Faculty Update on Electronic Course Reserves

Zahnow Library has created a new web page to make it easier for faculty to locate the procedures and forms for placing materials on reserve for their classes and, more importantly, to ensure the university’s compliance with the fair use provisions of the copyright law.

Of particular note is the new chart “Know Your Copy Rights” that makes it easy to determine how to legally place on reserve different types of works in a variety of typical course environments. For example, if you would like to provide access for your online class to a journal article from an electronic database licensed by Zahnow Library, the chart indicates that providing a link to the article, rather than a copy of the article, is permitted by copyright law. When this is the preferred method of access, durable links must be used. To make sure durable links are provided, requests should be submitted to the Circulation Department using the library’s E-Reserves Form.

Other sections of the new Library Reserves web page clearly distinguish between materials that can be placed on reserve without obtaining copyright permission, materials that may require permission from the copyright holder, and requests that typically require copyright permission.

Knowing your copy rights, especially as they relate to electronic materials, can be confusing to sort out on your own. For this reason, faculty are strongly encouraged to consult the new Library Reserves web page at http://librarysubjectguides.svsu.edu/reserves or to use the reserve services provided by the library.

For more information, please contact Thomas Zantow, Head of Access Services, at ext. 4238 or tzantow@svsu.edu.

Department of Theatre Hosts 42nd Annual Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival

The SVSU Department of Theatre will be hosting the 42nd Annual Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival from January 5-9, 2010. Hundreds of students, faculty, and theatre professionals will be in attendance. Seven productions from universities from the Midwest will be produced on campus in the Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts, the Rhea Miller Recital Hall, and the Studio Black Box, as well as in downtown Saginaw at the Temple Theatre. This year the Friday, January 8 and Saturday, January 9 productions at the Temple Theatre will be open to the public, with general admission in the balcony costing $10.00 per person. The specific show titles and the universities presenting them will be announced December 7, 2009.

For more information, please contact Ric Roberts, Associate Professor of Theatre at: rbrobert@svsu.edu.
Blogs or Wikis? How Can You Decide?

How might you use a wiki or a blog in your online or hybrid course? While you have many technology choices for communication and collaboration in VSpace (and elsewhere), your choice should depend more on your overall teaching goal and what you would like your students to get out of the project than the technology at hand. Determine first what your learning objective is for the project and then you can identify which technology tool best matches to that goal.

Blogs

If you want to have a single student reflect on his/her work in a course, the readings, or a project, then a blog might be exactly what you seek. A blog is designed mostly for a single student to write about his/her experiences, ideas, or thoughts about whatever you might be doing in your course at the time. You can use a blog to help a student contemplate on how ideas or readings from one week connect to the next, or how what you are doing in class is connecting to the readings. Blogs are also handy for helping students connect what you are doing on-ground with what you are doing online (in the case of hybrid courses).

You can (and I would highly suggest) that you require other students to comment on each other’s blogs, but blogging is not meant to be a collaborative work, by any means. A blog is more of a journal or reflective medium, where one student is writing for others to read. You can set up a regular, structured process for commenting so that everyone receives comments on their blogs regularly as one of the reasons that students stop writing in blogs is a lack of feedback. I recommend that you also give regular feedback on student blogs, but you can set up a process where students give feedback one week and you give feedback the next so that it is not overwhelming for anyone.

Wiki

A wiki, on the other hand, is used for more collaborative writing by groups. The wiki available in VSpace is meant to be used by large groups of students for projects such as a glossary or a study guide, among other projects. This is the perfect place for students to create their own study guides and for professors to check it for accuracy. Wikis are designed for all students to contribute, and for instructors to be able to see who contributed and when. If there is a need for separation in a wiki (such as groups) then it is possible that an outside application may be necessary. In that case, please contact me and we can determine the best application to suit your needs.

Wikis are designed for students to be able to add their thoughts, ideas, and input with no hierarchy limitations. They can also go in and make edits to other’s contributions at will. So in this case, the need for assigning “feedback” readers for the glossary or study guide would not be necessary, but assigning a due date for everyone to participate would be more appropriate.

Both blogs and wikis have their places in online and hybrid courses and I would highly suggest that you experiment with which makes more sense in your course and for your learning objective. Feel free to contact me (sheri@svsu.edu) or at x2025 to discuss these tools or any of the options you have for creating your online or hybrid course.

Events & Schedules

Seminars, Workshops, etc.

SE & T Fall Colloquium Series Fall 2009
Both presentations will be in P-240
4:30 - 5:20 p.m.

The Zariski Cancellation Problem: History and Progress
Dr. Anthony Crachiola
Department of Mathematical Sciences Tuesday, December 1

Chemosensory signals in stream habitats: implications for ecological interactions
Dr. Arthur Martin
Tuesday, January 26

Faculty and Staff Development Workshop
Using the Vspace Wiki and Blog Tools
Thursday, January 14, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Performing Arts

Concerts
Cardinal Singers Concert
Thursday, December 3, 7:30 p.m.
Recital Hall-No admission charge

Choir Holiday Concert
Noels-A Joyous Holiday Concert
Saturday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.
Recital Hall
Admission: General $8, Students $4

Forever Strings Concert
Tuesday, December 8, 7:30 p.m.
Founders Hall-No admission charge

Jazz Ensemble Concert
Thursday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.
Recital Hall-No admission charge

Rhea Miller Concert Series
Peter Soave, bandonéon and accordion
Saturday, January 16, 7:30 p.m.
Recital Hall-No admission charge

Visual Arts

University Gallery
Student Bachelor Of Fine Arts Exhibition
November 30 through December 12
Artist Reception:
Thursday, December 3, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Soap Box Prints I & II: A Printshow From The American Print Alliance
January 11 through February 8
Reception:
Thursday, January 21, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

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