Writing Studio to Seek Certification for Training Program

Beginning in September, writing consultants Nicole Jackson and Mariah Steele will implement a new peer-tutoring program based on requirements set forth by the College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA). As part of this program, tutors will be required to participate in a minimum of 10 hours’ worth of formal training through workshops, conferences with consultants, and special projects. Training topics will include basic tutoring guidelines, techniques for working with ESL/EFL students, active listening and paraphrasing, and more. In addition, tutors will undergo regular evaluations and will be required to log at least 25 hours of actual tutoring. Nicole and Mariah plan to apply for CRLA tutor-program certification next year. Once the program is certified, individual peer tutors may be certified as they complete CRLA requirements. Watch for more updates as the program progresses!

Doing the Library Thing...

LibraryThing is a great new tool to help bibliophiles keep track of books. It is an amazingly simple way to create a list of the books you own in your personal collection, or of the books you have read. All it requires is a username, password, and a love for books. Create a profile for yourself and let the fun begin.

To start an account you will need to add your own titles. LibraryThing searches Amazon.com and other sites for you, so you won’t spend much time typing in the individual details of each book. Once you add a few titles, you can organize them however you like. Rank them. Write your own reviews. Add details about when you read the book.

Then expand to the social networking opportunities. According to the website, LibraryThing currently connects you to over 190,000 users who have cataloged 13 million books in the system. Odds are good that you will find some collections that are remarkably similar to your own. You might find new directions in which your selection can grow.

You can also use LibraryThing to generate suggestions for other books you might enjoy reading. (Even more entertaining is the site’s “UnSuggestor” which gives you amusing recommendations for books you would not like to read.)

If you are interested in trying LibraryThing, visit the site: www.librarything.com. Additional questions can be directed to Tonnie Haas x 4256, or Greg Cotton x 4454.

What’s New in Cole Library?

Student Senate Gives Library Resources

During the 2006-07 academic year, Rebecca Canovan (06) suggested that Student Senate might want to consider donating resources of student interest to Cole Library. This year’s Senate followed up on that suggestion. Student organizations were invited to give to Senate leadership “wish lists” of the resources they wanted the library to own. Their requests were forwarded to the library along with funds to support the purchase of all materials recommended. These resources are now arriving in the library. Our hope is that this program will afford the library the opportunity to better meet the recreational interests of students, since Cole Library is not only their college library but also their public library.
Technology Tips - Blogs

Cornell will soon have blog software on its own server. Please read below to learn more about what blogs can do for you and your classes. If you have questions about using blogs, please contact Annette Beck at x4125.

What is a blog?

A Blog—a shorthand term that means “Web log”—is an online, chronological collection of personal commentary and links. Easy to create and use from anywhere with an Internet connection, blogs are a form of Internet publishing that have become established communications tools. Blogging has evolved from its origins as a medium for the online publication of personal diaries to a respected vehicle for editorials on specific topics. In their latest incarnation, blogs represent an alternative to mainstream media publications. The personal perspectives presented on blogs often lead to discourse between bloggers, and many blog circles generate a strong sense of community.

What are the implications for teaching and learning?

Put into practice with an understanding of their benefits and limitations, blogs are an increasingly accepted instructional technology tool. Blogs can be used for reflection about classes, careers, or current events; they can also capture and disseminate student and faculty-generated content. RSS feeds make blog content accessible through newsreaders, allowing bloggers to increase the sharing of this information among interested individuals. Blogs offer students, faculty, staff, and others a high level of autonomy while creating a new opportunity for interaction with peers. Blogs provide a forum for discussion that goes beyond coursework to include culture, politics, and other areas of personal exploration. Students often learn as much from each other as they do from instructors or textbooks, and blogs offer another mechanism for peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and acquisition.

www.educause.edu/cli/

It’s a Bird! It’s a Crane! It’s the Golden Ratio!

Did you look up the last time you entered the library? Hanging in the 3rd-floor vestibule is a mobile, created by Jim Freeman, that consists of 18 origami cranes. The mobile displays the golden ratio, which is demonstrated below.

\[ \frac{a}{b} = \frac{a + b}{a} \approx 1.618 \]

The golden ratio says that in the mobile, each aspect of the construction exhibits the golden ratio. For more information, check out the poster under the mobile.

Cole Library Interns: Going Places

Four students who have completed internships in the library are graduating in ’07. All are destined for Master’s degrees in Library and Information Science. Kelly Bartolotta (English/Psychology) and Alyssa Naley (Classical Studies) will attend the University of Texas-Austin. Danielle Ziegler (History/Sociology & Anthropology) is enrolled at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Amanda Langdon (Medieval and Early Modern Studies) plans to focus on Special Collections at the University of Iowa beginning in 2008.

“After my internship, I knew I’d be interested in library science. With all the readings I did, I feel like I know what to expect. Without the internship, I feel like I’d be going in blind.” (Danielle Ziegler)

Congratulations to all!

For details of internship experiences, projects, interviews, and a link to a reflective blog, go to Careers in Librarianship on the Cole Library home page.

Federated Searching Coming Soon!

Which database should I search? This question grows more complex each year as the library increases its number of online journal databases. Starting in the fall, we will implement a new search utility that will afford our users the opportunity to do “federated searching.” Users can enter their search terms once and be able to simultaneously search all the databases to which we subscribe, or those databases associated with a specific discipline. The option will still be available to select a specific database (e.g., MLA or ERIC or PSYCInfo). Librarians will be studying the effects of federated searching on outcomes of students’ searches during the coming year. We are interested in examining whether this technology improves the quality of sources cited in student papers, and we welcome collaboration with faculty who would be interested in systematic examination of their students’ information sources in relation to this technology.