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The Subject Librarian Newsletter, Biology, Spring 2016

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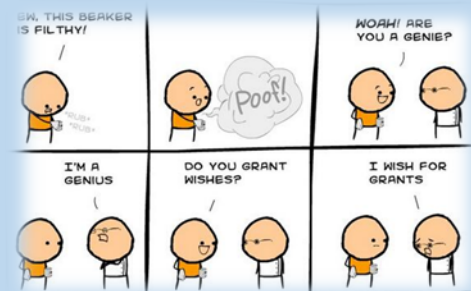
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Biology Newsletter

SPRING 2016



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Do you or your students need to learn languages that would help them with their research? German? Russian? Mandarin? Improve their English? Mango Languages, a leading language and culture learning resource, is now available online 24/7 via the UCF Libraries.

The Mango program teaches actual conversation skills for more than 70 foreign languages and English as a second language. It also includes thematic specialty courses, among them medical Spanish, endangered languages (Yiddish, Tuvan), Pirate ("Arrr, matey!"), and the Mango Premiere program for teaching language through full-length international films.

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TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY has moved to the forefront as an issue in higher education, especially in Florida. A few weeks ago, the state legislature enacted several amendments to existing laws concerning textbook affordability. Some of the more salient features of the legislation are:

- Requiring public postsecondary institutions to report, by semester, the cost variance among sections and length of time textbooks and other materials are in use for all general education (GEP) courses. (This provision expires July 1, 2018.)
- Requiring posting of textbooks and instructional materials at least 45 days before the first day of class, currently 30 days, on the college or university website.

The Libraries have created a research guide, "Textbooks, Textbook Alternatives & Course Readings from Library Resources," to assist both faculty and students with alternatives to full-price textbooks. For example, **the Libraries offer thousands of full-text online books that can be used in the classroom or by individual students to supplement class readings.** For more information, see <<http://guides.ucf.edu/textbooks>>.