Phase One Renovations Complete! Library will close during Phase Two Renovations in Summer 2012

The first phase in a two-phase renovation project was completed this January. The finished work includes new computer workstations, group study rooms, carpet and paint on the first floor, and more power outlets to accommodate laptops. The Educational Resource Center moved to the first floor where it is much more visible and useful to students. The project is only halfway over with Phase Two work scheduled for this summer. It will include new lighting, window shades, expansion of the library classroom, and the addition of more study rooms. Unfortunately, the Library will have to close for most of the summer (though all our online resources and interlibrary loan will remain available). The Library will be closed from May 19 - August 19. The University Archives will begin packing collections in April, and will be completely closed May 19 - August 19.
Black History Month

Dr. Nomazengele Mangaliso discusses her journey from apartheid-era South Africa to Western Massachusetts

On February 3, Dr. Nomazengele “Zengie” Mangaliso spoke to a group gathered as part of the Library’s celebration of Black History Month. Dr. Mangaliso described her journey from apartheid-era South Africa to Cornell University, then the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, to her current position as Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Department of Sociology at Westfield State University. Her experience growing up under a system of segregation and institutional racism gives her a perspective that many students might not otherwise be exposed to when learning about race, ethnicity, and social class. This experience also informs her research on processes that create and perpetuate inequality.

Zengie is the author of the book *The South African Mosaic: A Sociological Analysis of Post-Apartheid Conflict*, published by the University of America Press, and many journal articles. Dr. Mangaliso also sat for a portrait holding the book *The Souls of Black Folk* by W. E. B. Du Bois as part of the Library’s Read Poster program to promote reading among students. She chose the book because it is a foundational text in the history of sociology and describes to students what race means in day-to-day life. The event organized by Laura Wilson, Reference and Instruction Librarian with help from Carolyn Schwartz, Head of Library Access Services. Additional support was provided by Waleska Lugo-DeJesús, Director of Multicultural Affairs.

[http://lib.westfield.ma.edu/](http://lib.westfield.ma.edu/)
Imagine a collection of diaries, glass photographic plates, oil paintings, yearbooks, and photographs over a hundred years old. This is the Westfield State University Archives, which documents the rich history of Westfield State University from its founding in the 1830’s to the present. The Archives is located on the 6th floor of the Ely Library stacks, and is slated for renovation this summer. The renovations will include a new, climate-controlled room with compact shelving to further preserve the University’s legacy. The Archives was established in 1975 by Robert T. Brown, a member of the History Department with the support of Raymond G. Patterson, Chair of the History Department. The collections are currently watched over by Karen Canary. She recently showed how the Archives can serve as an important link in the Westfield State community. Karen worked with staff from the Boston Public Library through a federal grant program to have all the University’s existing yearbooks digitized, from 1909 to 2001. When the yearbooks were posted on the Archives’ website in February, Alumni responded enthusiastically. Digitizing materials like the yearbooks is a great way to improve access to content while preserving original artifacts. When asked what she likes most about her work, Karen says “The people, of course! I also love to know that my preservation efforts are providing access to the archival materials for years to come.” The University is lucky to have Karen’s thoughtful stewardship over these important collections.

Teri Shiel, Reference and Instruction Librarian, has been chosen to participate in the Association of College and Research Libraries immersion program for Librarians involved in teaching Information Literacy. The program focuses on developing, integrating, and managing information literacy programs in higher education. It includes work in institutional outcomes assessment, scalability, and the integration of teaching, learning, and technology. It will be held at Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont this July.

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Featured Database: CQ Researcher

CQ Researcher provides in-depth reports on important issues in health, social trends, criminal justice, international affairs, education, the environment, technology, and the economy.

Tips for using CQ Researcher

Do you ever find yourself at a dead end when learning about a new topic? Ever find too much information and can’t sort it out? CQ Researcher provides focused information and gives you leads on where to find more. The bibliographies show you where the authors get their information, and you can follow up on those sources. Each map or graph also lists data sources, often leading to other reports, polling data, and geographic information.

When using CQ Researcher:

1) You can browse by date and subject. The database includes older reports, so check to see that you are using a recent one, or can update the information you find in an older report.

2) Be careful not to plagiarize, even by accident. Always cite the sources of your information.

3) Find CQ Researcher from the “databases” link on the Library home page

Each report provides researchers with an introductory overview; background and chronology on the topic; an assessment of the current situation; tables and maps; pro/con statements from representatives of opposing positions; and bibliographies of key sources.

Public Backs Occupy’s Concerns, Rejects Tactics

Forty-four percent of Americans support the Occupy Wall Street movement while about half agree with the concerns the protests have raised. A similar percentage, however, disapproves of the movement’s tactics, such as staging sit-ins in public places.

*Percentage may not total 100 because of rounding.


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