

Lesley University

DigitalCommons@Lesley

Library Newsletter

Office of the Dean of the Library

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Office of the Dean of the Library

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Lesley University Library Newsletter

"Where all your questions are answered."

Volume 2, Issue 1
September 2017

A warm welcome to our new and returning students, as well as to our entire university community. Welcome also to our student employees, who are so important to serving the college community.

Last year, your library worked strategically to provide excellent services, programs and activities in a transformative approach. We published the first Lesley University Library [annual report](#) and five [newsletters](#) to document and share the story of these remarkable changes, which include the new [library website](#) designed by Assistant Director and Head of Research and Instruction, Sam Quiñon. She diligently created an intuitive and user friendly experience. You can access the library website from the Lesley University website, through myLesley (Blackboard), and directly at <http://research.lesley.edu>. The library also added a very important tool to Blackboard for our faculty, Library Syllabus Builder. This tool makes it easier for faculty to embed library resources into the online classroom experience. We are so proud of our Art Librarian, Micki Harrington, who contributed successfully to the [49th Annual International Visual Literacy Conference](#) held at our university. She presented twice on Saturday.



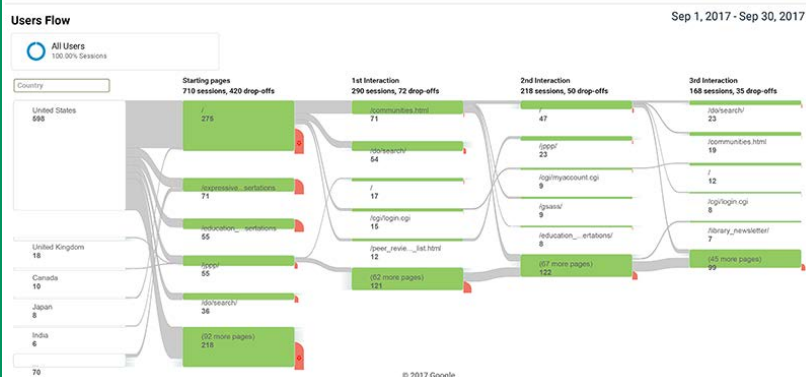
Librarians pride themselves in facilitating and encouraging scholarly communication and access to authoritative resources. Our Digital Scholarship Librarian, Philip Siblo-Landsman, has helped facilitate this by designing, populating, and managing our new institutional repository, DigitalCommons@Lesley. Please take a moment to browse the collections in [DigitalCommons@Lesley](#), which include animation capstones, masters' theses, dissertations, special collections and many other academic publications. These collections showcase Lesley's intellectual prowess while also preserving its institutional memory. Through our institutional repository, Lesley scholarship is now more discoverable around the nation and the world.

In addition to adding the institutional repository, we have acquired some new databases. Please browse the [A to Z list](#) of online resources to discover our wonderful collection of multidisciplinary resources. We recommend you check out [Psychotherapy.net](#), which includes films in the discipline of social work, and [The HistoryMakers](#), which is the world's largest Digital Archive of African American oral history. While adding these new tools, we are also using data driven analytics (see below) to observe the usage of these tools and assess the best way to serve you, our community.

THE HISTORYMAKERS.

Over **117,075** stories are assembled here
from life oral history interviews with 2,199
historically significant African Americans.

<http://digitalcommons.lesley.edu>
<http://digitalcommons.lesley.edu/>



As an integral part of the academic experience, librarians teach students about information literacy and critical thinking. Literature about the perception of libraries and research show that there is great value in the lessons taught by librarians. According to a [survey](#) conducted by Gale, "90% of students say the library and its resources provide value to their academic and career goals versus only 80% of instructors." The study also indicated that 75% of students wish they had taken advantage of library resources when it was available to them. Our librarians continue to deliver excellent instruction in both group sessions and individual sessions with students and faculty. This year the demand for instruction is higher than last year. Thus, we are preparing an online module for Information Literacy and Critical Thinking. In addition, we are offering a workshop series in collaboration with the Center for Teaching, Learning and Scholarship.

This year, we will continue to hold lectures and events that will engage our community (please check the list of events at the end of this issue). We also introduced a 3D printer to encourage experimental activities by our students. I would like to thank our colleague Bettianne McKay for her resourcefulness and her love of learning and discovery. Under her supervision, Bettianne has trained many students and staff to use the 3D printer. We encourage and welcome everyone to come and use the printer. Please contact [Bettianne](#) for more information.

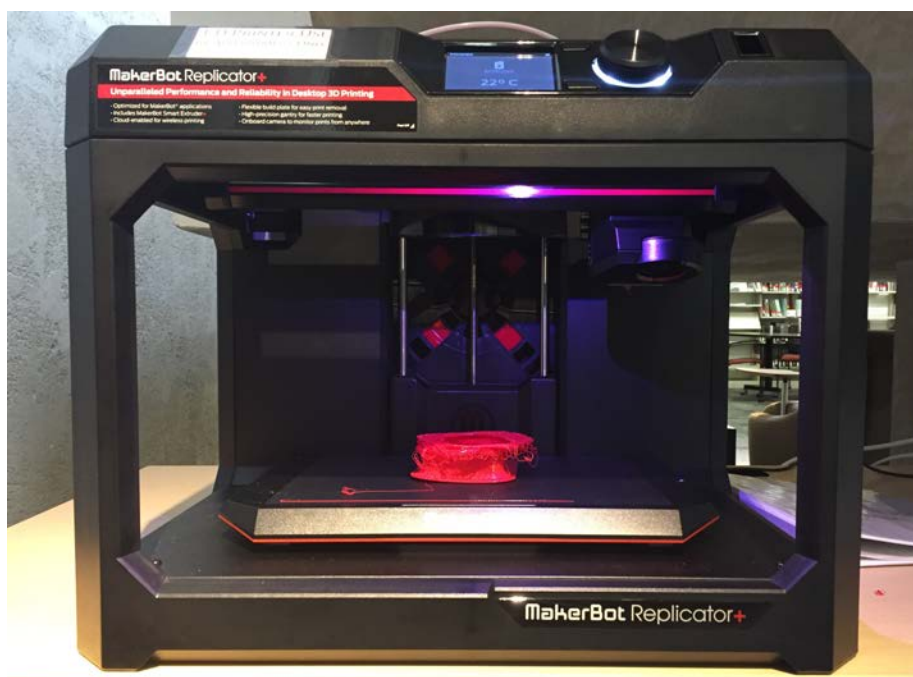
Our goal is to ensure that the library is as welcoming place both digitally and physically. We strive to ensure that you gain knowledge, not just a collection of facts and bits of information. We want you to have access to the library from wherever you are, including your mobile devices. Your library, with its expert librarians and rich and easily accessible materials will continue to be an important part of your intellectual life here at Lesley. So, again, welcome!

Hedi BenAicha, Dean of Lesley University Libraries

3D Printer – Rachel Fernandez, Student

When I thought of a 3D Printer I would think of those huge high-tech machines that have the ability to print houses and other building materials and they cost thousands of dollars at least. When Sherrill Library got one I was immediately intrigued and couldn't wait to start using it. Here we have this little device that doesn't look like much to the eye but it's capable of creating the coolest things. The best part was that it was easy to use once you know the steps. I can choose from thousands of designs or make my own. I'm not that creative so I settle for choosing from the pre-made designs online. You want to make a mask for yourself, you got it. Or if you love aliens like me and you want to make a little alien figurine you can do that too. Really the possibilities are endless and once you get started you can't really stop.

Endless fun and creativity from one little machine all packed into one! You learn not only about how it works but the databases that are used with it and how you can create your own designs. There is a lot to take away from this and cool experiences for anyone who uses it. I love using it all the time and there are a bunch of fun colors to choose from. You are in control of how your design comes out and customize it the way you want! Before you know it, you end up having a collection of 3D printed fun!



Generalism in the Classroom

Micki Harrington, Art Librarian

In a world that has moved beyond specialization into hyper-specialization, I find that the librarian's role as generalist is as important as ever. Among teaching professionals, faculty in other University schools are often forced to specialize due to the nature of academic publishing and hiring practices. Librarians are in a unique position to push back against this trend, and continue a millennia-old tradition of specializing only in the act of research itself, rather than on any one topic. As an art librarian, I find that my art history background is essential to the position, enabling me to support art school students and faculty in a way I couldn't otherwise. However, going on to get an advanced degree in art and becoming an expert in the field is something all the LUCAD faculty are already doing. Instead of becoming an expert in art history I pursued other degrees in Library Science and Psychology. Now, I have enough knowledge of the art world to teach undergraduate students about artists' books or MFA grad students about thesis research, but I also used my knowledge of politics to teach a semester-long course on information policy (intellectual property, censorship, etc.). I use my psychology degree to teach art students about how humans process and perceive the visual world. I use my commitment to social justice to teach students how to appreciate and research other cultures without appropriating.

The other amazing Lesley librarians have done the same. Assistant Director and Head of Research and Instruction, Sam Quiñon, taught bilingual special education for a number of years in the New Mexico public school system. Her teaching certificate gives her content knowledge in education and also an understanding of what life is like for teachers, so she can put that knowledge into context and make her lessons meaningful for GSOE students. She also has experience as a business librarian and as a cataloger for the State Library of Massachusetts, giving her knowledge of how government records are created, organized, and maintained which helps when students need to find and use public documents.

Digital Scholarship Librarian Philip Siblo-Landsman has a Master's in musicology, an interdisciplinary field in the humanities, which, in addition to his library degree helps him simplify the writing and research process for students having a difficult time identifying the differences between social science and humanities research in their first year of college. Philip has worn many hats: a live sound and video engineer, an international English teacher, and a web designer, but his desire to be a generalist and to work with researchers in multiple disciplines at all stages of their careers is part of why he became a librarian. He used his technology skills to help design, launch, and man initiatives at Lesley, including our new institutional repository, DigitalCommons@Lesley.

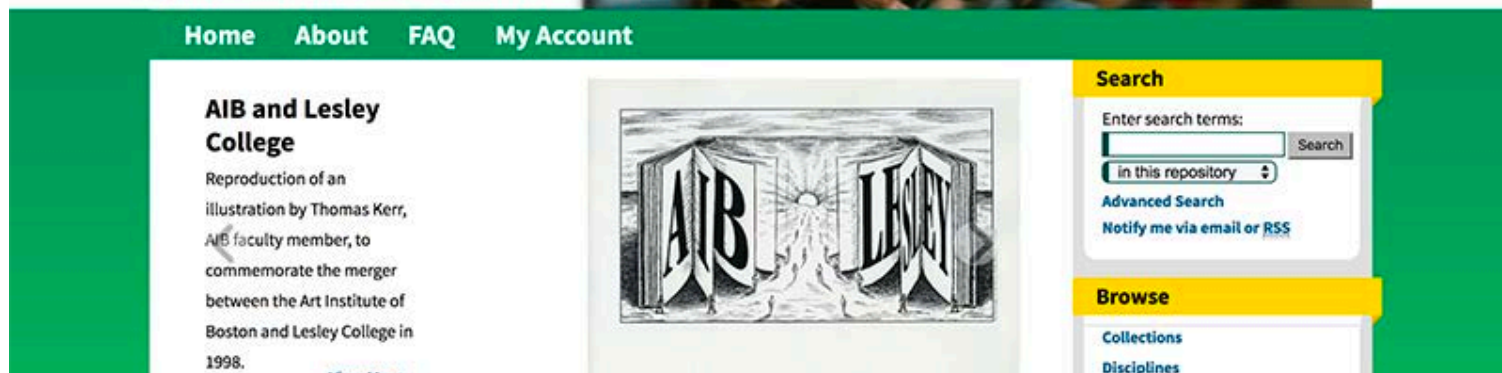
If you've found yourself pulled down a rabbit hole of specialization and you are looking for ways to incorporate the spirit of generalism in your teaching and research, Sam, Philip, and I have some tips!

- Encourage your students to make connections between the material in class, and the material in their other classes and major discipline. Humans remember information better the more connections to other bits of info are made!
- Check out the research methodologies being used in other disciplines. If you've never analyzed images before, check to see how artists or historians do it, and borrow their methods for your own discipline.
- Consider developing an interdisciplinary course with a librarian or faculty member from another department.
- Explore social media hashtags, particularly twitter hashtags, to see what's happening in other disciplines.
- Listen to podcasts! Sam will pick a theme to explore, like food science or film history, and listen to a few different podcasts to learn the different points of view. The informal nature of media makes it easy to incorporate bits and pieces into your teaching!
- Consider adopting Open Educational Resources (OER) when planning your classes. These resources can be shared and remixed freely. You could also develop rich, interdisciplinary coursework that integrate varying perspectives when developing new courses with OER. Learn more at research.lesley.edu/OER

DigitalCommons@Lesley is here!

Philip M. Siblo-Landsman, Digital Scholarship Librarian

More than 2,000 scholarly and creative works have been downloaded from [DigitalCommons@Lesley](#) since its May 19th launch! In that time, 616 paper have been migrated from different platforms into our new institutional repository. These collections include graduate and undergraduate works, yearbooks, Lesley's *Journal of Pedagogy*, *Pluralism and Practice*, Community of Scholars Day posters and schedules, and finding aids and digital images from Lesley's Special Collections and Archives.



New collections have been setup including a place for faculty to reprint open access publications. Three student work collections have also been added: the MFA in Visual Arts Theses, Animation Capstones, and the Expressive Therapies Capstone Theses. As the school year progresses, more collections will be setup so student's completing their final works will have a place to preserve and disseminate them around the world.

The DigitalCommons@Lesley readership map illustrates that a large variety of people around the world are accessing our collections (see Fig. 1). Lesley works are being accessed by users in Rwanda, Paraguay, Turkey, Germany, Iran, Puerto Rico, Israel, and across the United States (see Fig. 2). By adopting the Digital Commons platform, Lesley University is reaching a larger global audience with its creative and scholarly works.



Fig. 1

(Pins are a collection of downloads from a specific region, not the exact place of download.)

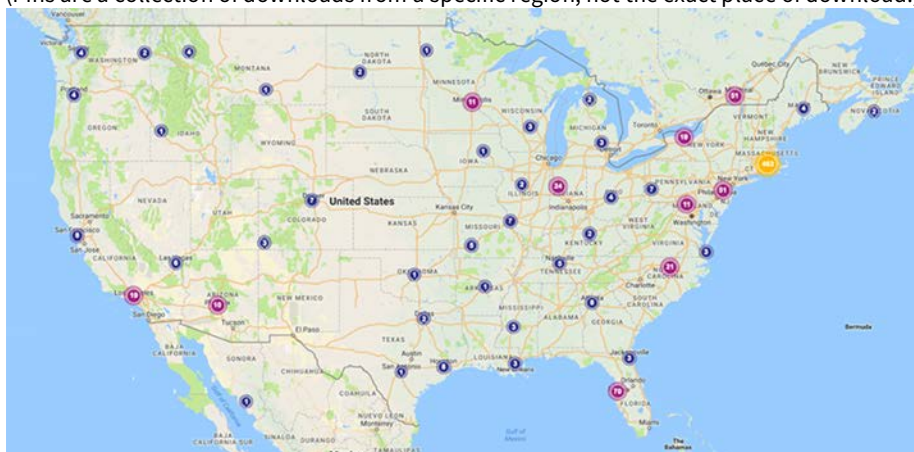


Fig. 2

Information Literacy and Critical Thinking

Abby Mancini, Librarian

Information literacy and critical thinking skills are essential components of any educational program at the graduate or undergraduate levels.

The librarians at Lesley are working to roll out two tutorials for students to gain a deeper understanding of information literacy and critical thinking skills. InfoLit/CT Modules from CREDO provide high quality, ACRL-aligned instructional materials to help librarians deepen the quality of student instruction on research strategies and techniques.

With 60 high-quality videos, tutorials, and quizzes, the InfoLit/CT Modules are ideal for supplementing existing lessons, for "one shot" library instructional sessions, and for addressing gaps in classroom or online teaching.

Currently, the objectives for the Critical Thinking modules are as follows:

- Defining problem
- Asking appropriate questions
- Analyze assumptions
- Synthesize info
- Evaluate results

Objectives for Information Literacy:

- Master content
- Extend investigations'
- Self-dictated, establishing a great control over learning
- Consciousness of explicit actions required for gathering, analyzing and applying information.

Look for these modules to be ready for use later in the fall through the Library's Faculty Resources Page:

<http://research.lesley.edu/faculty>

Please Join Us for Any or All of These Events We Look Forward to Seeing Your There



October 10—Mac Maharaj
Library Lecture,
Democracy Under Siege,
Sherrill 350, 4:00 pm

October 17 – Jessica
Rizkhalla, '15, reading her
first poetry collection,
the magic my body becomes,
Sherrill Atrium, 7:00 pm



October 18 – Flute Juice, a
performance & conversation about
jazz and the Civil Rights Movement,
Marran Theatre, 4:00 pm

November 6 – Vanita Datta, '88,
Factors Leading to and Impact of
Violence and Lessons Learned,
Sherrill 350, 4:00 pm



Our Student Worker

MiKayla Collins

There are so many reasons why I enjoy working at Sherrill Library. I enjoy working at Sherrill Library because I enjoy helping people find books they are looking for and answering any questions they have. I also enjoy learning more about the library; every time I come into work, I learn something new about the Sherrill Library. I enjoy having the opportunity to work with amazing people that are always ready and excited to help anyone that walks into the library. Working with people that are excited about their jobs makes me excited to come and work.

Rethinking Research Workshop Series

Sam Quiñon, Assistant Director and Head of Research and Instruction

Lesley University Library is pleased to announce *Rethinking Research*, a workshop series more than a year in the making. The brainchild of Dean Hedi BenAicha, the series kicks off this fall in collaboration with the Center for Teaching, Learning & Scholarship (CTLS). Designed and lead by Lesley Librarians, participants in any of these hands-on workshops will leave with useful, concrete strategies for immediate implementation in their teaching and research, as outlined below.

Getting Better Research from your Students: Same Story, New Rules

Thursday, 10/26, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

at Sherrill Library (Brattle Campus)

Learn how to get students critically engaged with research and how to breathe new life into common assignments like papers, lit reviews, and annotated bibliographies, making them meaningful to students.

Hack Impact: The Academic's Guide to Publishing

Thursday, 11/16, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

in Stebbins 203 (Doble Campus)

Learn about how to choose where to publish, how to boost and track metrics, and how to negotiate copyright and ownership. You worked hard on your research, make sure you have a competitive edge.

Can't make it? No problem!

Watch live from your computer or mobile device on the Lesley University Library [Facebook](#) page:

<https://www.facebook.com/LesleyUniversityLibrary/>

A New Tool for Scholarship: UnPaywall

Philip M. Siblo-Landsman, Digital Scholarship Librarian

We have all faced this issue when conducting research: you search for and find an article that supports your argument, but you cannot easily download it. Instead you reach a page that asks you to pay for the individual article. This is the paywall.

There are a number of reasons why you reached the paywall. Not every subscription service (e.g. JSTOR, EBSCO, etc.) has every article in it that you need. Sometimes after an article is published there is a grace period before it is made available through the library. Also, you may have searched for the article using GoogleScholar off campus and you were not logged into myLesley. All of these reasons could have led you to not have access to the article you found.

As a student, faculty, or staff member at Lesley University, you should never pay to access an article. Use Ask A-Librarian to learn more about accessing articles when you face a paywall. However, there is one more thing you can do to access an article when you reach a paywall, you can use UnPaywall.

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