



Library Currents

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October 6 is NetLibrary day! The library has over 500 online books in the catalog but you need to establish a NetLibrary account to view them. This is all free to students, faculty and staff. Stop in the library's classroom (right off the lobby) on Friday, October 6 to receive help in setting up your account. Once your account is set up on campus, you can view books online from any computer (home, office, a friend's house) with web access. The classroom opens at 9:00am and the first 15 people to sign up for a new account will receive a NetLibrary prize!

There will also be an instruction session on how to navigate NetLibrary books at 1:00pm in the classroom. The first 15 people who sign up and attend the session will also receive a NetLibrary prize. To sign up for the 1:00pm session email or call Mary Hickey at mhickey@cc.edu, ext. 3008.

Library staff will be available in the classroom from 9:00am to 4:00pm to help you set up your account. If you can't make it to the library on October 6, you can always check with the Reference Desk for help with NetLibrary.

When you search the library's catalog at <http://library.cc.edu> NetLibrary books appear in your search results like other books only with a link that says "CONNECT to online version."

Here are some examples of NetLibrary books found in our catalog:

- * If you enter a subject search for "gardening dictionaries" one of the items to appear will be a NetLibrary year 2000 edition of "Taylor's Dictionary for Gardners."
- * If your enter a word search for "business writing skills" the first item in the list is a NetLibrary title "Business Writing Skills" published in 1999 by AMACOM.
- * If you enter a title search for "java" you will find at least 5 NetLibrary titles.

Online books are a great resource since they are available 24 hours a day and you can access them from off-campus. The library will continue to add online books to the collection so take advantage of a great resource!

Composition Help is Online. A recent back-to-school article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel called attention to two Web sites of interest to college students. The sites help to sort out questions of grammar and punctuation. They can save both students and their instructors much frustration.

The Online Writing Lab, (owl.english.purdue.edu), is Purdue University's writing site. The "handouts" cover punctuation, parts of speech, research papers, business writing, resumes, and cover letters. The handouts and hot links on Writing Across the Curriculum should be of particular interest to instructors in all disciplines.

The Nuts and Bolts of College Writing (www.nutsandboltsguide.com) is the free, online version of a popular writing guide from Hackett Publishing Company. The topics covered include writing style, structure, evidence, writing mechanics, and thinking. Reading through the Top Ten Mistakes (affect and effect; its and it's, etc.) could eliminate many common errors.

Neither site has the vigor and pith of Strunk & White's The Elements of Style (available at <http://www.bartleby.com/141/>), but either one, kept as a bookmark, would be a handy guide to the use of our language.

Notes from the Classroom. Starting this semester, the Library Instructional Services Classroom has extended its hours. Regular open hours are as follows:

Monday-Thursday:	9am-10pm
Friday:	9am-4pm
Saturday:	Closed
Sunday:	3-10pm

Please note that the Classroom is open based on availability. When Bibliographic Instruction sessions are scheduled, the room is closed to the campus community. These sessions vary from week to week. Check the calendar posted outside of the Classroom door for a current weekly schedule.

The Classroom offers 18 PC's, a laser printer and a quiet atmosphere that is conducive to serious research and writing. All PC's are equipped with Microsoft Office 2000, Internet access and can be used to access both the online Library catalog and online Indexes and Databases available off of the Library's homepage. During open hours, the room is continually staffed with monitors who are there to help answer any questions you may have. Stop by and check it out!

New in the Classroom. This year, in order to access the computers in the Library Classroom, you must use your personal username and password. All generic logins have been eliminated. Stop by the ITS office in the basement of Voorhees to establish a new account or to refresh your memory regarding an existing one.

Writing assistants, in partnership with the campus study center, will be available in the Library this semester (based out of the Library Classroom) on a daily basis. Writing assistants are

trained to help with brainstorming for paper ideas, organizing information, proofreading for grammar/content and citing sources. They are an excellent resource to be utilized in every stage of the writing process.

Regular Writing Assistant (walk-in) hours are as follows (no appt. necessary):

Sunday: 7-9pm
Monday: 11am-Noon & 6-8pm
Tuesday: 11am-Noon & 6-9pm
Wednesday: 6-8pm
Thursday: 11am-Noon & 7-9pm

If a class is in session in the Classroom during the above hours, the Writing Assistant will be located in a group study room on the lower floor of the Library. Go down the front lobby stairs and turn right at the bottom. The study room is the second last door on the right.

From the Civil War Institute. Newspapers are one of the most accessible and fascinating sources for historical research. They are a record of history "as it happened" and can be important primary sources for students. Of particular interest to those interested in the values held by a society at any given time are weekly newspapers. A veritable gold mine of information on families and the events that affected them, olden-day weekly newspapers thrived on local social news.

So that students may have the opportunity to learn more about how the War of the Rebellion influenced daily living in Wisconsin, the Civil War Institute has recently purchased from the Wisconsin State Historical Society microfilm copies of the following Wisconsin newspapers:

Beloit Journal 1860:4:5-1864:6:2
Crawford County Standard Bearer 1864:3:25-6:24
Chippewa Union and Times 1867-1869
Milwaukee Morning Sentinel 1861:5:6-1862:6:26
Prairie du Chien Union 1864:3:18-1865:8:4
Prescott Journal 1861:5-1862:7:9 and 1863:2:25-1864:3:26
Soldier's Record 1868:11:14
Vernon County Censor 1860-1865:8:16
Waukesha Plaindealer 1865
Wisconsin State Journal 1865:8:16
Wisconsin State Register 1861:3:16-1865
Milwaukee Telegraph-Milwaukee Sunday Telegraph 1879-1890
Chippewa Union and Times 1867-1869

From the Viroqua Northwestern Times (which unabashedly calls itself "the Cheapest and Best Paper in the World") for example, one is able to learn that the paper for the year of 1861 could be purchased for 50 cents in cash—advance strictly. Or if one lacked the cash, one could substitute 1 bushel of wheat, 3 ½ bushels of oats, ½ bushel of beans, or ½ cord of dry wood. "Do not say again that you are 'too poor' to take a newspaper," the editor admonishes the reader, "unless you wish your neighbors should recommend you to the Madison Insane Asylum."

On a more serious vein, the following reprint of a letter from Captain Converse appears in the Prescott Journal shortly after the Battle of Gettysburg:

Line-of-Battle, July 2. We have passed through a hard day's fight, and I have to thank the Lord that I am not wounded tho' I had some close calls. The loss in the regiment is heavy; also in my company. I give a list as near as I can come at it. Wounded, Sergt Marugg; Corporals Evans, leg broke, died; Faclus, leg off; Bullard, flesh wound, James Kelly, breast, very bad; J. F. Kelly, buck shot in leg, slight. Privates Anderson, severly, died....Ole Gunderson was reported killed but is only wounded and will recover....The 1st corps bore the brunt of the engagement, and were outnumbered three to one. The 6th Wis. charged on a railroad cut, took one stand of colors and the 2nd Mississippi regiment, which the Col. said numbered 430 men when they entered the flight, we sent 250 to the rear.... Every man of my color guard was shot. The brigade has lost 1,170 men. We are now in a line of battle and expect an attack every moment, but think we can hold them.

July 3—Today Rebs charge our breastworks repeatedly, but were repulsed on every side. We have taken 5,000 prisoners.

July 5—I went over the battlefield to-day; it is an awful sight...I never saw a better line of battle in the war. It was in the shape of a horseshoe, and we could throw troops from one flank to the other...We thrashed them badly. I have 14 men in the company; shall never get over 20 men again.