Your personal reading history (if you set that up in your own online catalog account) will not transfer to the new system. Reserves will function a little differently on the new system. Faculty with materials on Course Reserve will need to be sure new requests are submitted for each semester going forward. Current items will not migrate directly, so everything currently on reserve will need to be removed by the end of June. The library will return items that have not been used in over a year. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Cross at X4480.

This summer, QCC’s Alden Library will roll out a new library catalog. The entire C/W MARS library consortium will be using the open source Evergreen library software to manage its bibliographic and patron databases.

Between June 30th and July 5th 2011, the C/W MARS academic libraries will make the change at a time when it will be the least disruptive, between summer sessions. If you find you need access to the catalog or online databases from on or off campus during the transition, please call the reference desk for assistance.

Evergreen was developed in 2006 for the Georgia Pines Consortium. It now has over 544 libraries worldwide using the software. It is a highly flexible, robust, secure and user-friendly system. The new system is powerful enough to reunite the Central and Western parts of C/W MARS into one unified catalog. After the public libraries in the C/W MARS consortium migrate to the new system in October, you will be able to see everything available in C/W MARS.

Some things will not change after July 5. If you have items checked out during the transition, they will transfer to the new system. If you have requests for items from other C/W MARS libraries, they will transfer as well.

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We hope you will find the look of the new catalog more user-friendly. There will be new features and a more web-like appearance. Any comments or suggestions are very welcome.

open source software gives the consortium more flexibility to improve library services.

— Denise Cross


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New Book: Deathly Deception

In 1943, the body of a British Royal Marine Major – or so papers on the body identified him – washed ashore in Spain. Other papers with the corpse described plans for an Allied invasion of Greece. The drowned man was the centerpiece of an elaborate ruse, Operation Mincemeat, which called on all the improvisational skills of Britain’s intelligence services to mislead German intelligence via their Spanish allies.

British historian Smyth credits the plan built around “Major Martin,” a Welsh drifter who had committed suicide, with tricking the Axis into reinforcing its positions in Greece at the cost of weakening defenses in Sicily, the Allies’ real target, and turning the tide of war in the Allies’ favor. Although the extent of the ruse’s impact has been questioned by other historians, the Mincemeat tale itself reads like something out of Ian Fleming – by the way, an assistant to the chief planner of the 1943 operation.

The successful 1950s book and film, The Man Who Never Was, were based on the “official story” from the war years. Smyth had access to troves of sources made available since and has woven an engaging tale of skullduggery pulled off by a cast of wily - and sometimes eccentric - heroes.

— Michael Stevenson
Reference Radically Revamped

We have made some dramatic changes to the Library’s Reference collection this year. Beginning in May 2010, we weeded hundreds of outdated encyclopedias and dictionaries. This helped to facilitate access to the “good stuff,” and it made room for the new acquisitions planned for this academic year.

Following our weeding of the collection we purchased hundreds of new books to “feed” the collection. The books purchased support student research in a wide range of academic areas. Here are some of our coolest new titles:

- American Countercultures: an Encyclopedia of Nonconformists, Alternative Life Styles, and Radical Ideas in U.S. History
- The Math Book: From Pythagoras to the 57th Dimension, 250 Milestones in the History of Mathematics
- The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Love, Courtship, & Sexuality through History in 6 volumes.

We have updated general encyclopedias like Britannica and added subject encyclopedias in religion, law, political science, criminology. Two other titles of note are the Berkshire Encyclopedia of World History in 6 volumes. (D23.B45 2010) and The Complete Directory to Prime Time Network and Cable TV Shows (PN1992.3.U5 B76 2007). We have updated our literature sets, including Masterplots II: African American Literature in 4 volumes. (PS153.N5 M2645 2009).

In the next few weeks we will acquire a donation of a 140-volume encyclopedia set entitled Something About the Author with illustrated biographical profiles of children’s authors and artists. It will benefit students engaged in research on children’s literature and graphic design. If we were to buy this set new today, it would cost us over $20,000!

With all these new titles, we are better prepared to serve our students and faculty as they do their research. Visit the Reference collection on the third floor of the Library to see what books we have in your area. Alternatively, call Matt Bejune to discuss the new books and how they could be put to use in your classes.

New Library Guides


Staffing Changes

The search is on for a new Dean of Library and Academic Support services. In the next few weeks we should know who has accepted the post. Interviews also begin this week for the full-time staff position at the circulation desk in the evening.

Suzanne Hall, our Saturday Librarian who joined us in the Summer of 2010, will be leaving us at the end of the Spring semester. Suzanne has accepted a position as the director of the Leicester Public Library. Thank you, Suzanne, for all your fine work. Congratulations and best wishes.

Library Quick Fact:

So far in FY11, the library staff has ordered 1779 circulating book titles, 166 reference titles and 64 DVDS.