Library Renovation to Start Over Winter Break!

Long overdue for upgrades, the Library will have new workstations, group study rooms, and more comfortable furniture.

The first phase in a two-phase renovation project is set to move ahead during winter break. Phase One will include new computer workstations, group study rooms, carpet and paint on the first floor, more power outlets to accommodate laptops, and moving some collections to make room for more student study space. The Educational Resource Center will be moved to the first floor where it will be more visible and useful to students. Phase Two will include new lighting, window shades, expansion of the library classroom, and the addition of more study rooms. Much of the design work was based on student input through surveys, meetings, and observing how students use the space.

Steve Allen and Nidhi John of Prellwitz Chilinski Associates worked with library staff and Director Tom Raffensperger, as well as with Curt Robie of Westfield State Facilities to develop a space centered around student research and study needs.

http://lib.westfield.ma.edu/
Welcome to our new Librarians, Laura Wilson and Irene McGarrity!

Laura joined Ely Library in August as a full-time Reference and Instruction Librarian. Laura earned a Master of Science degree in Library and Information Science from Simmons College in Boston, and a Master of Arts in French from Boston College. She has worked in both academic and public libraries and also has archives and museum experience. What motivates Laura is her work with students. "For me, the best aspect of this job is working directly with the students. It is truly rewarding to watch students become excited about information research and discovery." While Laura has a background in the humanities, she is very skilled with instructional technology and will help the Library take more of its instruction online. Many people don’t know that our librarians teach over 270 classes per year. Laura has already taught several classes here at Westfield and works regularly at the reference desk helping students and faculty with their research. Laura will also be working with the Ethnic and Gender Studies, Psychology, Sociology, and World Languages departments to develop collections in those subject areas. We are very lucky to have Laura on board and hope you will stop in to welcome her to Westfield State!

Irene McGarrity joined us this past summer as a part-time librarian, and works primarily at the reference desk, assisting students and faculty with research. Irene comes to us with a Master’s in Library and Information Science from SUNY Albany, and a Master of Arts in English Literature from SUNY New Paltz. She has broad experience in academic libraries and has been an English Instructor. "I love my new job!" says Irene. “The Westfield students are polite and friendly, the Ely staff are amazing, and I am thrilled to be a part of an institution where people can come for a high quality, affordable education."

Students, staff, and faculty can get help by phone, online chat, e-mail, and yes, even in person! To keep up on library hours, events, and updates, you can follow us on Facebook. See our website for more info!

http://lib.westfield.ma.edu/
Instructors and students, both online and in the classroom, are quickly finding Films on Demand to be essential to their work.

Films on Demand is an extensive collection of over 5,600 full length programs and more than 62,000 video segments produced by a wide range of studios, networks, and organizations, including Films for the Humanities & Sciences, Cambridge Educational, BBC, PBS, HBO, Arte France, Deutsche Welle, and more. Faculty can stream videos in their classes or assign students to watch films outside of class time. Because all the films are fully licensed for use by Westfield State students, faculty, and staff, there are no complications around copyright. The segments make it easy to show small portions of longer films, and to come back to them later.

Many titles in Films on Demand support closed captioning using Windows Media Player and Flash Player. Because Films On Demand provides the opportunity to view videos at different bitrates, users can select the option that best fits their bandwidth needs. To try out Films On Demand, go to the Library’s website and click “Databases A-Z”. You’ll find it in this list under “F”. If you are off campus, you will be asked to log in to gain access.

“I’ve begun utilizing Films on Demand in fall 2011 in the classroom. It is rich in all topics. I’ve been able to show footage of John Watson classically conditioning fear in the ‘Little Albert’ experiment, students have been able to visually ‘visit B.F. Skinner’s Basement’, and there are wonderful classic studies in psychology, such as footage of Albert Bandura’s 1960’s observational learning experiment. Understanding schizophrenia, family violence, etc. . . . it is all there. Regardless of your discipline, these films may be watched in entirety or segments, can be directly linked to PLATO or quickly accessed from classroom technology in real time. Thank you for this resource!”

Dr. Robert Hayes, Department of Psychology

Forget your computer? Can’t find an available workstation on campus? Students can check out laptop computers for use in the Library! Just ask at the Circulation Desk.

[Web address for the library's website]

http://lib.westfield.ma.edu/
Books from the original 1858 collection are still on the shelves of the Library, including several inscribed by James Greenough, who would later become the college’s seventh president.

Overdue fines in 1858 were two cents per day for each book overdue.

One of the oldest works in the Library is Some Thoughts Concerning Education by John Locke and a Treatise of Education by John Milton, published in Boston in 1830.

Sherman Adams, the student who started the Library, went on to own two newspapers in Westfield in the 1870’s: the News Letter and the Woronoco Advertiser (which later became the Westfield Advertiser).

The Library was originally named the Sherman Adams Library. It is now named for Joseph Buell Ely, the 52nd Governor of Massachusetts and lifelong resident of Westfield.

Westfield State students have always been actively involved in shaping the institution, from its early days as a normal school to its current status as a university. So it shouldn’t be surprising that in 1858 a group of seven students (three women and four men) got together to form a library. Until then, only textbooks had been available to students and they felt that a well-stocked library was critical to their studies. The Library was started with 200 books, most of them provided by the students themselves, and the rest donated by faculty members and “friends of Education”.

The Library was formed as part of the Normal Lyceum and Library Association, a student debate and library club. The students felt that gaining knowledge of subjects and learning how to speak about those ideas to others were integrated activities essential to their education. “In order that these two ends of study may be gained, the student, in addition to the results of his own thinking, must be able to avail himself of the thoughts of others who have labored before him upon the same subject for the same end. This shows the necessity of having in our Library standard works of Literature, Science, and Art. On account of this necessity, the students of the school commenced during the last term a collection of such standard works as would best aid them in preparation for the work in which they are engaged.” (from the Constitution, Bylaws, and Catalogue of the Normal Lyceum and Library Association of Westfield, 1858).