

Ebook Collections Expand at the Cheng Library

Unbeknownst to many users yet forming an increasingly large portion of the Library's holdings, is an extensive collection of electronic books from several prominent vendors. Over the past decade, the Cheng Library has been actively adding to its electronic book collection, and ebooks now account for nearly one-third of the Library's total book collection.

What may have first begun as an experimental venture into this format for monographic books has now become an accustomed and frequent practice of purchasing books in electronic format rather than print. Organizations currently offer many purchasing options by bundling ebooks in attractive subject packages at competitive prices.

Faculty often add ebooks to their Blackboard course shells. Unlimited user licenses for most of the Library's ebooks means the entire class will have access to the book. The unlimited user license also means that more than one person can open and read an ebook simultaneously.

During the library sessions for Pioneer Success Seminar, all new students are introduced to the Library's ebooks and experiment with reading and navigating an ebook online.

Ebooks offer numerous advantages compared with their printed counterparts. The ebook platforms are known for their convenience, immediate access and ease of use. In general, most of the vendors offer a variety of additional online features that make ebooks appealing.

These features usually include:

- ◆ Highlighting
- ◆ Adding notes
- ◆ Adding bookmarks
- ◆ Zooming in or out
- ◆ Chapter downloads
- ◆ Searching the entire text of the book for a word or term
- ◆ Navigating easily using the table of contents or the "Go to page" tool.



The five collections described below comprise the ebooks currently available at the Library.

ProQuest Ebook Central

The largest of the Cheng Library's ebook collections is *ProQuest Ebook Central* (formerly Ebrary). This collection contains more than 145,000 electronic books covering every subject and discipline taught at the University. The collection encompasses a broad range of works from recognized and authoritative publishers including many academic sources.

ACLS Humanities E-Book Collection

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Humanities E-Book Collection offers more than 5,000 full-text ebooks selected by scholars for their enduring significance for research and teaching in the humanities. The collection includes titles from more than one hundred publishers of scholarly and academic books.

The subjects cover a broad variety of disciplines in the humanities: archaeology, art, film and media studies, folklore, history, law, linguistics, literature and literary criticism, musicology, performance studies, philosophy, political science, religion, sociology, women's studies, and more.

EBSCO Business Ebook Collection

This up-to-date collection includes approximately 500 ebooks for business and management published by a variety of companies. All of these ebooks have current copyright dates.

Springer Nursing Ebook Collection

This collection is a specialized selection of approximately 100 ebooks published by Springer, a company known internationally in the fields of science and medicine. The ebooks were specifically chosen for their relevance to the needs of nursing students at William Paterson University. Titles include works on research, care planning, pharmacology, nursing theory and assessment.

Credo Reference's Academic Core

This extensive collection of nearly 1,000 reference titles includes dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases and guidebooks on many subjects. The titles cover both historic and contemporary themes and issues in art, biography, business, geography, history, language, law, literature, medicine, music, philosophy, psychology, religion, science, the social sciences, and technology.

These ebooks provide a useful starting point for general research on almost any topic. The Credo results screen also offers images, topic pages and a "mind map" to guide the user to additional entries related to the search concept.

Among the most popular ebooks at the Cheng Library (based on the number of times accessed) are the following titles:

- ◆ *Why We Cooperate*
- ◆ *Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Programs*
- ◆ *Girls, Delinquency, and Juvenile Justice*
- ◆ *The Nurse's Grant Writing Advantage*
- ◆ *Middle Range Theory for Nursing.*

All ebooks can be found using the Library's online catalog and the discovery system, ChengFind. Subject search results may also be narrowed to just the books in electronic format.

We invite you to sample these ebook collections and evaluate the usefulness of this type of resource for your research.

For more information about the Cheng Library's ebook collections, please contact Richard Kearney, Electronic Resources Librarian, by email at kearneyr@wpunj.edu or by phone at 973-720-2165.

Radha Ravichandran Joins Library Information Systems Staff



Radha Ravichandran joined the Cheng library staff as the Computer Support Specialist in the Library Information Systems Department on November 14, 2016. In this position, Radha provides technology support to the Library staff and maintains the

Library's technology infrastructure through the management of the Integrated LIS, hardware and software. Radha also acts as a liaison between the Library and the Information Technology departments.

Although she is new to the Cheng Library, Radha is well known around the University. Radha previously served as the User Support Specialist for the Information Technology Department where she provided technology support for the entire university community.

Radha received her Bachelors of Engineering in Information Technology from Anna University, India. Prior to joining William Paterson University, Radha worked at Passaic County Community College as an IT administrator and also as a Systems

Engineer for Hewlett Packard.

As the Computer Support Specialist for Library Information Systems, Radha hopes to continue to provide the quality support she did when she was with User Services.

Radha is excited to join the staff at the Cheng Library and looks forward to working on different projects and collaborating with all staff members.

Radha commented about her new position, "I am happy to join the staff of the Cheng Library to help support the Information Systems unit and the technological infrastructure of the Library."

When away from work, Radha enjoys gardening, reading about historical places and visiting museums. She also likes to spend time with her husband and her eight-year-old son doing family activities.



Statista: A Comprehensive Resource for Data



One of the Cheng Library's newest electronic resources, *Statista*, provides access to a wide array of statistical facts, figures, data and analyses.

As its full title suggests, *Statista, The Statistics Portal* provides the academic community with direct access to quantitative data on a wide variety of subjects including media, business, finance, politics, and other areas of interest. The data encompass more than one million statistics on 80,000 topics, including country data, industry analyses, reports and forecasts. *Statista* also includes international facts, market data, and industry studies.

The customized search query provides quick access to a wide array of data from over 18,000 sources. The search results include a list of statistics, studies and reports relating to the user's request.

The data sources include market research reports, trade publications, scientific journals, and government databases. For each statistic, *Statista* provides information about the data source, release date, number of respondents, and other relevant details to facilitate verification. The data can easily be exported to Microsoft Excel or PowerPoint for analy-



sis and incorporation into presentations. Results can also be shared online.

One unique feature of *Statista* is the variety of types of statistical data provided. These data include reports, forecasts, market insights and performance indicators of the most significant areas of the business economy.

Listed below are brief descriptions of individual collections available in *Statista*.

- ♦ **Industries** – Data and reports of twenty industrial sectors are covered in detail.
- ♦ **Industry Reports** – Sixty industry reports provide clearly structured trends, strengths and weaknesses.
- ♦ **Dossiers** – One thousand dossiers serve as research facilitators for users wishing to gain a rapid but inclusive introduction to a topic.

- ♦ **Studies Database** – Numerous studies from market researchers, governmental institutions and businesses. Sources include more than 600 industries and provide access to the most detailed information on an array of topics.
- ♦ **Forecasts** – Statistical forecasts for a multitude of trends from a wide variety of sources.
- ♦ **Companies and Topics** – Extensive marketing research including longitudinal trends on various measures pertaining to sales, revenue, income, customer satisfaction, consumption, and market share.
- ♦ **Digital Market Outlook** – Detailed market data for fifty digital economies worldwide.

Statista may be accessed from the "Articles & Databases" tab of the Library's website.

We invite you to try *Statista* and explore its potential usefulness for your research. Please contact Richard Kearney, Electronic Resources Librarian, (kearneyr@wpunj.edu) if you would like more information about *Statista, The Statistics Portal*.

In Support of Student Success

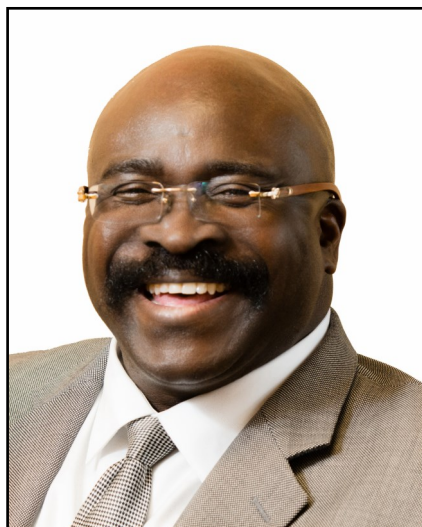
A Message from the Dean of Cheng Library, Dr. Edward Owusu-Ansah

The fall semester once again sped past us at blazing speed as we worked to acclimate new students and embrace returning ones. The lively activities and engagements that account for the vibrancy of our campus and university life continued its unending trajectory and we, true to long-standing practice, continued our service and commitment to student success. The holidays arrived, but life returned to academic normalcy just as fast with the commencement of the spring semester. We can now reflect on some of the things that transpired at Cheng Library during the fall semester and the following intersession, and contemplate activities for the spring and beyond.

Our students enjoyed the excellent services and commitment they have come to expect from Cheng Library's faculty librarians and staff. The Library continued to provide an appropriate atmosphere and spaces for learning, researching, socializing, and networking. We relaxed food and beverage policies, removed prohibitions to eating and drinking in the building, and invited library users to work with library staff to maintain a clean and inviting environment in the library. Our users did not disappoint. But we did also see the need for heightened vigilance with garbage disposal as increased activities led to a surge in the waste we had to dispose of. Thankfully, Campus Facilities came to our aid with additional custodial staff. However, we still encourage our users to work with us, as they have done so far, and to dispose of waste appropriately to help maintain desired cleanliness levels at their beloved library.

There has been very active use of our increased number of study rooms. Easier access to the graduate study room appears to have significantly improved the use of that facility by our graduate students as well. While national trends have shown progressively declining circulation figures and gate counts in academic libraries, the story at Cheng Library has been one of steady numbers in both categories. Other data on use of facilities and services show an uptrend. It can safely be argued that even in this oft proclaimed "Age of Google" and ubiquity of virtual spaces and resources, the academic library as place continues to provide value and the institutional services and functions it offers provide vital support for the success of our educational enterprise and its primary goal of ensuring student success. There is increasing evidence to support this.

Reporting on the assessment activities of several North American academic libraries, Karen Brown and Kara J. Malenfant ("Documented Library Contributions to Student Learning and Success: Building Evidence with Team-Based Assessment in Action Cam-



pus Projects," 2016) concluded that there was compelling evidence to support the following conclusions: 1. The library has a positive influence on student success; 2. Library instruction correlates positively with overall undergraduate academic performance; 3. Library instruction strengthens general education outcomes; 4. Library use in general (such as circulation, library instruction session attendance, access to online databases, study room use, interlibrary loan, etc.) leads to higher levels of academic success; 5. Library partnerships with other campus units (tutorial and writing centers, academic enrichment, etc.) yield positive benefits for students; 6. Academic libraries facilitate "academic rapport and student engagement."

I believe it perhaps has never been truer that, "When the repositories and gateways to knowledge and familiarity with their use affects efficiency of access to and use of knowledge, then training to ensure such familiarity becomes an essential part of the activities that define the teaching-learning-research mission of higher education" (Edward Owusu-Ansah, "Knowledge Organization and Dissemination, and Knowledge Navigation and Application: Where the Classroom and the Library Meet in Higher Education," 2004). The importance of the instructional and knowledge facilitation functions of the academic library to the efforts and success of our students and overall quality of the academic experience is what Cheng Library continues to be committed to. In that vein, we continue to provide a vibrant reference assistance program in person and by phone as well as e-mail; we offer year-round, non-stop coverage of this vital assistance through a chat format that covers all the days and hours the library is closed, we conduct library instruction sessions for most of our Pioneer Success Seminar sec-

tions, offer course-related library instruction upon request, and hold individual research appointments.

On the resource side, we have expanded our e-collections and improved the efficiency and response time of our interlibrary loan service, increased our online research guides for specific courses and areas requiring assistance, and we have improved availability of collaborative learning spaces with more study rooms and enhanced their ease of use with self-booking solutions. We look forward to further enhancements in our environments, services, and the body of knowledge that we facilitate access to. We anticipate growing our collaborations with various campus constituencies to ensure we are making the greatest contribution to the success of the university and its students. We look forward to partnering and collaborating with our classroom faculty, full-time and adjunct, to ensure the information literacy competencies of our students, guide them through assignments, and support their learning and research. We are hopeful that such outreach will be embraced and that we can work even more collectively toward improving the information literacy and research skills of our underclassmen, polishing the research expertise of upperclassmen, and supporting the research efficacy of our graduate students.

We invite all classroom faculty to consider what partnerships with Cheng librarians can do for their students. We invite them to engage us in a collaborative effort to improve student information literacy and lifelong learning skills, and commit to adjusting to the preferences of the classes and instructors that engage our expertise in the development of their students. We look forward to that engagement throughout our students' progression from their introductory classes to their capstone experiences. We invite students to look out for the open workshops offered by the library to enrich their academic experience and encourage them to take advantage of these opportunities. We invite them to consult with our librarians on their research assignments and projects and to proactively solicit our participation in their success.

Libraries are by their very nature academic spaces that promote academic engagement and the success they generate. We encourage all of our students to actively use the spaces the library provides and to embrace them as academic settings that create the right environment for learning and intellectual growth, support contemplation, and engender fruitful academic interactions. We look forward to seeing our students and faculty avail themselves of the myriad opportunities the library offers here at William Paterson University.

Alumni Authors Honored During Homecoming Weekend

An event showcasing the publications of William Paterson University alumni authors took place in the Cheng Library on October 2, 2016 as part of the Homecoming Weekend festivities. Janice Schwartz, Executive Director, Alumni Relations, coordinated the event, and others contributed as well. Nancy Weiner, Assistant Director of the Library greeted the alumni authors and guests in the Friends' Room of the Library.

The event, "Bagels & Books," was described as a celebration of William Paterson alumni authors and featured the award-winning children's author and alumnus, Doug Snelson, MA '78.

President Waldron welcomed those attending including many alumni. She commented that this event was different than the other events of Homecoming Weekend in that it is intellectual. "We are here to celebrate our alumni authors," she said.

The featured author of the event, Doug Snelson, read from two books he wrote for children. His first book, *Who's Got the Face?* was written about his family's dog, and it is dedicated to almost one hundred dogs. Mr. Snelson also explained his philosophy of reading aloud to children and demonstrated effective interactive techniques.

Part of Doug's philosophy of writing and interactive reading focuses on the very emotive concept of play. Mr. Snelson believes that children's books



Photographed at the event in the Cheng Library are (standing, left to right) Nancy Weiner, Assistant Director, Cheng Library, with alumni authors Matt Catania '08, Gregory Bullock '03, Linda Voogd '79, Theresa DiGeronimo '75, Debbie Cocchio '05, Jane Garnes, MA '73, (seated, left to right) Shareyna Scott '08, Mary Ann Cooper '70, Juana Ortiz '13, and Doug Snelson, M.A. '78.

should convey joy and engage the listener. His philosophy of story-telling is centered on the idea that children and adults are rewarded by play which, he believes, consists of two interconnected qualities: awe and concentration. During the reading, Doug communicated these attributes, and even the audience of adult listeners was captivated by his stories.

When reading *Who's Got the Face?* aloud, Mr. Snelson asked the audience to imagine that they were first or second-grade children. He read the book in its entirety, and during the reading, involved the audience by asking questions and encouraging participation. He animated many sections of the book, and also read his second award-winning book, *The Fable of the Snake Named Slim*.

Mr. Snelson credited a professor in the Communication Department with encouraging him to write. When writing, one of the puzzles Mr. Snelson often thinks about is the joy of read-

ing, and his books seek to share the joy he feels with the reader.

More than fifty books written by alumni were displayed during the event. These books were donated to the Cheng Library and are now part of the circulating collection. Many of these books were signed by the authors attending the event.

A few of these titles are listed below.

- ♦ *Algebra in Words: A Guide of Hints, Strategies and Simple Explanations* by Gregory Bullock
- ♦ *Grandeur: The Personal Reflections of Famous Grandparents* by Mary Ann Cooper
- ♦ *The Work of Abstracts II* by Jane Garnes
- ♦ *I Made It!* by Juana M. Ortiz
- ♦ *Life 101: A Guide to Your Personal Evolution* by Linda Voogd
- ♦ *The Test of a Woman: Real-life Encounters of Women from All Walks of Life* by Shareyna Scott
- ♦ *In Transit* by Kathleen Gerard

CONNECTIONS

Winter 2017, Volume V, Issue 2

Dr. Edward Owusu-Ansah,
Dean of David and Lorraine
Cheng Library
Susan Sabatino, Editor
Contributors, Library Staff

Published by the
David and Lorraine Cheng Library
William Paterson University
Wayne, New Jersey
This newsletter is also available
online
www.wpunj.edu/library/connections