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The Dacus Digest Volume 3 Issue 2

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Dacus Library

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From The Outreach Librarian

As outreach librarian, a large part of my job is to communicate to students, faculty and staff the resources and services available to them at Dacus Library. I'll admit, outreach can be a challenging task, as I can't control who pays attention to the information I’m putting out there. I think anyone who does any kind of outreach can relate. I would say one of the biggest challenges is that those you’re reaching out to are often so busy; therefore, reading e-mails, newsletters and social media posts from “the outreach person at the library” isn’t often a big priority. I get it, I’m busy too.

That’s why I like to remind you that you can always reach out to us when questions, concerns, training needs and more arise. Calling the reference desk, sending an e-mail or chat, coming in to talk with a librarian or booking an appointment with one of us when it’s convenient for you, are all options we provide during normal business hours—sometimes a bit beyond. We’re trying to provide more online tutorials, as well, for those of you who haven’t been able to attend training sessions we offer through the TLC.

Some might not know that there’s a reference librarian at Dacus until 9 p.m. most evenings. In addition, we have circulation services until midnight almost every night for any night owls.

So yes, I’ll keep reaching out, but reach out to us as well. We’re here all twelve months of the year.

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Online Catalog Tutorials

Sometimes you don’t realize you need training until it seems too late. The good news is that it’s never too late here at Dacus, but we recognize that attending training sessions often doesn’t fit into your busy schedule.

That’s why we’ve created a couple of online catalog tutorials that are available to view whenever and however often you need.

Two tutorials are accessible from the library’s homepage quick links: there’s a basic searching tutorial, which I recommend viewing first, even if you think you know the basics. Then there’s an advanced searching tutorial, which builds upon the former.

These tutorials are intended to help you navigate the catalog interface, perform various searches and interpret the information retrieved. Accessing print and electronic materials is explained as well.

These will likely be beneficial to students as well, so please share this information with them.

Book A Librarian Promotion

As students are writing papers and working on projects for the end of the semester, we thought it might be timely to promote our Book A Librarian service to them.

On Tuesday, March 28, during common time, a few of us on the Library Outreach Committee headed to the DiGiorgio Center to give out free cookies and Book A Librarian bookmarks. We told students about this free service and showed them how to book an appointment with a librarian to get help with research.

We talked to about 130 students, many of whom were pleased to learn about this service, particularly if they have a paper or project due soon.

We hope you will also promote this service to students and utilize it yourself to book database or online catalog training.
Showcase Your Work In Digital Commons

Digital Commons at Winthrop is an open access institutional repository that allows us to showcase Winthrop scholarship and digital collections (archival and other).

Digital Commons can contain:
- Faculty and Student Scholarship
- Campus Journals and Magazines
- Graduate Theses/Dissertations
- Conference Proceedings
- Data Sets
- Administrative Documents
- Departmental Newsletters
- Archival Collections
- Much More!

I'd encourage you to take a look at the collections that are in our Digital Commons and consider submitting your work or encouraging your students to do so as well.

Once you create a Digital Commons account and have submitted scholarship, you'll be able to get an author statistics indicating how many times your work has been downloaded, what countries and kinds of institutions these downloads are coming from, and how your work was found (Google, Google Scholar, Digital Commons, etc.).

Open access institutional repositories allow anyone with an internet connection to access the materials within it immediately. This means more people in the world are exposed to your work and can apply it/build upon it!

Once you create a Digital Commons account and have submitted scholarship, you’ll be able to get author statistics including how many times your works have been downloaded, what countries and kinds of institutions these downloads are coming from, and how your work was found (Google, Google Scholar, Digital Commons, etc.).

All Digital Commons inquiries can be sent to DeAnn Brame, digital systems and services librarian.

Spotlight on Graduate Theses

From within Digital Commons we have a collection of Winthrop graduate theses. Each graduate student now submits a digital copy of his or her thesis to Digital Commons in addition to a bound copy made and placed in the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections.

The theses can be searched in the online catalog where there’s a link to the copy in Digital Commons. These theses can also be found directly through Digital Commons or through a Google search (all Digital Commons materials are indexed by Google and other search engines) and through WorldCat. That’s potential for a lot more exposure!

One thesis has been downloaded more than 875 times! Since graduating, the author of the thesis, Andre Thompson, has been contacted by a researcher who wants to collaborate with him on future research! You can access Andre’s thesis here along with many others. This is just one example of how Digital Commons can benefit individuals within the Winthrop community!

The Digital Commons repository houses all archived issues of The Dacus Digest. The Dacus Digest comes out three times a year (fall, spring and summer).
Did you know that Dacus Library has a juvenile collection? We do! We have more than 14,000 juvenile books ranging from board books to young adult novels. This collection is used primarily by our education students for various assignments, but anyone in the Winthrop community is welcome to use them.

Besides a small number that are on reserve, most juvenile books circulate for the entire academic year if you’re faculty or staff. This is pretty handy for those of us with children or grandchildren. My two-year-old is loving the books I’ve brought home.

These books are located on the ground floor in the far left corner (about 4 ranges of shelves), if you want to browse. However, I usually recommend doing a catalog search first, because these books aren’t grouped by level (easy readers can be right beside young adult novels) and some of the older classics don’t have pretty book covers. Despite this, there are some real gems.

If you do a search in the catalog, there’s even an audience filter from the online catalog’s advanced search that allows you to narrow down to just juvenile books. This can make finding these books much easier.

If you have any questions, contact Reference at 803/323-4501 or Circulation at 803/323-4502.

To the right: A beautiful new pop-up book in our juvenile collection titled *Trail: paper poetry* by David Pelham.
The Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections has an exhibit right now on the centennial of the American Red Cross in South Carolina.

The exhibit, put together by Anna Lee, has been up since early March and will be taken down after April 14. Check it out while you still can!

These pictures are a small representation of the artifacts, photographs and documents on display.

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