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Pepperdine University Libraries

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Making RefWorks Work for You

In November, Pepperdine Libraries will hold a workshop for faculty and students on using RefWorks in their research. RefWorks is a web-based citation management service that Pepperdine faculty can access through the Library’s website.

“I like it for its ease of use,” said Priscilla MacRae, Professor of Sports Medicine. “It really helped me organize the hundreds of articles I needed to track for the book chapter I’m writing, and simplified sharing resources with my co-authors from other schools when we wrote an article together.” A “Write and Cite” plug-in to Microsoft Word can then be used to propagate bibliographies and footnotes in correct styles, easing the road to publication. MacRae also incorporated RefWorks into the research methods course she teaches, having her students submit an abbreviated review using RefWorks. As MacRae explains, “The juniors and seniors in my class always say they wish they’d learned about this resource when they were freshmen!”

The RefWorks workshop will take place on Thursday, November 6 at 4pm in ACE.

Understanding Faculty Research Needs

Pepperdine Libraries is in the process of undertaking a study to acquire a deeper understanding of our faculty’s research needs. Pending approval of the Institutional Review Board, library staff will conduct confidential 45-minute interviews to learn more about the materials faculty use for research and teaching, the discovery process of new materials, and other key questions.

Lynne Jacobsen, Associate University Librarian for Information Resources, Collections and Scholarly Communication, is developing this project based on similar studies and two workshops on participatory design in academic libraries taught by Nancy Fried Foster, an anthropologist who has helped libraries understand their users and design better services, spaces, and technologies.

“The Pepperdine Libraries continue to be very responsive to faculty research,” said Ronald Cox, Blanche E. Seaver Professor of Religion. “I am excited about this project because of the proactive way librarians are seeking to align their efforts and the library’s collection of resources even more with our research and research-oriented teaching.”

This study will rely on interviews with a variety of faculty members. Participants will be nominated by department heads, but if you are interested in participating, contact Lynne Jacobsen at Lynne.Jacobsen@pepperdine.edu.

Ask Your Subject Liaison

Marc Vinyard, the subject liaison for business, history, and economics, has been piloting a new program for the library subject liaisons. Subject liaisons typically have an extensive knowledge of the resources and references available in the subjects to which they are assigned. They can be a major asset to faculty by conducting information literacy sessions and creating InfoGuides for classes, both of which can greatly assist students with navigating library resources to complete their assignments.

Because of its size and distance from the library, Marc has taken to embedding himself in the business department once a week, spending each Tuesday morning at CCB to provide support for Seaver business students and faculty. While there, he answers questions, and teaches information literacy to classes. This saves valuable class time that would otherwise be spent on a long walk to the library, and also creates opportunity for faculty members to have off-the-cuff discussions they might not otherwise have about their research.

To get in touch with your subject liaison, visit the Faculty Liaison page on the library website.

As the Faculty Liaison for the Business Division, Marc spends time in the CCB every Tuesday. Photo credit: Pepperdine University
New Resource on Academic Publishing

Pepperdine Libraries is proud to announce a new resource to assist faculty with publishing. Academic publishing can be a tricky affair with high stakes, as publication is a major factor in determining tenure.

This summer, librarians Marc Vinyard and Jaimie Beth Colvin created an InfoGuide to help faculty with the publishing process. Faculty Publishing Resources covers the key points of publication, from the steps to selecting the right journal to which to submit your research, to explaining the H-index, the objective measurement of the productivity and influence of a scholar’s work.

The guide is comprehensive, even providing explanations of submission etiquette, and tips for promoting published articles through items in Pepperdine’s Digital Commons, such as Selected Works. Conveniently, it also links to other helpful resources for faculty writing for publication, such as RefWorks and Sage Research Guides.

Visit the Faculty Publishing Resources InfoGuide online!

New Databases at the Library

Entertainment Industry Magazine Archive is an archival research resource containing the essential primary sources for studying the history of the film and entertainment industries, from the era of vaudeville and silent movies through to 2000. The core US and UK trade magazines covering film, music, broadcasting and theater are all included, together with film fan magazines and music press titles.

2014 APA Books E-Collection contains books published in psychology and related disciplines, including medicine, psychiatry, nursing, sociology, education, pharmacology, neuroscience, and physiology.

SAGE Research Methods is a database of SAGE research methods books, journals, and reference material with advanced search features for locating and exploring methods concepts to design research projects, understanding particular methods or identifying a new method, conducting research, and writing up findings.

Upcoming Workshops at Payson Library

A Googol Uses for Google Suite
October 2, 12-1pm

DIY Faculty Websites: A Hands-on Workshop with SelectedWorks
October 9, 12-1pm

Everything You Wanted to Know About Facebook, Twitter and Instagram but Were Afraid to Ask!
October 14, 4-5pm

Searching the Scriptures with Accordance Bible Study Software
October 21, 4-5pm

RefWorks
November 6, 12-1pm

Getting Creative with Data - An Infographics Workshop
November 20, 4-5pm

These are highlights of the full schedule. For a full list of other workshops and events, please visit http://library.pepperdine.edu.