

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

LIBRARY SERVICES



Volume 16 Issue 4
Editor: Monika Antonelli

April 2011 Newsletter

POWER CHECK ENERGY METERS AVAILABLE

Just in time for Earth Day, Memorial Library now has three energy meters available to the campus to be checked out for up to 7 days. These Watts up? pro Power Check meters were donated by Xcel Energy through the Greater Mankato Energy Conservation Task Force. The meters are easy to use and work on any standard 120-volt electric appliance. Each kit comes with an Operators Manual which explains how to use the meter and describes the different display modes. After connecting the meter to an electric socket, any standard appliance can be plugged into the meter, which will measure voltage, electricity cost, electric consumption, and more. The Power Check meters, along with other technology tools, can be found in the Educational Resource Center on the lower level of Memorial Library. For questions about checking out the Watts up? pro Power Check meters contact the ERC at 507-389-5944.



Library E-Book Access

In addition to thousands of electronic journals plus state and federal electronic documents, Memorial Library's collection includes hundreds of e-books. Many of the titles are encyclopedias, handbooks, and other volumes traditionally found in print reference collections. Others cover academic subjects just like their print counterparts in the general circulating collection. To find e-books on any given topic, first conduct a standard catalog search from the Library Services home page and then, in the format list on the left side of the results page, click on the "Electronic Book" link to find e-books related to the topic.

All the e-books can be read on desktop or laptop computers and can be accessed by Minnesota State Mankato faculty, staff, and students in Memorial Library or from off-campus locations after the user has logged in to authenticate Minnesota State affiliation. Because these books come from a number of publishers and vendors, including Springer, Sage, Gale, Palgrave, NetLibrary, and EBL, there are some variations in features such as display options. For help in locating e-books, stop by the reference desk, send an online question, or call 507-389-5958.

Most academic publishers produce e-books in PDF format, and this is what the Library has purchased in support of the Minnesota State Mankato curriculum to ensure that everyone has access to the information. In the evolving world of e-readers, there are

a variety of access options. As part of the university's 2011 Technology Fair in February, librarian Lisa Baures created the *E-book Reader Forum*, an online guide for exploring some of the readers currently available. The guide is divided into six sections: Buying Info, Comparisons, Reviews, Product Info, Free ebooks & Apps, and Additional Info. The *E-book Reader Forum* can be found at <http://libguides.mnsu.edu/ebookreaders> and contains a section where people can leave feedback on the usefulness of the guide.

Among the features to consider before purchasing an e-reader are screen size, weight, resolution, internal memory, battery life, wireless capabilities, adjustable font size, and cost. Other considerations are what audio, document, and image formats the e-reader supports. For more information about topics covered in the online guide, contact Lisa Baures, Reference/Instruction Librarian at 507-389-2255 or lisa.baures@mnsu.edu.



The 2011 E-Book Reader Forum hosted by librarian Lisa Baures, featured presentations by professors Susan Burum and Georgia Holmes.

The Government Printing Office Celebrates 150 years!

On the same day that President Lincoln took the oath of office, the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) came into existence. Today, 150 years later, GPO continues to produce government information for Congress, Federal agencies, and the American public. Now GPO has transitioned from solely printing information to providing mainly electronic documents. Documents housed at the



Memorial Library include census information, congressional hearings, and a wide variety of resources from numerous federal agencies. Government documents on many topics can be located by searching the library catalog, and print materials may be checked out for a three-week period.

For more information contact Government Documents Librarian, Evan Rusch at 507-389-2460 or evan.rusch@mnsu.edu.

DATABASE SPOTLIGHT: MANGO LANGUAGES



Memorial Library now provides access to Mango Languages, an online language learning program. Languages offered include French, Italian, German, Russian, Spanish, Norwegian, Farsi, Hebrew, and Tamil to name just a few.

The database gives language learners the option to practice as an anonymous user or to create a profile. Creating a profile allows users to track their progress and time spent learning each language. Mango Basic provides a quick introduction to a language and culture through the acquisition of simple conversational skills. Mango Complete is a more in-depth program that focuses on practical conversations plus components to increase vocabulary and grammar skills. Both versions are designed to develop conversational proficiency, not total fluency.

Users who create a profile will receive an e-mail with an activation link. This link is to be used only once to activate an account. Every subsequent log in should be through Memorial Library's website. After completing these steps, users will be able to access Mango on and off campus. Each Mango lesson is focused on practical, common conversation skills and includes instruction on vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, and culture. Users will be able to track their progress and continue their lesson right where they ended the last session.

Mango also provides customized ESL courses for many languages including: ESL Spanish, ESL Arabic, ESL Vietnamese, ESL Korean, ESL Greek, and ESL Turkish.

Tell Your Minnesota State Mankato Story During National Library Week

This year's theme for National Library Week, April 11-15, is "Create Your Own Story @ Your Library." Library Services plans to celebrate by highlighting the "Tell Your Minnesota State Mankato Story Oral History Project."

This project is being conducted by the University Archives, a unit of Library Services, to document the Minnesota State University, Mankato experience. We are looking for faculty, employees, alumni, and current students to participate in this project.

During National Library Week there will be a display

about the project on the first floor of the library and Archives staff will conduct the interviews. Although there will be a few drop-in time slots, we encourage scheduling a time in advance. Interviews run 15-60 minutes and will be added to the University Archives. If you are interested in scheduling an appointment or have questions, please contact the University Archives. 507-389-1029 or archives@mnsu.edu.

Additional information about the Tell Your Minnesota State Mankato Story Oral History Project can be found online: <http://lib.mnsu.edu/archives/oralh/msustory.html>.



The "What's Cooking?" book display presented a variety of ethnic, vegetarian, popular, and classic cookbooks available for check out from the Memorial Library.

MSU AUTHORS COLLECTION

The MSU Authors Collection highlights the intellectual heritage of the university and the contributions of Minnesota State Mankato faculty, staff, students, and alumni to contemporary scholarship. We collect books, scores, and other scholarly publications authored, co-authored, compiled, edited/co-edited, translated, or illustrated by Minnesota State Mankato faculty, staff, and emeriti. Donated copies of these publications are especially appreciated.

In addition, the Library also hosts the MSU Authors Reception. The next reception will be held in spring 2012 for those who have published (i.e., authored and/or edited) books or scores since March 2010 and up to

March 2012. If you are eligible to participate, please contact the University Archives at any time so we can add you to our list of honorees. 507-389-1029 or archives@mnsu.edu.

Bibliographic information regarding other types of works (articles, scholarly papers, book chapters, etc) is also welcomed by University Archives and will be added to an extensive ongoing bibliography of MSU Authors works.

Additional information about the MSU Authors Collection and previous receptions can be found online: <http://lib.mnsu.edu/archives/authors/intro.html>.



Minnesota State Mankato faculty recognized at the 2010 MSU Authors Reception.



MSU-ML3097, PO Box 8419
Mankato, MN 56002-8419
Phone: 507-389-5952
Fax: 507-389-5155