Quiet Zones Expanded in Dobbs and Manhattan

We heard you loud and clear! Through surveys and suggestion boards, Mercy students have been asking for more quiet space and computers in the libraries. Over the years we've taken a number of steps to address the noise including creating better signage, loaning-out sound-cancelling headphones and adding glass walls at Dobbs. We’ve also incrementally increased the number of workstations by filling several empty areas with study carrels and computers.

But the biggest splash so far occurred this past summer. With grateful assistance from the Provost's office, Facilities and IT, both the Dobbs and Manhattan libraries were outfitted with all new furniture systems and computers. The Dobbs Ferry Library was able to add an additional 26 seats throughout its facility, as well as 14 computers to the Quiet Zone. Eleven new Loaner laptops were also added. In Manhattan, a wall counter was installed and outfitted with four new computers. Faculty will be pleased to know that no books were thrown-out to make room for the new furniture and computers. Impacted books were either relocated or condensed into nearby stacks.

Let’s hear it for Encore!

The Mercy College libraries are proud to bring you the latest and greatest in online library catalog software. It’s called Encore. Designed by Innovative Interfaces, Encore consistently receives top ratings from the International Survey of Library Automation. Based on our experience, we couldn’t agree more. During the spring of 2014, the library began the process of installing Encore and its’ sister product, Sierra. After many hours of hard work and several extremely busy months, Encore and Sierra officially launched on July 15th 2014.

With Encore’s implementation comes a host of new functionality to improve your library experience. You can now use Encore to put holds on books that are currently checked out. You can use Encore to enter and track the progress of your Interlibrary Loan requests (ILL). Searching's a lot easier too. Not only can you type in a search term and receive accurate results, you can also narrow your search results using the “Refine By” feature. Need to find the course reserves for a specific class? You can do that too! Simply type the name of your professor in the search box and, voila, instant course reserve information! Encore brings a whole, new level of sophistication and ease of searching to our catalog.

But wait… there’s MORE!!! During the next few months, we’ll begin Phase 2 of our Encore implementation plan by adding journals and periodicals to the catalog search. Starting next fall, you’ll be able to find all the library’s resources using a single search box, just like Google, only better because you’ll be accessing library-approved resources. So, welcome to Encore. We hope you like it as much as we do.

Students have responded very positively to the improvements, not only filling the new space to its max, but self-checking their noise level. With more students now able to fill the Quiet Zone at Dobbs, the main Learning Commons reading area is less congested and has more seating available for group study and conversation. Thanks everyone, for making the Quiet Zones a resounding success!
Library Partnership Promotes Green Initiatives

Patrons entering the lobby of the Dobbs library may have noticed a bold, new statement printed on the underside of the stairwell declaring that, “Green is the new blue!” This wonderful sign, designed by Mercy Computer Arts and Technology student, Amal Baides, announces the recent partnership between the Mercy Libraries and the Envisaj Club, Mercy’s new student activist club devoted to promoting environmental consciousness and sustainability.

Sharing the same mission for an eco-friendly approach to energy consumption and waste, the Library hopes students will stop and read information about club activities on the big blue bulletin board below the sign. Also on view in front of the board is a unique machine that converts plastic bags and waste into usable oil. Loaned to the library by Club advisor, Professor Tom Culhane, the device is part of an assortment of items that will be on display.

The Global Issues Room Receives a Donation

Special thanks goes to Sheila Gersh, Director of the Center for Global Engagement, for the donation of a computer, credenza, books and flags for the Global Issues Room. Student groups have been holding their weekly meetings in the room, including the Model UN Club, Muslim Students Association and the Caribbean Students Association. Other student clubs are welcome. Other student clubs are welcome to reserve the space when available. To schedule the Global Issues Room, please send an email to Dobbs Ferry Head librarian, Tesse Santoro (tsantoro@mercy.edu).

BRONX LIBRARY CELEBRATES THE GREAT WAR

This fall the Bronx Campus Library marks the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I with a multimedia program that includes an exhibit of photographs and illustrations, film screenings, music, and a featured poetry reading. Students and faculty collaborated with librarians to find and select original poems written during the “war to end all wars”. In addition there were readings of war correspondence from soldiers to their families.

The exhibit focuses on mass media messages during World War I that were delivered through posters, newspapers, magazines, films and music. On display are propaganda posters used for recruitment, to sell liberty war bonds, fund the Red Cross, and support troops. Original copies of American newspapers and magazines that reflect the mood of the country, the homeland war effort, and human interest stories, as well as several copies of a German weekly illustrated magazine, are on display.

Also included in the exhibit are photographs that capture the soldiers in the trenches, in the air and in preparation for war. Of special interest are photographs of the New York 27th Infantry Division and the Harlem Freedom Fighters, one of the few black combat battalions in World War I. The multimedia exhibit runs through December 23rd.