By the Book

A newsletter from Library and Information Services at Metropolitan State University

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News

Library Holiday Break Hours
Reference Desk closed Saturday, December 10, through Sunday, January 8.

Sunday, December 11: Noon to 6:00 P.M.
Monday, December 12 - Thursday, December 15: 8:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Friday, December 16: 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18: CLOSED
Monday, December 19 - Thursday, December 22: 8:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Friday, December 23 - Tuesday, December 27: CLOSED
Wednesday, December 28 and Thursday, December 29: 8:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Friday, December 30: 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Saturday, December 31 - Monday, January 2: CLOSED
Tuesday, January 3 and Wednesday, January 4: 8:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M.

Thursday, January 5: 8:00 A.M. – 10:30 P.M.
Friday, January 6 and Sunday, January 7: 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Sunday, January 8: Noon – 6:00 P.M.
Monday, January 9: Regular hours resume.

Webinars

There are two Lunch & Learn Library Webinars scheduled for January:

1. What’s Your Impact? Estimating Impact Factor Without Citation Indexes on Wednesday, January 18th, Noon – 12:30 (open to faculty)
2. Scholarly... Academic... Peer Reviewed...? Oh, My! Finding Journal Articles in the Library’s Databases on Monday, January 23rd, Noon – 12:30 (open to everyone)

Register for these webinars and check out all of the other upcoming sessions at http://libguides.metrostate.edu/webinars.

Snow tracks from the Library's resident wild turkeys.
It’s Not Too Late! Enroll Now in INFS 115
This two-credit, eight-week course will make you a better researcher! Learn how to find scholarly articles in library databases, cite your sources in MLA and APA styles, and so much more. Convenience: Face-to-face and online sections are available. Bonus: This course counts toward your GELS requirement. Need more information? Ask a librarian or call 651-793-1614.

Special Feature: Retirement of Librarian Adela Peskorz
Adela Peskorz, associate professor and reference and instruction librarian, is retiring at the end of fall semester.

Please join the library staff for a retirement party honoring Adela on Thursday, December 8, from 1 to 4PM, in Library room 132. The whole university community and former students are invited!

About Adela
Adela was a librarian at Metropolitan State before the library was built on E. 7th St. She was instrumental in developing the popular Information Studies 115 course taught by faculty librarians. She also teaches courses on young adult literature and Holocaust studies.

Adela advises the Teens Know Best group. This group consists of young adults who read books prior to publication, provide comments to publishers, and play a role in helping select the "Teens' Top Ten," a national award and list of teens' favorite books published during the last year.

Accolades for Adela
The newsletter editors have gathered a number of tributes to Adela from her colleagues in the library and from across the university:

A Force of Nature
“Adela is a force of nature. She might even be a tsunami. One year, when my son was a teenager, her office was across the hall from me. I would occasionally track her down and ask her about books that my son might enjoy reading. I’d inevitably leave with armfuls of books and a greater understanding of the young adult literary landscape. She has so much expertise and passion.”
Anne Aronson, Professor, College of Arts and Sciences

An Angel
“I think many faculty and staff at Metro would identify Adela as the ‘queen of angels.’ She collects them, shares them, and to many students and staff is the Angel of the Library. While angels aren't generally known for talking and thinking faster than a speeding bullet, Adela combines those abilities. We will miss her.”
Donna Blacker, Academic Advisor and Community Faculty Member, College of Arts and Sciences
An Amazing Woman

“I first heard about Adela from my sister-in-law, a high school English teacher at South High School, a diverse urban school in the heart of Minneapolis. One day she called me to tell me the most amazing librarian had come from the Minneapolis Public Library to book talk to her classes. She said this librarian held her classes in the palm of her hand and they flocked to pick up the books she brought with her after she spoke. At the time Metro had offices at 8th and Hennepin and I made the trek down Hennepin Avenue to meet this amazing woman my sister-in-law described. Adela was the Mpls. Teen Services Librarian, the only one in Minnesota [at the time] and she was amazing, building a teen collection, teen services, homework helper programs around the city and speaking at schools to engage teens with books…”

“Always gracious and giving, Adela is humble. Her joy is in helping students learn and develop intellectual curiosity; in helping faculty explore the new electronic world of the library; in engaging teens in a love of literature and helping them find their voice as critics. Adela has contributed so much to Metro State as a librarian, as a teacher and as a wonderful colleague.”

Maythee Kantar, Professor, Communication, Writing & Arts

A Friend

“I adore and will miss my angel friend, Adela, who is so kind, thoughtful, bright, spirited, and has a great sense of humor. She cares so much about people, especially her students and colleagues, but most of all, her family. Adela is very much for ‘the greater good.’ She and I share East Coast roots, which has established a strong connection that is unbreakable. (GO METS!)”

LisaAnn McMahon, Support Staff, Communication, Writing & Arts

A Sensei

“I will always picture Adela at the reference desk, smiling as she patiently works with students, her research ‘prescription pad’ never far away. She is the searching sensei. It has been a great honor to work with and learn from her. She has been a big part of the identity of the library from before there was a physical library to the present. Adela is genuine. When she talks to you, there is no doubt that she is entirely present. Somehow, she is able to sustain the same level of engagement whether talking to an individual or a room full of students. It is her generosity, her wit, and her amazing laugh that I will miss the most.”

Michelle Filkins, Associate Professor and Department Chair, Library and Information Services

The library will truly miss Adela and will always appreciate her contributions that have made the library what it is today. Thank you, Adela!
Busy, Busy, Busy! Library Traffic and the Reference Desk
by Michelle Filkins, Associate Professor and Department Chair, Reference and Library Instruction

Many universities across the country report decreased traffic at library reference desks. But at Metropolitan State, we are defying the trend. **Since 2004, the number of users visiting the library has increased 78%!**

There has also been a dramatic increase in demand for reference and research assistance. **From September 2010 to August 2011, faculty reference librarians interacted with 4,863 library users.** The pie chart (right) shows how library users contact the reference desk to ask questions. We provide research assistance in person, via email, IM (instant messaging) and phone.

To reach out to more students in need of library research help, we’re experimenting with double staffing during peak hours (generally 3-5 Monday-Thursday). Please contact us at library.services@metrostate.edu with any comments or suggestions you may have about our reference services.

Ch-Ch-Changes! Library Website is Getting a Makeover
by Jennifer DeJonghe, Associate Professor and Reference and Instruction Librarian

You might notice some new and different things on the library website rolling out over the next few months. The librarians decided that one of their top priorities for the 2011/2012 year was to do a redesign of the library website.

As part of that process the library web team has been conducting usability testing, where student volunteers try to complete a series of tasks on the website while being observed. The team also implemented Google Analytics and the information collected helps the library to know who our website visitors are and what information people are clicking on the most.

All of this should result in a number of improvements to the content and navigation of the site. Please feel free to email librarian Jennifer DeJonghe (jennifer.dejonghe@metrostate.edu) if you have any comments about the changes, or suggestions for additional improvements.