The Teszler Times

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Dear Wofford Faculty,

Another academic year has begun, and we in the library spent much of the summer preparing for the new year. You will read about several new services and resources in this issue of our newsletter. Many of the additions and changes were made as a direct response to feedback we’ve received from you and your students.

It is not news to any of you that the information environment in which we all work is increasingly complex. It is especially complicated for our students who might not yet be readily familiar with trusted sources and scholars in various fields of study. Thus, one of the greatest challenges that we librarians grapple with daily is how to ensure that the best information resources are the easiest to discover and access by the Wofford community. Generally speaking, we achieve this through three tactics working in concert: 1) educational efforts such as speaking with your classes and during research consultations; 2) description, cataloging and wayfinding efforts that make resources easily discoverable; and 3) robust technological tools such as Wofford OneSearch.

It is the latter — those tools we provide — to which I would like to draw your attention. Some of the tools we use to provide access to information resources and to manage many of our processes are antiquated, or are quickly becoming so. Thanks to an arrangement brokered by PASCAL, our statewide academic library consortium, we are going to be able to implement all new, state-of-the-art systems to manage and carry out all of our “behind the scenes” work as well as a new discovery tool and interface for our library users. It is not an exaggeration to say that this will transform how library staff are able to do their work, and we predict a remarkably enhanced search experience for students, faculty and staff.

We wish we could snap our fingers and instantly have these products in place; however, the reality is that it takes a great deal of time and effort to prepare to migrate to these new systems. You will be hearing from us periodically over the next couple of years as we march toward a May 2020 implementation. By that point, it is our goal that you will be very well informed about the new systems and have clear expectations about the exciting changes ahead.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if there are ways my colleagues and I can help you and your students. I know I speak for the entire library when I say that our collaborations with you are some of the most rewarding work that we are able to do. I wish each of you a pleasant and productive fall semester!

Kevin Reynolds

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

WHAT’S NEW

• Expanded hours — opening earlier weekdays and Sundays.
• New access to dozens of primary source collections.
• Outdoor furnishings and lighting.
• Business/printing center arrangement on the main floor.
• 24/7 chat reference service.
• DVD collection is now openly accessible and browseable.
• Comfortable new books area with prominent “Wofford Writers” (faculty publications) section.

THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH LIBRARIES NETWORK OF RESOURCES

Last spring the library joined the Center for Research Libraries so that you and your students would have access to the millions of resources provided digitally or via interlibrary loan. CRL’s mission is to support advanced research and teaching by collecting “unique and little-known” documents from the humanities, social science and science; by preserving “records of the past and the present for researchers of the future;” and by making connections to critical materials for libraries and researchers. For more information about CRL’s resources, check library pamphlets or ask your librarian.
NEW DATABASES IN PROQUEST

Coming soon — The library will have new primary and archival resources with more than 160 collections for your research needs in the subjects of the arts, history, historical news and the social sciences. Please contact your subject librarian if you would like to hear more about these new resources. There are too many to describe here.

Interested in the Black History or the Civil Rights movements? We will have NAACP papers, federal government papers and historical black newspapers such as the Chicago Defender and the Philadelphia Tribune.

Early Modern History your thing? We have access to Early English Books Online.

New resources in military and diplomatic history include the National Security Archive, with papers on CIA covert operations, the Kissinger transcripts, the Vietnam War and American Indians and the American West. There are many more topics in this collection.

Are you a United States history aficionado? You might be interested in the Thomas A. Edison papers, American Civil War letters and diaries, or immigrant letters, diaries and oral histories. There are also primary source collections on the Labor movement, the Gilded Age and 1960s America.

Historical newspapers: 26 English language historical newspapers, including black and Jewish newspapers and Canadian, Chinese, Indian, Irish and Scottish newspaper archives.

Archives covering global studies, religion, philosophy and women and gender studies. Archival resources on disability studies, food studies and human rights studies.

Women’s movement resources span 300 years and include e-books, pamphlets and periodicals in addition to North American, British and Irish Women’s letters and diaries. Also included: Women’s rights, women at work during World War II and LBGT thought and culture archives.

WOFFORD WRITERS AND NEW BOOKS

The library loves authors, especially when those authors are YOU. To celebrate you and what you write and publish, the library has displayed the citations of your works on the slideshow running on the monitor at the circulation desk. We wanted to make it easier for your colleagues and students to access your work. Wofford Writers are now featured in the first column of our current periodicals section. We’re printing out an image of the cover of the journal in which your work appears, as well as the article itself. If you don’t see your recent article featured, let us know and we will be happy to add it. If you’ve recently published or edited a book, we’d like to feature it as well.

We’ve relocated the New Books. In front of the Wofford Writers section, you can sit on some of our coziest furniture and enjoy the natural light spilling through the large window as you browse and read the works of Wofford Writers and other new additions to the library.

HOW YOUR STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT INFORMATION

Every incoming first-year student is paired with a personal librarian who serves as the student’s guide to the academic library and college-level research. Throughout the student’s first and second years, personal librarians reach out to students via regular emails offering information about library resources, research tips and an easy way for students to ask questions about the library. The personal librarian is part of the team that supports students through the exciting and challenging first years of college.

Students meet their personal librarian during their first month on campus when their librarian teaches a session of their FYI course. In addition to an introduction to the library’s physical space and resources, librarians use this time to help students differentiate between scholarly and popular resources. Armed with the knowledge of the characteristics of scholarly materials, students enter their first semester at Wofford ready to apply this skill across their courses. Let us know if you have ideas on how we can better address the information needs students will have in your subject areas.

MEET THE NEW CIRCULATION COORDINATOR

Please stop and introduce yourself to Kenny Herniman, our new circulation coordinator. A 15-year veteran of libraries, Kenny comes to us from the University of Florida, where he specialized in circulation services, map collections and project management. Kenny graduated from Florida with a bachelor’s degree in political science and is enrolled in Valdosta State University’s graduate program for information science. Kenny will be happy to help you with questions relating to your library account, library policies, course reserves, accessing resources from off campus and anything else you can imagine.

We know you will enjoy working with Kenny, and not solely because he will provide you with expert service at the library. Kenny is also active in dachshund rescue and alpaca handling. He loves to bake bread and play video games, and he and his wife enjoy life as foster parents to humans as well as animals.

NEW AWARD PRESENTED BY PASCAL

PASCAL invites applications for the Professor for Affordable Learning (PAL) Award. Over the past decade, the cost of textbooks has increased at four times the rate of inflation, causing financial hardships and contributing to lowered academic performance for students.

The Professor for Affordable Learning (PAL) award recognizes faculty who have already integrated affordable learning into their classrooms. These affordable course materials could include Open Educational Resources (high-quality teaching materials that are free for people everywhere to use and repurpose), items freely available on the internet or library resources. If you’ve helped your students by adopting affordable course materials, we’d like to recognize and thank you. We invite you to apply for the Professor for Affordable Learning Award.

Apply today at https://pascalsc.libguides.com/scale/faculty/pal. If you would like to learn more about integrating affordable learning materials into your classrooms, please make an appointment with your librarian.