The Subject Librarian Newsletter, Writing & Rhetoric, Fall 2014

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The Introduction to Library Research Strategies Canvas course will once again be used this semester. As was the case last year, 1102 students will be auto-enrolled and will have access to the class after the final add/drop date. Please remember we do not intend for this to replace our face to face instruction. Rather, this is a companion to those sessions. We recommend you discuss how best to implement this class with the librarian who is assigned to teach your face to face session. There is no single best way to do this. We encourage collaboration. Also, we plan to update this class in the near future — we’ll be soliciting feedback about that soon!

On a related note, we have a new instruction website that offers packages for online, hybrid, and a build-your-own instruction plans. Please give the new site a try, and contact me directly if you have any questions.

Updated Research Guides

On a related note, our research guides (LibGuides) have gotten a much-needed facelift and are now more attractive and user-friendly. I plan to create a guide for Writing & Rhetoric soon, but would also like to start tailoring these guides to specific classes and/or assignments. A few instructors have already done this with great success. Feel free to contact me if you would like to explore the possibility of creating a class guide or using them as a platform for a class assignment or project that has a research component.
Streaming Videos

We currently have three streaming video services available. There is much more information about each of these available on our handy guide, so just click on any of the titles below to access those pages. Here’s an overview:

Alexander Street Press: Includes thousands of titles in 12 collections.

FMG Films on Demand: Mostly films for the Humanities and Sciences. We have more than 130 titles available. Titles available to request can be viewed by connecting to Films on Demand.

DigitalCampus from Swank: A collection of over 19,000 theatrical films and television programs available to embed in Webcourses.

For more information, contact Rachel Mulvihill directly.

Open Access Week Coming Soon!

We’ve been celebrating Open Access Week for a few years, and last year was our most successful program to date. Open access Week 2014 runs from October 20th – 26th and we will be planning a series of events to help promote this growing movement. The Libraries will be hosting a series of events on Monday, October 20th in the Teaching Academy from 9-4:00 pm. Events will feature UCF faculty as well as noted Open Access scholar, Peter Suber. I will send out more specific details soon.

New Graduate Workshops!

We are launching a series of graduate workshops this fall. In collaboration with the College of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Student Center, we are offering six topics in the series to help graduate students learn more about research processes and resources. Please pass this information along to any students who might benefit from a workshop on any of the scheduled topics.

Collection Development

After a brief spending freeze earlier this year, our funds have finally been replenished. If there are materials you would like to support your teaching or scholarship, now would be a good time to do that. Remember, however, that we can’t take on any recurring costs, such as journal or database subscriptions, but one-time purchase requests for books and media are accepted. Please submit your requests to the DWR’s library liaison, Thomas Wright.