WALA “Living with E-books” Seminar

The WALA “Living with e-Books” seminar has been rescheduled due to snow days. The new date is Monday, April 15. It will still be at School Service Center Training Room, 3850 North Hydraulic (37th Street North and Hydraulic). Light refreshments will be served. This is a free event, but please RSVP to Angela Paul or Janet Fowler at jfowler@usd259.net or 973-2077.

Brief agenda:
- Lianne Flax, Kansas State Library
- Dr. Andrew Smith, Emporia State University
- EBSCO e-Book representative
- The librarian and library clerk from Goddard Public Schools, who are using e-books in the classroom

Contact Angela with questions.

How about a vacation during lunch?

University Libraries continues to host the WSU Cultural Ambassador Program this semester with a series of country programs presented by international students attending WSU. Entitled, “AROUND THE WORLD WEDNESDAYS,” the series began Wednesday, February 13, and run from 12:30-1:30 pm each Wednesday during the semester, except for Spring Break week, in the Ablah Library Leisure Reading Room. The presentations so far have been great. Many included sample snacks, fashion shows, and musical instruments demonstrations. You may bring your lunch or just drop in to enjoy.

The remaining dates/topics are:
- March 27: Kenya
- April 3: Pakistan & India
- April 10: Sri Lanka
- April 17: China
- April 24: Taiwan
- May 1: Mongolia
- May 8: Korea

Demand-Driven Acquisitions Pilot

The library is piloting a demand-driven acquisitions (DDA) program this semester. In a DDA program, the library identifies e-books that it would be willing to purchase and puts records in the catalog or discovery system. People searching the catalog can find the e-books and begin using them, just as they do any other e-book. Students can browse DDA titles free for several minutes. If a student continues using a title, prints pages, or downloads the e-book, then the library automatically buys it. Nothing on the catalog record will show that the title is part of the DDA program, so students won’t know that they just triggered a purchase. About 3,000 DDA e-book records will be loaded into the catalog later this month. The pilot is for engineering, health professions, and business e-books.
News from Access Services

Study Room Upgrade

The six Ablah Library study rooms that are reserved through Circulation all now include a large screen monitor and VGA cable for the convenience of library patrons. Renata, an undergraduate student that teaches Supplemental Instruction courses in Biology, writes that “the...TV's in the study rooms are so helpful in SI sessions. Thank you for adding those.”

Emergency Preparedness

There were no SLCs (scary looking clouds) in sight, but on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 5th, Ablah Library and the WSU campus participated in the state-wide tornado drill. The procedure, which lasted roughly 30 minutes to complete, included evacuating the entire building, closing areas that contain a lot of glass, and assisting any patrons with special needs. All WSU students, staff, and community users in attendance were cooperative when relocating, and things returned to normal shortly after the ALL CLEAR was received via Rave alert, text message, or email.

Way to Go, Jack!

Wichita Collegiate senior Jack Stewart, son of Stacks Manager John Stewart, qualified to compete in the Kansas High School State Bowling Tournament on February 28th at Northrock Lanes in Wichita. This was Jack’s third time competing in the state contest, where he placed 17th out of 24 bowlers. Jack plans to enroll as a Wichita State University freshman, major in accounting, and of course, try out for our nationally recognized Shocker Bowling Team in Fall 2013.

National History Day

WSU Libraries was well represented when Dr. Lorraine Madway, Curator of Special Collections and University Archivist, and Robyn Tiemeyer, Access Services Manager, volunteered their time to judge the District 6 National History Day competition on February 28 at Friends University. Middle and high school students from the Wichita area submitted projects incorporating this year’s theme “Turning Points in History” into documentaries, research papers, performances, and websites. “Serving as a judge at History Day is a wonderful opportunity to mentor students and help them refine their abilities to analyze and synthesize historical events and figures. In turn, the students inspire judges with their enthusiasm and fresh perspectives. All in all, the day is both gratifying and stimulating. I’ve served as a judge for seven years and continue to look forward to the experience each year,” said Dr. Madway. Winners of the district event will compete at the State contest in Topeka on April 20, 2013.

SOAR Update

Dr. Susan Matveyeva reports that 27 dissertations & 73 theses defended by WSU Graduate Students in May and July-August 2012 have been added to SOAR’s Graduate School Collection bringing the number of ETD (electronic theses and dissertations) in the repository to 1008 (226 dissertations and 782 theses). Students who graduated in Fall 2012 will find their theses and dissertations online in early July following the six month embargo period negotiated with Graduate School.
The countdown is on for Spring Break! WSU students have just a few more hours until a week off from classes, maybe fitting in a road trip, skiing in Colorado or some fun in the sun. The website, www.springbreak.com, says spring break got its start in the 1930s when college students made their way to Florida for swim meets and recreation. Spring Break-WSU Style didn’t come about until 1968. That year WSU students enjoyed their first “Spring Recess” beginning Friday, April 5, through Sunday, April 14. In previous years, our students looked forward to only two days off in the spring semester, Good Friday and Easter Monday. Those who stuck around campus in 1968 might have grooved to the sounds of the Detroit Wheels at the Red Dog Inn, 2459 North Hillside, just north of Fairmount Towers.

From the Archives

Tech Corner

On Wednesday, March 6, SmartSearch was officially launched during a celebration in Ablah Library. Refreshments were served, goodies were handed out, and we were able to share SmartSearch with dozens of students, faculty, and staff. Some students had already used the tool, and had glowing feedback for us!

Kim Webb, winner of the naming contest who suggested the name SmartSearch, was recognized, and Dean Gilstrap awarded her with a certificate and a $50 Amazon gift card.

Many thanks to everyone involved with the launch, and the entire discovery investigation and implementation process.