QCC to join new library network

QCC is a founding member of a new library network called HELM (Higher Education Libraries of Massachusetts). QCC has joined with five other community colleges and the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts to create HELM, which will focus exclusively on the needs of academic libraries. QCC will leave CW MARS, a predominantly public library network, and complete the transition to HELM in June. We are making this change to:

♦ Align with peer Massachusetts public institutions of higher education to work in a more strategic fashion and have a stronger voice in network decision and policy making

♦ Participate in an academically-focused community of practice that prioritizes the needs of undergraduate researchers

♦ Support student and faculty research with a networked library collection that will provide more scholarly materials

♦ Provide a library catalog that integrates course reserves and e-resources in a more user-friendly way

The other founding members of HELM are Holyoke Community College, Massachusetts Bay Community College, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Middlesex Community College, North Shore Community College and Roxbury Community College.

Starting April 23, QCC community members may use their local public library to access the CW MARS library system. The QCC interlibrary loan program and the statewide Commonwealth Catalog will continue to provide QCC students and faculty with materials found outside of our home network. As always, we encourage all students and faculty to take advantage of the vast resources of the Boston Public Library through its ecard program.

Please stay tuned for more details about the transition to HELM and feel free to contact us with questions or comments.

-Cary Morse

Thanks to Roxbury & Holyoke Community Colleges for assistance with this article

Book Review:

Online Teaching at Its Best


This brand new guide will help both professors who are grizzled veterans of online instruction, and those who are newcomers to the methodology. It de-emphasizes technological wizardry and, according to the publisher, “highlights the proven online teaching practices that are anchored in solid research.” Nilson and Goodson’s audience are faculty, instructional designers and administrators. The authors offer evidence-based practices for online teaching, online course design and online-student motivation. They call on cognitive and pedagogical science to help professors and course designers craft the robust virtual programs all e-students deserve.

Chapters include “Setting Significant Outcomes” and “Developing Interactivity, Social Connections, and Community,” and the authors append extensive resources for further development of readers’ online expertise.

—Michael Stevenson
Roving Librarian Pilots “Library on the Go Cart”

At noon on a recent Thursday, Tiger Swan, roving librarian, was spotted engaging the college community from the “Library on the Go Cart” in front of the Fuller Student Center. I sat down with my colleague Tiger to find out more.

CM: What’s so special about a roving librarian?

TS: Lots of things! First, it allows for a more relaxed conversation away from a formal desk, which some find intimidating. It demonstrates that librarians are here to assist anyone with their questions. The roving librarian reaches students who may host some anxiety about the library or who may not even realize that the HLC has a third floor! Finally, it allows us to better inform students about the range of services we offer. We’re not just a place to get books!

CM: What’s the most common question that students ask a roving librarian?

TS: It can be anything. There are no limits and every question is valued. Students ask everything from what is needed to use the library to how to find sources for a class assignment.

CM: In your opinion, can the roving librarian contribute to student success?

TS: Absolutely! As a roving librarian we actively reach out to students rather than waiting for them to come up to the library desk. The concept is somewhat akin to “intrusive advising” which we’re seeing more now on our campus. Also, when I’m out with the Library Go Cart, I’m making an effort to help students see the library as a welcoming and supportive space for their academic success, which is the primary aim of any campus learning center, or learning commons as they are sometimes referred.

CM: Do faculty avail themselves of the roving librarian as well?

TS: Yes, I’ve had several faculty stop by to see what it’s all about. We’ve rolled out the Library Go Cart as a trial run this semester, and the reception has been very positive!

—Cary Morse and Tiger Swan

QCC Honors Colloquium

Six Wyvern educators contributed a chapter, “The Honors Colloquium at QCC: A Decade of Excellence,” to the recently published book Undergraduate Research and the Academic Librarian: Case Studies and Best Practices. The chapter describes the Honors Colloquium mentoring initiative in which students strengthen their information literacy skills through one-on-one collaboration with a librarian. The authors are Librarians Denise Cross and Tiger Swan; Professor Susan McPherson, Coordinator of the QCC Honors Program; and former librarians Matt Bejune, Dale LaBonte and Fyiane Nsilo-Swai. The book is available at Alden Library under call number Z682.4.C63 U534 2017.

The students in this semester’s Honors Colloquium, Histories of American Violence, facilitated by Professors Michael Gormley and Benjamin Wendorf, will host the Honors Program Showcase on Tuesday, April 24th from 11:00am-12:15pm in HLC 109. Please save the date and join us for student poster presentations.

—Michael Stevenson