Our goal is to insure that every QCC student, faculty and staff member has access to the library resources they need, wherever they need them. New this semester, students are able to log into the library’s online databases from off-campus by using either their student ID numbers or their Alden Library barcodes. This change will make immediate access to the databases available to any student registered for the current semester. (Students registering during the drop/add period will experience a delay in access until the end of the drop/add period.) This is especially valuable for distance education students who would otherwise need to apply for their barcodes in person or wait for the online request to be processed and barcode mailed. Students will still need to apply in person or through their online class for a barcode in order to be able to check out books and request interlibrary loans.

Faculty and staff will need to have an Alden Library barcode to access the databases from off campus. Faculty and staff barcodes are good for a year beginning every September. Anyone experiencing difficulties logging into the databases is encouraged to call the Circulation Desk (508.854.4581) to verify that their library account is up to date. (Note: For your protection, library staff will not give out barcode numbers over the phone.)

Online Course Tip: Ask us for customized links to databases your class can use. Then plug them into your course software.

Additionally, some of the more basic resources which QCC students, faculty, and staff have available through the Alden Library can also be accessed by any resident of Massachusetts who obtains a public library card in their home town. The statewide databases can then be accessed at http://mblc.state.ma.us/cgi-bin/remote.pl. Also, Boston Public Library offers immediate access to a selection of some more specialized databases to anyone who lives, works, attends school, or owns property in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is at least 13 years of age. Simply register for an eCard. To register for an eCard go to http://www.bpl.org/ and use the “quick links” drop down menu to select eCards.

And, of course, the Reference Librarians want to help you use of all the many resources of the Alden Library. Please visit, call, or email them for personal assistance.

— Denise Cross

Library Database Access Keeps Getting Easier!

Mid-way through FY09, we have ordered 1,542 new titles for our collection. Seventy DVDs, most of which were requested by faculty, have been ordered for our non-print collection.

In FY08 the library circulated 7,356 items including 4,838 books, 1,677 Faculty Reserves, and 841 non-print items (videos and DVDs). — Elaine Gilgis

Library Quick Facts

— Paula McDonald
Adjunct faculty are active in bringing their students to the Alden Library’s third floor instruction room. During fall 2008, 36 adjunct instructors (representing 14 disciplines) brought their students in for classes, which are custom-tailored to support research for specific assignments. English and psychology are the heaviest weekend clients, with 26 English sections involving 451 students and 9 psychology sections with 208 students. Other instructors taking advantage of this resource were in science, early childhood education, political science, speech, and more. In all, Alden librarians held 66 sessions for classes taught by adjuncts, with a total of 1,203 students attending.

Most sessions are held during the regular hours the building is open from Monday through Friday. By special arrangement, librarians will teach classes before 8:00 am, after 5:00 pm on Fridays, and on Saturdays.

To book a session, start with the Library Instruction Request form, found in Frequently Used Forms list on the campus intranet, or on the Faculty Resources page on the library’s website at http://www.qcc.mass.edu/library.

We enjoy working with you and your students!

--- Dale LaBonte

--- Michael Stevenson


Over 100,000,000 rural Chinese, especially young women, have “gone out”: out on journeys from derelict villages to booming industrial cities. Wall Street Journal reporter Leslie T. Chang penetrated the halls of the turbocharged Chinese industries that stock the malls of America. Chang reports on the unfettered ambition, tempered by brutal loneliness, in China’s mobile army of Factory Girls. The prevailing wisdom in their world is that “To die poor is a sin.” Chang’s story will remind QCC readers of our region’s similar experience during our Industrial Revolution, when young women deserted hard-scrabble farms for what they would come to describe as a better life in the mills of Lawrence and other growing cities.

--- Michael Stevenson

--- Carolyn Lieberg (Stylus, 2008). The author is a Professor of Education at the University of Iowa.

This book “dispenses some graceful wisdom on the art of teaching, without being overly prescriptive or reducing classroom strategies to easy formulas,” according to educator Nancy K. Barry of Luther College. Barry also terms Lieberg’s book “an indispensable tool to anyone embarking on the task” of college teaching.

Lieberg offers practical advice on motivating students (and yourself!), teaching intentionally, preparing for the first hectic days of a semester, drafting syllabi, grading, and instructors’ time management, along with other quotidian and longer-term responsibilities, such as assessment.

Teaching Your First College Class is in Alden Library with call number LB2331 .L48 2008. While you are in that section of the stacks, look around at the many other books on college teaching.

--- Michael Stevenson

Teaching Tools
When You Need to Perform Without a Net...

To help with those first day (or second or fifteenth day) class jitters – and whether in Year Zero of your teaching career or far down that road - pick up Teaching Your First College Class: a Practical Guide for New Faculty and Graduate Student Instructors, by Carolyn Lieberg (Stylus, 2008). The author is a Professor of Education at the University of Iowa.