Following on the heels of ebrary, a collection of over 20,000 full-text ebooks, the library has added a collection of 100 reference titles from CREDO Reference. The titles were selected to complement the print Reference Collection in the Library.

Finding these additional resources is simple: they are listed in our online catalog. Simply search for your topic, and if there is a match to any of the titles in the CREDO collection, you will find a record with a link to the full text.

You may also search the CREDO and ebrary collections directly through our library’s home page, from the Databases by Title A-Z list.

Searching directly in CREDO gives you access to additional features of the collection. The titles are organized by subject under Find a Book, so it is easy to browse. After choosing a particular title, you can explore related resources from the sidebar on the left. These related resources include journal articles from some of the other databases the library subscribes to, such as EBSCO and Gale.

All of the library’s resources are available at any time with your Alden Library barcode.

A powerful feature in CREDO is the concept mapping of topics. Begin exploring by clicking on the Concept Map tab and enter a topic.

CREDO maps out the concept wherever it appears in the collection. Click on a node to refocus the concept map. Hover over a node and a definition box pops up. From there you can open the full entry in a new window to get background information on the topic from trustworthy reference sources.

Each article has citation information at the end. This tool is a great way to explore topics, generate keywords and gather background information for students who need an interactive tool to help them develop their topic.

— Denise Cross

Introducing Our Saturday Librarian

Suzanne Hall joins us with experience working as a librarian in a public library, and as an adjunct faculty member teaching children’s literature. She will primarily work on Saturdays, allowing us to continue to offer research assistance to individual students and conduct Saturday classes. Welcome Suzanne!

— Michael Stevenson


QCC Faculty who are involved in the College’s pursuit of outcomes assessment are aware of the greater level of accountability required today by, notably, the state government, but also by the federal apparatus and accreditors such as NEASC and National League of Nursing.

Shavelson’s Richard J. Shavelson states in this new book that, if wielded indiscriminately, accountability can do more harm than good. He looks broadly at how accountability is considered by colleges, accreditors, higher education consortia, and governments in our country and abroad.

Shavelson, a highly respected assessment specialist, offers a framework for evaluating student learning and discusses controversies in the field past and present. He details new assessment tools such as the Collegiate Learning Assessment, which he helped develop.

One reviewer noted, “Our current accountability measures are overused and often inadequate, but Shavelson provides a direction for assuring successful means of assessing higher education in the future.”
Scholarly Contribution

Matt Bejune co-authored an article featured in the September 2010 issue of Reference and User Services Quarterly.

Matt’s article, “The Development of the Virtual Notebook, a Wiki-Based Ready Reference Technology,” illustrates how wikis can improve library reference services. It is an outgrowth of his research dealing with how libraries are utilizing software like wikis, blogs, and social networking.

Reference and User Services Quarterly is a top-tier journal within the discipline of Library and Information Science. RUSQ is celebrating its 50th year of publication. It is produced by the Reference and User Services Association, a division of the American Library Association. The issue can be found in the Current Periodicals in Alden Library or Matt’s article can be found online at http://www.rusq.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/50n1_bejune.pdf.

Where in the World is Anne Pound?

In August 2010 Anne Pound retired as Assistant Dean for Library and Academic Support Services. We expect to hear from her next from Paris or San Francisco. Among her many achievements, she was instrumental in moving the Library out of the North Wing of the Administration Building into the newly built Harrington Learning Center in 2004. Anne was a respected colleague within the Library and throughout campus. Following Anne’s retirement, Jane Shea, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs, has been acting as Interim Dean. In October Anne’s position was posted and we expect to have a new Dean for Library and Academic Support Services soon.

Library Quick Fact:

By mid-October in FY11, the library staff had ordered 587 book titles and 30 DVDs.

In FY10, 2,267 titles were added to our book collection, and 68 DVDs to our non-print collection.

Alden Library telephones:

Reference — 508-854-4366  Circulation — 508-854-4581

Current hours are posted near each entry door and on the web

Circulation for September 2010:

- 412 items borrowed from other libraries for QCC students and faculty
- 363 faculty reserves checked out
- 714 books checked out to QCC borrowers
- 66 loans of laptop to students

Adjunct Corner

Power Users and Personal Service

Many library resources have hidden strengths for power users!

Log in through the Alden Library catalog to create wish-lists of books, audio books, or videos. Request them from other libraries. Renew them from home. Why waste money on Netflix when you can get the 2nd season of Mad Men delivered to the Circulation Desk here?

Sign in to My EBSCOhost and rerun searches as needed to keep up with professional literature. Generate a notice automatically to know when your professional journal’s next issue is published and view its table of contents.

Use database tools to format citations. Collect a set of articles in a session folder and generate a whole works-cited list.

For help with these power tools remember to turn to the Reference Team. Denise, Michael, Matt, Dale and Suzanne are all well-versed in the intricacies of EBSCO versus Gale, for example, or biography sources versus legal searches.

Doing research for a grant, an article, or a thesis? The librarians can consult to help with the literature review. We also love hearing about your research topics. What you are investigating today may alert us to a topic students will ask about tomorrow.

We are just a call (508-854-4366), visit, or email (reference@qcc.mass.edu) away. And did I mention chat…? — Dale LaBonte

New to the Collection:

Hedging


From among our trove of books on the current financial mess, this one by financial reporter and columnist Mallaby looks at one sector’s contribution to the carnage. Mallaby tracks hedge funds from their improbable beginnings in the 1960s boom. The industry is dominated by outsized, risk-taking personalities who pursue wealth creation as an extreme sport. “All I want to do is kill myself,” sobbed one stressed out employee to his superior, reports Mallaby. “Can I watch?” replied the financier.

During the 1990s-2000s run up in toxic assets such as sub-prime mortgages – favorites of many big commercial banks and investment banks – “lightly regulated” hedge funds resisted buying toxic waste for the most part,” Mallaby has written in his Washington Post column, and expands on this finding in his book. Against expectations, hedge funds survived the recent tumult well, and fund managers smirked as disgruntled taxpayers bailed out more established, “regulated” rivals such as Citigroup, and as some players such as Lehman Brothers disappeared.

Mallaby concludes that, unseemly as they may appear to Main Street, hedge funds may be the best vehicle society has for assuming and ameliorating risk in the markets: a few more hedge funds’ mansions sprouting in Greenwich are worth it, according to his view, since hedge funds help retirement funds for the rest of us ride out inevitable crashes.” — Michael Stevenson