MLA Style Modifications Announced

According to the Purdue University Online Writing Lab, a.k.a The OWL at Purdue, there are important changes to the Works Cited entries in the new 2009 MLA update.

Effective April 2009, the major differences of note are:

- No more underlining of titles. (Italicize instead.)
- No more URLs.
- No more continuous pagination.
- The publication medium must be added. (For example Print or Web.)
- New abbreviations.

Check out the changes, examples and samples at:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/15

Library Hosts PubMed Orientation

On Wednesday, April 29th the Baxter Library presented a very well attended workshop on how to use PubMed, the National Library of Medicine’s premiere search system for health information.

PubMed is a free resource available at www.pubmed.gov

PubMed is an invaluable and sophisticated database capable of complex search functions and providing researchers with access to millions of citations and free, full-text articles published in biomedical journals dating back to 1948. Very current information is also available.

UCLA librarian Alan Carr led a two hour presentation in the library’s computer lab. Approximately 25 biology students, together with professors, librarians and others were treated to a thorough lesson; a practice session followed.

One of the more user friendly sections of PubMed is the Consumer Health database (see the “Consumer Health” link on the left side of the PubMed homepage) called MedlinePlus. MedlinePlus contains reference, news and other resources (in over 40 languages) of interest to the general public.

E-Reserves Now Available

The Baxter Library has introduced a simple but efficient, password only accessible, Electronic-Reserves system. Professors can now easily provide students with digital access to copyright protected material, or to items requiring a level of security such as practice quizzes and exams.

Rather than come to the library to check out print materials and then photocopy pages, students can go to
www.lahc.edu/library/coursereserves.html
Or follow the path:
www.lahc.edu ➔ Library ➔ E-Reserves

The library will provide scanning services for instructors but a scanner for public use is not available.

To get the password call the Reference Desk at x4478 or email Library Chair Jonathon Lee.

Student Profile: Arlene Ringer
Arlene is a second year student at Harbor College. Her major is Ultrasound Technology. She can be seen in the Baxter Library working on her class assignments. “I come to the library to do homework,” she says. “What’s best about the library is that it’s really quiet, so it’s a good place to do schoolwork.”

Spring 2009
Meet Library Intern Zoe Yun

This spring semester, San Jose University School of Library and Information Science student Zoë Yun worked as an intern in the Baxter Library. She is working on her Masters degree and is just one semester away from graduating. Her bachelor is in Film and Electronic Arts with a minor in Creative Writing, from California State University – Long Beach.

Zoë has spent much of this semester updating the library website, taking out old and/or multiple texts from the shelves, and over all helping to prepare for the scheduled library move in early 2012. Zoë has also been assisting with library workshops.

Previously, she has written as staff writer for The Rockit, L.A.’s only weekly music magazine.

WHAT WE’RE READING IN THE BAXTER LIBRARY

The 2009 Newbury Award-winner, The Graveyard Book is written by Neil Gaiman, famously of Coraline, the Sandman comic series and his adult science fiction books (i.e. Stardust, Anansi Boys, American Gods, Neverwhere, Good Omen co-written with Terry Pratchett, etc). Gaiman’s usual dark prose is lightened up in this books aimed at the adolescent-teenage market. The Graveyard book tells the story of Nobody Owens, a boy who was raise in the Graveyard by ghosts and “the other denizens of the graveyard” when he escaped from a murderer.

A little bit Harry Potter, a little Lemony Snickett, this is overall a great book by a phenomenal writer that tells an interesting story while teaching a point.

Recommended for everyone.

Zoe Yun, Intern

My husband and I watched the cable series The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith and we both loved it. I bought the first three volumes of the series. The stories depict the adventures of detective Mma Ramotswe in solving mysteries brought to her by her clients. They are engaging and reflective of the African spirit. They offer a smart alternative to the fast-paced gory mystery books of today. I enjoy reading them while learning about Botswana, a country that I knew very little about. I plan to buy the remaining volumes of the series and then pass them on to my granddaughters after reading them.

Ibtesam Dessouky, Librarian

While reading my favorite magazine, the Economist, I came across a very moving obituary. The photo accompanying the article was of a young man in a wheelchair (obviously quadriplegic), with his adoring parents, out together in the Irish countryside. Christopher Nolan suffered brain damage at birth and was left paralyzed, spastic and mute. His fictionalized autobiography is the novel entitled Under the Eye of the Clock. The novel tells how Christopher was first able to communicate when, as a teenager, he became able to use a head-mounted pointer and a keyboard. Out of this Irish teen came poetry in the tradition of Yeats and Joyce. He won poetry prizes and attended Trinity college, events beautifully recounted in this Whitbread prize winning book written in 1988. Not being an English major I do not properly know how to describe his rather abstract writing style; Publishers Weekly describes it as “lyrically descriptive” with an abundance of “word coinage and expressive neologisms.” I describe it as poetic, inspirational and inspired. Nolan died this past February at age 43 due to choking. His story is alive and you should read it.

Marian Locascio

I recently went on a religious retreat and was looking for a good book on saints. Bernadette of Lourdes is full of interesting historical and cultural information about Southern France in the 1850’s. It is a well written book that gives biographical information about Bernadette’s family life and goes into great detail about village life in the Pyrenees in the mid 1800’s. The author, Therese Taylor, discusses folklore of this mountainous region and the place women held in village society. Women were quite powerful at that time. The Pyrenees is a tough place to live and survive. The author describes the pride the village people of Lourdes took in their ability to survive and prosper in a difficult geographical and political environment. When reading the book, the visions of Bernadette are secondary to the geographical, legal, political and social analysis the author gives. It is an engrossing and exciting read.

Pat Brough-Cervantes, Periodicals