If you would like to reserve the McFadden Room, please call the library at ext. 1266.

New Faces

The Instructional Technology dept. has hired some new people. You can find their offices in the library.

Stephen Turoscy – Web Technology Specialist ext. 1677

Cheryl Leuthe – Instructional Technologist ext. 1491

Mary Jo Brown PT Instructional Technologist ext. 2819

Love a Database Posters

Gloria Biser and one of our student workers, Nate Boylan, have created “Love A Database” posters. These posters include pictures of faculty members and their statements describing their favorite databases. The posters are located in the lobby of the library and on some departmental bulletin boards. Faculty members who have participated so far are: Ms. Tricia Bernecker – CINAHL, Dr. Deborah Burrows – Artstor, Dr. Tahereh Hojjat – Wall Street Journal, Dr. Maura Hearden – Religious & Theological Abstracts, Ms. Linda Kohl – Naxos, Dr. Sue McGorry – Business Source Elite, Dr. Brennan Pursell- JSTOR, Mr. Wayne Turney – Theater in Video

We are still looking for other faculty members willing to pose for a picture and tell us about their favorite database. Please call us at ext. 1266 for more information.

Issues and Controversies

Beginning on April 1, 2009 we will provide online access to "Issues and Controversies," a Facts on File database which includes in-depth articles on hot topics in politics, government, business, education and popular culture. Each article includes pro and con discussions and most include graphics, statistical tables, editorial cartoons, and links to background information etc. We think it will be useful to students as a quick overview of topics as well as a stimulus for students unsure about what topic to pursue for their academic papers. Look for it on our database page.
Issues and Controversies

"Issues and Controversies packages an issue into easy-to-understand overviews and summaries, which are interspersed with thoughtful, specific writing that looks at the complexities of an issue..."—MULTIMEDIA & INTERNET/SCHOOLS

"Issues and Controversies is an ideal speech and debate database...provides unique content...There's no debate that this database deserves an A."—SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL

"...a wealth of information for students working on any research project...readily accessible and easy to navigate...Recommended."—LIBRARY MEDIA CONNECTION

Researchers’ First Step Toward Understanding Today’s Most Important and Controversial Issues

Recently redesigned, Issues and Controversies helps researchers understand today’s crucial issues by exploring hot topics in politics, government, business, education, and popular culture. Updated weekly, with a 13-year backfile, Issues and Controversies offers in-depth articles made to inspire thought-provoking debates. With an appealing interface and improved search and navigation features—including tabbed search results—this database is ideal for papers and debate preparation.

Features:

- More than 900 timely, in-depth, and objective articles, exploring today’s controversial issues in language student researchers can understand
- Pro and Con statements, focusing researchers’ thinking about a topic
- Thousands of timelines, primary source documents, and statistical tables, providing context and perspective
- Editorial cartoons, newspaper editorials, and discussion questions and activities, along with objective coverage, illustrating the range of opinions and prompting researchers to do their own critical thinking and analysis
- Issues from the headlines, such as the new U.S. Congress and administration, the world economy, and steroids in sports, tying the database to current news and students’ interests
- Bill of Rights in Debate, deepening understanding of constitutional issues in contemporary life
- “Need a Research Topic?” jump-starting student research
- Interviews with experts, giving a range of views on key issues
- Links to key news coverage and other background information, giving context to the discussion

- Includes Almanac and Encyclopedia
- Redesigned Curriculum Tools area, promoting classroom use with activities and research tools for students and educators
- Full coverage of each National High School Debate Topic
- New features include persistent record links, save-to-folder functionality, and enhanced citations.