



# Library Newsletter

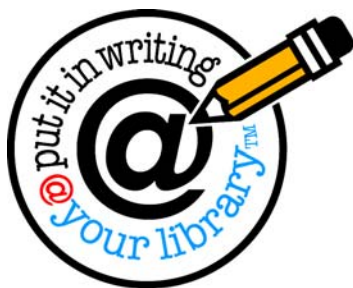
Portland Community College

Winter Term 2005

“One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries”  
—A.A. Milne

## Are you an aspiring writer?

Do you have dreams of being published but don't know where to begin? PCC's Rock Creek library is hosting the “Put it in writing” workshop, sponsored by Woman's Day Magazine and the American Library Association. The program began in 2002, with 7 public libraries offering the workshops. Since then thirty-one public and community college libraries have held the workshops to capacity audiences and enjoyed a good response all around.



The free seminar will be led by Jane Lannigan, a regular contributing free-lance writer for Woman's Day Magazine. She will offer tips for getting published, but will not be reviewing individual writing samples.

Reference librarian Alan Cordle will briefly showcase the wide variety of resources available in libraries to help writers break into the business, whether it's taking a class, surfing the Web or utilizing the *Writer's Manual*, which lists the latest publishing houses and gives tips on submitting manuscripts.

“Put it in writing” workshop. Tuesday, April 12, 2005, 11 am-1pm. Rock Creek Campus, Bldg 9, event center. Call 503-614-7127 or 503-614-7413 to register or for more information.

## Give your class an added advantage

Sylvania's Journalism 202 class, *Gathering Information*, has a librarian enrolled as a guest on its MyPCC Course Page. This allows students to seek research assistance from the librarian, either through the message board or via email. Instructor Rick Seifert thinks this arrangement has benefitted his students in a number of ways. “Today, reliance on the library means a lot more than simply having access to books, periodicals and other materials. For our class, the librarian has been a tour guide to a vast array of information sources, many of them off campus, and a multitude more on the web. She has been a great help to the students, both as an online resource they can turn to and as a pro active mentor.” The students seem to like the service, too. One student commented, “I really appreciate having the ability to contact a librarian without having to

figure out your hours or having to show up at the library.” Another student remarked, “It's nice to bounce ideas off someone who knows where we are coming from and what exactly we are looking for.”

If you would like to invite a librarian to be part of your MyPCC Course Page or WebCT class, please contact the reference desk at your campus. Cascade (503) 978-5269; Rock Creek (503) 614-7239; Sylvania (503) 977-4500.  
—Jane Rognlie

## We also teach

You may be surprised to learn that PCC librarians spend a good part of their time introducing classes to the resources and searching techniques needed in gathering, evaluating, and using information. During Fall term we met with 3,367 students in 159 classes. These sessions were developed in consultation with instructors and tailored to the needs of each class. Librarians comment:

“For Speech 111, I was asked to show students how to find magazine articles on controversial topics. The class chose the topic of the environmental impact of cat litter (topics included clay mining and waste disposal). No jokes about Tootsie rolls passed our lips. (Rock Creek)

“I had a real good class on evaluating web sites, in which we found an aromatherapy site that had all sorts of purported cures, but in the fine print there was legal language stating, “We don't take responsibility for anything else said on this site...” (Cascade)

“We introduced WR 123 students to the “CARS” worksheet for evaluating information from the Web. We then had them break into teams of two or three and look at several types of search engines...advanced versions of Google and Yahoo, clustering sites such Mooter and Clusty, and meta search engines like Dogpile. We evaluated how effective each search engine was for their topics, and then students gave a brief presentation about their findings.” (Sylvania)

“Each term all Biology 101 sections come to the library and learn how to find information on Oregon's various eco-regions. We have created a web page with suggested books, article databases, and web sites.” (Cascade and Sylvania)

“For Chemistry 221, I showed students sources for researching ionic and molecular compounds. They needed to find the chemical structure, systematic name, physical and chemical properties, toxicity, reactivity, and relevance and application in everyday life.” (Rock Creek)

"We taught first year nursing students how to find articles in professional nursing journals about working with patients from another culture. Then we talked about citing their sources using APA format" (Sylvania)

"I tried to explain what a bodice-ripper is to ESL students today while showing them the Browse (paper back) collection" (Cascade)

Schedule your class today for an instruction session and provide us with more anecdotes.—Flora Lippert

### Pickup anywhere with Summit

Want to get your library books in Salem? Seattle? PCC students, faculty, and staff may have materials delivered to any one of thirty different libraries across Oregon and Washington. If you live closer to Willamette University in Salem than to a PCC library, or if you'll be in Ashland for a week, try Pickup Anywhere.

Pickup Anywhere is an option in Summit, the combined catalog of the Orbis-Cascade alliance libraries. Summit searches can be initiated from the PCC Libraries web site. When you request items in Summit, you can choose to have them sent to any one of the member locations. You'll get an email when your item arrives; then simply take your PCC barcode to the checkout desk at that library.

PCC students have had Summit items available to them since Fall term and are very pleased with the range and depth of titles they can request and have delivered in 3 days' time. If you haven't explored Summit yet, you're missing a valuable research option. Check with your local librarian for tips on using Summit.

See <http://www.pcc.edu/library/about/summit.htm> for a list of Orbis-Cascade libraries. — Moira Burke

### Google Scholar- A quick look

Google Scholar is a new beta-site feature of the popular search engine. (A beta-site means they are field-testing the



Advanced Scholar Search

program.) It can be a valuable and useful tool if you understand how to use it, and its limitations.

*How to use it:* First, skip the introductory screen, and go to [http://scholar.google.com/advanced\\_scholar\\_search](http://scholar.google.com/advanced_scholar_search). This screen gives you a lot more options in creating your search, and will help eliminate unwanted sites. I decided to look at papers on colonialism as featured in Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart*. I put the words "Colonialism" in the field "all of the words," "Things Fall Apart" in the field "exact phrase" and "Achebe" in the field labeled "at least one of the words." I could have further limited my search to articles by a specific author or publication, or written within the last 3 years or so, but I decided not to use these features.

The first result looked good: "The Crisis of Cultural Memory in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* from *African Studies Quarterly*." The author, F. Abiola Irele, was a professor at a

Nigerian University and is now at Ohio State. Following the link takes you to the website of the *Quarterly*, hosted by the University of Florida. The full-text article is thirty pages long, with footnotes-- many of them in French, allowing researchers access to resources difficult to find in most databases. Google Scholar also notes that at least one other publication cited this article. Following that link reveals an article called "Sell a Book and Cook a Dog: Memory and Space from Siberian Camps to Apartheid," published in *Transcultural Psychiatry* in 2004.

Not all links lead to full text articles; sometimes there was only a citation. Those books and articles can be requested using our interlibrary loan service, so Google Scholar can still be valuable.

There are a number of other features to explore by yourself, or we invite you to drop by and talk to a librarian. *Remember, most articles are not and never will be available from Google.* Databases like Academic Search Premier, available through EBSCOhost will have greater depth. But it doesn't hurt to look at both!

You also might want to explore two similar databases—<http://www.looksmart.com> (which features a lot of full-text articles, mostly from popular sources) and <http://www.scirus.com> (which focuses on scientific materials.)—Tony Greiner

### Bitten by the travel bug?

For the traveler with flexibility, a few web sites offer chances for interesting or exotic trips.



You may be familiar with <http://www.Priceline.com> but hesitate to use the bid-for-price service

because you aren't sure if you'll get the times you want for your flights or if you'll end up in a flea-bag hotel in the red light district. <http://www.BiddingForTravel.com> is the source for unlocking Priceline's secrets. If you offer a low ball amount for a four star hotel in a certain city and it gets rejected, you are blocked from bidding again for three days, unless you can make a change to your proposal. According to an article in the New York Times about BiddingforTravel, ". . . (it) also explains how to bid, lists hotels its users have gotten through Priceline (organized by city) and offers specific bidding advice if you post a request. One recommended trick: if you want a four-star hotel in a particular neighborhood but don't want to change anything about your offer except the price, add a neighborhood where you know there are no four-star hotels."

Travelzoo at <http://www.travelzoo.com/> is a comprehensive website, but if you provide an email address, you will receive the top twenty travel specials in your mailbox. I recently purchased round-trip tickets from Los Angeles to Tahiti for \$300. The catch was that I had to travel on Christmas Eve overnight to Christmas Day. That wasn't a problem for me!

Site 59 at <http://www.site59.com/> is another good choice for last-minute trips. If I want to leave for Puerto Vallarta tomorrow — and I do, (but can't), 59 offers a one-week package including flights and hotel for under \$1,000. More realistically, but somewhat less appealing, is a trip to Spokane this weekend for less than \$200, including the flight from Portland and a hotel for two nights.

Are you considering a spring break trip or looking ahead to summer? There's enough time to try a search at <http://www.Travelocity.com>. Travelocity has a unique feature that searches for the least expensive flights on all major airlines. It allows you to enter your starting city location and then presents a map of the lowest airfares from that starting point. The catch is that dates are limited.

Finally, if you don't mind advertising in your email, sign up for the weekly specials from any airlines you might fly. When seats don't sell promptly, the companies offer deep discounts for travel within the next week. Pleasant journey and don't forget to write! — Alan Cordle

### Browsing the shelves

*Encyclopedia of African history*. Edited by Kevin Shillingsworth. R960.03 E63 @S,C,R

This dense, complex and highly informative collection of African history contains about 1,100 signed articles, each with a bibliography. About one-third of the authors are African. While one can look up general topics such as crop cultivation, refugees, or political systems, this encyclopedia is more easily used for finding in-depth factual and analytical information about the history of African nations. Organized by historic periods, the title will be useful for students taking classes related to African history, people who attend the Cascade Festival of African Films and want to learn more, or people who seek background information about the historical context of current news events.



*Letitia Baldrige's new manners for new times: a complete guide to etiquette*. Letitia Baldrige. R395 B35 2003 @S,C,R

Of course we all consider our own manners impeccable, so we read a book on etiquette to evaluate the book, not change our behavior— or is that just me? In any case, Baldrige covers manners for situations both private and public. The book's lengthiest chapters are on traditional etiquette situations like dinner parties and entertaining, weddings and various forms of correspondence. Less traditional topics such as how to gracefully socialize in and host mixed company gatherings (e.g., gay and lesbian friends) and how to talk to your kids about drinking and sex, are covered only superficially.

This book is really for people who are in, or want to be in, the upper socio-economic class. For example, I did not find the chapter on how to graciously manage one's

household help particularly helpful. People new to the United States might browse this book to better understand what are considered good manners in this country.

Sample etiquette advice:

*What to wear* (p 167-168) Brown suits are only for the very fashion-secure. They are basically conspicuous, and if you choose a loud, brown-pattered fabric, it could look like a rusted shipwreck."

*Complete turnoff questions never to ask a single person:* (p 39) "Do you think you make enough to support a mate?" "Are you afraid of having children- is that why you're single?" "Do you think your age is a problem?"—Torie Scott



### EBSCOhost:

#### with a name like that, there's got to be a story

Many of you have looked up articles using Magazine Articles Online, also known as EBSCOhost. Have you ever wondered where the name EBSCO came from? In 1944 Elton B. Stephens and his wife Alys formed a partnership to sell recreational supplies, including magazines, to the U.S. Armed Forces. The company prospered and today EBSCO (**E**lton **B** Stephens **C**ompany) is a collection of over 30 business enterprises involving information services, publisher services, real estate development and manufacturing, fishing lures, fine furniture, and high-tech graphics. The company provides subscription services to 50,000 libraries and has more than \$1 billion in annual sales. Forbes magazine has listed it as one of the nation's largest private companies.

Stephens had a lifelong interest in the arts and education. He helped establish a performing arts center at the University of Alabama and launched a campaign to revive the Alabama Symphony. He supported Alabama universities with an endowed chair of library service and a science center. Elton B. Stephens died February 5, 2005 at the age of 93.—Flora Lippert

### Expand your research with E-books

There are several ways to access electronic books through the library's home page at <http://www.pcc.edu/library>.

Option 1: Using the catalog enter a subject, title, or author search and then select "E-books" from the "Material Type" drop-down menu. The results reflect e-book holdings only. Once you click on the title you want to view, you will be directed to a page where you can select the electronic link for the online book and begin reading.

Option 2: Connect to our electronic book collection by clicking on the "Find Books and Articles" link and then on "e-books." A list of the various e-book sites appears.

Option 3: Access e-books through the "Article Databases By Title" link. Once you have reached the alphabetical listing, scroll down to the electronic book link you wish (e.g., ebrary) and click on it. This takes you directly into the e-book database with over 13,000 full-text books across all academic disciplines. You can then search by author, title or subject.

Option 4: A typical library search by author, title, or subject will display e-books along with printed books and audiovisual materials—just look for the red book icon with an "e" on it.

For expert advice on exploring electronic books, see your campus librarian.—Mary Frances Wise



**Torie Scott** has been a PCC reference librarian for 3 years in the library at Cascade campus. Before coming to PCC, Torie was a reference librarian at the University of Portland, and before that she was a catalog librarian at the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, OR. The Klamath Basin and Southern Oregon enchanted Torie and she enjoyed miles and miles of serene cycling on back roads, hiking in easily accessible wilderness areas and breaking trail on cross country skis at Crater Lake National Park. The cultural life in Klamath Falls was a bit flat, so Torie succumbed to family pressure and moved to Portland. "It is better to visit Southern Oregon than live there", she says.

Torie's first career was a Licensed Massage Therapist. She is happy to be working with a fully clothed clientele now, but feels that her ability to listen closely to patrons, to be respectful, firm when necessary, and patient are skills she brings from the massage room to the library. As we know from social anthropologist Edward T. Hall, sixty percent of all our communication is nonverbal, so it is very helpful for a reference librarian to have experience in interpreting nonverbal communication.

Torie and her family live less than a mile from the Cascade campus, and Torie can walk to work. She loves working in her neighborhood and running into other Cascadians on the street, at her son's school and at the local food coop!

**Jay Brewster** joins the library staff as the Film Booking Specialist and Sylvania evening Circulation assistant. Jay reveals that he moved to Portland from the Midwest after graduating from Kansas University. "I moved here for the standard reasons: hiking, camping, coffee and microbrews. I spend way too much time playing video games and call the New Seasons Deli my second home". Jay was employed previously by PCC's Human Resources Department and had also worked as a substitute for the Library.

Special recognition and great appreciation is given to **John Rigdon**, who has performed admirably as our interim Film Booking and Circulation agent for the past four months. John is a familiar face around PCC, having been a student, a substitute for the library's Circulation and Audiovisual Departments and a locker room substitute at the Sylvania PE Department. He also works as a site supervisor during special athletic events at Sylvania.

John claims to love a mystery and found tracking items that mysteriously "disappeared" aroused his sleuthing instinct. His experience in the banking industry and as a consultant to small banks fostered an exceptional tolerance for detail helped him evaluate our current procedures and make recommendations for improvement. He and Jay will work together for several weeks to ensure a smooth transition within the department.

We were fortunate John was able to pinch-hit for us! When asked for a memorable quote, he responded with his favorite one by Christopher Morley, "There is only one success...to be able to spend your life in your own way".

**Andre Temkin** Please welcome Andre Temkin to the PCC family. Andre represents our first official Audiovisual and Presentation Support presence at Southeast Center. He will begin forming an AV department there and prepare to assist faculty in the use of technology for instruction.

Andre was raised in Russia and attended Leningrad Electro-Technical University where he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering. Because he always had an interest in media, he became a radio personality and Technical Director for radio stations in Leningrad and St. Petersburg. After emigrating to America, he expanded these interests to recording, live music, and digital media. Welcome Andre!

The Library Newsletter is published three times a year under the direction of:

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