

# Check It Out!

## The Official Newsletter of the Evelyn S. Field Library

<http://library.raritanval.edu>

Fall 2006

Volume 3, Issue 1

### Message From the Director:

#### Inside this issue:

WorldCat Database	2
Group Study Rooms	2
Author Profile	3
Services for Faculty	4
New Staff Members	5
Laptop Lending Program	5
Library Liaisons	5

**It is the purpose of the library newsletter to promote library services and resources to the faculty and staff of the college, to encourage faculty involvement and participation, and to increase library awareness.**

Where do you find information about the latest popular music artist and Einstein's general relativity theory? One correct answer is Wikipedia. Lately, this online, free encyclopedia has enjoyed widespread success. It had 29.2 million visitors in July 2006, an increase of 181 percent over the previous month. Its popularity may be compared with MySpace, which had 46 million visitors in the same period.

Unlike Britannica and other encyclopedias, Wikipedia authors are not necessarily experts in their fields. Since it was founded in 2001, thousands of contributors or Wikipedians have written over 1,336,000 English-language articles. Britannica's online version, by comparison, has about 1,000,000 articles. Wikipedia embodies the free spirit of the Internet. Everybody can write articles and everybody can edit articles. However, authors must observe a "neutral point of view." Wikipedians work collaboratively, and when consensus cannot be reached, contributors are asked to vote.

The large number of authors and editors ensures a wide range of perspectives. However, it has also been a problem for articles that deal with politics or other controversial issues.

For example, articles about current politicians or religions have been locked due to vandalism. If the neutrality of an article is disputed, users are invited to discuss the issue. The article about the Iraq War is an example of a disputed article. Readers will be aware of the bias as this is noted at the very beginning of the article.

Librarians evaluate encyclopedias on the basis of the authors' qualifications and sources, the reputation of the publisher, and objectivity. Because Wikipedia scores low in most of these areas, we have to look elsewhere for its popularity. Two factors seemed to have played a major role in its fast-growing success: its coverage of

popular culture and the currency of the information. For example, Danielle Steele and the number puzzle sudoku both have entries in Wikipedia but not in Britannica. The recent controversy about the planet Pluto appeared in Wikipedia before it appeared in Britannica.

The scholarly community seems to have embraced Wikipedia as well. In a recent article in *Nature*, scientists compared the information in Wikipedia with the information in Britannica. They concluded that "the difference in accuracy was not particularly great." It should be added that this conclusion has been disputed by the editors of Britannica.

In the library, we will discuss with the students the strengths and weaknesses of Wikipedia. As with any other source, we will point out the importance of balancing the information with additional sources.

Further reading:

Jim Giles. "Internet Encyclopedias go head to head". *Nature*. 14 December 2005.

Marshall Poe. "The Hive". *Atlantic Monthly*. September 2006

Wikipedia is located at <http://www.wikipedia.org>



*Birthe Nebeker*  
Library Director



## Department Resources

### WorldCat



It was a concept ahead of its time: a gateway to books, sound recordings, videos and DVDs, computer software, musical scores, maps, magazines and specialized collections on virtually every topic - in practically any language - all easily retrievable. Another failed cooperative effort that sounded better on paper? Hardly. It is the WorldCat union catalog by OCLC Online Computer Library Center, and YOU have access to it.

WorldCat is an unparalleled database created by the cataloging efforts of most public, academic and specialized libraries in the United States, as well libraries outside the US. This joint catalog of combined records dating from 1971 to present now totals over 68 million records from 55,000 libraries worldwide in more than 110 countries and territories. Every 10 seconds a record is added. Member libraries not only use it but

enhance it by contributing their own libraries' holdings and specialized collections in an information-rich record format. This allows other member libraries to physically locate materials, gain access to culturally diverse materials in several languages, share rare digital collections including photographs, local historical materials, newspapers and maps and find obscure items by searching the notes, tables of contents, cover art and other previously inaccessible data fields.

This extensive collection of highly detailed electronic records provides the perfect foundation for an array of reference databases and online searching services entitled FirstSearch. Under the FirstSearch umbrella, you'll find ArticleFirst, a 20 million record index of articles from the contents pages of over 16K journals in business, science, humanities, social science and popular culture.

ECO, (Electronic Collections Online), is a full text articles database with images from over 5K scholarly journals in almost every discipline. Finally, Dissertations contains dissertations and theses from institutions in North America and Europe.

To find a staggering amount of evaluative information on a topic with easily recognizable material types, WorldCat is world class. Why not give it a try? Go to the Library's homepage and select "All Databases" under the "Quick Links" heading. WorldCat may come last, but it is certainly not least.

### Research Paper Workshops

Please encourage your students to attend one of our research paper workshops. The librarians will cover the following topics: how to get started, selecting a topic, organizing your research strategy, evaluating your sources, organizing the parts of the paper, writing your references. For more information, please contact the Instruction Librarian x8412.

**October 9, 2006**

**10:30am-12:00pm**

**October 10, 2006**

**6:00pm-7:30pm**

**October 12, 2006**

**1:00pm-2:30pm**

## New Group Study Room Policy

Over the past few semesters, use of the library's group study rooms has increased tremendously. The old policy simply required students to reserve a room in advance.

The new policy not only requires students to a reserve a room, but to sign-in and sign-out after each use, and to



checkout a group study room door key to gain access. When not in use, the rooms will remain locked.

Please announce this new policy in your classes if you are aware that students in the class are using the rooms. The smoother transition to this policy, the better.

## U.S. Book Production

Book output in the United States in 2005 decreased by more than 18,000 to 172,000 new titles and editions.



This is the first decline since 1999, and the tenth downturn in the last 50 years.

Great Britain now surpasses the US in the publication of new books in any language, with 206,000 new books published in 2005.

**Source:** Bowker, "US Book Production Plummets 18K in 2005; Smaller Publishers Show the Largest Drop in New Titles," May 9, 2006, [www.bowker.com/press/bowker/2006\\_0509\\_bowker.htm](http://www.bowker.com/press/bowker/2006_0509_bowker.htm).

## Library Resources ~ Books

### Author Profile - Barbara W. Tuchman

*“Books are the carriers of civilization...They are companions, teachers, magicians, bankers of the treasures of the mind. Books are humanity in print.” ~Barbara W. Tuchman*

Barbara Wertheim Tuchman, American historian, is the author of two Pulitzer Prize winning books, “The Guns of August” (1962) and “Stillwell and the American Experience in China, 1911-45” (1971). Tuchman graduated from Radcliffe College in 1933 with a BA in history and literature and admits to never taking a course in writing. Before her career as a historian, she was a freelance journalist with works published in the *Nation*, *New Statesman*, *Harper’s*, and the *New York Times*—just to name a few.

The historian once reminisced, “the single most formative experience, I think, was the stacks at Widener Library where I was allowed to have as my own one of those little cubicles...I

could roam at liberty through the rich stacks, taking whatever I wanted. The experience was marvelous, a word I use in its exact sense meaning full of marvels” (*World Authors 1950-1970*).

We invite you to the library to experience a marvelous journey through our stacks.

**A Distant Mirror: the Calamitous 14th Century**  
DC97.5 T82

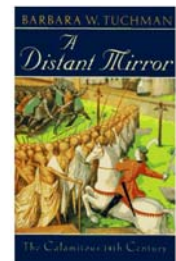
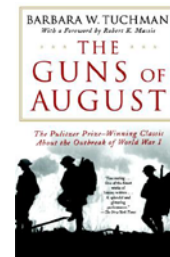
**The Guns of August**  
D530.T8

**The Proud Tower: a Portrait of the World Before the War, 1890-1914**  
D398.T8

**Stillwell and the American Experience in China, 1911-45**  
E745.S68 T8

**The Zimmermann Telegram**  
D511.T77

Books can be checked out for 28 days and a College ID is required.



## Library Resources ~ Periodicals

### American History Journals



Combining our in-house collection and our online databases, the library has access to 84 American history journals, including 41 local history titles. Please check the Periodical Locator from the library’s homepage for a complete list and dates of coverage.

Some of the titles we have access to include:

- *American Foreign Policy Interests*
- *American Heritage*
- *American Historical Review*
- *American History*
- *American Nineteenth Century History*
- *American Prospect*

- *Civil War History*
- *Diplomatic History*
- *Early American Studies*
- *Foreign Policy*
- *Journal of American Culture*
- *Journal of American History*
- *Journal of Military History*
- *Journal of the Early Republic*
- *National Interest*
- *Washington Monthly*

Our in-house periodical collection is located at the Circulation Desk on the main floor of the library. Faculty, Staff, and Administrators may check out periodicals for two weeks. To access any of the online journals from off-campus, you will need to provide your network username and password.

#### REMEMBER:



**Your College ID is required when checking out library materials. All Faculty, Staff, and Administrators must present their ID card at the time of check-out.**

## Services for Faculty

### Library Instruction

If you have assigned your class a research project, big or small, or if you would like your students to get a general introduction to library services, please contact the Instruction Librarian (x8412) to arrange a date and time, or you can use the online form:

[http://library.raritanval.edu/forms/bi\\_form.html](http://library.raritanval.edu/forms/bi_form.html).

The library provides both general and specialized instruction classes that will help your students become more familiar with what services the library offers and how to use those services.

The instruction classes take place in the library's classroom, equipped with 29 computer stations. Most sessions include a demonstration of the library catalog and several online databases, and also reinforces critical thinking skills. We also allow time for the students to begin work on their projects with individual assistance from the librarian.

### VALE Borrowing Program

The library is a member of New Jersey's Virtual Academic Library Environment. This initiative allows academic libraries to share materials among faculty members, as well as graduate students.

If you would like to borrow materials from one of the participating member libraries, simply fill out an application form located at the Circulation Desk, and then take the

completed form to the library you would like to borrow from. They will issue you a library card that will be valid until June 30th of that academic year.

For more information please contact Julie Maginn at ext. 8303 or visit the following website:

<http://library.raritanval.edu/VALE.htm>.

### Interlibrary Loan

Looking for a book but the library does not carry a copy? Use our Interlibrary Loan Service. We can request books and articles from thousands of participating libraries throughout the United States.

You may either make a request in person at the Circulation or Reference Desk, or by using the appropriate online form accessible from the library homepage.

On average, requested material will arrive within one week, but please allow 2 weeks for delivery.

If you have any questions regarding the Interlibrary Loan Service, please contact Chad Peters at ext. 8224 or Keely Coffey at ext. 8317.

### Coursepacks

If you would like to make a coursepack for an upcoming semester, the process begins in the library with copyright permissions. Each book chap-

ter or article to be used must obtain copyright clearance to be reprinted. Step-by-step instructions can be found at:

<http://library.raritanval.edu/Copyright/Coursepacks.htm>.

These instructions will outline when and what you need to do when compiling a coursepack. If you have any questions, please contact Keely Coffey at ext. 8317 or Julie Maginn at ext. 8303.

### Course Reserves

Course Reserves allow faculty members to place certain items at the Circulation Desk for students to use in the library. Typical items include articles, chapters, books, videos, and lecture notes.

To place articles or book chapters on reserve, copyright permission must be obtained. Instructions for placing items on reserve can be found at:

<http://library.raritanval.edu/Copyright/CourseReserves.htm>.

There are two types of reserves, "traditional" and "electronic." Traditional is a hard copy of the material, and electronic is an online copy of the material. When requesting a course reserve, please specify if you would like it to be traditional or electronic.

If you have any questions regarding course reserves, please contact Chad Peters at ext. 8224.

### Call for Displays!

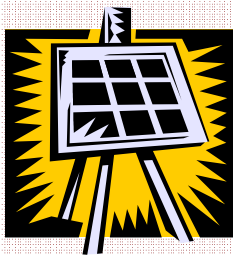
Do you have a special collection of books or memorabilia you would like to share with the rest of the college community? Or perhaps a collection of student's projects?

Please contact Birthe Nebeker (ext. 8351) to inquire about displaying your collection.

### September Displays

#### Banned Books

#### September 11th





## Welcome, Phoebe North & Ryan Sittler

The library would like to introduce two new staff members. Phoebe North joined the college in July as a full-time evening Library Assistant. She is responsible for maintaining the library's database holdings information and electronic resources, as well as daily circulation desk responsibilities.

Phoebe graduated with a BA in English from William Paterson

University this past spring. She previously worked as a tutor at the William Paterson University Writing Center and completed an internship at the North Plainfield Memorial Library.

Ryan Sittler joins the library in October as the new Reference and Instruction Librarian. Ryan has a BS in Education from Kutztown University of Penn-

sylvania, and a MLS from Clarion University of Pennsylvania. He is also working towards a MS in Instructional Technology at the Bloomburg University of Pennsylvania. Ryan has over 4 years experience at community colleges.

Please join the library in welcoming Phoebe and Ryan to the college community.



## New Library Service ~ Laptop Lending Program

The library would like to announce the new Laptop Lending Program. We currently have seven laptops that may be checked out by students or college employees, to be used

within the library.

Laptops have a loan period of three hours and can be used anywhere



in the library. Wireless service is currently available on the first floor, but will eventually include the second floor of the library as well.

This new program will provide students more access to college resources during periods of heavy use in the library when an empty computer station cannot be found.

In order to check out a laptop, a Laptop Loan Agreement

form must be filled out, which is located at the Circulation Desk. In addition, two forms of ID are required: a valid driver's license and a college ID card.

For complete details about this program please visit: <http://library.raritanval.edu/policies/LaptopLendingPolicy.html>.

**“Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.”**

**- Groucho Marx**

## Liaison Librarians

Each Academic Department at the college is assigned a Liaison Librarian. Feel free to contact your department's Liaison Librarian for ordering library books, requesting library instruction, or for any of the services the library provides.

You can work with your department's Liaison Librarian with collection development and weeding projects, detailing library services for accreditation reviews, and providing specialized library instruction for classroom assignments.

**Bob Egan** Ext. 8300

Humanities and Social Science  
Mathematics  
Science and Engineering Technology

**Julie Maginn** Ext. 8303

Communication and Languages  
Health Science Education  
Visual and Performing Arts

**Ryan Sittler** Ext. 8412

Business and Public Service  
Computer Science  
English



*Photo coming in next issue!*

## Library Mission Statement

### Library Hours Fall 2006

Monday-Thursday 8:00am-9:00pm  
Friday 8:00am-5:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm

Phone: 908-218-8865

Fax: 908-526-2985

Street Address:

Route 28 and Lamington Road  
North Branch, NJ 08876

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 3300  
Somerville, NJ 08876

Please forward any comments, suggestions, or questions pertaining to the newsletter to Julie Maginn at ext. 8303, or email [jmaginn@raritanval.edu](mailto:jmaginn@raritanval.edu).

*The Evelyn S. Field Library is the center for research and information at Raritan Valley Community College. The library faculty develops the collection in collaboration with classroom faculty to support the educational program. In selecting the materials, the library seeks to stimulate intellectual curiosity, provide diversity of thought and offer personal enrichment. The library also maintains a collection pertaining to the history of the college.*

*The entire library staff strives to advance the college's mission of student success. The library is committed to continued personal and professional growth. The staff participates in campus life and governance of the college. The library facilities provide a welcoming environment that is conducive to study.*

*The library's instructional program is an integral part of the general curriculum. The library is in the forefront of promoting information literacy to the college community. The two libraries, the physical and the virtual, offer opportunities for a variety of learning styles.*

*The Evelyn S. Field Library provides borrowing privileges and discretionary access to information and resource-sharing for Somerset and Hunterdon county residents.*

## Library Directory

Reference Desk Ext. 8350

Circulation Department Ext. 8423

Serials Department Ext. 8385

Keely Coffey	Library Assistant
Bob Egan	Librarian
Grace Hsu	Library Assistant
Janet Knoeringer	Library Assistant
Barbara Kreyling	Adjunct Librarian
Sylvia Levy	Library Assistant
Julie Maginn	Librarian
Birthe Nebeker	Director
Phoebe North	Library Assistant
Laura Palmer	Adjunct Librarian
Chad Peters	Library Assistant
Nanette Peterson	Adjunct Librarian
Diana Simon	Adjunct Librarian
Ryan Sittler	Librarian
Margaret Truskowski	Administrative Assistant

Circulation, Interlibrary Loan, Copyright (Evening)	Ext. 8317
Technical Services, Archives	Ext. 8300
Serials	Ext. 8385
Cataloging	Ext. 8368
Reference, Instruction	Ext. 8350
Circulation, Overdues	Ext. 8423
Circulation, Serials, Interlibrary Loan, Copyright	Ext. 8303
Library Management, Electronic Resources	Ext. 8351
Circulation, Electronic Resources (Evening)	Ext. 8901
Reference, Instruction	Ext. 8350
Circulation, Interlibrary Loan, Reserves	Ext. 8224
Reference, Instruction	Ext. 8350
Reference, Instruction	Ext. 8350
Reference, Instruction	Ext. 8412
Office Management, Acquisitions	Ext. 8559

