

Overnotes

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If You Value Knowledge For Its Own Sake

By: Gary Parnell, Professor of Education

I regretfully find myself obligated to respond to certain unsubstantiated reports claiming that large numbers of my students are frequenting the Snow College Library. While these reports alone are alarming enough, what causes me even greater concern is the fact that it has also been implied that these same students are being enticed by certain well known purveyors of knowledge into committing such acts as “open inquiry” and “unfettered intellectual exploration” and in some rare, but nevertheless lamentable cases, “learning for its own sake.”

I have tried to make it clear to my students that they are to visit the library, if at all, only when they have specific assignments, and that even then, they should make every effort to obtain only the minimum information needed to fulfill those assignments. Learning just the minimum isn't all that hard to do. I've done it. My faculty colleagues have done it. It's how most of us who are now successful academics got through college so relatively unscathed back in our day.

My model on this, as on so many other educational matters, is the great French philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau, who warned his fictional son, Emile in the following words: “If you value knowledge for its own sake, you enter upon an unfathomable boundless ocean full of rocks; you will never escape from it!” And I am sure that Rousseau, hampered by his eighteenth-century perspective would have issued an even stronger warning had he been aware of the frightfully more unfathomable and boundless resources that now lurk in the bowels of the

Snow College Library.

But despite the undeniable risk I was taking, and as what you could call an exercise in “knowing your enemy,” I actually went over to the library myself the other day and brought back some quotations that were quite openly purveyed to me from within its numerous, books, CD-ROMs, reference materials and on-line information services. The technical services librarian was kind enough to point me toward the first of these quotations. It was from Sir Winston Churchill who once remarked that “It is a good thing for an uneducated man to read books of quotations.”

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Library Hours for February:

Monday - Thursday:

7:30 A.M.-11:00 P.M.

Friday:

7:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Saturday:

12:00-6:00 P.M.

Sunday:

5:00-11:00 P.M.

www.lib.snow.edu

Phone: (435) 283-7363

Spring Break

Feb. 11-15: 8:00A.M.-5:00P.M.

Feb. 9,10,16,17: Closed

Feb. 18: 5:00-11:00P.M.

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Student Drop-In Sessions

Please invite students needing research assistance to attend these sessions.

Thursday, February 28
Thursday, March 7
1:30 - 4:00 pm in the
Electronic Classroom

Finding and Using Full-Text Journals

Searching techniques to help you find the articles you need.

Wednesday, February 27
3:30 - 4:30 pm in the
Electronic Classroom



A STUDENT'S VIEW

The Invisible Internet

The Internet. A wealth of information, right? As stated by the video *Don't Get Caught in the Web*, "the great thing about the Internet is that it allows anyone anywhere to publish anything regardless of their education, age, or experience. The bad thing about the Internet is that it allows anyone anywhere to publish anything regardless of their education, age, or experience."

Millions of sites are searched when using an Internet search engine. There is usually a lot of junk to wade through before finding some documented, factual information on the desired topic. Students who are trying to find valid research for a paper run into this time and time again because they are told to have one or more source from the "Internet."

The library has come up with a very convenient, no-hassle solution. The library's home page provides access to a "databases and indexes" link. This link will take the user to what Jon Ostler (Public Services Librarian) terms "the invisible Internet." Only experts and professionals are allowed to publish in the journals found in these databases. The library pays thousands of dollars every year to have access to this elite Internet content. This resource allows students and faculty alike to find valid, credible information on any academic subject.

When assigning a research paper, teachers will be able to direct students to the "invisible Internet," which will allow students to sift through information and find resources which best support their topics without having to deal with all the "junk." In turn, teachers will hopefully receive a higher quality paper. The "databases and indexes" link provides a great alternative to using the wide open Internet. ?



By: Chelcie Nielson
Work To Learn/Technical Writer



Searching Snow's Periodicals with EBSCOhost

ONLINE SPOTLIGHT

We recently modified EBSCOhost to allow searches to be limited to periodicals we have in the library. Using this limiter you will be searching 73% of the library's holdings. This compares to a measly 41% available through *Readers' Guide*. To search only Snow's holdings use Academic Search Elite (in EBSCOhost) and check the box "Snow College Journals and Magazines in Print." This will limit your search results to only those periodicals we have on our shelves. We have also added a note to each article retrieved indicating if we have the periodical locally.

(Continued from Cover)

Anyway, what follows here is some of what I found on my own and, believe me, I am not making this stuff up.

Groucho Marx (didn't he invent communism?) recommended that we give more serious consideration to the popular media. He said, "I find television to be very educational. The minute someone turns it on, I go to the library and read a book." Of course this is the man who brilliantly remarked that "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend (and inside of a dog it's too dark to read)."

Elbert Hubbard, in a lamentable display of how libraries distort some people's understanding of the economic priorities that have made America what it is today, professed to believe that "this will never be a civilized country until we spend more money for books than we do for chewing gum." (It reminds me a little of Logan Pearsall Smith who is quoted as having stated that "people say life is the thing, but I prefer reading)."

And then, while unaccountably ignoring the obvious advantages of good looks, athletic prowess and a large inheritance, Benjamin Disraeli had the temerity to insist that "as a general rule, the most successful man in life is the man who

has the best information."

And then, from another source, while he unexplainably neglects such promising opportunities as multilevel business, telemarketing, fast food service and turkey plant operations, Robert Perleman blithely insists that "learning is what most adults will do for a living in the twenty first century."

But I guess I would have to say that the most outlandish and incomprehensible statement of all came from that great icon of Argentine literature, Jorge Luis Borges, who said in all seriousness, "I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of library."

The point I am trying to make is that the kind of learning experience one can get at the Snow College Library is not a simple and innocent fulfillment of some kind of Maslovian "deficiency need." It's not the kind of thing that when you don't have it you want some and when you have enough you don't want any more. In other words, it's not like water, or food or Britney Spears. Library learning is complex and pernicious and leads to what psychiatric social workers ominously refer to as "growth needs." In other words, if you don't have very much knowledge you probably don't feel any great

need for learning, but if you get a certain amount of it you begin to crave more, and the more you get the more you want until you end up overloading our brain and becoming a questioner of accepted truths, a menace to duly constituted authority, and an embarrassment to your friends. This is the same syndrome of pathological behaviors that can occur when people become entangled in genealogy, philosophy or Italian opera.

And let me just point out that the vast amount and alarming power of the knowledge available from the Snow College Library is particularly insidious and heartbreaking. I can testify from personal experience that it can tragically undermine your ability to enjoy such laudable things as talk radio, beer commercials, Thomas Kinkade art works and the entire Faux Television Network.

I will leave you now with one final warning quotation that ought to be sufficient in and of itself to keep you from the clutches of those lotharios that lurk in the lair of the library. This comes from the pen of that paragon of *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine who said, "Ignorance is of a peculiar nature; once dispelled it is impossible to reestablish it." ?

Library Humor to Make you Groan

What's the librarian's favorite bumper sticker?

"Shhh! Happens"

Why did the librarian slip and fall on the library floor?

Because she was in the non-friction section.

Why does the ghost come back to the library every day for more books?

Because she goes through them too quickly.

Why did the librarian ban the book *Knights of the Round Table*?

Too much Saxon violence



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Sonia DeMill

Circulation Clerk

By: *Chelcie Nielson*
WTL/Technical Writer

Imagine a sky filled with stars and a crackling campfire with the smell of fresh fish frying over the flames— when Sonia DeMill is not working her two jobs, taking care of her family, and living everyday hectic life, she is standing on the edge of a clear mountain lake reeling in the latest catch or on a four wheeler riding across Skyline Drive.

Sonia is the library's circulation clerk. Her job mostly consists of managing the student workers and all student library records. She does a myriad of other necessary things that make it possible for the library to serve the Snow College community.

Sonia is the mother of three children, sixteen-year-old twin girls and a twelve-year-old son. She is married to Blake DeMill and they have made their home in Manti. When Sonia was thirteen she moved from Springville to live with her grandmother in Manti. She told her grandmother that she was going to marry a farmer so that she could always live in Manti. She didn't marry a farmer, but she says that she will always live in Manti.

Sonia graduated from Snow College with a business education degree and then worked at a title office for five years. She then worked as an assistant manager at Mira Star. After five years, she was ready for a change. When the position of circulation clerk opened at the library, she applied and was hired. Sonia also works at the Manti High School computer lab in the morning. Her most memorable experience happened last summer when about fifty football players unexpectedly set up their tents on the front lawn of the library.

Even though Sonia would most like to be on top of a mountain with her family, she is a great asset to the library. She does a wonderful job keeping everything at the circulation desk running smoothly. ?

NEW IN THE STACKS**VIDEOS****Master Poets Collection**

(VC 811.4)

This set of 21 videos highlights poets such as Edna St. Vincent Millay, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Robert Frost, Edgar Lee Masters, William Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, the Brontes, Robert and Elizabeth Browning, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Sir Walter Scott, Lord Tennyson, Rudyard Kipling, William Blake, Thomas Hardy, William Butler Yeats, D.H. Lawrence, Sylvia Plath, e.e. cummings, Walt Whitman, and Edgar Allan Poe.

Kokoro, the Heart Within (5 videos

about the culture and customs of

Japan) VC 952 K829

William Shakespeare, his Life and Times (6 videos)

VC 822 W67

Cowboy Country (6 videos)

VC 978 C838

Let the Women Vote

VC 324.623 D3641

Return of the Wolves

VC 599.733 R316

A Raisin in the Sun

VC 791.4572 R136

Gathered in Time: Utah Quilts and their Makers

VC 746.46 G224