



BCCC Library Newsletter

Fall 2005

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Volume 1, Issue 1



Bucks County Community College Libraries

Newtown Campus Library
275 Swamp Road
Newtown, PA 18940
(215) 968-8009

Bristol Center Library
1280 New Rodgers Road
Bristol, PA 19007
(215) 781-3941

Upper County Library
One Hillendale Drive
Perkasie, PA 18944
(215) 258-7721

In This Issue...

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- New Books
- New & Departing Librarians
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A Fond Farewell



I came to Bucks County Community College five years ago as Public Services Librarian, later to be promoted to Assistant Director, and currently Director of the Library. At the end of October I will leave Bucks to take on a new profes-

sional opportunity as Head, Professional Programs and General Reference Services at Syracuse University Library. I have enjoyed my time and work at the College, and the Library has certainly seen a great many changes over the last few years. Several of the noteworthy projects that I was involved with include: the library automation system migration (from DRA to SIRSI), hiring a new staff of library faculty members as well as several library paraprofessionals, and most recently the library stacks relocation project.

Library administration will continue with the appointment of an interim library director from among the current eligible faculty and a full scale search will be launched at a later

date. I feel confident in the continued operation of high quality library services from a very capable library staff, with the support of the entire Learning Resources department.

I appreciate the opportunities that Bucks has afforded me over the past few years, as I have had the opportunity to grow professionally and work with and learn from a great many faculty, staff, and students from all across the campus. I am thankful for the support and friendship that I have received from so many during my employment here.

BRANDI PORTER
Director

Spotlight On...

American Memory (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/>), the Library of Congress' collection of *freely accessible* online resources, documenting the "American experience". Consisting of print (maps, advertisements, etc.) and media (recordings, speeches, and video clips) materials, it could be a valuable addition to your class presentations or lectures!



Library Services

Help us to help you! Whether you're taking classes or teaching them, the library can help get you on the right track with your research needs!

For Students

Having trouble with your research? Don't know where to begin? We offer individual reference consultations, or you can request assistance through our website (through our *Reference Desk Online* service).

For Instructors

Consider scheduling your class for a library instruction session.

We can guide your students to scholarly resources for their assignments, provide an overview of the library and its services, and help to establish sound research practices early on.

We can tailor instruction to your specific class's needs, using your syllabus and course

assignments to identify appropriate resources prior to your session. We also can help develop assignments that use available library resources.

We cover evaluating Internet resources and direct students to resources that they can use when citing sources in their research papers.

We also offer guidance to faculty members who may not be familiar with our library resources.



Take a look at the library's new online resource called **Oxford Reference!** This handy tool contains digital versions of many of the trusted Oxford reference books we have been using for decades, as well as subject guides featuring links to recommended websites.



Full-text of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* is available from **NewsBank**, a database that provides full-text access to over 500 U.S. newspapers. Coverage includes 1981 to the present, with the exception of paid advertisements.

Access to these electronic resources is available through the library's list of *Online Resources*.

Departures

Charlie Colombo, evening librarian at the Upper County Campus Library has accepted a full-time position as Instruction Librarian/Library Staff Development Coordinator at the *University of West Georgia*. Please join us in wishing Charlie well as he embarks on this excellent professional and personal opportunity! Charlie's last day will be Nov. 1, 2005.

Blogging Basics

Chances are you've heard or read the term "blog" several times over the last few years. However, you may not be quite sure what it means. At its most basic, blogging is simply a form of self-publishing on the Internet. A web log, or blog for short, is a collection of online journal entries written by an individual or a group of individuals on a particular theme. These themes can be quite specific or very broad. If a topic exists, chances are someone is blogging on it right now.

A blog differs from a traditional web page in three ways: it is *updated frequently* (sometimes throughout the day); it represents the *voice of its author* (s); and it often *allows readers to comment*.

It's the subjectivity and openness that makes blogging so exciting for fans of the form and so frustrating for critics. No one is editing, fact-checking, or seeking to fairly represent both sides of an

issue in a blog. A blog may contain links to "real" journalism, but, at its heart, it's no more than a snapshot of someone's thoughts on a given day.

At its best, blogging promotes critical thinking and encourages the exchange of ideas. However, even the worst blog may prove useful as an example of a poorly worded argument, self-indulgent navel-gazing, or just plain bad writing. The best way to understand blogging is to look at some examples. The following is a very small sampling of some of the more well-known blogs.

Like the blogs themselves, this list is purely subjective.

Boing Boing
<<http://www.boingboing.net>>
An award-winning, general interest, collaborative blog.

Dooce
<<http://www.dooce.com/>>
The ramblings of a web designer and stay-at-home-mother.

One Movie a Day
<<http://movie-a-day.blogspot.com/>>
This film lover watches and reviews a new film every day.

The Phantom Professor
<<http://phantomprof.blogspot.com/>>
Life as an adjunct.

Technometria
<<http://www.windley.com/>>
One man's attempt to make sense of technology.

Wonkette
<<http://www.wonkette.com/>>
A humorous, irreverent take on Washington politics.

If you'd like to start a blog, there are many resources available to get you started. One of the most popular resources is the Google-powered **Blogger.com** <<http://www.blogger.com>>, which provides free software to create and maintain your blog, as well as free space where you can house it. The only prerequisites are basic typing skills, Internet access, and an interest in online communication.

New Librarians at the Extension Sites

We are pleased to announce that the Library has recently hired two new librarians to its staff. They are **Catherine Collins** <collinsc@bucks.edu> and **Anthony "Tony" Joachim** <joachima@bucks.edu>, who will be joining our team in the evenings and weekends at both the Upper County and Bristol Center Campuses.

Catherine received her MLIS degree from the University at Buffalo in New York and had worked for several years as a Business Reference and Instruction Librarian at Texas A&M University, prior to coming to Bucks County Community College.



Tony received his MLIS degree from Rutgers University in New Jersey and is currently employed at the Rutgers University Libraries as a Digital Reference and Instructional Technology Services Librarian.

This semester, Catherine will be working on Saturdays at the Bristol Center Library, while Tony will cover Monday and Wednesday nights there, as well as alternating Saturdays at the Upper Campus Library.

We hope you will join us in welcoming Catherine and Tony to our staff, and encourage you to introduce yourself the next time you visit the library!

Did You Know...

Did you know that the library provides access to books and media materials from around Bucks County, through the *Bucks County Library Network (BCLN)*? Simply search the [BC3 Library Catalog](#) for items in in our library, as well as materials in 18 other public libraries in Bucks County. If it's not here, we can order it for you!

Ask about this service at your campus library.



Ask a Librarian

Question:

"How can I make course materials available to my students, outside of class?"

Answer:

Easy! There are two ways that faculty can make course material available to their classes, through the library. While our traditional **Reserve** service provides access to books (and other materials) at each campus library, our **eReserve** service makes your course materials available *anywhere* through the library website!

Placing items on Reserve is easier than ever, with these three simple steps:

1 Choose your material to be placed on Reserve, or eReserve.

This may include library materials, electronic resources, or items from your personal collection. (Please note that "Fair Use" provisions of US Copyright Law apply to electronic reserves.)

2 Complete a library reserve request form.

You can get copies of this form at any of the campus libraries or online at the library's website. Simply look under *Services*, then *Faculty Services*, and *Placing Items on Reserve*.

3 Submit your completed form.

This can be done by fax (215-968-8005), by email <infobc3@bucks.edu>, or in person at the library.

Your request will be processed within ten business days, and made available for the remainder of the semester (unless otherwise noted).

Materials are placed on reserve on a semester-by-semester basis, so you will need to re-submit reserve requests for each class, each semester.

Want more information? Contact a librarian by email at <infobc3@bucks.edu> or by phone at 215-968-8013.

Placing materials on reserve is a lot easier than you may think!



New Books at the BCCC Libraries

All of these books circulate, so drop by and check one out!

Alternative Comics: an Emerging Literature (Hatfield)
Newtown Campus
741.509 H362 A466 2005

The Demon in the Freezer: a True Story (Preston)
Newtown & Upper County
358.38 P939

Diseases of the Human Body (Tamparo & Lewis)
Upper County
616 T159 D611 2005

The Height of Nonsense: the Ultimate Irish Roadtrip (Clements)
Newtown
914.15 C626 H465 2005

How to Think Like Leonardo Da Vinci: Seven Steps to Genius Every Day (Gelb)
Bristol Center
153.35 G314 H847 2004

The Improbable Swervings of Atoms (Bursk)
Upper County
611.6 B972 I34 2005 2005

Stargazer: the Life and Times of the Telescope (Watson)
Newtown Campus
522.209 W338 S795 2005

The Word Museum: the Most Remarkable English Ever Forgotten (Kacirk)
Bristol Center
423.1 K11 W924 2000

Online Surveying Is Fast and Easy with SurveyMonkey

If you'd like to create professional-looking surveys for class use, try **SurveyMonkey** <<http://surveymonkey.com>>.

This user-friendly, online resource walks you through the entire surveying process. With nothing more than your web browser, you can enter your questions and answer choices, invite respondents, collect responses, and analyze data from a secure site.

Design options give you considerable flexibility in the types of questions and answers, as well as the colors and layout.

Results can be viewed as they're collected either in the form of overview graphs and charts or in the form of detailed reports of all responses.

You may also share your survey results with others, display only the responses you're interested in, and even download

the raw data into Excel or SPSS.

To use SurveyMonkey, you must be a subscriber. Basic subscription is free and allows you to create surveys of up to 10 questions each and 100 responses per survey. For unlimited surveys, questions, and responses, a professional subscription is available for \$19.95/month.

Editor-in-Chief
Brandi Porter

Editors
Catherine Collins
Tony Joachim

Contributors include:
John Caviston,
Catherine Collins,
Jerry Fedorijczuk,
Tony Joachim,
Linda McCann,
Margaret Montet,
Carolyn Woods

Library Hours:

(August 31—December 21, 2005)

Monday—Thursday
8:00AM—9:00PM

Friday—Saturday
8:00AM—3:30PM

Sunday (Newtown Only)
1:00PM—5:30PM

Exceptions:

Thanksgiving Break
Wednesday November 23rd—
Saturday November 26th
CLOSED

Schedule subject to change. All changes will be posted in the library and on our website.



The mission of the library is to provide the information services and resources required to meet the needs of Bucks County Community College students and the community, to enrich their lives, advance their careers, and enable them to become lifelong learners and more responsible citizens. One way in which the library achieves its mission is by selecting, acquiring, and/or otherwise providing access to the information resources necessary to satisfy the information needs of the community.

For more information, please e-mail the library at infobc3@bucks.edu or call us at (215) 968-8009.

We're on the Web!

<http://www.bucks.edu/library>

Technology Highlight: *LibrarySpot.Com*

The award-winning site **LibrarySpot.Com** <<http://www.libraryspot.com/>> was created as a free, virtual library that could be used to search on all types of subjects on the Internet with relative ease and versatility. The focus is on quality, so editorial oversight is used when selecting resources.

LibrarySpot.com is broken down into three major categories designed to assist the user in identifying resources suitable for research. *Libraries* is a listing of all types of libraries available online. It's further broken down by types of libraries (i.e. academic libraries, film libraries, medical libraries, and such). *Reference Desk* is a

collection of commonly used reference tools, including almanacs, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and thesauri, as well as many other types of reference tools. *Reading Room* directs you to resources for headlines, online journals, newspapers, and magazines. Finally, *Literary Criticism* contains a wide range of resources on writers and their works.

LibrarySpot.com is the first in a family of web portals by the StartSpot Network that are geared toward finding topical information in a one-stop shopping environment.

Companion sites include:

• **BookSpot.com**
<<http://bookspot.com>>

- **CinemaSpot.com**
<<http://cinemaspot.com>>
- **EmploymentSpot.com**
<<http://employmentspot.com>>
- **GenealogySpot.com**
<<http://genealogyspot.com>>
- **GovSpot.com**
<<http://govspot.com>>
- **HeadlineSpot.com**
<<http://headlinespot.com>>
- **HomeworkSpot.com**
<<http://homeworkspot.com>>
- **MuseumSpot.com**
<<http://museumspot.com>>
- **TripSpot.com**
<<http://tripspot.com>>

Did You Know...

A recent article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* by staff writer Patricia Horn - "Libraries turn the next page," 10/10/05 - describes the many changes libraries are currently undergoing in the computer age to meet the needs of students and other patrons accustomed to Internet access and the relaxed atmosphere of cafe areas. The article is based on the premise that, despite today's technological changes, libraries remain as much a backbone of U.S. democracy and education as they have been since Ben Franklin organized the Philadelphia Library Company in 1731.

