Goodbye 2009 and welcome 2010! Last year proved to be a challenging year for the library in several respects. First and foremost were the state’s budget cuts which affected all libraries in Connecticut. ICONN, the state’s database provider, lost a significant amount of funding and was forced to make drastic cuts. These cuts resulted in the elimination of several key databases and services, including Westlaw Campus Research and InfoAnytime. We hope there will be no further cuts in library funding and continue to adhere to the library’s mission of providing high-quality information resources that support the curriculum and personal enrichment needs of our students, faculty and staff.

Another issue we faced in 2009 was that of excessive noise in the library. With the increase in the student population and limited space available throughout the college, maintaining a quiet environment became extremely challenging. Working with the administration and input from concerned students, the library staff struggled to come up with creative ways to best educate the students on proper library etiquette. A couple of strategies which were implemented included creating and posting better signage and participating in an in-house library staff training workshop. The administration has also stationed a security guard in the library at all times during the semester. We welcome the support of all concerned parties and will continue to work together on ways to improve our services for all students with diverse learning styles, to ensure a welcoming and quiet learning environment in the library.

But as we begin 2010 there is also much to be thankful for. This is the year we will break ground for a state-of-the-art Gateway Community College in downtown New Haven, minutes away from world renowned theatres, restaurants, stores and more, a building that will house, among other things, a beautiful, spacious library with natural light and windows, study rooms, a community room, leisure spaces, reading areas, and so much more. It is an exciting time and long overdue, but finally in sight.

So Happy New Year to you and your families and may you have peace, prosperity, health, and happiness in your life for many years to come.

Laptops for Loan!!

This past fall the library initiated a laptop lending program for students, made possible by a grant from the Gateway Foundation. A mobile laptop cart and 12 laptops were purchased and are being used at the North Haven and Long Wharf campus libraries. These laptops are being used to provide hands-on Library Information Literacy Instruction classes and are also available for individual use by students. This new service has already proven to be extremely popular, particularly for individual use, which allows students the freedom to sit anywhere in the library when doing research or homework. The library anticipates demand for laptops to increase as more students learn about this service, and the Director is working towards acquiring more laptops in the near future. Students wanting to borrow laptops must show proper identification, after which they are asked to read and sign the library’s laptop lending policy agreement form. Laptops are available on a first-come first-served basis, can only be used in the library for up to 3 hours at a time, and any data must be stored on the student’s personal flash drive.
Snapshot Day

On Thursday, February 18th, the library will be participating in Snapshot Day - a project of the Connecticut Library Association, the Connecticut State Library and the Connecticut Library Consortium. On this day, public and academic libraries all over Connecticut will take snapshots of their library to capture the impact that Connecticut libraries have on their communities on a typical day. We will also be collecting usage data for the day and asking for testimonials from our library users. All the information and photos from the libraries that participated will be gathered and then posted online in mid-March. Please take a minute to stop by the library on February 18th and be a part of this fun project showcasing the great institutions we know libraries to be.

Librarian’s Pick

Project Gutenberg
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Over 30,000 free e-Books available for downloading onto your PC, Kindle, iPhone, Sony Reader or other portable device.

Book Review

E 184 .A65 E34 2009 LW

A natural disaster on the scale of Hurricane Katrina thankfully happens only rarely in the United States. The loss of life and the property damage are painful to all of us, and we usually leap to help out the survivors. But what can such a disaster suggest about how we’re governed and what rights a citizen enjoys? Dave Eggers, well known for What is the What and A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius, explores the impact of Katrina not just on New Orleans but on one man’s entire life, in Zeitoun (McSweeney’s Books, 2009). Abdulrahman Zeitoun is a naturalized citizen and contented resident of New Orleans before Katrina. He has a successful business and a family to whom he’s devoted. His mistake is caring—he stays in New Orleans after the storm and tries hard to help others, with some success. Yet he is swept into jail by what turn out to be out-of-state police officers, sent to control looting. They don’t allow him to explain his presence in the city, he is denied contact with his family, and then shipped off to a prison upstate. It takes his wife almost a month to discover that he’s alive, and more time than that to free him. All charges against him are finally dropped. What happened here? The arresting officers deny any religious or racial bias, and they assert that they weren’t responsible for the unjust treatment Zeitoun later received. No one in state or city government knows why; they can hardly be brought to care, except by negative publicity when reporters discover the incident. And Zeitoun and his family have returned to New Orleans after the storm and tries hard to help others, with some success. Yet he is swept into jail by what turn out to be out-of-state police officers, sent to control looting. They don’t allow him to explain his presence in the city, he

— Karen Kramer
Updates for Citation Style Guides

The library has recently acquired print copies of the MLA 7th edition (Ref LB2369 .G53 2009) and the APA 6th edition (Ref BF76.7 .C66 2010) for its collection. Both guides contain the most recent updates and are available in both libraries. For additional help, students can go to the library’s homepage and click on the “Research Help and Guides” link. From there they can get to online citation guides from reputable institutions, including the OWL at Purdue University. Librarians have also created MLA and APA style guide sheets which include examples of works cited in various formats. These handouts are available in the library on the information kiosk.

The library also conducted several walk-in workshops on both campuses in the Fall, including one on “Citation and Plagiarism.” These workshops covered various topics and were repeated on different days and times during the semester. Workshops are open to faculty, staff and students with no registration required. We hope to offer more in the Spring as we continue to support the academic needs of our students. Suggestions for future workshops can be made by contacting Dr. Clara Ogbaa at 203-285-2058 or email at cogbaa@gwcc.commnet.edu.

Database Trials

The library has recently added a “Database Trials” page on its web site. Any new electronic resources being considered for purchase will be posted on this page with a designated time frame. We want to encourage faculty, staff, and students to try out the products and provide us with any feedback, negative or positive (a link is provided to make it easy). Some things to consider when reviewing a database would include: ease of use, successful results, response time, scope and level. We also welcome suggestions for future database trials. For more information please contact Martha Lipowski at 203-285-2053 or email her at mlpowski@gwcc.commnet.edu.

Staff News

Library Staff Professional Development

“Meeting Your Students Where They Are: Building Communities and Engaging Students Through Social Networking and Web 2.0” Conference

Held on November 6th at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport, the Fall Conference of the system-wide Teaching and Learning Team was as ambitious as its name suggests and attended by more than 150 CC faculty and staff members. Dr. Ogbaa, Karen Kramer, and Martha Lipowski enjoyed a keynote address by the Executive Director of Springfield Community College’s ICT Center, Gordon Snyder, a presentation on system security by the CC System Office staff, and a very successful talk by librarians from NVCC and MXCC. Afternoon breakout sessions allowed conference attendees to try out social networking tools such as wikis, podcasts, RSS feeds, Facebook, and more. The day ended with a special Jeopardy-like Web 2.0 game show where Gateway Library’s own Dr. Clara Ogbaa took second place in the competition. Kudos also go out to Karen Kramer who served on the conference subcommittee.

It’s A Girl!

Congratulations to Library Associate Bill Maisfehlt and his wife Jodi on the birth of their daughter, Hester Eleanor Maisfehlt. Hester was born at home in Chester on November 22nd and weighed 8 lbs. 14 oz. Mom and baby are both doing great and the library staff is looking forward to meeting her very soon. Bill enjoys playing tunes for Hester on the toy accordion, and has been reading “Leaves of Grass” to her the bedtimes Mommy’s too tired for Good-night Moon. We wish them all a very long, healthy and happy life together.
Student Focus

This month’s student focus is on Sada Mobarak, a 21 year old Gateway student from Iraq. Sada left Iraq with her mother and brother in 2005 to escape the war and ended up in Jordan where she lived for four years. She was unable to attend school since only the wealthy can afford Jordan’s private schools and public schools are elementary only. She and her family arrived in the U.S. in February 2008, knowing very little English, having no money and their only possessions being their clothing. With the help of IRIS, Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, they were placed in an apartment in New Haven and given some money for living expenses. She enrolled at Gateway in the Fall of the same year. Sada can often be found in the library where she studies quietly for hours. She has made the Dean’s list every semester and says she plans on making the list every semester she’s here. She has a GPA close to 3.5 and this past summer was one of four Gateway students to earn a scholarship at Yale University to study English for six weeks. She is currently in the GAP program and when she completes her studies at Gateway in December 2010, is guaranteed admission to UCONN where she will major in Dentistry. She is very grateful to all the departments and faculty at Gateway, including Professor Carol Brutza, for the support and encouragement which helped her tremendously along the way. Sada is passionate about giving hope to other Iraqi refugee students, saying “Now you have Gateway to help you reach your goals in the U.S.” She and her family currently reside in Hamden but this bright, hard-working and lovely young lady will soon be going places on her journey to achieve the American Dream.

Explore, Inquire, Learn
@ GWCC Library

Library staff members welcome our new Students, Faculty and Staff.

Your library just got better!
Stop by for all your information & research needs.

Gateway Library

Long Wharf Campus
203-285-2057

North Haven Campus
203-285-2340

Spring Semester Hours

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