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# The Information Edge - Library Newsletter - Fall 2007 Issue

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*Introducing a New Version of ApolloRN for Lienhard Students*

This fall, a new version of the Pace University Library's Research Tutorial for Nursing Research, ApolloRN, has a new look and some new features. Based on four semesters of feedback from students in NUR 468 and NUR 655 classes, we have made several improvements to the tutorial.

Specific changes include:

- Two new units: one on Evidence Based Practice and one on the Community Assessment assignment. The Evidence Based Practice unit includes additional details about databases and online

resources that focus on EBP materials.

- Splitting the longest unit into two separate units so that the content is more manageable.
- Updating the self test and final quiz questions to reflect healthcare examples.
- New links to short videos on how to search specific databases.
- A Table of Contents.

Over the past four semesters beginning with Summer 2006, a number of students have said that ApolloRN has given them a resource to help with their research projects. They like that

they will be able to refer to ApolloRN whenever they need it and that they can complete the units at their own pace. Although the program is long, now the students are able to go directly to the unit they want to review with the new unit names more prominently displayed. Students frequently suggest that the tutorial should be available to students within their first semesters in the program. This tutorial is available to anyone who is interested. Please see the new version of ApolloRN at <http://tinyurl.com/34hhjp>

**NEW FEATURES OF APOLLORN INCLUDE:**

- ◆ A New Unit on Evidence Based Practice Research
- ◆ A New Unit on the Community Assessment Project
- ◆ Links to Short videos on how to search select nursing databases
- ◆ A Table of Contents

*Birnbaum and Mortola Libraries now on Facebook*

The Pace University libraries have joined the Facebook community.

Access the Birnbaum Library Facebook Page at: <http://pace.facebook.com/profile.php?id=7922871980> (or <http://tinyurl.com/356dpy>) and the Mortola Library Facebook Page at: [http://](http://pace.facebook.com/profile.php?id=6362823243)

<http://tinyurl.com/2uqyl5> .

We hope to use the Facebook pages to keep our "fans" updated on upcoming events, new services and expanding resources in the library.

Be sure to check out the "Pace Library Search" application for quick and easy access to Library resources and

services online. You can add the "Pace Library Search" to your own Facebook Profile if you want a quick direct link.

Features on the library pages will change and evolve over time, so please stop by, let us know what you think and don't hesitate to become a fan of the libraries!

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## *First Year Library Experience Survey Results (PLV campus)*

Each year, the librarians send out a survey to the First Year students through their UNV101 classes. Our objective is to get a snapshot of the incoming class's experience with library and online resources. The results are compared to previous years (our data for some questions goes back to 2000) and we hope to have a better idea of what we need to help them with when they arrive for their first UNV101 library session or their first ENG research session.

Forty-four percent of students responded that they had received Library Instruction before coming to Pace. Ninety-one percent said they visited their High School library at least once a year, but only forty-six percent visited weekly. Sixty-two percent answered that they had used an online library catalog in the past year but only nine percent used it weekly and twenty-five percent used it monthly. Only nineteen percent of the students rated their ability to use a library as excellent or very good. Thirty-three percent rated their ability as only fair or poor.

For the first time since we began using this survey in 2000, a high sixty-four percent responded that they had used a computer index or database. However, of

the fifty-seven students who listed database names, three listed google.com and two listed online encyclopedias. This demonstrates to us that they are not fully aware of the definition of a "database." Of the total respondents, sixty-six percent responded that they used advanced search features when you use databases, which is more than the number of students who responded that they used databases at all.

Fifty-nine percent of the students thought their ability to use the web was excellent or very good. Thirty-five thought they were good and six percent rated themselves fair or poor.

When asked what they do first when starting research, fifty-one percent start their research on the Internet, eighteen percent write out a research question, nine percent write out what they already know on the topic, and seven percent either review the topic in their textbook or do a book search.

They determine the reliability of an Internet source by comparing information (14%), looking for citations or references on the site (13%), looking at the web address for an .edu, .gov or .org (12%), or looking for an author (9%) or the reputation of the source (8%).

These results have helped us to focus on the skills that need refining. For example, we might have a class come in for a library session on how to evaluate resources. We can use their answers to the open ended question about reliability when preparing the session. We might show examples of .edu or .org sites that need further evaluation such as an .edu site written by a student or a .org site that has a hidden bias.

Eighty-six percent of the students said they use social networking sites such as MySpace or Facebook on a regular basis. This is something we are looking into for the future. Many of the librarians have created accounts on these social networking sites as another way to be available for the students that may be more familiar to them than coming into the library and asking a question at the reference desk.

One of our favorite questions is the final one in the survey: What is your favorite book. This year the top five books listed were *Catcher in the Rye*, *The Great Gatsby*, the *Harry Potter* books, *The Lovely Bones*, and *The Outsiders*.

If anyone is interested in further details of this survey or past survey results, please contact Karen DeSantis at [kdesantis@pace.edu](mailto:kdesantis@pace.edu).

“EIGHTY-SIX PERCENT OF THE STUDENTS SAY THEY USE SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES SUCH AS MYSPACE OR FACEBOOK ON A REGULAR BASIS.”

*Library Events (Birnbaum Library)*

In October, the Birnbaum Library welcomed **Debarati Ghosh**, editor and analyst from the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Ms. Ghosh spoke before a class of International Business students, joined by

other interested students and faculty members. She discussed the political and economic climate in India, focusing on current business conditions and future prospects.

A lively and in-depth Q & A discussion followed.

The Economist Intelligence Unit produces the **Country Commerce database**, which provides Pace Library users with a wealth of data relating to operating conditions and business regulations in countries throughout the world.

*Hello My Name is.....*

Tom Snyder  
Part-Time Reference Librarian, Birnbaum Library

It all started in 1961 when I left the army, got my B.A., wife, and kids in Hawaii.

Then it started again in 1967 when I got my library degree, library job, bell rung 3 times by muggers in New York.

It started again in 2004

when I retired from Pace Library, came back to work part-time, gobble those \$1 senior center lunches.

Mom said don't start with me.....

*Pace University Library Hours*

**Birnbaum Library**

Monday to Friday  
8 am to 11 pm  
Saturday  
10 am to 8 pm  
Sunday  
12 pm to 8 pm

**Mortola Library**

Monday to Thursday  
8:30 am to 2 am  
Friday  
8:30 am to 11 pm  
Saturday  
9 am to 6 pm  
Sunday  
10 am to 2 am

**Graduate Center Library**

Monday to Thursday  
10 am to 12 pm  
1 pm to 10 pm  
Friday  
1 pm to 5 pm  
Saturday  
10 am to 5 pm  
Closed Sundays

Exceptions: Holiday, Intersession, Summer Session and Final Exam hours vary and are posted at the library entrance and on the library website at <http://library.pace.edu>.

The Information Edge is published semi-annually by the Pace University Library. Please direct comments, suggestions and submissions to the editors: Janell Carter [jcarter3@pace.edu](mailto:jcarter3@pace.edu) and Karen DeSantis [kdesantis@pace.edu](mailto:kdesantis@pace.edu).