THE CORNER SHELF

News and Alerts

Less than 6 more weeks of classes - Yikes! If you need resources from other libraries to finish those final papers, please remember to allow some time for processing and delivery. Give yourself time and remember not to stress too much!

If you have library fines and missed using Read Away Your Fines, don't despair! Food For Fines is returning in April. Remember that we can only forgive fines on Concordia items. If your fine is a monster, you can submit an appeal form to plead your case. Ask at the Circulation Desk for details.

It's time to spring forward on March 8th so we'll be losing an hour of sleep. It's no fun to show up for class or work an hour late so don't forget to change your clocks!

What's Inside

OPEN SOURCE - WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

What is open source?

Simply, open source provides a free alternative to commercial software. Read a full definition at http://opensource.org/docs/osd. Open source is not "freeware", a copy of proprietary software (i.e. costs $$) provided to a user at no cost. Open source software licenses allow the user free access to the source code and freedom to run, study, modify, copy, improve and release the program to the public, for the betterment of the community. Are you required to modify? Of course not – most of us will just happily use these programs for internet browsing, word processing, image editing, gaming, etc., etc., etc.

Open source is a free, easy way to get your stuff done – why pay when you can do it for nothing? There are also tons of online options, but that's a column for another day. Here's a sampling.

Alternatives to Internet Explorer:

Firefox http://en-us.www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/ is the browser that could, IMHO. Of the thousands of extensions, I install 28 on every computer I use – they block ads, popups & Flash, sync bookmarks, tell me if a website can be trusted, play music, put sticky notes on websites and much, much more. Other open source browsers are **Debian/GNU Linux** http://www.debian.org/, **Ubuntu** http://www.ubuntu.com/ and **OpenSolaris** http://opensolaris.org/os/.

Alternatives to Microsoft Office:

Open Office is the biggie http://www.openoffice.org/. It does pretty much everything Office does, works on all common computer systems, and can read/write files from other software packages. **AbiWord** is a light word processor http://www.abisource.com/. **Lotus Symphony** http://symphony.lotus.com/software/lotus/symphony/home.nsf/home is IBM's free offering.

Alternatives to Photoshop:

Gimpshop http://gimpshop.com/ has the same feel as Photoshop. **Inkscape** http://www.inkscape.org/ is similar to Illustrator or CorelDraw. **Picasa** http://picasa.google.com/ helps you organize, edit and share your photos.

Alternatives to World of Warcraft:

The Battle for Wesnoth http://www.wesnoth.org/ is a fantasy RPG. **Alien Arena** http://icculus.org/alienarena/rpa/ is a first person shooter. Be a rock star at **Rock Free** http://rockfree.acclaim.com/. An extensive list is here: http://osswin.sourceforge.net/games.html.

If you want to investigate more of what open source can do for you, check these two lists: http://www.opensourcewindows.org/ and http://ostatic.com/blog/over-30-must-have-open-source-resources.

Happy computing, everyone!

FREEDOM TO READ WEEK UPDATE

Our first year of campus-wide activities for **Freedom to Read Week** was very successful.

Many students took advantage of **Read Away Your Fines** - we forgave $541 in fines.

Response was good for the **Freedom to Read Student Contest** (guess the authors from information on the bulletin board). Erica Hayes won 1st prize of a t-shirt, magnet and $30 gift certificate for Audrey's Books. Ashlyn Buchholtz won 2nd prize of a mug, magnet and $30 gift certificate for Audrey's Books. Congratulations to the winners!

On Thursday, Jenna & Mryna handed out about 100 boxes of Smarties in Tegler for answers to trivia questions about banned books. Many students watched the documentary *Dixie Chicks: Shut Up and Sing*.

The week was capped off wonderfully with **Toni Samek**'s talk about intellectual freedom. A reception followed in the Library Gallery.

Freedom to Read for everyone!

STAFF PICK
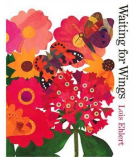
Waiting for Wings QL 544.2 E35 2001 (Curriculum) by Lois Ehlert is a fabulously illustrated children's book about the transformation of the butterfly. Each page is detailed in vibrant color to make you feel like you are in a garden. The pages start out small as the story begins with a butterfly egg, and get larger as it becomes a butterfly. Each smaller page completes the larger picture behind it. The page becomes the full size of the book once the butterflies have emerged.

The story is written as a poem. The rhyme scheme changes when the caterpillars are ready to make their cocoons, when they hatch and lastly when the butterflies fly away to find a place to lay their eggs. The changing pattern of the poem mimics the stages of the butterfly's development. This is a very clever narrative device.

The final pages of the book contain a butterfly identification manual. It also shows the parts of the butterfly, what its caterpillar looks like, the cocoon and what type of leaf each one likes to eat. Included in this wonderful book are how to create a butterfly garden and what flowers they are attracted to. This book explains the difference between moths and butterflies, their lifecycles and how they eat, which makes this book a great teaching tool.

Submitted by Deb Quast
Circulation Services Assistant

Weekly New Books List: http://catalogue.library.ualberta.ca/newbooks/library/index.cfm?Libraryfilter=21

Subscribe to New Books RSS feed: http://www.library.ualberta.ca/rss/newbooks/library/library_Concordia_University_College.xml

COOL WEB STUFF

⌐ Did you go on vacation during Reading Week and now you have loads of photos - what to do? Of course you can post them to Facebook but there are many other fun sites to play with your pics. Create albums at **Jablum** http://jalbum.net/. Add frames, trims and funny effects to your photos at **LoonaPix** http://www.loonapix.com/. Make motivational posters, jigsaw puzzles and more cool stuff from your photos at **Big Huge Labs** http://www.bighugelabs.com/flickr/. Create slideshows and galleries at **imageloop** http://www.imageloop.com/en/index.htm or a collage at **collagr** http://www.collagr.com/. Publish one photo a day to your photo journal at **Blipfoto** http://www.blipfoto.com/ and share it with family and friends. **Flickr** http://flickr.com/ is a great site to organize, share and explore photos. Combine it with **Cooliris** http://cooliris.com/ and you get **qflick** http://www.coolflick.org/, the most absolute coolest way to view your photos. Happy photo editing everyone!

⌐ Here's a couple of sites to satisfy your desire to be *'green'*. **Free Rice** http://www.freerice.com/ is a vocabulary game - each right answer will trigger a donation of 10 grains of rice to the **United Nations World Food Program** http://www.wfp.org/. You can spend a few minutes guessing definitions and feed the hungry at the same time. **Consumer Consequences** http://sustainability.publicradio.org/consumerconsequences/ is a game that illustrates the impact, or footprint, of your lifestyle. Bad news - if everyone lived like me, we'd need 3.5 earths to sustain us!

⌐ Have you ever had to make a flow chart? Or a wireframe or network map? **Lovely Charts** http://lovelycharts.com/ is a free online application to try. Another great tool is this **Online Converter** http://www.peters1.dk/webtools/conversion.php?sprog=en. There are lots of converters out there but this one does much more. Did you know 4 hours is 0.0004563 of a year? The length converter includes Danish feet & inches (who knew?) and lightyears. The volume converts to US and UK measurements, and you can even find out how to say something in Morse Code.

⌐ Need some help to get to the end of term? Try studying with flashcards at **Cramberry** http://cramberry.net/. Check your paper's word count with the **Word Count Tool** http://www.wordcounttool.com/. Get extra instruction from the world's top scholars at **Academic Earth** http://academicearth.org/, **Yale** http://oyc.yale.edu/, or **MIT** http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/web/home/home.htm. Don't forget to take a break though - go over to **Joost** http://www.joost.com/ to watch some music videos, play some games at **Pogo** http://www.pogo.com/home/home.do, or check out **Akiyoshi's illusions** at http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/~akitaoka/index-e.html. Careful though - some of his creations could make you dizzy!

Any feedback or suggestions would be *mutch* [*sic*] appreciated. Contact me at 479-9335 or jan.mutch@concordia.ab.ca.

FEATURED E-RESOURCE

This month's featured e-resource is *Education Research Complete*. It is a nice complement to *ERIC* (*Educational Resource Information Center*), and offers a large and complete collection of full-text education journals relating to all areas of education.

This database provides indexing and abstracts for more than 1,820 journals, as well as full text for more than 900 journals. It covers early childhood to higher education, as well as education specialties such as multilingual education, health education, and testing. *Education Research Complete* also covers curriculum instruction in addition to administration, policy, funding, and related social issues. Finally, this database includes full-text for 71 books and monographs, and full text for numerous education-related conference papers.

You can access it under the subject page "Education" (http://library.concordia.ab.ca/eresources/education/). Check it out today!

Submitted by Renee Morrissey
Information Services Librarian