

# Check It Out!

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

<http://library.raritanval.edu>

Spring 2007

Volume 3, Issue 2

### Message From the Director: The Library as Place for Student Success

#### Inside this issue:

JerseyCat Database	2
Swickis	2
Author Profile	3
The Periodical Locator	3
Services for Faculty	4
Library Liaisons	5

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



A visit to the library is a recipe for student success. It is widely recognized that students who use the library, either the physical or virtual,

are more likely to succeed in college. On a typical day during the semester our door counter registers over 1,000 library visitors. Some students come to the library to use our collections of books, E-books, DVDs and audiobooks. Others are here to take a class, to use the computer or to get help from the reference librarians.

However, a growing number of students enter the library to study and work on their assignments – in other words to use the library as place. The library has been called the “third place”, where people seek a stimulating environment outside home (first place) and work (second place).

We provide a variety of social, academic and learning spaces to accommodate the way the Millennials learn and work. We offer solitary study in individual carrels, group study in sepa-

rate rooms or at large tables and social settings with comfortable seating.

Students are attracted by the extensive library hours, a total of 69 hours per week, including days, evenings and weekends. They are also attracted by the welcoming facilities where natural light flows throughout the library, where furnishings have been selected with the students in mind, and where there is oversight by our friendly staff.

The library is a safe haven for the students to explore the uncertainties of the adult world that they are entering. Thanks to the ever vigilant library staff, students may enjoy an environment conducive to studying.

Although we feel pleased that many students use the library, there is still a fair number of students who have yet to discover the wide range of library services. Please help us carry the message - for the sake of the students.

*Birthe Nebeker*  
Library Director



### Google Scholar



Librarians know that the best sources of good academic information are the subscription databases that are available through the library’s homepage. These are carefully selected and monitored for quality. RVCC has a particu-

larly good selection of these academic databases; they will provide the researcher with a wide variety of academic sources – including those from scholarly, peer-reviewed journals.

Librarians also know that, for most of our students, the li-

brary’s databases are not the first place they go for information. First, they have to go to the library’s homepage, select “Finding Articles” and then select a database from a long list of non-intuitive

by Bob Egan

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Database Resources

### JerseyCat

by Nanette Peterson

JerseyCat, our statewide union catalog, is a web-based service that allows students, faculty and library supporters to locate and request materials *not* held by their own local library. Users may search more than 700 libraries in New Jersey for books, electronic books, CDs, and software that facilitate research and learning, and know immediately if an item is available for checkout.

There are several advantages to viewing the combined collections of libraries. Access to over 4 million library holdings is certainly a plus, as no single library can hope to finance and house materials that reflect the scope of today's user demands. Patrons' research capabilities are vastly expanded and specialized collections may be appreciated as never before.

Also, participation in a union database promotes standardization in cataloging, which ultimately benefits patrons as libraries attempt to provide a more consistent and "user-friendly" search experience.

A JerseyCat query can be tailored in a variety of ways. Using the pull down menu, you can elect to search conventionally by Author, Title, Subject or Keyword, or you can use identifying numbers such as the ISBN or Library of Congress Call Number (LCCN). You may pursue only items belonging to libraries in close proximity to you, or you can ferret out hidden treasures from small and midsized libraries throughout the state. Through the Advanced Search feature, you can look for music scores, audiobooks, videos and DVDs

or find books in Braille, large print or foreign languages. The results will display the location, call number and circulation status of each item. If it is checked out, the system even facilitates ordering it from another library by an online Inter-library Loan (ILL) system that you can use from your home, school or office.

You can locate magazines, newspapers and scholarly journals as well, through the New Jersey Union List of Serials portal on the JerseyCat home page. Simply check "Magazines, Journals and Newspapers" to begin your search. The returned results very insightfully give coverage dates for each institution that subscribes to the journal so that you can quickly establish if they have a particular issue.

### 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.

**March 5, 2007**  
**10:00am-11:30am**

**March 6, 2007**  
**12:00pm-1:30pm**

**March 8, 2007**  
**6:00pm-7:30pm**

## Swickis

by Ryan Sittler

Hottest dance craze? Made with a shot of vodka? Exotic chicken dish? What is a Swicki?!

A Swicki won't teach you how to dance, mix a drink, or cook – but it just might be able to help you find the information you need. Much like everyone's perennial favorite – Google – a Swicki is a search engine. But that is where the similarities end.

Google will, by default, search every website it can find for information. Searching for something common – such as the word "birds" – returns a result list of roughly **105,000,000** pages. These pages will contain a wide variety of information which may or may not be relevant. The information **you** are searching

for may be buried under pages and pages of irrelevant results. You can add more words to narrow the search down, but you never know what you might be eliminating in the process.

This is where Swickis come in. Swickis are customized and created – by ordinary users – to only search sites relating to a specific topic. Other users may then edit or tweak the Swicki to make it better at its particular job. The idea is that you will always search the best sites on the Internet – not the whole Internet – for information. The same search of "birds," in the Swicki directory, returns just 5 specific bird Swickis. You simply have to then search (within the Swicki) for the information

you are seeking.

This is a two-step process. However, Swicki results are typically focused and relate exactly to what you are looking for... which eliminates a lot of guess-work and trial-and-error that is commonplace with other search engines.

This is just a taste of what can be done with a Swicki. You really must try them out to truly appreciate them. So in favor of keeping this article short... why don't you just point your web browser in the direction of <http://swicki.eurekster.com/> and test drive a Swicki today! (Seriously, I'll wait here... you go do that. Right now. It'll make me happy. )

## Library Resources ~ Books

### Author Profile - T.S. Eliot

by Julie Maginn

*“Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?  
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?”*  
~Choruses from *The Rock* by T.S. Eliot



Thomas Stearns Eliot was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1888. He was educated at the Smith Academy in St. Louis, the Sorbonne, Merton College in Oxford, and Harvard University.

He eventually became a British subject in 1927. Throughout his life, Eliot has been a schoolteacher, bank clerk, and publishing firm director, but is best known for being a poet, critic, dramatist, and editor.

In 1948, he received the Order of Merit and was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature for his work as a pioneer of modern poetry. He has been the recipient of many American awards, a fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ, and a fellow in American letters of the Library of Congress from 1947-1954.

Some of Eliot's best known works are *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, *The Waste Land*, and *The Hollow Men*. Interestingly, at least for fans of the musical, *Cats*, Grizabella the Glamour Cat, the key feline who is chosen to be reborn and delivers the show-stopping number, *Memory*, was only found in Eliot's unpublished drafts of *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*.

When you get a chance this semester, come to the library to jog your memory of some of Eliot's most popular works.



**Selected prose of T.S. Eliot**  
PS3509.L43 A15

**The elder statesman: a play**  
PS3509.L43 E4

**Old possum's book of practical cats**  
PS3509.L43 O55

**To criticize the critic, and other writings**  
PS3509.L43 T6

**The Letters of T.S. Eliot**  
PS3509.L43 Z48

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

## Library Resources ~ Periodicals

### The Periodical Locator

by Julie Maginn

The Periodical Locator is the library's online resource which identifies which periodical titles we subscribe to, whether in print or electronically. There are over 12,500 titles included covering a wide array of subjects, listed below.

The Periodical Locator can be searched by title and accessed from your home or office. It provides direct links into the database carrying the periodical and displays the years in which full-text coverage is available.

This resource works wonderfully when searching through one of the library's 40 online databases. When finding a citation that does not provide the full-text of the article, check the Periodical Locator to see if a different database has the full-text.

The Periodical Locator can be accessed from the library's home page.

#### Subject categories:

Art, Architecture & Applied Arts  
Business & Economics  
Earth & Environmental Sciences  
Engineering & Applied Sciences  
Health & Biological Sciences  
History & Archaeology  
Journalism & Communications  
Language & Literatures  
Law, Politics, & Government  
Music, Dance, Drama & Film  
Philosophy & Religion  
Physical Sciences & Mathematics  
Social Sciences

#### 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

### 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 Ryan Sittler (ext. 8412) to inquire about displaying your collection.

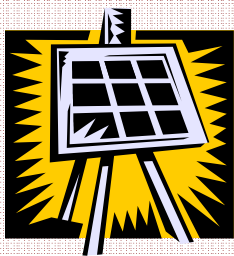
#### Spring Displays

Antique Eyewear

Autism

Famous Community College Alumni

Gaming/Pop Culture



### 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. Additionally, we have a wonderful program set up for English I and English II students. Since instruction sessions are required for these courses, it is ensured that they are receiving the essential tools they will need to make it through these challenging classes.

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 aca-

demeric 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 chapter 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 to place items at the Circulation Desk for students to use in the library. Typical items include articles, chapters, books, videos, and lecture notes. Items can be placed physically at the Circulation Desk or electronically, so that students can access these materials from home.

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>.

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



# Google Scholar (continued from page 1)

by Bob Egan

names. After that, they have to maneuver through the menus. It takes time and training. In the long run, this is the fastest and best way to find good information.

Students, however, are very familiar with Internet browsers such as Yahoo and Google. They can usually find something “good enough” in a fairly short time. Many don’t understand the concept of “scholarly” resources. For students who just want to “get it done”, the World Wide Web is their first and last destination.

The library’s training program gives students a jump-start through the research learning curve but we realize that many students just prefer to use Google. Fortunately, Google has provided a service that will help. It’s called [Google Scholar](http://scholar.google.com) (<http://scholar.google.com>). According to their Website:

*Google Scholar provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From one place, you can search across many disciplines and sources:*

*peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, abstracts and articles, from academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories, universities and other scholarly organizations. Google Scholar helps you identify the most relevant research across the world of scholarly research.*

The reviews of Google Scholar are mixed. Google is not forthcoming about their sources of information or their depth of coverage. A recent search of “tsunami warning system” yielded 693 results most of which were government or open-access (free) publications. These included scholarly and non-scholarly, popular sources. Indexing was provided for many scholarly journals but full-text was rarely available. Also lacking is a common interface. Clicking on a link from a Google Scholar results page will bring you to the Website of the original publisher, where full text may or may not be available. Sometimes you are offered an opportunity to purchase the article. A similar search in **Academic Search Premier** (a

library database) yielded 152 results, 18 of which were scholarly and in full-text. A search of the very scholarly **Science Direct** yielded 21 articles, 11 of which were in full-text.

Google Scholar gives the researcher the first impression that they have done an exhaustive search that has provided a wealth of information. Indeed, the indexing engine does cast a wide, if not deep, net. However, it misses a lot and students will be frustrated by lack of full-text.

So, who is Google Scholar for? If you don’t have access to the library’s databases, and this includes everyone who has no “G-number”, then this source will be very useful. If you don’t need in-depth information but are just compiling a bibliography, then this is a good source, although you will miss many good citations. If you are a diehard Google user, then Scholar will help you to narrow your search.

Try it out! See what you think and let us know.

**“There are books of which the backs and covers are by far the best parts.”**  
- Charles Dickens

## 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, Social Sciences & Education  
Mathematics  
Science and Engineering



**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



## Library Mission Statement

### Library Hours Spring 2007

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

