The “Cool” Library
by Lisa Grabowski

I just had a student ask me the policy for reserving study rooms. After I told him he could reserve any of our seven study rooms online through myACC, he asked about whiteboards. I explained that most of the rooms have them and that we have mobile whiteboards that can be rolled into rooms. His response was, “okay, that’s cool.”

Traditionally, the fall issue of our newsletter contains statistics from the previous year. In years past, we have boasted about how our gate count and circulation numbers have increased exponentially. We gleefully expounded on the skyrocketing number of reference questions. You may have even seen us perform a little jig as our InterLibrary Loan (ILL) stats and study room reservations broke previous records.

This year’s annual report, however, shows that the gate count is down for the first time since 2008, the checkout figures for circulating books, reserves and Kindles are all down and the borrowing and lending numbers for ILL are in the red.

Does this mean, as many naysayers surmise, that the library and librarians are obsolete? “Don’t be silly,” replied the librarian with a twinkle in her eye.

Information literacy is more important than ever. Teaching students how to access reliable information from the Internet gives them life-long skills that will benefit them in furthering their education, career and lifestyle.

The ACC Faculty recognized this need and brought their classes to the Library in record numbers last year. The number of information literacy classes jumped 13% with an astounding 180 classes. Because these students came to the Library, listened to a librarian and learned how to access peer-reviewed scholarly journals, subscription database use rose nearly 21%. These same technology savvy students were made aware of our 160,000 ebooks available online and, as a result, usage of this resource saw a 26% increase.

So what do these numbers tell us? They tell us that the ACC Library is more than a warehouse for print books with librarians that walk around shushing people. We are information facilitators with knowledge and access to online resources that supplement the curriculum and enhance learning.

For instance, we are reaching students in their homes with Webex online research help (see article on page 3), online LibGuides (see article on page 4) and with our video tutorials available at http://www.arapahoe.edu/student-resources/library/library-tutorials.

We are reaching beyond the Library walls and are providing research help where students want it – online. By collaborating with faculty, we are teaching our students how to be astute knowledge seekers.

Now that is “cool”!
The ACC Library has seen many staff changes over the past year. At the end of last October, long time employee, Phyllis Iadarola retired. In December part-time Librarian, Ed Sadowski moved on and Ann Priestman became a full-time Reference Librarian. In January of this year, Lisa Grabowski became our Learning Commons Coordinator. For several months, only three full-time Librarians kept the Library open 68.5 hours a week, taught information literacy classes at all 3 campuses and even hosted Library events.

In April, however, the skies cleared, the sun came out and the three of us were thrilled to welcome Nathan Davies and Lindsay Roberts to our team. Though they have different responsibilities, both are full-time Librarians (well, Lindsay is pretty darn close).

Going from a staff of three to five was a dream come true but, alas, it was short lived. In August, our Library Director, Tom Phillips, left for California and then we were four. But you could not ask for four people more committed to student success and providing exemplary library service.

Please feel free to contact any one of us with your questions or comments at librarians@arapahoe.edu, or better yet, stop in and introduce yourself.

Now, without further ado, meet two of your ACC Librarians, Nathan Davies and Lindsay Roberts.
At the beginning of Fall Semester, the Library & Learning Commons was excited to introduce the ACC community to our most recent technological acquisition. The Library now offers the use of a scanning station for free! Our new KIC includes two scanners; one flatbed scanner great for books and bound material and one loose-leaf paper scanner great for stacks of papers. Both of these scanners are attached to our touch-screen monitor workstation. The scanning software allows for color or black/white scans; simultaneous front-back scanning for individual papers; document saving as pdf, searchable pdf, rich text or image; and conversion of scans from text to mp3 audio files that will read the scanned pages. The scans can be emailed to your .edu account or saved to a flash-drive.

We are pleased to announce that the KIC is also ADA compliant with the touch-screen monitor attached to an adjustable swivel arm and adjustable-height desk.

New technology is not cheap. This purchase would not have been possible without financial support from our partners in Disability Services and eLearning.

Please stop by the Library & Learning Commons to check out our new KIC. It is available to anyone during our open hours and we will gladly give a demonstration.

With our new Webex research sessions, students who are off-campus can receive personalized help from ACC Librarians. We are offering the sessions at different times of the day on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays to accommodate student schedules.

Students can join a Webex meeting where they will be able to see the Librarians’ screens and hear them speak over their computer speakers. Students can use the chat feature to ask research questions, get help with citations, or troubleshoot finding articles in our databases. Come try our virtual “office hours”!
LibGuide is library jargon for subject guides that present quick reference tools meant to assist with library and Internet research. Popular among Academic Institutions for the past five years, at Arapahoe Community College we started our subscription a year ago.

LibGuides is a content management tool which allows librarians to organize and present library resources to users in a customizable fashion using Web 2.0 applications. This tool allows us to manage an already unwieldy amount of information. All LibGuides have the same structure which we customized for our content and users hoping to make navigation easy.

Our design tries to follow the research process and covers various subjects taught at Arapahoe Community College. We start with a list of Library of Congress Classification call numbers, followed by search terms, encyclopedia and dictionaries, journals, videos and books available hardcopy at the Library, through our online databases and available from Open Access sources. We then explain primary and secondary sources with pertinent examples, include a CRAAP test for evaluating websites and other resources, and include links to good sites for citation assistance. We end with links to career and job resources, professional and scholarly organizations and ACC courses within the subject specialty.

Currently we have LibGuides for Art History, Biology, Business, Communication, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Economics, Health Wellness Education, Journalism, Mortuary Science, Nursing, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, and United States History. These guides can go beyond subject areas and cover various instruction methods. For example, we also include a LibGuide called “Library Resources for D2L Instructors” which gives step by step instructions for faculty to incorporate many of our database widgets into their course content.

We expect to add more subject specific LibGuides as we have time and would appreciate any feedback you might have for us regarding content or areas you would like to see covered.

Contact:
Ann Priestman or Lindsay Roberts
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Library Book Sale
by Nathan Davies

This last summer the Arapahoe Community College Library and Learning Commons held a 3-day book-sale during which 11,000+ items were up for purchase. From Algebra to Zoology and every subject in between, the Library performed a vast weeding project of its entire collection that spanned several months leading up to the sale.

Once individual sales were completed on the third day, we held a 3-day auction for what remained after the faculty, staff, student body and general public had had a chance to peruse and purchase what would be their next summer reads.

In the end, the library managed to bring in over $2500 in total sales. The Library staff decided to donate 10% of our proceeds, $230, to the ACC Foundation in support of the Classified Assembly Book Scholarship Fund. We were pleased that we were able to support such a worthwhile cause.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Library and giving these great books another home!

New Technology!
by Nathan Davies

The Library's most sought after study room has become even more enticing to patrons. Study Room M2510 underwent a facelift this summer. In addition to being repainted, we mounted a flat-panel TV that can access Apple TV and Netflix.

In addition, the table has been wired to allow your laptops to connect and display on the TV. We can supply patrons with remotes for the TV, Apple TV or an adapter for laptops that do not have HDMI ports.

So bring your ACC ID to the front desk to book the room and check out the devices.

Other technologies we have added in the last year include:
- 2 laptops with Netflix accounts
- 1 new color printer
- KIC Scanning Station

Customers looking over the wares at the Library book sale in July.

TV Monitor in M2510 showing Netflix account.
From The Archives

Can you identify the ACC employees below???