

PENROSE PRIMER

The newsletter of Penrose Library



A Note from the Director

As the mid-point of fall semester draws near and more of you pull all-nighters in Penrose and elsewhere on campus, please remember that "Ask Us!" is there for you! Accessible from the home page 24/7, you can pose that urgent research question to a librarian online. Penrose librarians are available to chat on "Ask Us!" during regular reference hours (see page 2), but your after-hours queries will be answered, too, by librarians who belong to a reference cooperative. So, if you miss your window of opportunity to speak with a librarian at the Penrose Reference Desk, "Ask Us!" may be the resource for you. This semester will serve as a pilot for this exciting program, and we look forward to your comments, suggestions, and reactions to this service. We hope that you will appreciate this additional format for getting your research questions answered.

Dalia Corkrum
College Librarian
corkrum@whitman.edu

Library Launches LibGuides

Penrose librarians Laura Krier, Lee Keene, Julie Carter, and Lynne Vieth have been busy this fall creating some 30 research guides tailored to individual classes. Their new organizational and instructional tool is called LibGuides (sample page below). This program allows librarians to present information about searching for print and e-resources in a student-friendly format accessible through CLEO.

Librarians Chat with Thomas Mullen

Thomas Mullen, author of the 2009 summer reading selection for first-year Whitman students, spoke with Penrose librarians and staff on Monday morning, Sept. 21st, prior to his evening presentation in Cordiner Hall to the Whitman and Walla Walla communities. Named best debut novel of 2006 by USA Today, *The Last Town on Earth* was also designated a Chicago Tribune Best Book of the Year and awarded the James Fenimore Cooper Prize for excellence in historical fiction. Indeed,

Mullen's conversation with members of his audience centered on the art of writing historical fiction, including the research process Mullen employs to give his plots and characters historical veracity. He also addressed questions concerning today's reading public and the changing nature of the publishing industry, especially the reviewing of new books. Mullen's second novel, *The Many Deaths of the Firefly Brothers*, will be published in early 2010 by Random House.

Technology Updates

The new Penrose catalog interface (<http://library.whitman.edu>) makes searching for books and other library materials easier: you can start searching immediately, without having to select a search type, and keyword searching has been improved to display more relevant results. Please tell us what works well for you and what doesn't! Feel free to send suggestions to krierle@whitman.edu or talk to your friendly reference librarians.

Penrose also upgraded its eReserves system, Dokutek ERes (<http://ereserves.whitman.edu>), on Monday, October 12. The upgrade not only includes an improved user interface, but it also streamlines file uploads and supports streaming media. If you have questions or want to use eReserves for your class, please contact carterja@whitman.edu.

Locating materials on reserve from the Penrose home page has just become easier! One "Course Reserves" link now accesses both print and electronic materials. You can still search the Penrose catalog by course number or professor's last name.

Courtesy of WCTS, a new Xerox Phaser 5550 printer sits alongside the Circulation Desk. This heavy-duty printer is designed to accommodate PDFs and can be accessed by selecting "Lib_2nd_PDF" from the print menus on Penrose Library computers.

Collection Updates

Penrose recently subscribed to Elsevier's Science Direct College Edition. The three journal packages associated with this resource provide full text access to more than 1000 journals from 1995 to the present.

Penrose has also acquired over 800 new e-books from Duke University Press, available to read online using the ebrary reader. You can browse the titles in this collection by searching the catalog for "e-Duke."

Reference @ Penrose

Busy with papers, reports and group projects? Need to find books, articles, or websites? With about two months left in the semester, the Reference Department would like to remind you that we can help! In addition to "Ask Us!" accessible on our home page, you can email your research questions to reference@whitman.edu or call (509) 527-5918. We also offer assistance in person at the Reference Desk or by individual appointment.

Reference Desk hours are:

Monday–Thursday: 1 pm–5 pm & 7 pm–10 pm

Friday: 1 pm–5 pm

Sunday: 2 pm–5 pm & 7 pm–10 pm

Phone: (509) 527-5918

Email: reference@whitman.edu

Welcome, Laura Krier!

Laura Krier, the new Penrose Systems/Metadata Librarian, comes to us from San Diego by way of Simmons College in Boston, where she received her Masters of Science in Library & Information Science. She is responsible for implementing most of the technological improvements in library services described on this page. Laura also created the first Libguide on how to find books in Penrose (accessible from the home page):

<http://libguides.whitman.edu/findbooks/>

Welcome to Penrose Library, Laura, and we thank you for the contributions you have already made!

*Questions? Comments? Suggestions for upcoming issues?
Contact Lynne Vieth at viethls@whitman.edu*