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05-2013 Newsletter

Minnesota State University, Mankato. Library Services

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It has been said that in Minnesota there are two seasons, winter and construction. Now that winter is behind us, we can get ready for construction projects coming to campus. These include an innovative “all-weather” entrance to Memorial Library. A pedestrian connection will link the Library to Centennial Student Union. Funding for the project is part of President Davenport’s Big Ideas Campaign.

The primary architect and design firm for the project is Leo A. Daly of Minneapolis. Brennan Companies of Mankato has been selected as the primary construction contractor. Work is scheduled to begin in mid-May and will continue through August. The speed of construction will depend upon the weather, of course. Most of the project should be finished by mid-October.

Despite the construction the Library will remain open, all library materials will be available, and the regular summer schedule [http://lib.mnsu.edu/hours/] will be followed throughout the summer.

NOTE: Construction requirements will close the Library’s main entrance on the south side of the building and summer visitors will enter the Library through a temporary entrance on the northwest side of the building. The closure is scheduled for May 13, to be reopened by the beginning of fall semester.

To see the campus construction schedule go to http://www.mnsu.edu/construction/pdf/ProUps3.pdf (the ML-CSU Tunnel is #41).
Initial results from a University of Minnesota study have linked student success, measured by student GPA and retention rates, to library use. One way students are motivated to explore and use library resources is through class projects. During the Professional Development Day session “Collaborating with Librarians for Student Success,” Jenny Turner and Justine Martin discussed how library resources can be integrated into curricula and programs across campus to help students find relevant information with minimal frustration.

Ideas presented include:

- Customized online library guides: These resources may be used in conjunction with class readings and assignments. Librarians have created guides to complement your curriculum at http://libguides.mnsu.edu/guides.

- Reviewing and updating assignments: Library resources are ever-changing. Talk to a librarian about how assignments may be adapted to accommodate this dynamic collection. Let us know what we can do to help our collection and services meet the goals and objectives of your assignments.

- Programming: Watch our website, newsletter, and Facebook page to see what events and discussions we offer that could be integrated into class discussions. Please suggest topics we should consider addressing at future events.

Information from the session - as well as useful links for the resources discussed - are found here: http://libguides.mnsu.edu/collaborating_with_librarians. Together we can help students succeed!

On January 18, 2013, Memorial Library held a private reception to spotlight the naming of the Dr. Mary T. Dooley Map Library. Dr. Dooley, who taught at Minnesota State from 1966 until her retirement in 1990, is professor emerita of geography at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Her generous financial gift to the university's College of Social and Behavioral Sciences established an endowment for geography student scholarships, fieldwork and research, as well as an endowment to support collection development in the map library.

In February, Rod Schmidt ('73), a former student of Dr. Dooley and now a board member of the Minnesota State Mankato Foundation, donated an original 1837 map in honor of the newly named Dr. Mary T. Dooley Map Library. This unique document is titled, “Map Illustrating the Plan of the Defences of the Western & North-Western Frontier, as proposed by Charles Gratiot, in his report of Oct. 31, 1837.”

To find out more about the Dr. Mary T. Dooley Map Library go to http://libguides.mnsu.edu/mapsarea.

PsycTESTS is a research database that provides access to psychological tests, measures, scales, surveys, and other assessments. Each database record provides descriptive summaries of the test and of its development and administration. PsycTESTS is updated monthly. Date coverage is from 1910 to present, with 54% of tests published in the last 15 years.

Over 70% of the database records contain the actual test or test items. Test information is drawn primarily from peer-reviewed articles or books. Tests available in the database are primarily unpublished. They were developed by researchers but are not commercially available. A permissions field alerts users to the tests they can use for research or teaching without formal permission. Researchers may also contact the author and/or the publisher for permissions.

A diverse array of subject areas and types of tests are included in the database. Types of tests include: Developmental Measures; Scales for Beliefs, Relationships, or Expectancies; Aggression, Coping, or Functional Status Questionnaires; Racial and Ethnic Identity Scales; Resilience, Anger Response, or Substance Abuse Inventories; Physical Health Related Assessments; Personality Assessments; Educational Measures; Neuropsychological Assessments; Aptitude and Achievement Measures; Competency Measures; Occupational Measures; Intelligence Tests; and Military Tests.

If you have questions about using this resource, contact the Reference Desk in Memorial Library at 507-389-5958.
TWO QUIET STUDY SPACES ADDED

Memorial Library staff is pleased to announce that two new quiet study areas have recently opened on the first floor. These unique spaces, also part of the Big Ideas campaign, were created in response to student requests for late-night quiet study space. The northwest corner of first floor has been transformed into a space with individual work stations and casual furniture equipped for laptop use. Another quiet space on the north side of first floor is furnished with computer stations.

Individual workstations give students privacy in Quiet Study Room 1.

Students using the computer workstations in Quiet Study Room 2.

Visit the Library’s home page and click on the Facebook icon located on the right side of the screen.

Or go to http://www.facebook.com/memorial.library.mnsu