Assignments Using the Library
Joyce Meldrem, Director of the Academic Resource Center

A lot of libraries prepare special web pages to help faculty create meaningful library research assignments. In this article, rather than create a new web page at this time, I’m going to share some of the ideas from a number of web sites that may be found useful.

- Students need to have a clear idea of why they should use the library’s resources for their research, otherwise, they’ll just Google a source or two.
- Assignments that teach research skills can increase the confidence of students and their understanding of the scholarly perspective of their discipline.
- Try actually accomplishing the assignment yourself just to make sure that the library still has the resources you were expecting the students to find.
- Specify the number of web sites, books, periodical articles, etc. that you will accept so that students have an idea of your expectations.
- Consider alternatives to a traditional research paper that gives students the experience of researching, but from a different angle. For example, they could develop annotated bibliographies, they could read an editorial and find facts to support or dispute it, or they could compare information from a book and from a web site.
- If you’re tired of the same old research assignments, take a look at some of the recommended web sites below or do your own Google search - creating research assignments or creating research assignments alternatives

- Remind your students that the librarians are here to help them. We have several ways to get assistance from a librarian including face-to-face, e-mail, instant message, phone, and by appointment. Our contact information is available on the web site at: http://depts.loras.edu/library/ask.html

University of Maryland – Creating Effective Research Assignments: http://www.lib.umd.edu/guides/assignment.html

University of Pennsylvania - Creating Successful Research Skills Assignments http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/faculty/researchassignments.html

Pace University - Creating Effective Research Assignments: Developing Student Information Literacy Skills http://www.pace.edu/page.cfm?doc_id=20602

Chuck Chalberg will bring Chesterton alive, a famous English writer and wit, in an acclaimed one-man show. He will be on campus on Sunday, March 1, 2009 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the Loras College Alumni Campus Center Ballroom.

Chesterton is known for his social commentary, his literary criticism, and his theology and religious ideas. He is also known for his detective fiction about a Catholic priest and amateur detective. In addition, he wrote poetry, newspaper columns, and art criticism. He had a lot to say about almost anything you can imagine.

The library owns over 200 of his works, over half of which are located in the Special Collections Room. Check out the display of Chesterton items on 3rd floor of the ARC near the Special Collections Room. Items will be on display until March 4, 2009.

Some of Chesterton’s quotes include:

- "There are no uninteresting things, only uninterested people."

- "There are two ways to get enough. One is to continue to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less."

- “A room without books is like a body without a soul.”

References:

How do we Compare?
Taking a look at Loras alongside the other private academic libraries in the state
Joyce Meldrem, Director of the Academic Resource Center

Looking at our 2007/2008 statistics, gathered last fall, the table below shows how Loras compared to 30 other institutions:

- Largest Square Footage
- 9th Total Circulation
- 11th Total Acquisitions Expenditures
- 13th Student Enrollment
- 15th Total Staff
- 16th Library Expenditures per Student

Paper Panic!
Joyce Meldrem, Director of the ARC and Helena Hall, Director of the Writing Center

--Are you assigning research papers in your classes?
--Do the students know how to find good sources?
--Do they have questions about writing?

The Librarians and the Writing Center Director are collaborating to provide research and writing assistance for your students. We will provide 4 workshops where we work one-on-one with your students.

As appropriate, please recommend in your classes that your students come to one of the workshops!

We’ll meet with the students in ARC 202 on:
- Monday, March 23  3:00-4:00
- Tuesday, March 24  3:00-4:00
- Monday, March 30  3:00-4:00
- Tuesday, March 31  3:00-4:00

We will also post flyers and announce these workshops on the portal.

New Database
Joyce Meldrem, Director of the Academic Resource Center

access NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE
Last fall, the library purchased a new historical newspaper archive. Access Newspaper Archive “contains tens of millions of searchable newspaper pages, dating as far back as the 1700s.” This database is available from the library’s home page under “Resource Tools”; Find Articles; Access Newspaper Archive. Currently, this is only available from on-campus.
Buildings Have History

Michael Gibson,
Director Center for Dubuque History/Loras Archives

In walking around the Loras College campus do you ever wonder why certain buildings are named the way they are or how old the building might be? You probably know that the Athletic and Wellness Center (AWC) is the newest building and that the Academic Resource Center (ARC) is also fairly new. But do you know what the oldest building on campus is? You might think it is Hoffmann Hall or even Keane Hall. But the correct answer is Hennessy Hall which was built in 1902. The only reason it is older than the original Old St. Joseph’s Hall (now Hoffmann Hall) is because the original section of that building was demolished and then re-built. Of course, if you want to get very technical about it, in 1902 the college did not own the building now known as Hennessy Hall. It was originally built as a home for wayward girls operated by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd until the college purchased it in 1916.

The Upper Gymnasium (later known as the Fieldhouse) was built in 1924, but it was not the first gymnasium. The old Bahl Hall (1912) located where the parking lot near Binz Hall and directly east of Hoffmann Hall along Henion Street served as the main gymnasium both for the college and the academy before the Fieldhouse was constructed and even operated on a limited basis until the 1970s and was demolished in 1982.

Many campus buildings originally had different names than they do today: Loras Hall (Keane Hall); North Hall (Rohlman Hall); Old St. Joseph (Hoffmann Hall); and St. Francis Hall (Collan Center)—now the old portion of the Alumni Campus Center. Do you often find it confusing that there is a Hoffmann Auditorium in the St. Joseph Hall of Science and a St. Joseph Auditorium in Hoffmann Hall?

How do you think Loras College ended up with a swimming pool named San Jose? Harry Wahlert, one of the largest benefactors to the college, donated the money to build a pool complete with an adjacent weight room. In 1967, the new pool along Cox Street was dedicated. Since Mr. Wahlert’s favorite saint was St. Joseph but because there were so many other buildings on campus with that name it was decided to make it a variant—San Jose was selected.

When the Heitkamp Planetarium (named after physics Professor George W. Heitkamp) was completed in 1966, the Goto projector, ordered from Japan, made its way safely to America by ship, thence by rail to Milwaukee and was to be trucked to Dubuque, but it never arrived. Later it was recovered in Des Moines where it had mistakenly been shipped—the manufacturer had never heard of Dubuque, Iowa and thought it had to be Des Moines.

Are you aware that Christ the King Chapel (1946) was dedicated to the memory of U.S. Navy Chaplain Rev. Aloysius H. Schmitt’32, who was killed while trying to save the lives of his comrades aboard the USS Oklahoma when Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941 and was the first chaplain killed in World War II? There are approximately 25 major buildings on the Loras College campus. Some are old and some are new. Some are gone and new ones await construction. Each building has a story to tell. Each has a history. Each has played a role in the heritage of Iowa’s oldest college. If you are interested in learning more please visit the Loras College Archives located on the first level of the Academic Resource Library. Contact Mike Gibson, Archivist at 588-7163 or michael.gibson@loras.edu.