



# Point and Click

The Libraries' Information Connection

Volume 1, Issue 2

Jessica R. Wilhoite, Editor

## What's Inside?

- ? Under Construction: The Good News and Not-so-Good News.
- ? Electronic Journals.
- ? Open Access to Periodicals.
- ? Great Ways to Get News on the Web
- ? Teaching Web Evaluation
- ? Clearfield Corner

### Stevenson Library

Lock Haven University  
401 North Fairview Street  
Lock Haven, PA 17745  
(570) 893-2309  
[www.lhup.edu/home/htm](http://www.lhup.edu/home/htm)

### Clearfield Campus Library

Lock Haven University  
119 Byers Street  
Clearfield, PA 16830  
(814) 765-0620  
[www.lhup.edu/~jfloor/](http://www.lhup.edu/~jfloor/)

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Jessica Wilhoite

## Heart of the Haven

Tara Lynn Fulton, Director

I have had a number of faculty and students tell me recently that the changes I am bringing to Stevenson Library are becoming more evident. Quite simply stated, I'm glad. I came to LHU to make a difference. It takes time, but it's nice to know people are noticing.

Faculty say they appreciate the increased communication from the library and the invitation to partner with library faculty and staff to meet curricular and research needs. Students now smile and often say "hello" when they enter, and look on our whiteboard to see what's new. A mother sent me email praising the new food and drink policy, because her child needs a snack during her long sessions studying in the library. The vice presidents and deans recently reviewed the remodeling plans for the first floor and were pleased to see the library transforming into a more attractive center for the campus. The new look and feel of the first floor will, I hope, make a major difference in how the library is used, perceived, and valued on campus.

Behind the scenes work is also taking place. Library faculty

and staff are engaging in conversations about their roles on campus, and how we might realign responsibilities to meet the increasingly sophisticated needs of our users, especially in technology and media. We are assessing materials and services and streamlining labor-intensive, print-based operations so that we can expand to new areas, such as electronic reserves and virtual reference services.

We are doing our best to anticipate your needs, and preparing ourselves for those challenges. Please help us by sharing with us your dreams and wishes for information services in the 21st century.

## *Ways to Celebrate National Library Week*

*April 1-7, 2001*

1. Donate some books, audio books, or large plants for the new remodeling.
2. Bring a group of students, or your own children to the Library just to see what's there to be discovered.
3. Faculty might take their Subject Librarian to lunch.
4. Contribute to the LHU Foundation for Library Enhancement.

## Under Construction:

### *A New Look for Fall 2001*

*Tara Fulton/Elsa Schwartz*

#### *The Good News:*

Stevenson Library's first floor is getting a face-lift this summer! The library faculty/staff have been working with Hoffman Popovich Architects and LHU's Maintenance Department to create a more aesthetically and technologically engaging information center for the campus, starting with first impressions. Among the main features of the remodeling will be:

- ? Redesigned and upgraded lighting, electrical, and networking infrastructure;
- ? New floor coverings, furnishings, and a redesigned lounge area;
- ? Open access to current issues of journals and magazines;
- ? Individual and collaborative workstations for information searching;
- ? A more visible reference service area;
- ? A 24-hour study facility, including two group study areas
- ? An exhibit/display area with ambient lighting ;
- ? A library instruction/information literacy room.



A picture of the plans with color charts and sample furniture pictures is available in the Assistant to the Director's Office. To learn more about Stevenson Library's remodeling, we invite you to come and look over architect's drawings, samples and pictures at the April 5th Information session. Resolution of infrastructure and space utilization issues in Stevenson will have to wait for a more comprehensive renovation of the building, but we anticipate that our students will be pleasantly surprised when they enter Stevenson Library in Fall 2001.

#### *The Not-so-Good News:*

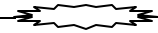
##### *Summer Mayhem*

In order for the contractors to give the first floor its new look in the space of ten weeks, we are vacating the entire area. Over the summer, the entrance to the library will be on the lower level facing Himes Hall. Circulation services will share the lobby area with the Physician Assistant Program, and traffic will flow into the library through the Childrens/Curriculum Library to the elevator and main staircase. Reference Service will be provided out of what is now the audiovisual area and computer lab.

Keep in mind that space will be tight, so if you are considering activities in the library for summer classes or summer programs, please contact one of the library faculty or staff very soon to make arrangements. We are convinced that the long-term benefits will be worth some tight quarters over the summer.

## Evaluating Web Resources: The Challenge Continues

Marsha Ann Tate



Today, it seems hard to imagine a world without dot.coms, Yahoo, or a disembodied voice proclaiming, "You've got mail" when you sit down at your computer. Surprisingly, these now common terms and occurrences have only played a role in our daily lives for less than a decade. Nonetheless, trying to successfully cope with the myriad of terminology and changes brought about by the Web during this period has proven no small task. As a librarian, one particular aspect of the Web revolution sparked intense interest for me, namely the difficulties associated with sorting through and evaluating the vast array of information one finds on the Web.

Consequently, I began to investigate and experiment with various methods and tools to assist Web users with these tasks. The result of these efforts -- the *Evaluating Web Resources* site (<http://muse.widener.edu/Wolfgram-Memorial-Library/webevaluation/webeval.htm>) -- was created in collaboration with Jan Alexander, another librarian at Widener University where I worked at the time. The site was intended to provide Web users with practical tools (in the form of page-specific checklists) and resources to assist in the

evaluation of Web-based resources. The evaluation techniques presented at the site were based upon the notion that individuals have had years of experience evaluating printed texts and that many of the criteria were equally applicable to Web-based information. These criteria include:

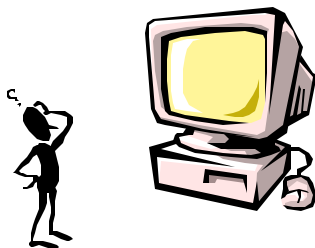
- 1) **Accuracy** (How reliable and free from error is the information? Are there editors and fact checkers?)
- 2) **Authority** (What are the author's qualifications for writing on the subject? How reputable is the publisher?)
- 3) **Objectivity** (Is the information presented with a minimum of bias? To what extent is the information trying to sway the opinion of the audience?)
- 4) **Currency** (Is the content of the work up-to-date? Is the publication date clearly indicated?)
- 5) **Coverage** (What topics are included in the work? To what depth are topics explored?)

However, given the dynamic and unique nature of the Web, new criteria also needed to be developed. Hypertext links, frames, possible software limitations, the instability of Web pages as well as the susceptibility of Web pages to alteration are just a few of the many additional challenges that must be taken into account when

evaluating Web-based information.

The Web continues to evolve at a frantic pace and this transformation continually poses new challenges for Web evaluation. Despite various initiatives that may assist in the evaluation process including the use of meta data to identify and classify Web pages as well as the implementation of certification programs such as the Better Business Bureau's Reliability Seal (<http://www.bbbonline.org/reliability/index.asp>) and Microsoft co-sponsored TRUSTe (<http://www.etrust.com>) program, much more work remains to be done in these areas. Consequently, Web evaluation will continue to be a vital concern for Web users in the foreseeable future.

Lock Haven University's librarians are here to help with the challenges students face evaluating information they find on the Web. We can teach sessions on the topics listed above, help faculty design assignments to develop these skills, or create lists of recommended sites for a particular course. Contact your subject librarian or myself for further information or to work together on a Web evaluation component to your classes.



## Open Access to Periodicals

*Stephanie Kulas and Lisa Chu*

On a typical day a flurry of activity can be observed in our periodicals room as faculty, students, and staff pursue research activities or leisurely catch up on the news of the day. Our student assistants, under the guidance of Mrs. Lisa Chu, are often kept busy helping our users with various equipment, fixing paper jams or making change. More frequently though, their primary responsibility has been to retrieve current journals, which for many years have been located behind the service desk.

Maintaining closed stacks served several functions. The most evident, of course, was in assuring a secure collection in one location, which in turn expedited retrieval of any given issue upon request. But there also has been a downside to closed stacks. Library users

were unable to leisurely browse amongst the journals and magazines to see what was new, leaf through articles, or just see what might be available in general.

We have all known the joy (or relief!) of that serendipitous find as we browse amongst the library's holdings. With that in mind, we hope to increase your serendipitous experiences tenfold!

**Beginning Fall semester 2001, we will begin providing open access to all current subscriptions.** The library will be undergoing major remodeling to the first floor that is scheduled to begin in May.

During this period the "Periodicals Room" will be relocated to the ground floor of the library. We will continue to provide all services, but as with any change of major proportion,

we ask for your patience during this time as we ready for improved services and a brand new first floor.

What can you expect once we have moved back to the 1st floor? You will have the ability to browse, at leisure, amongst the periodicals. The "Periodicals Room" as a separate entity will cease to exist. Service will be provided by the Reference and Circulation desks.

We hope that you will join us at our April 5, 2001 Remodeling Information Session from 2 - 4 P.M. during National Library Week. See our remodeling plans and learn more about our new and improved services.

## Electronic Journals: here and now!

*Brenda Corman*

Do you need to find an article in a hurry? Wondering if the library has resources to support topics for your students' research? Trying to keep up in a fast-changing discipline? Checking your students' bibliographies for plagiarism? Teaching a distance education course?

If your answer to any of these questions is "yes," then try searching our electronic journals collection. Finding electronic journals is easy if you start at the library home page. Most of our electronic journals are found within larger databases that provide indexing and abstracts of popular and scholarly journals in a variety of disciplines. Try *Infotrac*, which provides the full text of over

10,000 magazines and journals or *EBSCOhost*, a series of databases that provide over 2000 full text journals. Full text popular, medical, legal, and trade journals are available in the *Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe* database.

Several publishers have begun to allow free online access to their publications with a print subscription. Stevenson Library provides access to those titles through the EBSCO Online web site., or link to individual journals through the Stevenson Library Periodicals home page using the alphabetical or subject listings of current periodicals subscriptions. The library plans to continue building the electronic journal collection, making

access to these titles available through the world wide web at all times of the day or night. If you have any questions about locating or using electronic journals, or if you would like to schedule a library instruction session for your class, please call your department's library liaison.

### *Check out these links!*

#### **Infotrac**

[http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/locku\\_main?db=EAI](http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/locku_main?db=EAI)

#### **EBSCOhost**

<http://www.lhup.edu/library/EBSCO1stpage.htm>

#### **EBSCO Online**

<http://www.us.ebsco.com/online/disclaimer.asp>

#### **Stevenson Library Periodicals**

<http://www.lhup.edu/~skulas/index.htm>



## News Browsing

*Great Ways to Get News on the Web*

*Elsa Schwartz*

Now that the Presidential election results are resolved, are you weary of information overload, propaganda, hype, rumor, gossip, and innuendo?

I didn't think so.

But who has the time to read several newspapers, watch CNN, or stay up all hours searching the web? There are several web-based news utilities that can keep you current and let you lead an otherwise normal life. Several of the following Web utilities can help you glean the information you are interested in from all over the Internet.

### CRAYON

**CR**EA**T**e **Y**our **O**wn **N**ews-**p**aper **O**nline (<http://crayon.net>), is a site that has been around for a while, but I recently visited this site to reappraise its' offerings.

Upon arrival, CRAYON allows you to immediately create your free newspaper or surf a test-page. Before you start, I recommend clicking on the FAQs, HELP and News links on this well-designed, but dense, site.

CRAYON asks for your email address and zip code so that local news can be tailored to your account. At which point you can then pick from impressive list of established (AP, MSNBC, NPR) and not-so-established (Women's Wire News, U-Wire College News) news sources. Other sources are categorized into standard topic areas: Local News, Health, Science, Business, and Lifestyle. Other news "departments" include, Funnies, Web-spotlight and Tabloids (we can't be so hopelessly academic all the time).

When you have completed selecting your topics (CRAYON

wisely advises that you be selective), you click, "Create my Newspaper Now", and you have assembled your own newspaper with your own URL, which you can access everyday with just the information you are interested in.

### Yahoo, Excite, Lycos

With Web portals such as Yahoo, Excite and Lycos you can create personalized pages for news, headlines, and video links to in-depth information. Yahoo's "In the News" Section features late-breaking stories and a full list of links that includes the Reuters and AP newswires, the Christian Science Monitor, New York Times and more. "My Yahoo" allows you to change the content and layout to include sports stocks, weather, etc.

### Way-Cool, Off-beat Sites

In the, "You Can't Possibly Take this Seriously" category comes The Onion ([www.theonion.com](http://www.theonion.com)), a satirical newspaper. Where else can you laugh out loud at headlines such as, "Terrorist Extremely Annoyed By Delayed Flight"? Look for the Onion feature, "Cultural Idiocy Quiz". Our own Rick Lilla brought this gem to the Stevenson Library Homepage.

Lycos Network's technology news with a cultural and political twist is provided by Wired News ([www.wired.com](http://www.wired.com)). Topics such as, "Vaporware 2000: Last year's top ten no-shows", "When Heavy Metal Ruled the Net" indicate an eclectic collection of straight news with a bias that is definitely skewed to a savvy digital world audience.

Although I have been accused of a certain amount of cynicism

from time to time, I can still appreciate the positive side of life.

The Positive Press

([www.positivepress.com](http://www.positivepress.com)) is a site that specializes bringing you "Good News Everyday" in General, Business, and Health sections. Positive Press gathers inspirational stories that highlight the bright side of life. News items come from many of the standard (and not so optimistic) news sources: CNN, MSNBC, Washington Post, Scientific American were some that I noted. The site includes Positive Sayings, Positive Postcards, even a "Historical Perspectives" section featuring period essays with, you guessed it, a positive viewpoint.

For those who enjoy sites in the spirit of, truth is stranger than fiction, USA Today produces a page called "Slightly Off-Center" ([www.usatoday.com/news/nweird.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nweird.htm)). Compiled not as satire, but as straight news, "Vandals Hack Snowman to Pieces" and "Buried Rocket Inadvertently Launched" are just a couple of the recent headlines I noted.

Other sites which column space can't allow but are worth checking out are:

Salon Magazine: [www.salon.com](http://www.salon.com)

BBC Online: [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

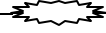
AlterNet: [www.alternet.org](http://www.alternet.org)

Disinformation: [www.disinfo.com](http://www.disinfo.com)



## Clearfield Corner

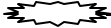
*Jamie Foor*



As the spring semester is nearing the halfway point, Clearfield students, faculty and staff are eagerly awaiting the completion of the three-story campus facility. The new Clearfield Campus will include two student lounges, a bookstore, several classrooms, offices, a computer lab and the library.

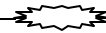
The new library will occupy approximately one-half of the upper floor, and include two large reading rooms, group study rooms, offices, a storage area and shelving areas totaling approximately 5,500 square feet. This is a substantial increase from the current one-room facility that totals about 750 square feet. This spacious library will be able to comfortably accommodate approximately 100 users compared to the current cramped capacity of 12 users and one librarian.

This state-of-the-art facility will also feature 12 reference computers for public use as well as Ethernet connections located throughout the library for personal laptop use. The collection for the current library includes approximately 3,500 circulating books, 190 reference books and 45 periodical subscriptions. The new library will have a minimum capacity of 16,200 circulating volumes, 2,400 reference volumes and 84 periodical subscriptions. The library is expecting the collection to grow rapidly as new academic programs are added to the Clearfield curriculum. For more information on the Clearfield Library and an update on construction progress please visit the Clearfield Campus Web page at <http://www.lhup.edu/clearfield>.



## Point and Click

### The Libraries' Information Connection



This newsletter will be published once a semester. At Stevenson and Clearfield Libraries we are dedicated to traditional values and contemporary services. We are YOUR link to the world of information and technology. Stop by and see us, who knows what you'll find out!

If you have any comment about *Point and Click*, please contact the Stevenson Library Central Office at [jwilhoit@lhup.edu](mailto:jwilhoit@lhup.edu) or (570) 893-2310