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Pepperdine Libraries Join the Center for Research Libraries

As of March 1, Pepperdine Libraries are a member of The Center for Research Libraries, an international consortium of university, college, and independent research libraries. CRL supports advanced research and teaching in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences by making critical primary source material available to scholars.

This shared collection includes five million books, journals, documents, and newspapers to supplement member libraries’ holdings in these areas. Members of the Pepperdine community (students, faculty, and staff) can now request unlimited items on inter-library loan from the collection, free of charge. Loan periods are six months and borrowers have unlimited renewals unless the item has been recalled by CRL.

CRL can also save researchers time-consuming and expensive trips. With a strategic emphasis on expanding electronic access to international primary source collections, CRL participates in a number of cooperative digitization efforts, yielding over 15 million pages of digitized content to date.

CRL resources include:

- 6,500 international newspapers, some from as early as the 1700s—the largest circulating collection of newspapers in North America
- 4,500 U.S. newspapers, including 2,000 ethnic titles
- Foreign journals rarely held in U.S. libraries, with a focus on science and technology
- Access to rich holdings in STE print serials through a partnership with the Linda Hall Library
- More than 800,000 non U.S. dissertations
- Major collections from Africa, Latin America, Europe, Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East in various formats

If something is unavailable, requests can be made to purchase materials like newspapers, foreign doctoral dissertations, and archival materials through CRL’s Demand Purchase Program. These are honored on a first-come, first-serve basis up to $2,000 per patron.

You can identify CRL materials you’d like to use by searching the CRL catalog or the Pepperdine Libraries catalog. Your subject liaison can also help you determine what materials will be most useful for your research and teaching. The subject liaisons have already begun to incorporate CRL into applicable class InfoGuides.

Ready for summer?

If you’re doing research, be sure to check out our resources on managing your data.

Pepperdine Digital Commons Celebrates 1 Million Downloads

In February, Pepperdine Libraries’ Digital Commons achieved 1 million downloads with the article Helping Teens Develop Authentic Relationships, written by James White for the journal Leaven.

The Digital Commons is the university’s centralized platform for Pepperdine journals, faculty websites, conference proceedings, exemplary student research, and other e-scholarship. It is the Libraries’ mission to make Pepperdine’s scholarly output accessible, secure, and search engine optimized for online discovery.

Dean of Libraries, Mark Roosa, notes, “Pepperdine Libraries’ Digital Commons serves Pepperdine’s community of researchers in two important ways: it provides a secure and central repository for archiving the incredible academic work taking place at our institution, and a means for sharing that work with scholars around the world.”

The most popular paper of 2014 was Trial Objections from Beginning to End: The Handbook for Civil and Criminal Trials, followed closely by What Happens to Our Facebook Accounts When We Die?: Probate Versus Policy and the Fate of Social-Media Assets Postmortem. The most popular journals were the Pepperdine Law Review, which produced these two articles, and Leaven: A Journal of Christian Ministry.

You can learn more about Pepperdine Digital Commons and how it can work for you on our website. To see downloads as they occur, check out our new global downloads map.

New Resources at the Library

Music Index is a comprehensive guide to music periodicals and literature featuring digitized content from 1970 to present, and contains cover-to-cover indexing and abstracts of articles about music, musicians, and the music industry for more than 480 periodicals. It also provides selective coverage for more than 200 periodicals.
RILM Abstracts of Music Literature is a comprehensive music bibliography featuring citations, abstracts, and subject indexing. With over 700,000 records, RILM provides broad yet detailed coverage, and facilitates both focused research and browsing for readers of all levels. RILM is the first stop for verified bibliographic information that is fully cited, abstracted, and indexed.

Subject Liaison Spotlight

Maria Brahme is the Head Librarian at the West Los Angeles Campus, and the subject liaison to the Graduate School of Education and Psychology. Working with Professor Nancy Harding of Pepperdine’s Graduate School of Education and Psychology, she has developed an InfoGuide that functions as a multimedia textbook for Harding’s course in Human Development. Currently, InfoGuides are primarily used to direct students to resources relevant to a particular class or assignment. However, their flexibility makes them uniquely suited to present educational materials of more specificity and currency than physical (or even electronic) textbooks. In the case of the Human Development guide, students can explore concepts anywhere and anytime, and Professor Harding is able to update material to keep pace with advances in the field.

Now that the textbook is in use, the next steps of the project involve gathering student feedback, and finding ways to incorporate their voices to make the learning process an interactive one. If you have questions about this project, you can contact Maria Brahme or reach out to your subject liaison.

Upcoming Events

Robert B. Talisse: Moral Imperfection--A Defense
March 30, 12-1pm

Library Research Award Submissions
due April 6, midnight

Christopher Parkening Guitar Students in Concert
April 14, 5-6pm

Sacra Pagina Exhibition
Biblical treasures from the Green Collection
May 5-9, 10am-6pm

2015 Library Research Award

The Library Research Award is back for its second year. Highlighting student work that makes deep and nuanced use of the resources at their disposal, the award is offered in three categories: Undergraduate, Graduate, and Special Collections.

Last year, participating students stated that encouragement from a professor was the most important factor in their decision to enter the competition. If you have a student you would like to encourage to participate, the submission guidelines for 2015 are now posted. You can also contact Melissa Nykanen with any questions.

3D Printer Arrives at Payson

As part of our efforts to serve our faculty and students in new and technologically relevant ways, Payson Library has acquired a 3D printer. The Cube3 printer by Cubify can transform a digital file into a three-dimensional solid object by extruding plastic filament (up to two colors at once) through a heated nozzle to form layers.

3D printers are an invaluable tool for faculty in many disciplines, and assignments can be designed to help students build models of organs, molecules, and mathematical concepts; rapidly prototype products for a business class; produce sculptures, and much more.

A workshop where faculty and students can learn more about this technology is already scheduled for April 9. To join or find out more about incorporating 3D printing into your research or teaching, contact librarian Mary Ann Naumann.

Librarians Study Faculty Research Practices

Pepperdine University Libraries conducted a qualitative study of faculty research practices during the fall semester. This IRB-approved study used ethnographic methods to better understand the research, teaching, and technological needs of faculty. Two librarians conducted nine 45-minute, semi-structured interviews of faculty that were video-taped in each faculty member's office. The participants were from six of eight divisions at Seaver College and from the Education, Psychology, and Public Policy graduate schools.

The interviews produced rich data and great insight into faculty culture. Some initial findings include: (1) most faculty are involved in multiple research projects; (2) direct integration of research with teaching is not widely indicated; (3) social media is used by some faculty for communication and staying current; (4) most faculty utilize a hybrid approach to print vs. electronic materials for reading, annotating, and note-taking; (5) when asked how they would use a magic wand, most faculty wished for more time. A more detailed report is forthcoming this spring.

Data Point: Librarian Instruction in Courses by Division, 2013/2014

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