

## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN:

### Smoothing the Transition from High School to SVSU

This past summer Zahnow Library and Student Technology Center staff had the unique opportunity to play a lead role in Academic Transitions, a pilot program designed to help incoming freshmen make a successful transition from high school to academic life at Saginaw Valley State University.

In planning meetings throughout the summer, we worked in collaboration with several faculty members who also were part of the Academic Transitions team. The two-week program officially began on August 14 with a day-long seminar in the library for approximately 50 new freshmen. All of the students were sent in advance the same book to read, *Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy* by Pietra Rivoli, which served as the focus for the program's assignments and activities.

The students were organized into groups, with each group having its own Faculty Mentor and Library Mentor to guide them during the program. On the morning of the first day, they spent time discussing the book with their mentors, using library resources to find reviews of the book, learning about and creating a profile in VSpace (open source software for creating online portfolios), and more.

In the afternoon, it was "Game On!" as students bonded within their groups during a Library Treasure Hunt. The groups strategized to solve clues and answer questions related to *Travels of a T-Shirt* within set time limits while getting acquainted with various resources found on all four floors of the library.

In the two weeks following that first day of Academic Transitions, the students continued to work together from home to complete an online Game Board on V-Space. There were

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## CARDCAT Enhanced

New features, some reorganization, and a little color enhance CARDCAT, the library's online catalog, to make this resource even more valuable to library users. A cool blue background and clearly labeled search options on the new main search page greet users as they begin their research.

The **'keyword'** search option is the search default, which can be changed using the drop down menu which includes: title, author, author/title, subject, call number and ISN search (standard number) options. In addition, the search can be limited to a specific collection by using the drop down menu to the right of the "Search the entire collection" default. This option was available in the past, but is now conveniently incorporated in the main search page. Some of the specific collections include: Videos and DVDs; Archives; and the RERC collection.

Other new features include:

### ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION

New books added to the collection during the year can be browsed by subject through the "Additions to the collection" link.

### NEW ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ELECTRONIC JOURNALS

A new alphabetical list of electronic journals allows users to locate the electronic journals accessible through the library. The **'Online Journals'** link under the **Find** category on the new CARDCAT homepage provides searching by title, subject or a title/issn/vendor combination.

### CITATION LINKER

With citation information individual articles can be located in the library's databases using the CITATION LINKER if the library subscribes to the journal. For more details, see "FROM CITATION TO ARTICLE" on page 2.

### OFF CAMPUS DATABASE ACCESS

From off campus, users can now access the library's databases using their SVSU login name and password, the same information used to access other university services such as Cardinal Direct and Blackboard/V-Space courses. In the past, the barcode number on the back of the SVSU ID card was needed to access databases when not on campus. Although the barcode is still needed to check out books in the library's collection, it is not needed to access the many online databases available to users from home.

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nine Game Pieces to complete, including online discussion questions and a competition to design a T-shirt that reflected their experience of reading and thinking about the book. The winning design was imprinted on T-shirts and given to the students and mentors at an informal reunion in the library on September 15.

At the reunion, we received the good news that a grant proposal to expand the program over the next three years has been fully-funded through the State of Michigan's King-Chavez-Parks Initiative (4S), with the option to renew for an additional two years. Formally called the College Transitions Digital Portfolio Project, 120 incoming freshmen will take part in the program next summer. In addition to a two week College Transitions Seminar before the start of the fall semester, the grant will make it possible for other project components to continue throughout the academic year, including the development of digital portfolios, curricular and co-curricular learning experiences, and faculty mentoring.

Academic Transitions was a rewarding experience that enabled us to make a significant contribution to a program focused on student success and retention. We look forward to being involved in the College Transitions Digital Portfolio Project over the next three to five years!

-- Linda Farynk  
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## DID YOU KNOW ...

Books in the **Popular Reading Collection** on the third floor of the library can now be checked out for **THREE WEEKS!**

Now you can **check out books on the 2nd floor at the Periodicals Information Desk**. However, please continue to return all checked-out items at the Circulation Desk on the 1st floor.



## NEW DATABASES ADDED TO THE ZAHNOW LIBRARY COLLECTION

**Academic OneFile (Gale)** contains hundreds of peer-reviewed full-text articles from the world's leading journals and reference sources. Coverage includes the physical sciences, technology, medicine, social sciences, the arts, theology, literature and other subjects. In addition, Academic OneFile includes full-text coverage of the New York Times back to 1995. This database was made available through state and federal funding as part of Access Michigan and the Michigan Electronic Library.

**Business Source Premier (EBSCO)** providing full text for more than 8,800 serials, including full text for more than 1,100 peer-reviewed business publications. Business Source Premier covers all disciplines of business, including marketing, management, MIS, accounting, finance and economics.

### FROM CITATION TO ARTICLE

Citation Linker by ExLibrisGroup is a new service at the Zahnow Library. Citation Linker is used to find the full text (if available) when you know the citation of a journal article. You can currently find Citation Linker on CARDCAT's main search page.

Using Citation Linker is simple. Input as much information as possible from your citation in the form and click "Go". A menu of options will open showing what database contains the full-text of the article, as well as options to search CARDCAT (for print or microfilm issues) or ILLiad (to request a copy from another library).

For more information about Citation Linker, contact Beth Johns, Reference and Electronic Resources Librarian at 954-2158, bmjohns@svsu.edu.

### STC OFFERS FREE WORKSHOPS FOR SVSU STUDENTS

Free workshops for SVSU students covering a variety of technology topics and software applications are being held in the new STC mini-lab, Z 253, through fall 2006. Twenty to forty-five minute workshops focus on the basics of CardMail, Cardinal Direct, My.SVSU.edu portal, Turn-it-in software, Blackboard and many other topics. The workshops are informal and do not require advanced registration.

Faculty are asked to encourage students to take advantage of the workshops. To suggest topics and times for future workshops or for more information contact the STC at 964-2299.

### VIDEOS AND DVDS ARE NOW EASIER TO FIND

Thanks to the reclassification and the new media shelving, the SVSU community can now browse the **feature films** in the DVD/Video collection in alphabetical order. Each item has a new call number that allows for the alphabetizing of the titles in three feature films collections. The three collections are:

**Feature Films** -These are English-language films, including musicals; there are also some British and U.S. television programs in this section. In addition, there are also a few foreign films which are dubbed in English. All feature films have the call number PN1997 followed by the film title designation.

**Foreign Films** -These are films produced in a foreign country in a language other than English. There are currently over 30 different foreign languages represented in the collection (from Arabic to Wolof). Currently the foreign films are in alphabetical order by title. Foreign films have the call number PN1995.9.F67 followed by the film title designation.

**Silent Films** -There is a small collection of silent films, which are films made before the late 1920s, before films "learned to talk." These films usually have musical backgrounds and frames showing the dialogue. Silent films have the call number PN1995.75 followed by the film title designation.