UPDATE — Project Muse Pilot for University Press & Scholarly Monographs

Last summer, the library initiated an evidence-based acquisitions pilot for monographs with Project Muse. Students and faculty gained access to approximately 30,000 university press and scholarly electronic monographs in the humanities and social sciences until June 30, 2017. Shortly, liaisons will be contacting faculty to review titles for permanent retention. Throughout the pilot, the library has kept track of the activity on titles within the collection. Thus far:

- 296 titles have been accessed at least once by users;
- Of those titles, 48 titles have been accessed five or more times;
- Where multiple use was noted, usage clustered in one or two months rather than across several months. This suggests use was for assignments for a specific class vs. use across a variety of classes;
- In addition, 88 titles were represented in the CHOICE selection slips provided to faculty for possible orders. Of these titles, only 4 have been used to date.

The ability to offer scholarly, monographic content with minimal restrictions on downloading and printing by simultaneous users is of benefit. This is especially so when the same title is used multiple times by simultaneous users within the same timeframe. Such availability in hard copy would be difficult to achieve.

The library will continue to use evidence-based acquisitions programs as one of the methods to provide access to scholarly monographs. Subject specific collections that provide similar simultaneous use, with minimal or no restrictions on downloading and printing will be explored. Collection and content selections will be refined with faculty input. As Roanoke College moves forward with its exploration of digital humanities initiatives, content offered in this format is ripe for inclusion in assignments and projects.

Summer Online Course Support

Fintel Library is able to support students whether they are attending classes in person or online, on or off campus. Resources are just a click away. Online library collections, which include journals, monographs, and media, are numerous and have availability 24x7 via the internet.

Interlibrary loan can be used to deliver electronic versions of journal articles and book chapters not held within Fintel’s collections. If necessary, delivery of physical items from Fintel’s collections is possible. Librarians will work with faculty teaching online courses to identify appropriate electronic resources to mitigate students’ need for access to physical resources.

Personalized reference assistance and appointment-based research services will be offered using a variety of tools to facilitate the “in-person” experience (e.g. interactive chat, SKYPE, and free screen sharing tools). Research appointments will be arranged at mutually convenient times for both the student and the librarian. Drop-in reference assistance will be managed through chat with attention given to the need to adjust based upon time zones served in the online environment.

Don’t hesitate to contact your library liaison if you have questions about how Fintel can offer support for your students who taking Roanoke College courses online.
May Term Instructional Support—
Where in the World is Piper Cumbo?

It’s May term and you need Piper Cumbo’s help with instruction for one of your classes, but she isn’t answering her phone. Where could she be? Doesn’t she know you need her help? Rest assured— if Piper is not around, your Fintel librarians will be ready to fill in and help out if Piper is not available. Please call, email, or walk over and talk with them. Fintel librarians’ contact information can be found by clicking on the link below:

http://libguides.roanoke.edu/faculty

And where is Piper, if not in her office? She will be in Malta as Virginia Stewart’s INQ 177 course assistant. The course, titled Seven Thousand Years in Malta, will explore Malta’s multifarious journey to becoming the unique country it is today. If you would like to hear about the course before and after, please contact Piper to talk about it—just don’t contact her in May.

Digital Humanities Resources @ Fintel Library

Fintel Library has a number of resources that support exploration of digital humanities initiatives. Librarians are prepared to assist with:

- Application of standards for information, digital and visual literacy;
- Copyright;
- Identification of resources appropriate for inclusion in digital humanities-based assignments and lectures from the library’s archival, database and streaming media collections.

Equipment and software within the library to support content creation and display include:

- Shared Shelf repository platform (to display digital content);
- Book and slide scanners;
- Digital video cameras and voice recorders;
- Video software such as iMovie & WeVideo, and Camtasia.

May Term and Summer Session Resource Requests

For resources that are needed for May term or the beginning of the June summer session, please forward those requests to your liaison by April 21st. This will help ensure timely receipt and processing of materials. Thank you!

2017-2018 Resource Additions

The library received numerous requests this year for new subscription-based resources. The following will be added in the upcoming academic year.

- Ancestry.com
- JSTOR Collection XV
- Methods Now
- Newspapers.com — Southeastern Region
- Struggles for Freedom
- Studies in American Political Development