

## Information, Research & Instructional Services Newsletter



***Congratulations to Leslie L. Morgan. Leslie is the recipient of the Indiana Library Federation (ILF) 2007 Outstanding New Librarian Award. The award honors a recent graduate who is making important contributions to her employing library and librarianship at large.***

***Also, IRIS welcomes Jessica Kayongo as the newest member of the department. Jessica will serve as a reference librarian with subject responsibilities for anthropology.***

## Caching in @ the Libraries



Caching In @ the Libraries is officially over. 225 First Year Students signed up to play the game which consisted of finding 17 hidden “caches” throughout Hesburgh and the branch libraries. 40 students ended up finding at least some of the caches, and 26 students were able to find all of the hidden caches. 10 of these students won iPod Shuffles, and the others won the ND “Shirt”.

Though the turnout for the game was not as large as we had hoped, the students who participated were very enthusiastic about it. Many of them have commented on how fun it was, and how much they enjoyed visiting all the libraries. One participant volunteered this comment: “I know I've been on campus for only 3 weeks but I probably would've never found out about those libraries. They are very valuable and interesting. If I had to give any evaluation of the program, I'd say continue it. Very rewarding.” Plans are in the works to survey participants to find out ways to improve the program for next year. Our sincere thanks go out to all of the people who made this game possible.

### *Who Let the Dog Out??*

The adorable dog featured in the promotional items used for the Caching In program is Ellie Smith - Cheri Smith's one and a half year old brown dog (Heinz 57). Laurie McGowan came up with the idea of dressing Ellie in a t-shirt and iPod (provided by Nigel Butterwick) when she gave up on getting permission to use an image off of the Apple Website. Kudos to Laurie for the wonderful idea and the patience to work with a highly untrained dog!

### **New Faculty Reception**

For the second year in a row, the Library hosted a reception for new faculty. Almost 60 new faculty and librarians attended the reception held in Special Collections on September 13. Many of those attending also spent time viewing the Civil War exhibit currently mounted in Special Collections. Faculty from all disciplines attended and those who expressed interest were given a tour of the library by individual librarians. The food and beverages were a great success and at least one person said that "this was the best reception he'd been to." The reception was planned jointly by staff from the IRIS and the Collection Development departments. A special "thanks" goes to the staff in Rare Books and Special Collections who always graciously share their work space, answer a lot of questions about the collection and are the last ones to leave and lock up when the party is over.

### **Research Consultation Service**

Ask-a-Librarian now has an additional option to the three existing services: e-mail, chat and phone. A fourth option [Request a Personal Research Consultation](#) has been added which allows students to request an individualized research consultation by appointment. The link takes users to a form which asks them questions about their particular research topics. Once the form is received at the reference desk, the request for consultation is sent to an appropriate librarian. At the top of the web form there is also a link to all [subject librarians](#) that takes the user to the list of and contact information for all subject librarians. IRIS department librarians are looking forward to working with those users who avail themselves of this new service.

## Second Life

Second Life is a 3-D virtual world entirely built and owned by its Residents. Since opening to the public in 2003, it has grown explosively and today is inhabited by more than 9,165,774 Residents from around the globe.

Notre Dame has joined a growing list of universities who are purchasing an island in Second Life. Felicia A. Smith is part of the Faculty Learning Community (FLC) on campus. The goal is to explore the potential of virtual worlds to enhance learning, with an emphasis on, but not limited to Second Life. The FLC plans to create a list of interdisciplinary projects to propose for Notre Dame. Ideally the FLC plans to present its findings in a white paper and/or a public forum, at the end of the academic year.



Members of the FLC group attended a Second Life Convention in Chicago August 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. Presenters at the Conference discussed their projects, such as the \$20 million dollar National Science Foundation (NSF) funded project called Science of Learning Centers (SLCs). The Learning in Informal and Formal Environments (LIFE) Center is an interdisciplinary collaboration between learning scientists at the University of Washington, Stanford University, SRI International, and other institutions across the country.

The SLC is a Multi-User Virtual Environment (MUVE) wherein the students' avatars move through a maze made of a series of rooms. Students are prompted to move quicker by whispers in the rooms. There is negative reinforcement when the avatars move too slowly through the maze, or make an error on the puzzles in the rooms— they are administered shocks. For more information, see <http://life-slc.org/>.

The FLC is exploring the possibilities for interdisciplinary uses for Second Life. Some ideas suggested included a World Religions Village, Notre Dame Merchandise Store or Virtual Basilica with a Weekly Mass or a Virtual Dormitory furnished by students.

The FLC is also interested in receiving project ideas from the library for possible uses of Second Life to make instruction or reference exchanges more engaging. If you have any suggestions please contact Felicia A. Smith.

## New Reference & Instruction Forum

Ever wish you could answer a reference question while residing in a virtual world that allows you to be a butterfly? Or perhaps you dream of being a simulated person whose body can fly to far off lands without going to the airport and removing your shoes and placing your liquids in 3 oz. containers?

If you have, come to the first Reference & Instruction Forum to see the endless possibilities for reference and instruction in "Second Life". This forum will also showcase resources recommended by librarians, as well as offer a few Fun Facts to take away for personal use. The Reference & Instruction Forums (RIF's) will be held every other month and will help keep you abreast of the latest trends in the reference & instruction universe.

The first Reference & Instruction Forum will be held on **Tuesday, October 9th** from 1:30-3:00 in Hesburgh 222 and is open to everyone. Mark your calendars and plan on joining your colleagues in a fun, yet informative, forum.

## Mobile Librarian ~ Update

During the Spring Semester of 2007, as a Librarian-In-Residence, Leslie L. Morgan piloted an outreach project in order to promote the University libraries and perform library reference services away from the Hesburgh Library. "Taking it on the road: The Mobile Librarian" allowed Leslie access to a regular flow of students coming to Coleman Morse and O'Shaughnessy Halls where students attend classes and seek out advising and project assistance. This project provided opportunities for students and faculty to engage library services in a non-traditional format by being available within the comforts of their learning spaces on campus. From February 13, 2007 through May 4, 2007, Dean Hugh Page of First Year Studies and Professor Richard Pierce of Africana Studies arranged for space to be available for her to set up a reference service area in each of their respective departments. The following is a synopsis of the results of this collaborative effort:

56	“Drop-In” Research Strategy/Library Instruction Consultation Sessions
29	General information questions
8	Chat Reference Questions
7	Opportunities to socialize and conduct “social marketing” of library services to students, faculty and staff.
6	E-Mail References questions
4	Telephone consultations from students

With her new appointment as Reference/First Year Experience Librarian, Leslie will incorporate some aspects of this project with students who utilize the Coleman-Morse Bldg beginning in term I of academic year 2007/2008. The following is a link to her First Year Experience Librarian page: <http://www.library.nd.edu/fys/fye.shtml>

Students, Faculty, and Staff of First Year Studies are now able to contact Leslie in person, by telephone, E-Mail, Chat, and Facebook® for all of their research and information needs. This is an exciting time and the beginning of many collaborative opportunities to reach out to our newest students on campus!

## **New Student Information Fair**

On a beautiful and sunny day in August, the University of Notre Dame's newest Domer's converged on campus with their parents, grandparents, and other extended family members to learn about various library services currently available. The halls and many classrooms of DeBartolo Hall were overflowing with excitement, anxiety, and empty-nested parents preparing to leave their young adults entrusted to our care. With representation from Sherri Jones and Leslie L. Morgan, we were able to engage and encourage many new students and their families to seek out the library for their information needs. Many pens, note-pads, library brochures, magnets, candy, and post-cards highlighting the “*Cache In*” program for First Year Students were handed out. It was a great opportunity to talk with incoming students and to share moments of pride from family members about being at the University of Notre Dame.

## Stall Notes

Have you noticed the appearance of random bits of information on a piece of paper called “Necessary Room News?” Have you seen this “Info 4 Life” symbol?



Have you asked yourself, “What in the world is this?”

Well, it is a part of the IRIS Department’s “Info 4 Life” Information Literacy campaign. We all know the library has an abundance of information that is useful in creating an Information Literate community. No longer are libraries merely resources for students doing homework, but rather a beacon of knowledge guiding mankind throughout their lives.

Everyone needs information in his/her daily lives to become more information empowered. Don’t fall victim to email scams forwarded by well-intentioned friends. Fight the proliferation of misleading or fraudulent information with credible, validated information that is available in the library!

So far “Necessary Room News” has been a good conversation starter and has elicited some interesting feedback. Some feedback includes:

“Oh I get it, it is called ‘*Necessary Room News*’ because it is the one room that is indeed necessary. Very clever!”

“I’m going to verify those statistics on hand-washing. I don’t believe they can be that high!”

“Eeww Gross, hopefully this makes people wash their hands, I see a lot who don’t and touch the doors on their way out. Yucky!”

Remember, libraries are not just for homework. In the words of Albert Einstein:

***“The only thing that interferes with my learning is my education.”***

## Searchable FAQ database

Sherri Jones, Jessica Kayongo, and Elizabeth Van Jacob are working with members of DAIAD (Eric Morgan, John Scofield, and Tom Lehman) to create a searchable FAQ. The goal in creating this service is to provide users with virtual instant feedback to common questions, particularly after hours or when IRIS librarians are unavailable. A searchable FAQ will hopefully be more user-friendly than a traditional FAQ list of questions and answers, in that the user can type in a search term and get results without having to scan an entire list of categories.



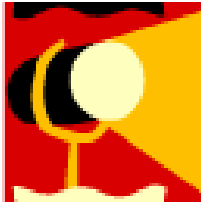
Searchable FAQ's have been successful in libraries recently. Most notable is the shared business FAQ project utilizing software created by Lippincott Library (University of Pennsylvania). To date, ten business libraries participate in sharing questions and answers with each other in an effort to create a more robust database for their users. Each library partner can customize their questions to meet their user needs. For more information on that project and a preview of what's to come here at University Libraries, see: <http://datafarm.library.upenn.edu/pennlibraryfaq/features.html>

The content within Notre Dame's FAQ tool will be derived from question data collected over the course of three years of using Docutek, an email and chat reference software that kept transaction transcripts. The IRIS team members will analyze the questions and create answers, while the DAIAD team members will create the underlying structure, as well as the web-based interface that users will ultimately see on the library's site. Work is in progress with an expected launch of this pilot project in Spring 2008.

## Did you know?



- ☑ Reference Librarians and subject specialists conducted a total of 450 instruction sessions and 115 individual research consultations during the last year.
- ☑ We answered over 19,000 questions, either in person, at the reference desk, or via our “Ask- A- Librarian” virtual reference service.
- ☑ We have issued over 600 temporary visitor internet accounts since we implemented the new guest internet policy in February.
- ☑ Users have scanned nearly 36,000 pages on the KIC since it was installed in February.
- ☑ Jessica Kayongo attended the Catholic Library Association Leadership Institute, July 12-15, 2007, at The Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL. The Leadership Institute is a biennial gathering of CLA leaders (Jessica is Vice-Chair of the Academic Services Section). The 2007 institute hosted an outside facilitator who assisted CLA members with strategic planning and formulating goals for the association at-large for the near future.
- ☑ Felicia Smith has taken on responsibility for collection development for Latino Studies.
- ☑ Jennifer Matthews is working at the reference desk, alongside a member of IRIS, for 6-8 hours per week.
- ☑ Students can check out laptops from the reserve book room to use in the new computer cluster or anywhere in the building.



## Spotlight on Reference Tools

Reference works are great. They provide newbie researchers as well as serious academics with usable facts and information. They help identify ideas and concepts, provide background information and fill in gaps on a topic. Reference materials can offer researchers statistics, important names or additional bibliographies on every topic imaginable.

Finding reference material has recently become easier with the library acquisition of two electronic indexes. The first is called **Reference Universe**. What makes this resource unique is that it identifies print as well as electronic reference works. RU content is based on titles reviewed by *American Reference Book Annual* and *Choice* so the search results are from respected sources.

Users can search by keyword, article title, or specialized index terms. Results of the search can be limited to only reference materials found in the Notre Dame library. If we own the item, an icon displays in the results list that links directly to the ND catalog record. Pretty neat!

The other resource is called **Gale Virtual Reference Library**. This resource indexes the full text electronic version of over 100 encyclopedias, biographical sources and specialized handbooks. It is a great way to get basic information on a topic from a number of respected reference sources without ever leaving your desk. For the researcher, there is an integrated Citation tool feature that creates correct citation forms for bibliographies.

To read more about these exciting new resources, go to Electronic Resources News. These resources will also be highlighted at the first Reference & Instruction Forum.

<http://libinfo.library.nd.edu/>

## University of North Dakota Summer GPS Project (or How I spent my summer vacation)

By Mike Lutes

This summer has proven to be a very enlightening and educational time completing site surveys of ghost towns and shadow towns in western North Dakota. Never mind dealing with the foibles and down times flying in and out with Northwest Airlines every other week. Most of the locations I have captured in photography, but in many cases to be there and experience the sense of place is indescribable!

On June 15-17 I flew out to Bismarck North Dakota and drove 155 miles out to the Badlands and stayed at the Bunkhouse, a former cowboy line cabin on a working ranch <http://www.4eyes.net/bunkhouse>. Each morning the cabin was surrounded by Black Angus cattle as I drove out to do site work. While in the Badlands and McKenzie County, the largest county in the state, I had the opportunity to visit the ghost towns of Rawson and Charbonneau, the small towns of Arnegard, Alexander, and Cartwright, and walk the former Fairview Lift Bridge and tunnel over the Yellowstone River at the Montana border. But one of the most impressive moments was viewing the Hutmacher homestead built in 1928 north of Manning, North Dakota. The site is presently undergoing a major restoration effort by Preservation North Dakota [http://www.kfyrtv.com/News\\_video.asp?news=8881](http://www.kfyrtv.com/News_video.asp?news=8881). Also of interest was locating the gravesite of local legend Poker Jim, buried near where he froze to death in the Badlands in the late 1800's.

I spent June 29-July 1 at the Deepwater Bay Ranch in Parshall, North Dakota, located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. After landing in Minot I drove south and surveyed the communities of Douglas, Makoti, Watseka, and Plaza and several others before arriving at the ranch. The next day I traveled from my camper base north into Williams and Mountrail Counties. Following US 2 and old rail lines I drove into the ghost town of Temple, and stumbled across a meth lab, eastward into White Shield, Ross, Lostwood, Palermo, Tagus Blaisdell, and Foxholm, 90 miles distant. Then an 80 mile return trip to the ranch.

During the weekend of July 13 I was back again in Mountrail County staying at

Knife River Lodging <http://www.kniferiverlodging.homestead.com> . The cabin was at the very edge of the ghost town of Belden, North Dakota. The town is historically significant as the center of rural radicalism and a prairie farm communist movement on the northern Great Plains. By the 1990's the last resident had left the town and it was left to wither and die. Over the weekend I drove a 350 mile circuit of northwestern North Dakota; doing site survey along highways 8, 50, 85, and 5. I had the opportunity to see ghost towns such as Hamlet, Corinth, Appam, Hanks, Stady, Kermit, Coteau, and others like Zahl, and Lignite barely hanging on.

Two weeks later I was out doing site work in southwestern North Dakota; one of the loneliest, desolate parts of the state. In this region there are only several viable towns Hettinger and Bowman with populations around 1500, while approximately eight others barely cling to life. Most counties are open and deserted. In many cases there is about one person per square mile at best. The lifeblood of the area is US 12 running 115 miles from Lemmon, South Dakota to Baker Montana. The highway proved to be a tortuous wash board in some cases undergoing complete reconstruction. What should have been a 2-3 hr drive turned into a 5 hour test of endurance in 95 degree heat. Thank God for 4 wheel drive! Haynes, Bucyrus, Gascoyne, Griffin, and Marmarth are significant ghost towns in the area. Due to the sheer isolation of the place I had to stay across the state line in Baker Montana <http://visitmt.com/categories/moreinfo.asp?IDRRecordID=16575&SiteID=1>.

Returning back to Bismarck from Baker Montana using Highway 23 provided a glimpse of the wheat region and abandoned railroad towns such as Havelock, Burt, Bentley, and Watrous.

August 13-16 I returned again to the Fort Berthold Reservation and conducted further site surveys in Belden and Charbonneau and surrounding locations. Basically a wrap up of the summer field work and closing things down. The last official trip will be on September 28-30.

With GPS data, over 2,000 photographs, historical data, and other materials the task now at hand is to compose the final project and present it to the Department of Geography at the University of North Dakota. Once the project is approved I will receive a Graduate Certificate in GIS.



## Funny You Should Ask

- ◆ Cheri Smith received a phone call several months ago. The caller wanted a list of sperm banks in the US where geniuses can donate their sperm. Somewhere, somehow, Hector found a list... we think the list may have been a hoax, but the guy didn't call back that day, so Cheri was happy.
- ◆ One of the first questions Margaret Porter received as a librarian on her first week at work at a public library was from a gentleman on the phone wanting to know how to give himself an enema. Margaret wisely referred him to his local drugstore.

Information, Research & Instructional Services  
(IRIS)

Hesburgh Libraries

University of Notre Dame

1-574-631-6258

<http://www.library.nd.edu/reference/>