Would you like to understand how to explore — and profit from — your information environment? Are you overwhelmed by the choices, but unable to recognize what you need? Feeling dismayed by the high opportunity costs of your scholarly pursuits? Finding that your attention span is shrinking? You are not alone.

Human beings evolved as hunter-gatherers to cope with some of the same challenges that scholars and students face today.

Each month, we will take a new skill or tool in hand, and relate how savvy foragers use it to survive and thrive in their information microhabitat. In this new series called Information Foraging Short Takes you will find out how to diversify your hunting and gathering strategies to become a discriminating, proficient information forager.

In upcoming segments, I will rely on the literature from the ethnography and archaeology of hunting and gathering societies. A large body of anthropological data exists about hunter-gatherer subsistence strategies, social organization, relationships with the environment, and world view. By drawing parallels between scholarly and subsistence foragers, I hope to share a few insights about how our evolving information landscape is similar to the great agricultural revolution that displaced hunter-gatherer economies worldwide.

You are invited to trek along as we explore the shift from a paper-based, analog system to the distributed, digital systems of external memory that academic libraries represent today. If you do not like to picture yourself as prey but would rather become a skilled hunter, follow us into the wilds of the IIFE Integrated Information Foraging Environment. It is an iffy place indeed.

October's IIFE Insight #1: Getting started is the hardest step.

For some needs, it pays to be the active hunter for information. Other times it's more worthwhile to put yourself in the flow and gather what comes your way. The trick is knowing where the best information flows. Are you aware that many of our library databases provide a way to track your productive searches and set up a regular search alert?

Visit our Find Resources By... page at http://mdb.lib.ipfw.edu/ and select Search Alert Services from the menu. Ask your librarian for specific tips to make your hunting excursion productive, but then sit back and wait for the goods to come down the stream. Whether you gather resources every week or every month, you will be assured that you won't miss much and you won't be overwhelmed either. Happy gathering!

Next month: Serendipitous finds in the information savannah
Notes from the Dean

This month's newsletter includes the first of a multi-part series on the Integrated Information Foraging Environment (IIFE) by Dr. Pamela Sandstrom, former Head of Reference at IPFW's Helmke Library and now Director of Library Programs and Development. IIFE serves as a useful metaphor for the information-seeking process, but it also creates a philosophy and practice of service that recognizes all aspects of the hunt as essential to academic success. Optimal foraging is achieved when all barriers to discovery and delivery of information are eliminated. This means that everything from identifying the problem, to selecting the best "environment." Locating the appropriate material and obtaining and analyzing the results should be seamless, efficient, and effective. Poor Web site design, lack of relevant databases and materials, dysfunctional printers, slow document delivery services, lack of or ineffective signage, a hot or cold work environment — any one of these factors can inhibit the success of the pursuit. IPFW library’s goal is to remove barriers to service, whatever they might be in order to provide the fully integrated research environment. Stay tuned for an interesting series of articles on the development of this model at IPFW's Helmke Library.

New Library Resources

These new resources and many others are available from the library's homepage at www.lib.ipfw.edu under Find Resources By... Subject, Title, or Type.

Associations Unlimited is the premier source for information on associations and professional societies. It contains 152,000 detailed listings for organizations all over the world — with a scope that covers everything from a local Chamber of Commerce to the American Medical Association, and beyond.

Book Review Index Online is a source that electronically indexes book reviews from 1965 to the present. This includes 5 million reviews on more than 2 million titles from nearly 5,800 review publications.

Economist Historical Archive 1843-2003 delivers a complete searchable copy of every issue of The Economist from 1843 to 2003. Issues present the world's political, business, scientific, technological, and cultural developments and the connections between them.

Sabin Americana, 1500-1926 is based on Joseph Sabin's landmark bibliography, a collection that contains works about the Americas published throughout the world from 1500 to the early 1900s. Included are books, pamphlets, serials, and other documents that provide original accounts of exploration, trade, colonialism, slavery and abolition, the western movement, Native Americans, military actions, and much more. With more than 6 million pages from 29,000 works, this collection is a cornerstone in the study of the Western hemisphere.

Report from the Senate Library Subcommittee

In addition to working with their librarian liaison, faculty interested in the health and welfare of the library can serve on the Faculty Senate Library Subcommittee. The charge of this committee is “to advise the Senate, through the University Resources Policy Committee, concerning policies and procedures for library collections, facilities, and operations.” This year’s committee members are Adam Coffman, Chair (Mathematical Sciences), Bruce Abbott (Psychology), Jeff Abbott (Education), Mary Cooper (Dental Hygiene), Linda Hite (OLS), Kathleen Murphey (Education), Hossein Oloomi (Engineering), and Gang Wang (Physics).

The committee met on September 30, 2008, and received an update on library activities since the last meeting in April 2008. After reviewing the materials budget, which did not contain the increase expected, the committee recommended sending a report to the Senate on the underfunding of the library. The Committee discussed and approved recommendations of the library’s Collection Development Group to streamline the Special Needs grant program. The Special Needs grants will now be offered once per year in April for all departments. Grant procedures and maximum amounts remain the same. For further details, go to the library’s Web site at www.lib.ipfw.edu and follow these links: Collections > Collection Development. Minutes of the Senate Library Subcommittee meetings are available on the library’s Web site at www.lib.ipfw.edu and follow these links: About > Senate Library Subcommittee.
News from the Service Desk

Audio and Video Streaming Available in ReservesExpress
By Joyce Saltsman

Students who miss a televised lecture may now log into ReservesExpress and view it. The library’s information technology services staff, working with College Access Television (CATV), have created stable URLs for the lectures. Students logging into ReservesExpress can click on their course number and choose the date of the lecture they wish to view. Students taking other sections of these courses may log in as well. Video streaming is available for all TV studio courses taught in the library’s classroom in LB B35 and most of the televised courses offered through Continuing Studies.

The programming that allows video streaming also has created another possibility. If a textbook publisher provides a Web site that accompanies the book, instructors can place the book on reserve and the URL of the Web site can be added to the same reserve request. In addition to these video-streaming services, the first audio reserve was created for the spring semester as well. Instructors interested in creating an audio reserve should contact Deb Haley or Joyce Saltsman at 481-6505 or at circ@ipfw.edu.

The Summer of the Outage
By Joyce Saltsman

Every year, Joyce Saltsman, Service Desk Manager, produces a detailed and interesting annual report. Following are highlights of the past academic year from the perspective of the library’s front-and-center Service Desk.

The summer of power outages describes 2007. While the library maintained the normal 90 hours per week during the academic year and 79 hours during the summer, an unusual number of power outages affected service to users. On July 12, a power outage delayed the opening of the library until 9:30 a.m. and the computers were down until 11 a.m. One week later, on July 19, a lightning strike during the night caused Kettler to lose power. This brought the computer network down all over campus. On August 6, the computers were down until 10 a.m. because of a power outage during the night. A brief power outage on August 17 caused the computers to crash, and it took several hours to restore the network. A power surge on September 17 darkened the building from 2:30 to 4:20 p.m. Attendance was also affected on June 30 when a broken steam pipe triggered the fire alarm system and the library was evacuated for 20 minutes.

Joyce’s list of new procedures, equipment and special projects is long, but here are just a few highlights:

- In the 2007-2008 academic year the library circulated 41,923 items.
- There were 89,282 views of ReservesExpress materials, a 5 percent increase over last academic year.
- The Display Committee mounted 22 displays.
- A reception was held for Art Beal, library volunteer from 1984 to 2007, who decided at age 90 that it was time to retire.
- In March, a new microform reader/printer/scanner was purchased. Users now have the option to save a scan to a thumb drive.
- After waiting 36 years, on April 9, 2008, the name of the library in beautiful, large letters was mounted on the front of the building.
- Mice invaded the first floor of the library over the winter. The Physical Plant and Orkin placed traps, which seems to have taken care of the problem, for now ...
- A $382.42 library fine from 1988 was paid in July.
- An IPFW student studying abroad e-mailed for help in gaining access to the library’s databases, and was promptly connected and able to continue his research.
- A new style of flash drive is being sold at the Service Desk for $9, and in June the Service Desk began selling transparency films that are safe for photocopiers.
- Aberrant behaviors during the fiscal year included ...? We’ll let your imagination run wild on this one. If you must know, ask to see the complete report.
History of the Miami Indians in Northeast Indiana

In 2007 the Indiana State Library awarded the IPFW library a federal grant to digitize historical materials from the Allen County–Fort Wayne Historical Society collection pertaining to the Miami Indians of northeast Indiana. Below is a brief summary of the final report on the grant filed on September 30, 2008.

The History of the Miami Indians in Northeast Indiana project was a cooperative endeavor between Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne and the Allen County–Fort Wayne Historical Society (ACFWHS). Three-dimensional artifacts, documents such as mortgages and wills, handwritten letters, and photographs from the Historical Society were digitized by IPFW and ACFWHS staff at IPFW using Helmke Library scanning equipment. The project photographer took digital photos of items that could not leave the Historical Society. She also personally scanned the 3-D artifacts at IPFW with the new book/overhead scanner. We discovered that the transcription of the documents was very labor intensive and exacting as was the authority work for the individual names and geographical places. The Indian names had to be verified, and a single spelling or preferred spelling had to be determined. A total of 364 individual pages were digitized, transcribed, verified, and added.

Over the past two-year period there have been over 2,903 hits on the History Center Digital Collections homepage (http://acfwhs.mdon.lib.ipfw.edu/) and more than 1,982 hits through the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society digital collection’s page (http://acfwhs.lib.ipfw.edu/).

An online survey accessible from the History Center Digital Collections homepage was conducted to obtain feedback from the public about the collection. Of the total respondents, 65 percent of them were interested in using the materials for historical or genealogical purposes. One-third of the respondents said they would not have been able to access the materials had they not been online. Forty-seven percent of the respondents made suggestions of additional materials or topics that should be added including more photographs, maps, manuscripts and print documents, and the Historical Society’s catalogs of manuscripts and artifacts.

"I was glad IPFW made this available for me online."
Viewer comment

"Great site—keep adding."

This collection of unique materials relating to the Miami Indians of northeast Indiana provides worldwide access to materials otherwise restricted to archival use only.

The partnership with the Allen County–Fort Wayne Historical Society continues with the 2008 grant “The Making of a People: The Past 150 Years of Civic Growth in Allen County, Indiana” that will digitize materials that illustrate the activities of Fort Wayne citizens in building a civil and civic society.
Helmke Highlights Library People and Their Accomplishments

Library Staff Profile:
Stephanie Schulte, Reference and Information Services Librarian

Stephanie joined IPFW Helmke Library in 2006 as Reference and Information Services Librarian for the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Consumer and Family Science, Dental Health Technology, and Nursing. Before obtaining her MLIS from Kent State University, Stephanie worked as a research assistant for Procter and Gamble laboratories and as a Senior Report Writer and Clinical Pathology Assistant for Springborn Laboratories, Inc.

Stephanie’s impact at IPFW has been significant. Every section of NUR 103, the required professional seminar course for beginning nursing students, now includes librarian instruction. Instruction in this course is one of the most important encounters associate degree and beginning baccalaureate degree nursing students have with a librarian. The nursing faculty and Stephanie are now collaborating to assess student learning in that course for a paper to be presented in 2008. As she says, “This work has opened the lines of communication about implementing more effective methods to teach information literacy and evidence-based practice concepts to beginning students.” Stephanie cites as her most notable accomplishment the joint development and teaching with nursing faculty of an undergraduate healthcare informatics course and now also a graduate course on the same topic. These activities are models for the campus on effective integration of information literacy into the curriculum as required by the IPFW Baccalaureate Framework.

Among Stephanie’s many other accomplishments are her work implementing and evaluating the library’s mobile reference service, her work experimenting with screen-capture tutorials, and her excellent Science and Technology Information Center newsletters to faculty. Mobile reference provides another avenue of outreach to both nursing students and faculty. By going into the environment where nursing students congregate often, students can become less anxious about asking for help dealing with their many writing assignments. Time in the nursing lab also has provided brief but significant interactions with nursing faculty, often resulting in otherwise lost opportunities to assist them in their teaching and research.

Nursing faculty member Dr. Linda Meyer writes: “As the Health Science Librarian you may not know, is an award-winning trumpet player and currently plays for the Fort Jennings High School Basketball Pep Band. In September, Ohio State University offered her a position as Education and Reference Services Coordinator at the John A. Prior Health Science Library and Center for Knowledge Management, a job she couldn’t refuse. The IPFW faculty and library staff will miss Stephanie immensely, but wish her all the best in her career.

Stephanie created an extraordinary link between students and the library with the unique, weekly Library House Call program, providing informal assistance to students with her presence onsite in the nursing laboratory. She has been a frequent guest lecturer in nursing courses in the associate, baccalaureate, and master’s programs. Additionally, her collaboration has led to a unique relationship resulting in Stephanie creating and teaching modules in the undergraduate and graduate distance informatics nursing courses.”

Stephanie’s research agenda includes articles and presentations at the local, state, and national level. She has provided presentations for the Indiana State Nurses Association, the Midwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association, and an article in the Medical Reference Services Quarterly. She was the President of the Indiana Health Sciences Librarians Association and is assistant editor of the Nursing and Allied Health Resources Section of the Medical Library Association’s Newsletter.

Stephanie lives in Ohio with her husband, three daughters, a dog, and a cat. She is active in her church community and, something
Art Enlivens the Walls and Stairwells of Helmke Library

IPFW Student Artists Honored

The sixth Student Art in the Library Competition and Exhibition is now on display on the first floor of Helmke Library. It features photographs taken by students in Advanced Photography I and is the largest exhibition ever, with 24 works on display. The top three photographs were announced at a reception in the library on October 16, 2008, and the artists were awarded gift cards donated by Fort Wayne-based company, United Art and Education. The winners and their awards include:

- Erica Holcombe for “Parallels,” first place and a $125 gift card
- Rebecca L. Horvath for “Mini Blinds,” second place and a $75 gift card
- Patricia Eykholt for “Flower,” third place and a $50 gift card

Thanks to United Art and Education for their generosity and also Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs George McClellan for graciously financing the refreshments for the reception.

The exhibition will be on display until March 19, 2009. The works also can be viewed in the Student Art in the Library collection in the mastodon Digital Object Network at http://sail.mdon.lib.ipfw.edu.

IPFW International Photography Contest

Winners from the second IPFW International Photography Contest will be on display on the first floor of Helmke Library beginning October 21, 2008. It is sponsored by the International Studies Program and features photographs taken by IPFW faculty, staff, students, and alumni while in locations outside of the United States. Prizes were awarded in four categories: Favorite Cultural Interaction, Most Picturesque or Unusual, Mastodons Abroad, and Judges’ Picks. This year’s winners include two photos taken by Helmke Library staff member Christine Smith during her trip to Bhutan. Congratulations, Chris!

Art in the Stairwell

The winners of the IPFW International Photography Contest 2007 were so impressive that it seemed a shame not to find a home for them in the library. This summer the photos were placed on display in the main stairwell at Helmke Library. They are certainly adding some beauty to a rather drab space and making trips up and down the stairs more enjoyable. As one student said recently, “People don’t know what they miss when they don’t take the stairs.”
Welcome to our New Librarian

Shannon Johnson, new visiting reference and information services librarian, is liaison to the biology, chemistry, consumer and family science, dental hygiene, and nursing departments.

Farewell to our Colleague

Stephanie Schulte, moving to Ohio State University’s John A. Prior Health Sciences Library and Center for Knowledge Management as Education and Reference Services Coordinator.

Welcome to New Student Workers and Student Lab Consultants

Sara Scritchfield, freshman, Melanie Stise, freshman majoring in business with a minor in dance, and Susan Liechty, freshman.

Publications and Presentations


Cheryl Truesdell and Becky Byrum, "The Unitary Executive and Presidential Signing Statements" DTTP: Documents to the People 36, no. 3 (Fall 2008): 28-33.

About Helmke Highlights

The dual purpose of Helmke Highlights is to inform the IPFW community of library activities, services, and resources, and to provide an archive of information about the library. As IPFW’s newest library newsletter, Helmke Highlights is issued monthly as a public service by the Dean of Helmke Library. It is distributed electronically in PDF format to the IPFW community and selected constituents off campus; a limited supply of printed issues is also available. Archived copies are posted on the library’s homepage at http://news.lib.ipfw.edu. For further information about Helmke Library please contact the dean’s office by e-mail at admin@lib.ipfw.edu or telephone at 260-481-6514. Copyright 2008 by IPFW. All rights reserved.

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