Cross-database searches yielding precision results—this is a scholar’s fondest wish. To find highly relevant sources in a variety of formats is half the equation, the other side is a clear display with quick options to further customize results.

The QCC Library is conducting a trial of EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) this semester. The EDS technology links library databases and the online catalog together to show results available across multiple resources. Many of our databases are already in the trial and we will be adding our library catalog to incorporate print and ebook resources. Searching the library’s collection through a single search box is fast and streamlined, saving time over searching each database individually. Relevance ranking is intended to return the highest quality matches first. Search results can be limited to the type of publication, narrowed by subject, or further refined by date.

The librarians hope faculty and students will conduct many searches in EDS and let us know what you think of its performance. Use this EDS link or work from the news announcement on the library home page.

— Denise Cross

**Mechatronics Leads the Way in Library STEM Guides**

The Library has launched a series of interactive guides to introduce students to several STEM disciplines.

Ready for access by the QCC community is the *Introduction to Mechatronics*. Never heard of it? Go to the link and find out about this high-growth area. You can even access the nifty map, developed by Professor James Heffernan, showing the companies in eastern Massachusetts that hire QCC graduates who are starting out in mechatronics.

The STEMguides have been developed in cooperation with the School of Business, Engineering and Technology and will highlight QCC resources in Biotechnology, Engineering, and related fields.

For some perspective from outside Worcester, the guides offer selected material from other educational institutions, such as a recorded interview with an Australian STEM major.

The Library is growing its collection of STEM-related books and e-books, and we highlight many recent additions, linking to the e-books or indicating their shelf location.

Follow the Library website to be alerted when further STEMGuides are published this spring, or e-mail mstevenson@qcc.mass.edu to be notified personally.

— Michael Stevenson

**Professional Development Collection**


Many educators recognize a disjunction between women’s great strides in educational attainment in recent decades and their underrepresentation in STEM fields. In proportion to the STEM-related PhDs women earn, they reach fewer administrative and managerial positions in academia and industry. The women in STEM careers also tend to leave their fields more often than their male colleagues.

This new book showcases the achievements of eight scientists who have risen high in academia, industry and government. *Breaking In* offers vivid insight into challenges facing women entering STEM fields, and describes their motivations, the choices they made on the road to success and the intellectual rewards they derive from their work.

The book details challenges that aspiring women scientists will face in classrooms, in labs and on the job site, always addressing the question: what can educators and other advocates do to encourage more women to enter the STEM disciplines? *Breaking In* is an up-to-date source, full of advice for women students considering STEM careers, as well as for higher education faculty and staff who advise, evaluate and mentor today’s women students.
Adjunct Corner:
Badges Add Extra Credit to Orientation Tutorial

Snow days and compliance with student learning outcomes combined last spring in a syllabus-busting mixture. This spurred Psychology Professor Judy Colson to try out digital badges as incentives for students to interact with Searchpath, the library’s online orientation. Through her Blackboard course, students linked to the interactive modules. Then they returned to her course to answer several questions about the material covered. Answer correctly, and — voilà! — earn badges.

Digital badges are becoming a popular form of credentialing, used in everything from technology certification to logging website visits. They can be issued for mastering a complex program or simply attending a conference session.

This spring, Quinsigamond joined the movement with its own badges to reward students for their learning, awarding them through Blackboard for taking the Searchpath orientation to the research process. Students can earn up to three badges by completing the modules in this online tutorial and then responding to an additional question about their experience with the process.

The initiative expands on Professor Colson’s earlier efforts and relies on her expertise with the Blackboard environment. Other consultants included Librarians Denise Cross and Dale LaBonte and Instructional Designer Louise Hamelin. Thanks to her work and the configuration implemented by Pat Schmohl, Dean of Distance Learning and Professional Development, the badgeing sequence is available in the student orientation to Blackboard.

The Searchpath modules convey the process of academic research, from finding out how to get started to knowing how to use the resources. These translate into badges called Explorer, Seeker, and Finder.

Several campuses have developed more extensive badging programs, and QCC may be able to join this illustrious company with the likes of Penn State and SUNY.

—Dale LaBonte

New Staff in the Alden — and Downtown — Library

Renée Fratantonio is a new librarian at the Healthcare campus, staffing the library during late afternoon and evening hours.

A graduate of the University of Rhode Island’s Master of Library and Information Science program, she joined the QCC library team in January. Renée has been working with Health Science students since 2012. While finishing her degree at URI, she took a special topics course on Health Sciences Librarianship. As her final project, she created a ten-minute video tutorial on how to use Google more effectively to find and evaluate consumer health information.

She continues to work at Assumption College as a weekend access services supervisor. She also served at Assumption as a reference librarian for a temporary posting.

Renée is familiar with the Blackboard CMS, has created online research guides and conducted information literacy workshops. At Assumption, she continues to manage the library’s social media presence on Facebook and Instagram.

Back Story


Call number: PQ 4873 .A98 L5613 2014

Recently returned from nation building under fire in Afghanistan, Manuela Paris returns to her sleepy Italian village to recover from physical and psychic damage. We learn of her journey from unstructured adolescence in a broken family to her enlistment in Italy’s newly coed army in search of belonging and some measure of discipline. Finally able to connect and cooperate, she rises quickly through the ranks of an elite regiment and learns to kick culo when needed to motivate her bored, antsy squad mates. The novel’s title is taken from a song by Radiohead, a favorite group among her iPod-toting regiment: “I’ve lost my way / I’ve lost my way” the song laments.

Mazzucco skillfully portrays the tensions of reaching out to a sullen, resentful populace during Manuela’s flashbacks to Afghanistan. Severely wounded by an IED, Manuela first returns to a media blitz—although townspeople have trouble finding adequate numbers of their nation’s flag to wave. After the news crews have returned to Rome, she again finds herself adrift, partying with her edgy older sister and beginning an affair with a mysterious visitor to the seaside enclave.

Mazzucco seamlessly weaves entries from Manuela’s journal—assigned as part of her recovery—with the story of this soldier’s reconnection with family and villagers and adventures with her enigmatic beau. You will come to admire the feisty, persevering sergeant coming to terms with herself and her homeland, and you’ll realize why the Taliban would want to take her out of the game.

—Michael Stevenson