This past September, the STCC Library learned that it was one of sixteen recipients of an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Sparks! Ignition Grant for Libraries. Back in June 2016, the Library and STCC’s Grants Office drafted a proposal for a Chromebook and Wifi Hotspot Loan program, the idea for which grew out of student need for computers and internet connectivity outside of campus in order to complete college assignments. The money received from the IMLS grant has been used to purchase 20 Chromebooks and 20 wifi hotspots. The equipment will be available for loan to students beginning Spring semester 2017. Students may borrow a Chromebook and wifi hotspot or just a Chromebook or wifi hotspot. Students must have a valid RamCard and will be asked to sign a user agreement. The loan period for the equipment will be 14 days. For more information about borrowing Chromebooks and wifi hotspots, stop by the library and speak with a library staff member. To read the full Sparks! Ignition Grant proposal, “STCC To Go” see https://www.imls.gov/grants/awarded/sp-02-16-0004-16

Why use the Library instead of Google?

The following has been adapted from The Sheridan Libraries of The Johns Hopkins University (Originally published in Johns Hopkins Magazine, February 2003.)

TIME: It’s yours and it’s limited; don’t waste it slogging through 10,327 search results when a librarian can often very quickly guide you to the best information resources for your needs.

MONEY: You’re paying lots of it to be in school; librarians spend lots of it on high-quality electronic and print resources not available for free on the Web. We love it when you use them! Get your money’s worth: Check out our collections in person or at our website at www.stcc.edu/library

DISGRACE: Fact: Not everything is available on the Web. Often this has to do with money and/or copyright. While you’re at STCC you’ll need to find scholarly information from reputable sources in your field of study. STCC Librarians are subject specialists and can help you learn to navigate the literature of your field. You’ll avoid the embarrassment of turning in a paper in which you’ve cited inappropriate sources.

SANITY: Information in libraries is organized; information on the Internet is not. Search engines can throw you into page forty-six of some document whose beginning, end, or origin is a mystery.

Don’t get us wrong, we love the Web. But it’s important to understand the differences between information that is freely available on the Web—lots of great stuff, lots of junk, depending on your purposes—and information that libraries license that may be delivered via the web but that isn’t found by any search engine. We can help you determine the best places to look based on the type of information you need. We’re happy to show you around the STCC Library—both online and in person—and help you learn to find what you need efficiently. Visit our website, stop by and say hello—we want to meet you!
STCC Faculty Receive Grant for Open Educational Resources

By Chelsea Delnero
Six STCC faculty have been awarded Go Open Grants to replace their current course materials with open educational resources. Professor Shannon Trueman has been awarded the grant for BIO 141; Professor Ann Simao for MTH 100; Professor Linda Belton for OIT 220; and Professors Eileen Cusick, Renee Tetrault, and Katarzyna Toskin for OIT 110. The conversion of these courses will save students over $72,000 in textbook costs. Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching or learning resources that have been licensed in a way that makes them free to use, share, and adapt by anyone. OER can be textbooks, worksheets, videos, presentations, or even entire courses. OER may be free but they are just as effective as higher-cost learning materials. Courses that offer OER in place of traditional textbooks save students hundreds of dollars in textbook costs. The adoption and development of OER requires a lot of time and preparation. The Go Open Grant will offer support to faculty as they complete their course conversion. The grant is funded by the Massachusetts Community Colleges Guided Pathways to STEM (GPSTEM) program via the U.S. Department of Labor.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about the Go Open Grant or the OER initiative at STCC, contact the Chelsea Delnero in the library (cadelnero@stcc.edu).

Useful Information in Library Research Guides

By Dot Moore
The Library has created Library Research Guides to make it much easier for you to complete your research assignments. Research Guides bring together the best information resources from our library collection, online databases and the web to streamline and simplify your research. We have over 100 guides that cover a wide variety of subjects in all disciplines from humanities and science to current events, as well as course specific guides. There are also How-To guides to help you with the research and writing process, citing your sources and more. Check out our Special Interest guides for further information on library and campus events and special topics such as HiSET/GED Resources and Open Educational Resources. Look under Research Guides on our webpage to view the guides in each category or select a guide from our A to Z list. Faculty can contact a reference librarian to have a specialized guide created for a class or an assignment.

Below are some of the newest guides that STCC Librarians created during the semester break:

Fake News with tips on how to spot fake news and verify misleading or false information on the web. Includes information on what makes a news story fake, how to choose your news and how to fact check like a pro.

Community Resources includes state, local and campus resources to help individuals, families, veterans, seniors and ex-offenders in need of housing, food, medical, legal or mental health assistance.

STCC Library Information

Literacy Assignment Tips is designed for faculty and includes a 2017 booklet on preventing plagiarism along with resources on information literacy and library services for faculty.
New faces and changes in the STCC Library!

By Ruth Alcabes
In our Fall 2016 newsletter, we highlighted a number of staff comings and goings. Since then, we’ve had a few new faces join us in addition to a full-time hire! Read on to learn more about the STCC Library staff!

Dot Moore joined the STCC Library in mid-September 2016, as a part-time Reference and Instruction Librarian working primarily evenings and Saturdays. Dot was previously employed as an Adult Reference and Outreach Librarian at the Wilbraham Public Library. She has a BA in English/Business and an MLS from Florida State University and has worked in academic, corporate and school libraries over the course of her career. She is glad to be back in an academic environment.

Marko Packard is our new Library intern. Marko is completing his MLS degree from the Simmons College School of Library and Information Science, focusing on providing reference services to the public. While from Ohio originally, Marko has lived in New England for much of the last 25 years, and has worked before in public libraries and academic library preservation departments.

Finally, We are pleased to welcome Chelsea Delnero to her new position as Reference, Electronic Resources & Open Electronic Resources Librarian. Chelsea has worked at STCC as a part-time Reference and Instruction Librarian since 2014, and she also has experience at both Holyoke Community College and St. Francis Hospital Library in Hartford. She is a graduate of the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science, and is a member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals. Chelsea will continue to help students at the reference desk and in library instruction sessions, and she will also manage the library’s electronic resources such as our article databases.

Looking ahead to Building 19...

By Eric Warren
You may have noticed some changes on the 2nd floor of the library. There are fewer books and more empty shelves, for example. These changes are directly related to our upcoming move to Building 19, where we’ll share space with many other campus offices. Because so many different services will be offered in Building 19 (Tutoring, Advising, the IT Help Desk, etc), we’re going to have a little bit less space. And because we want to keep as many study spaces as possible for students, we’re going to take fewer books with us instead. One thing to remember: just because we have fewer books in our library doesn’t mean you can’t get whatever book you need. We belong to C/W MARS, a group of more than 140 libraries in central and western Massachusetts. As an STCC student, you have access to those collections, which include both printed books as well as e-books (that can be downloaded onto most devices), through our shared catalog. You can search what is available in C/W MARS on the library’s web site (http://www.stcc.edu/library) or ask a library staff member to help you if you can’t find what you are looking for– we’re ALWAYS happy to help!

Tech Talks Spring 2017

Using Gmail and Google Drive
February 15, 2017, 12:15-1:15
Library Computer Lab

What's the big deal about Fake News?!?  
March 6, 2017, 12:15-1:15  
Library Computer Lab

Citations: Ins and outs  
April 5, 2017, 12:15-1:15  
Library Computer Lab

Saving your Family History!  
May 3, 2017, 12:15-1:15  
Library Computer Lab
Spring Semester 2017: Library Hours

Springfield Technical Community
College Library

1 Armory Square
Building 27
Springfield, MA 01102

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

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.—7:30 p.m.
Saturday 8:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Sunday CLOSED

LIBRARY STAFF

Interim Dean:
Eric Warren
ewarren@stcc.edu
413-755-4555

Librarians:
Ruth Alcabes
Collection Development/Reference Librarian
ralcabes@stcc.edu
413-755-4550

Anna Bognolo
Outreach/Technical Services/Reference Librarian
abognolo@stcc.edu
413-755-4565

Erica Eynouf
Information Literacy/Reference Librarian
eweynouf@stcc.edu
413-755-4064

Chelsea Delnero
Electronic Resources/OER/Reference Librarian
cadelnero@stcc.edu
413-755-5634

Dorothy Moore
Reference Librarian (Part-time)
dwmoore@stcc.edu
413-755-4549

Library Intern:
Marko Packard
mpackard@stcc.edu
413-755-4549

Circulation Services:
Kim Noel
Access Services Manager
knoel@stcc.edu
413-755-4564

Mayre Sullivan (Part-time)
Circulation Assistant
mfsullivan@stcc.edu
413-755-4532

MaryBeth Lizek (Part-time)
Evening Circulation Assistant
mclizek@stcc.edu
413-755-4845

Technical Services:
Dorothy Austin
Technical Services Assistant
daustin@stcc.edu
413-755-4536

Dan Jarvis
Technical Services Assistant (Part-time)
djarvis@stcc.edu
413-755-4531

Library Assistant:
Scott Letendre
2nd Floor Monitor
sletendre@stcc.edu
413-755-4521

http://www.stcc.edu/library/

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