Lending in the Land of Libraries

Once upon a time, a long, long time ago in the Land of Libraries, there was a terrible burden placed on all patrons searching for information and entertainment. Collections near and far could not be shared, and each library was an island, with only the material it held within its four walls. Many brave men and women set out on quests, but few were able to navigate the strange and arduous paths to borrowing. Infinite knowledge and unlimited access for all was an insurmountable endeavor, and wish denied.

Until one day, from dreams and strange codes, the Internet was created. This powerful, wonderful web magic created pathways in the air to connect all people to all lands; and the librarians in all of Library Land saw the good and useful opportunities this presented. From small towns, big cities, states and nations, librarians came together to create agreements allowing all people to share in the abundance of all collections. To the delight of all, the world became our library, and everyone with a library card became as smart, engaged and literate as they desired.

Interlibrary Loan at STCC
Between July 1st, 2015 and June 30th, 2016, the STCC Library borrowed more than 1,200 items from libraries in the U.S. and abroad, for our patrons, serving minds and saving more than $30,000. During the same period, we have loaned over 2,800 items to libraries near and far. – Kim Noel

Bring Back Your A, B or C!

Each semester, we see hundreds of students in the library working on homework, research papers, and other projects. This fall we want you to come back to the library and brag about how well you did! That’s why we’ve started Bring Back your A, B, or C! Stop by the library reference desk during the semester and present us with an assignment for which you received an A, B, or C grade. “A” assignments receive three entries, “B” grades get two entries, and a “C” will get one entry. At the end of the semester, we will draw the names of three lucky winners who will receive a $20 gift card to use at the STCC Bookstore. Limit to one assignment per student.
What's New at STCC Library?

Notice any changes as you step into the STCC Library this fall? It's true there are fewer books on the shelf, and some of the people you've come to know have departed. There are also familiar faces in new roles, and new resources available to help you in your studies and your life. What hasn't changed? The library staff's commitment to supporting you as you navigate changes and work toward your goals!

Fond Farewells (and a Hello!)

Following the retirement of Library Dean Barbara Wurtzel, Eric Warren has stepped in as Interim Dean. Eric has worked at STCC since 1993, and regular library users may recognize Eric as their Research 100 instructor, or from his time at the reference desk. Beyond the library, Eric has also been active in the STCC All Unit Congress, serving as chair of the staff committee the past two years. "I am looking forward to building on the work of our previous Dean, Barbara Wurtzel, making a smooth transition to a new library in Building 19 and increasing the library's role in Open Access and Open Educational Resources," Eric says.

Additionally, we said goodbye over the summer to two longtime members of the library reference staff. Michael Smith has been a STCC Library mainstay, having worked several years in circulation before returning to work nights and weekends on the reference desk. Michael now works full-time in the library at Elms College in Chicopee. "I'm thankful for my friends and colleagues at STCC and I'll certainly miss them very much," Michael says. "Still, if history does truly repeat itself, I may be back in another five years." We've also bid adieu to reference librarian Rachel Statham, who moved to Asheville, N.C. last month. Among the many duties Rachel assumed at STCC were advising the library's Student Advisory Board and leading the campus effort to adopt Open Educational Resources in courses, while also teaching Research 100 and helping students at the reference desk. "I will miss working with all the bright and passionate students determined to better themselves and this world," Rachel says. "They have taught me so much, and I feel like I will never be able to thank them enough." - Katie Beth Ryan

Where Are All the Books?!?

Did you travel to the second floor and ask, "Where are all the books?!?" Don't worry! Like most libraries, the STCC Library aims to ensure that the books on our shelves are relevant and useful for students, faculty and staff. Over the summer, the library staff "weed" the collection, and removed those books that were outdated, underused or worn out. This was done in order to make room for new books, make it easier to find the most useful materials, and to create space for library activities like studying, reading and working collaboratively. This will also help ensure the book collection meets our needs, when the library moves into new quarters after the renovation of Building 19. What happens to the "weeded" books? They'll find a new home with the help of Thrift Books, which picks up the discarded books and resells them, and also donates books to charities worldwide. – Ruth Alcâbes
New Year, New Website!

This summer, the STCC Library website (http://www.stcc.edu/library) was redesigned to make our online resources more easily accessible and user-friendly. Visitors no longer have to choose an “Off Campus” option for databases—instead, there is one link that will ask visitors to verify their student status if necessary. But what visitors might most readily notice is the change in the look of the site. Students can now find whatever resources they are looking for—book, database, journal, etc.—in the tabbed box found directly in the center of the page. This puts the new Discovery search tool, which enables you to search all electronic resources in one go, front and center, without obscuring other tools that help us find more specific types of resources, like the CIVMARS catalog. In the left sidebar, you can find information about the library and its services, along with contact information and a PVTA bus route tool to help you get here. In the right sidebar, you can find Quick Links to special and frequently-used pages to help you find exactly what you’re looking for—FAST. We also incorporated the STCC Library’s Facebook page into the website in the bottom right hand corner. Now whether you “like” us or not, you can stay up-to-date with library-related news! And don’t forget about Research Guides! If you need help starting your research for a particular course or on a particular topic, feel free to browse the guides, located under the discovery search box. There are also How-To and Special Event/Interest guides to help you access tools and services, or give you a little more insight into what’s going on around campus and in the library.

We hope that you find the new site easier to navigate, and are happy to receive feedback at stcclibrary@stcc.edu. Happy surfing! – Rachel Statham

Delve Into New Databases ...

As you delve into your classes this fall, these new database additions to the STCC Library can enhance your learning experience, in and out of the classroom:

**MarketLine** replaces LexisNexis as the primary business database in the library. “It will be better for marketing, accounting, statistics and other business classes,” said Erica Eynouf, reference and information literacy librarian. “It has better, more comprehensive reports on companies, and is very easy to use.”

**Kanopy** joins Films on Demand and MedCom as another streaming video option for the STCC community. Kanopy contains many videos for nursing and allied health students, as well as a rich collection of documentaries and foreign films. “It’s a very user-friendly interface, very much like Netflix,” said Eric Warren, interim library dean. (stcc.kanopystreaming.com) - Katie Beth Ryan
Pulitzer-Winning Author Junot Díaz to Speak at STCC

Reflecting on his literary successes in a 2007 radio interview with Terry Gross, author Junot Díaz, who visits STCC on September 13, said he focuses not on accolades, but connecting with readers through his work. “If you’re serious about this tradition,” he said, “if you’re serious about participating in writing and in reading, you know that what you’re really about is that you’re trying to build a relationship with a reader that you’ll never meet and you’ll never see. And you want that relationship.” Fortunately for the STCC community, their relationship with Díaz won’t end with this year’s common reading selection, Díaz’s short story “Nilda.” Díaz will discuss the story during his visit, which is part of both the 2016-17 Ovations and Diversity speakers series at STCC.

A graduate of Rutgers University and Cornell University’s master of fine arts program, Díaz has been a professor of writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology since 2003. Among the honors he has accumulated during his career are the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award for his novel, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a MacArthur “Genius Grant.” Some of the jobs he has held in his life, in addition to writing, include work as a dishwasher, steelworker, and delivering pool tables.

Born in the Dominican Republic on the last day of 1968, Díaz emigrated to the U.S. at age six and grew up in New Jersey. His father, a stern man who served in the Dominican military, helped foster Díaz’s love of reading. “I was a kid who had difficulty speaking English when I first immigrated. But in my head, when I read a book, I spoke English perfectly. No one could correct my Spanish,” Díaz told Gross. “And I think that I retreated to books as a way... to be, like masterful in a language that was really difficult for me for many years.”

Díaz’s talk will take place in Scibelli Theater on September 13 at 11 a.m. and is free and open to the public. If you’d like a copy of Díaz’s story “Nilda,” contact Philip O’Donoghue (podonoghue@stcc.edu). — Katie Beth Ryan

LibGuides for Work & School Success

Technology skills are essential for today’s college student, but access to the right tools doesn’t have to be difficult, or expensive! Check out our new Tech Tools page for a guide to powerful and FREE tools for writing, presenting, studying and more! (libguides.stcc.edu/techtools)

Looking for a job? The library can help! Check out our Careers page to find helpful information about job hunting, writing a resume, interviews, and even a list of local companies that hire STCC students and grads! (libguides.stcc.edu/careers) - Chelsea Del Nero
How Do You Use the STCC Library?

When you enter the STCC Library, what questions do you have? What do you hope to find? Are we your first stop for printing needs? Are you looking for a quiet study space, a place to collaborate, or to socialize? As part of National Libraries Week in April, Reference Librarian Chelsea Delnero collected data about students’ reasons for using the library, and created the infographic below. As you can see, students have many motivations for coming to the library—sometimes they have more than one reason! - and the library means many things to different people.

![Infographic showing reasons for using the library]

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Read All About It!

The library continually adds new titles to its collection. If you’re in search of new reading, viewing or listening material, look no further than the “New Stuff” corner, located directly across from the Circulation Desk. Here you’ll find leisure reading of all genres, including fiction, graphic novels, non-fiction, travel and cookbooks. Check out our “Staff Picks” section to see what we’ve enjoyed reading. And if there’s a title we don’t have, let us know!

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Visit Wistariahurst, On Us!

Have you ever wanted to visit the Wistariahurst Museum in Holyoke, but couldn’t afford the entrance fee? If yes, the Library has good news for you! This summer, Wistariahurst gifted the Library with a free visitor pass (good for up to two visitors). The pass is available on a first-come, first-serve basis, for a one-week loan, at our Circulation Services desk. On a similar note, all currently enrolled STCC Students receive a discount on admission to the Springfield Museums ($12 instead of $18) with presentation of your RamCard. Springfield residents enter for free!

- Anna Bognolo
ADVICE FOR NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS!

During the 2015-2016 academic year, STCC Library Staff regularly posted questions on a whiteboard at the entrance of the library, and invited students to share their advice, opinions and general thoughts. The following are student responses to the question “Imagine it's your first day @s_t_c_c. What advice would you give yourself?” Read on and find out their tips for STCC success! And look out for the next whiteboard prompt.

“Don’t be a procrastinator.”

“Breathe. Don’t be nervous. Make new friends. Relax!”

“Relax. Don’t be afraid to ask questions. The library is your best friend. A friendly smile goes a long way.”

“Professors will only teach you what they want you to know. True education happens on your time. Institutional discrimination is everywhere, even at college.”

“Take more classes now so you don’t have to take five classes in your last semester!”

“Don’t drop out!”

“Check Blackboard and form a study group.”

“Stay focused. Be organized. And read.”

“Try your hardest, even when it seems that all your work is not adding up or you feel like it’s not worth it. Trust me, at the end, it will all count.”

“Keep an organized homework schedule. Set out at least 2-3 hours every day for homework, and if you have important assignments, set out 6-7.”

“Join a club!”

“Do all your homework. Try not to embarrass yourself. Always smile.”

“Don’t be that person that is always judgmental, a know-it-all, disruptive. Instead, be kind, be open-minded, study, ask questions, be grateful. Most of all, be YOU!”
Fall Semester 2016: Library Hours

Springfield Technical Community College Library
1 Armory Square
Building 27
Springfield, MA 01102

413-755-4549 (Reference)
413-755-4845 (Circulation)

Exceptional Connections, Content and Community.

Monday 7:45 a.m.—7:30 p.m.
Tuesday 7:45 a.m.—7:30 p.m.
Wednesday 7:45 a.m.—7:30 p.m.
Thursday 7:45 a.m.—7:30 p.m.
Friday 7:45 a.m.—4 p.m.
Saturday 8:30 a.m.—2 p.m.
Sunday CLOSED

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