For a lot of people, librarianship is the “Where’s Waldo” of careers. You know it’s there, but it takes some effort to find. When I decided to switch my major from Nursing to English Literature, the number one question I received was, “What are you going to do with a degree in English, teach?” When I said that I had no intention of becoming a teacher and that instead I wanted to be a librarian, the next question went a little like this: “So you are going to school to check out books for people?” This conversation happened to me so frequently that I often claimed I had no idea what I wanted to be just because it was easier than answering a million follow-up questions. I know that librarianship isn’t an underground career path only known by a select few, but at the same time it is a career path that is misunderstood.

As local and state governments attempt to cut back on spending, libraries are finding themselves on the chopping block because officials don’t always see libraries as necessary. Who actually needs librarians? To those not familiar with the profession, it might appear that all librarians do is check out books and monitor noise levels in the library. However, librarianship is so much more. Librarians are the keepers of knowledge; if you have a question, the best place to start is at the library. What about Google though, or better yet Google Scholar? Why leave the comfort of your house or dorm room when all the information you might need is a click away? Here’s why:

1. It can be hard to isolate concise information on the Internet
   Certain subject areas such as medical conditions or financial advice are very well mapped on the web. Quality sites for more marginal subject areas, however, are less easy to find through web searches. One would have to know which site to go to, and Google isn’t necessarily going to serve you exactly what you are looking for.

2. The wisdom of crowds is untrustworthy
   The high visibility of certain viewpoints, analysis, and even facts found online through social networking sites and wikis is engineered to be the result of objective group consensus. Google’s algo-

Last semester, Daniel Stowell, a history scholar from Springfield, Illinois visited McKee Library to scan an original check signed by Lincoln and to survey other related materials. Stowell’s project, The Papers of Abraham Lincoln, seeks to create an exhaustive file of original documents written by or to Abraham Lincoln during his lifetime. These are available for public view at papersofabrahamlincoln.org. McKee Library is now on the project’s list of repositories.
Ask a Librarian, continued from page 1

rhythm also hinges on this collective principle: rather than an in-house “expert” arbitrarily deciding what resource is the most authoritative, let the web decide. Sites with higher link popularity tend to rank higher in the search engines. The algorithm is based on the principle that group consensus reveals a better, more accurate analysis of reality than a single expert ever could. Writer James Surowiecki calls this phenomenon “the wisdom of crowds.”

3. Libraries are stable while the web is transient

In an effort to improve their service and shake off the spammers, search engines are constantly updating their algorithms. Often, however, collateral damage will knock out innocent sites including authoritative resources.

In addition, websites commonly go offline or their addresses change. Other sites that point to these resources (which were once good) could easily and unwittingly house a number of “broken links”. These sites can remain unedited for years.

Libraries, on the other hand, have a well-accounted-for stock of available resources and a standard indexing system that will deliver stable, reliable results consistently.

There are plenty more reasons why librarians are needed, but in terms of technology, I find those three examples to be the most compelling. Librarianship is a fascinating field; a field that can offer employment in areas beyond academics.

As an intern at McKee Library this summer, I learned so much about librarianship and how much hard work the librarians on Southern’s campus put in every day in order to ensure that we have the information we need. I worked with different departments on a weekly basis for a span of ten weeks. During each week I took part in various assignments specific to each department. I worked in Cataloging, Periodicals, Circulation, Interlibrary Loans, Media, Reference, and Management. I learned that even though each department worked individually, in the end their singular efforts came together, allowing the library to function at its full capacity. I walked away from the internship understanding that librarianship is a joint collaboration between different specialties, with education as its end goal.

I encourage all of you to thank our librarians for all the hard work they do. This campus would not be the same without them. I think that Pagan Kennedy of the New York Times said it best: “They [librarians] are the guardians of all there is to know. It doesn’t matter whether they carry on their efforts in analog or digital format. For they are waging the holy battle to resurrect the entire world, over and over again, in its entirety – keeping every last tidbit safe and acid free.”

Online at the Library: by Dan Maxwell

SUMMON THE POWER

Summon is a new Google-like search interface that permits you to search almost all of the library’s electronic and paper holdings at one time. You’ll find Summon on the library’s main web page in the Search section under the All tab. We’ve made this the default option for your convenience.

What makes Summon so revolutionary is that you can now search almost every resource that the library has from a single location. Some of the library’s unique resources are not yet indexed in Summon, but hopefully that will change soon.

If you appreciate the speed at which Google finds what you’re looking for, you’ll be equally impressed with Summon. The response times are typically under a second. This is especially helpful when a paper is due tomorrow, it’s two in the morning, and you’ve not yet started it. That’s when full-text, quality information delivered at the speed of light makes all the difference.

To run a search in Summon, type in your search term(s) in the field provided and hit enter. Summon automatically opens in a second window with your results. It’s that simple!

Right now, Summon is still in BETA. In other words, we are still testing the software, looking for problems and bugs. If you have questions or concerns about how Summon works, please contact us.
On the Shelf: by Clint Anderson

PAPER OR PLASTIC? PART I

Will the Kindle replace the library as we know it?

A Kindle is a thin electronic device used to wirelessly download and read e-books and magazines. It is manufactured and sold by Amazon.com. Since its launch in 2007, two more versions of the Kindle e-reader have been released (Kindle 2 and Kindle DX). Just recently, 3g wireless coverage for the Kindle 2 model has been made available worldwide in over 100 countries.

Amazon announced that later this year it will launch the Kindle Lending Library, a feature that will allow Kindle customers to borrow books from 11,000 libraries across the United States. The Kindle Lending Library, which Amazon is forming in partnership with digital media distributor OverDrive, will work with all Kindles and all Kindle apps, including the Mac and iOS editions. Once this feature launches, customers will be able to borrow Kindle e-books from their local libraries and start reading them instantly. If you check out a Kindle book a second time, or later purchase your own copy from Amazon, you don’t lose any notes and bookmarks you’ve added; they remain linked to your Amazon account.

Amazon’s current e-book lending policies, like those of its competitors, are limited. Only a fraction of Kindle books are lendable, and most publishers dictate that book owners may only lend each of their lendable e-books one time. Free online services like Lendle make it possible to borrow Kindle books from strangers, but such services are sharply limited by those same strict lending rules.

Amazon hasn’t said whether libraries will be restricted to loaning out a single copy of an e-book at a time (as they would be with paper books), though that is part of OverDrive’s current agreement with publishers. Amazon’s announcement also makes no mention of issues like one that arose back in February, when publisher HarperCollins changed its agreement with OverDrive, dictating that its ebooks should expire after 26 checkouts.

The other key detail missing from Amazon’s announcement is a specific date that the Kindle Lending Library system will go online. The company only says that it will be available later this year.

Regardless, Amazon’s embracing of the library model is huge news for the e-book market, and addresses one of the e-reading world’s biggest weaknesses. Voracious readers who borrow more books than they buy haven’t yet embraced the Kindle; that may well change once the Kindle Lending Library becomes available.

Look for part II of Paper or Plastic in the Spring issue of Bookmark!

NEW STAFF

MARCELLA MORALES
Assistant Circulation Manager

Marcella Morales, a Southern alum, has worked as a radio announcer, bookseller, photojournalist, and more recently as a children’s librarian at the Chattanooga Library. In 2009, Morales was temporarily hired at the library to implement Friends of McKee Library and develop the library newsletter. In her free time, she is a dig team member for Southern’s Institute of Archaeology and also loves to read, which works well with her current position! Two of her favorite books are Jane Eyre and EGW’s Education. She has been married for five years to the love of her life, Justo Morales.
ADDITIONS & EDITIONS

McKee Library is always looking for ways to add to your overall library experience!

Civil War Soldiers on Display
The library was given two rare ceramic figurines of civil war soldiers, adding to our expansive collection on Civil War materials. They are now on display at the Abraham Lincoln Library.

New Compact Shelving
Compact shelving was installed in one of our storage areas, creating more room to house our growing book collection.

New Search Engine
Summon, our new search engine, provides a familiar web-searching experience for the full breadth of content in the library’s catalog and databases.

New Twain Books
McKee Library has received the third installment of the Duane and Eunice Bietz Collection of rare and valuable Mark Twain materials. Among other works, this installment includes a copy of Twain’s The 30,000 Bequest, which contains handwritten annotations and corrections made by the author himself.

1ST TWAIN RESEARCHER

We are pleased to announce that Marcus L. Sheffield, professor of English at Southern Adventist University, has become the first researcher of the Duane and Eunice Bietz Collection, which contains a complete set of Mark Twain’s writings, signed copies of his works, and biographical books on his life.

Dr. Sheffield received his Ph.D. with a specialty in American Literature from Michigan State University. He has been an avid reader of Mark Twain since childhood and always includes Twain’s works when he teaches 19th Century American Literature.

Dr. Sheffield has spent some time with the collection since August. His intention is to help the library promote it to researchers and students alike. Reflecting on what he has seen so far, he says, “The set is beautiful. It is full of fine lithographs and gorgeous black and white photographs. Very elegant. The set demonstrates the tremendous work ethic of Twain. His production was consistent and awe inspiring.”

250 NEW BOOKS!

We are excited to announce that the International Society for Science & Religion has awarded McKee Library a collection of 250 books to enhance our holdings in the areas of science and religion. About 150 institutions worldwide were selected to receive this unique inter-disciplinary collection. Details of the items in the collection can be found at: http://www.issrlibrary.org/.

We look forward to receiving this collection and will provide additional details and display information when it arrives. For more information contact Dan Maxwell at 236-2009.