OFF THE SHELF

Spring 2010

News from the AUS Library
library.aus.edu

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MESSAGE from the University Librarian

Greetings! We're celebrating the start of a new year by introducing Encore, a new easy-to-use search and discovery interface that dramatically improves the "findability" of library content.

Just one click and Encore displays results in a faceted format (different sections of the screen) in relevance ranked order. You can quickly refine your search by format (book, DVD, e-journal), library location or subject. Encore also helps you find similar items, produces tag clouds and alerts you to recently added materials. For students, Encore provides one click searching of five general academic databases just to help them get started. The Encore portal provides a good picture of the types of resources that are available in the Library and makes it easy to initiate a keyword search for journal articles across disciplines.

The Library's traditional catalog – now termed "classic" – will remain available for those who prefer it. We hope you will find Encore as useful as we do. Let us know what you think!

You may email Kathy at kray@aus.edu or call her at ext. 2266

Copyright & Permissions Service

AUS has started a new service to help faculty, students and staff understand and comply with US and UAE copyright law. This service will help you to obtain permission from the copyright holder. For more information, go to: http://library.aus.edu/FacultyResources/Copyright.htm or contact Dalia Gohary, Copyright & Permissions Manager, and she'll be glad to help you - dgohary@aus.edu - ext. 2283.

Introducing encore

The AUS Library announces the introduction of Encore, a new search engine for discovering all the library's resources, both print and electronic. From one search box, Encore will return the most relevant results and allow you to refine your results with a single click.

You can limit your results by availability, location, type of material (DVD, etc.), language and date. There are also "tag clouds" of relevant subject terms that allow you to narrow or widen your search. With another click you can retrieve journal articles for the same search.

Try using Encore from the AUS Library homepage.

To learn more about our homepage, browse http://library.aus.edu

Finding Journals

Are you looking for a particular journal? The library subscribes to thousands of journals. To discover whether we have the journal you want, explore the JOURNALS link from our homepage at: http://library.aus.edu. The link allows you to find out whether the AUS Library subscribes to the journal, either online or in print. You can also browse the library's periodical collection of electronic and print journals by **subject.**

To learn more, go to http://library.aus.edu

NEW Library Research Guides

Librarians have created **LibGuides** to aid students in their research assignments. Alongside important books, journals, databases, and recommended websites, our dynamic guides include new Web 2.0 features like tagging, bookmarking, RSS feeds, user ratings, and comments. Have a look and tell us what you think.

To learn more, go to http://aus.libguides.com

Librarian Profile

Alanna Ross
Information Literacy Librarian

Where is home?
I spent my childhood years in Northern Ireland, and then moved to Melbourne Australia with my family. Now that I live in the UAE, home is where I miss most…. Melbourne. Coffee, cafes, bookshops (The Hill of Content is a must visit), galleries and the beach…. Need I say more?

What are you reading now?
The Making of Mr. Gray's Anatomy: Bodies, Books, Fortune, Fame by Ruth Richardson. A really fascinating insight into the book trade, medical profession and museums of Victorian London. You won't believe the research that has gone into the writing of this book which reveals the story behind the production of the world's most famous medical textbook. The details are amazing – and at times quite gruesome. Check it out from the AUS Library.

Listening to?
I must admit that I can't live without my iPod. My favourite podcasts include The Moth (people telling true stories of their lives) and The New Yorker Fiction Podcast -well known authors reading their favourite New Yorker Magazine short stories.

You may email Alanna at aross@aus.edu or call her at ext. 2251.

STAFF NEWS and EVENTS

- As part of an ongoing assessment program, Circulation staff recently implemented a "Mystery Shopper" exercise that showed excellent results.
- Dr. Daniel Kirk presented a 3 hour seminar to help public services staff improve their teaching and training techniques.
- Staff attended an internally taught workshop to learn about different learning styles and how to work successfully with all styles.
- Lachlan Shine, Evening Circulation Supervisor, left to pursue a masters degree. Our new evening supervisor is Mohammad Rafeeq.
- Fisher Xu has rejoined the library as a Library Specialist. Welcome Fisher and Rafeeq!

University Archives

The Archives is a non-circulating repository for the institutional records of AUS. Material is of enduring value and relates to administrative, academic, social or cultural aspects of AUS . It comprises official university documents, publications, drawings, maps, newspaper clippings, photographs, videos and DVDs of university events, and AUS student master's theses. View a listing of the Archives collection at http://intranet.aus.ac.ae/library/archives. The Archives is located on the second floor in the library. Send queries to: archives@aus.edu or hsalem@aus.edu, ext. 2269.

FAST FACTS

Fall 2009 (September - December)

Number of items checked out
34,450

Most used database
ProQuest – 72,774 searches

Average number of visitors per day
2,750

Number of pages printed
1,072,141

Number of questions asked at the Research Help Desk
1,994

Librarian Activities

- **Alanna Ross** & **Christine Furno** received an AUS Academic Staff Grant to study the use of personal response systems (clickers) as active learning tools in the classroom and the impact on learning information literacy skills.
- **Thomas Hodge** organized the Middle East North Africa (MENA) Innovative Users' Group meeting attended by librarians from the MENA area and hosted by the American University in Cairo – **Kathleen Botter** and **Sally Crosby** also attended.
- **Christine Furno** attended the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) 5-day teacher track Immersion Program (December 2009) in Nashville, Tennessee.
- **Alanna Ross** & **Christine Furno** will present *Active learning strategies in the information literacy classroom: Evaluating methods, comparing results and measuring 'real' impact* at the Librarian's Information Literacy Annual Conference (LILAC) in Limerick City, Ireland. (March 2010).
- **Christine Furno** & **Alanna Ross** will present *Clickers in the library instruction environment – connecting learners and measuring impact* at the Special Libraries Association Arabian Gulf Chapter annual conference in Abu Dhabi (March 2010).
- **Kathy Ray** organized an AMICAL (American International Consortium of Academic Libraries) sponsored workshop in October 2009 on using anthropological research methods to study undergraduate student behavior. It was facilitated by Dr. Nancy Foster from the University of Rochester and attended by librarians from the American University in Cairo, American University of Paris, Lebanese American University and AUS.