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Cover created by IU Kokomo student, Nia Cobb
Image titled - Books: Doorways to Different Worlds
Greetings!

If you have been in the IU Kokomo Library recently, you have noticed a rather bare first floor. Please know that we are still open and we are clearing that space in preparation for the exciting renovation work that will start later this summer. All of the first floor books and media have moved upstairs, temporarily, until the renovation is complete at the end of this year. If you need assistance finding anything, please do not hesitate to ask at the Circulation/Ask a Librarian desk.

We will be here all summer long in the Library to assist with your summer class assignments and preparations for the fall semester. Drop by this summer to do some research, check out a bestseller or DVD to relax with at home, or hang out at one of our game or puzzle tables.

Speaking of relaxing with a book... I really enjoyed the book reviews from our students on page 3 of the newsletter. You can write your own review and enter to win a Barnes & Noble gift card by sharing your BFF! The details are right here.

I always find something that grabs my attention in the bestsellers collection or the stacks on the 2nd floor and I am reading, or planning to read, several books this summer. You can see some of my reading “list” below (I have a few more titles on my Nook).

As always, a big thank you goes out to the Check It Out! managing editor, Cynthia Lipken, and to student editors, Martha Young, Emily Hoover and Jason Benzinger. Jason graduated in May, so this is his last issue and we will miss his contributions. Congratulations, Jason, on a job well done and thank you VERY much for staying involved and seeing us through this issue!

Have a great summer,

Polly Boruff-Jones
Research to align library’s collection with IU Kokomo curriculum

Angie Thorpe and Ria Lukes worked on a research study titled, “Using Course Syllabi to Develop Collections and Assess Library Service Integration.” The results of this research will also be shared this June at the NASIG national conference.

Q: What was the main focus of the research project? (such as the purpose of the research)
Angie and I are interested in strategically building the library’s collection so that it aligns with the IU Kokomo curriculum. Our research question for this project was: To what extent do library resources support the curriculum and meet students’ disciplinary needs? To answer this question, we analyzed course syllabi from calendar year 2015 and determined whether our library provides access to listed required and supplementary course materials.

Q: What benefits do you see for the IU Kokomo Library pertaining to the research?
Angie: We have already used the results from our analysis to identify resources, such as course-adopted books, to add to our collection. The key benefit of this study, then, is that Ria and I are able to make more informed decisions about the materials we select for the library’s collection. For instance, we learned that many professors and instructors are using non-text materials in their courses, and we intend to speak with some of these individuals to learn more about how the library can support these alternative and developing formats.

Q: What results have you found from this research? Or, if data non-complete, what do you hope to find from the research?
Angie: Ria and I reviewed a total of 477 syllabi, and we found a variety of resource types— including books, legal cases, periodicals, media (e.g. movies, streaming videos), and websites—represented within these syllabi. Many of the books we identified on syllabi are not available from the library, but this is because they tend to be textbooks, which we do not normally purchase, per our Collection Development Policy. Textbooks tend to become outdated more quickly than other books, and it would likely be cost-prohibitive for the library to purchase enough copies of a textbook for an entire class. With that said, we are looking at additional purchase models to meet students’ needs for books. One of the options we’re exploring is purchasing e-books with multi-user licenses, which would allow many students to use an e-book at the same time. Among our other results are usage statistics for resources listed on syllabi and ways in which the library is integrated into syllabi.

Q: Why was this study conducted?
Angie: Libraries today comprise much more than books and journals. Different resource formats, as well as changes in teaching pedagogy, tell us that our past practices for developing collections are no longer sufficient. We need to research and implement better strategies to learn what is being taught on our campus, how it is being taught, and what disciplines our students are researching. Our research study sought to achieve those three goals. Ultimately, we see this project leading to more productive conversations with faculty regarding future library resource acquisitions.

Check Out Our 2016 Graduate

Jason Benzinger received his Bachelor of English Literature with a minor in writing. Attending IU Kokomo for five years, his goal is to obtain a position outside of Indiana and see what the world has to offer. His ultimate goal is to become a published fantasy fiction author and take on a writing career. Jason’s favorite class was “a tie between Creative Writing and Writing Creative Nonfiction because they challenge any writer to step out of his/her comfort zone and pursue a story that interests them.” He encourages any student to step outside of their comfort zone and try new things because, “If you don’t try, you’ll never know how you truly feel about something.”
Look At These Amazing Reviews!

Name: Brenton Long  Major: Nursing  Reading: *Dude You’re A Fag* by C.J Pascoe
Location: E-book

"Reading assignments, they are the worst! Boring and mundane material that probably has nothing to do with a student’s day to day life. That is how I would have previously described reading assignments. However, my perception of boring reading assignments has changed after encountering a book I had to read for my sociology class. The reading assignment was a book written by C.J. Pascoe and is titled *Dude You’re A Fag*. The title alone seemed harsh, but relatable as we all know of someone who has been harassed based on their level of masculinity. I mention masculinity because my perception of the word did not hold much value until I picked up the book and began to read. I found that masculinity is the primary source of the fag discourse discussed throughout the book’s entirety. Many high schools have some sort of hierarchy among their students. Knowing this should not be a shock to anyone, because we have all dealt with these social differences throughout our own academic lives. The hierarchy that is formed amongst many high school students is one based off of masculinity. The popular guy and the rich guy have nothing if they do not possess masculine traits deemed suitable by their peers. Many high school boys would rather be broke than have to deal with the emotional strain associated with not being masculin enough to fill the status quo. Masculinity is not always in relation to men; young women also have unspoken rules based on masculinity. Masculinity is probably the most common attack method for women who seek to defame a man. There is this underlying fear that if a young man doesn’t fit the standard of masculinity he is then deemed gay, or less of a man. These homophobic fears have fueled ignorant behavior in our country for years. Even though it is the 21st century, we are still milestones away from curing such a pandemic that has now migrated down the ladder and found its way into our schools."

Name: Emily Hoover  Major: Sociology  Reading: *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto* by Mitch Albom
Location: Bestseller PS3601.L335 M34 2015

"*The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto* is a story of love, tragedy, and the power of music imaginatively woven together by author Mitch Albom. Told from the perspective of Music itself, the narration moves seamlessly between events of the past and present day, where the funeral of Music’s most beloved disciple, Frankie Presto, is taking place. Frankie Presto’s first moments of life set the melody of his future endeavors in both his public and personal life. He is no stranger to tragedy and life is not kind to him as a child in his war-stricken hometown of Villareal, Spain. Regardless of his circumstances, Frankie has one constant, his love for music. As Frankie grows older, his talent, admiration, and passion for music continues to develop. As a young adult, he finds himself in America with nothing more to his name than a guitar, six magic strings, and overwhelming talent. Throughout the years, Frankie interacts with musical legends such as Elvis Presley, Duke Ellington, and Hank Williams as he himself becomes a musical icon considered to be the greatest guitar player that has ever lived. Frankie endures much heartbreak throughout those years, ultimately forcing him to leave the spotlight at the height of his career. He leaves the music industry behind, but music, as well as tragedy, never leaves him. A recurring line in this book emphasizes that everyone joins a band in this life. In this novel, author Mitch Albom demonstrates in this novel the powerful impact that music can have on people and the importance of sharing our talents with the world. By sharing our talents, not only can we make the world a better place, but we also have the opportunity to change the lives of those around us through passion, love, and a little magic we can all find within ourselves."

Name: Olivia Plake  Major: Nursing  Reading: *Hush* by Karen Robards
Location: Bestsellers PS3568.O196 H87 2014

"Karen Robards is an amazing author, and *Hush* was wonderfully written. *Hush* is the perfect combination of a mystery novel and a romance novel. It has the reader fully engaged in what is happening and interested in what will happen next. The main character is Riley, and the book is about Riley trying to track down the person who murdered her ex-husband. Along the way, Riley runs into an FBI agent that saves her life more than once, and they work together to find the people that are still attacking her ex-husband’s family. Riley doesn’t know if she can trust this man, and he doesn’t know if he can trust her, but he is her only hope in trying to stop people from hurting her and her family. There are many ups and downs during this book, and it is very fast paced, but it will not disappoint you. I personally couldn’t put the book down, and I cannot wait to read another one of Robard’s books."
The Information Literacy Assessment Project

Faculty of IU Kokomo are conducting an exciting new research project concerning information literacy skills. What are information literacy skills? The Association of Research and College Libraries defines information literacy skills as a “set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.” IU Kokomo identifies specific courses in which learning outcomes such as information literacy skills are to be taught as part of campus General Education requirements; these courses include English W131, W132, as well as Speech S121. Library Dean Polly Boruff-Jones and Information Literacy Librarian Yan He, along with Professors Dr. Chris Darr and Dr. Paul Cook, are collaborating on this project and focusing on investigating the effectiveness of classroom instruction tailored to developing student’s information literacy skills.

Over the past two semesters, data was collected from English W131 and Speech S121 courses that have taken part in information literacy sessions taught by Polly Boruff-Jones, Yan He, and Reference and Information Services Librarian Diane J. Bever. During these sessions, students were taught information literacy skills that assist them in their research. These skills include selecting appropriate resources for assignments by using a more sophisticated research approach. Students were given a brief survey at the beginning of the semester that examines what they already knew about research before any instruction in the classroom took place, and then the same survey was administered again at the end of the semester.

The inspiration for this research stemmed from an upcoming accreditation of IU Kokomo’s campus and the need to assess general education learning outcomes. Dean Boruff-Jones hopes that this research “will show everybody in the IU Kokomo community the benefits of library instruction.” Yan He and the Information Literacy Assessment Team will present their initial findings from this research at the Assessment Institute Conference in October, but in the meantime they plan to share results with colleagues on this campus and other IU campuses where work in the area of information literacy assessment is also being done.

-Emily Hoover

Newest Addition

The IU Kokomo Library has added a new librarian to its staff. In this interview, you will get to know a little bit about Justin Kingery.

Q: What made you want to work for the IU Kokomo Library?
Justin: A good friend of mine worked here and talked about how great it was and how fun the people were. When I heard there was an opening, I jumped at the opportunity.

Q: When it comes to your job, what are your daily duties?
Justin: Right now I typically index archival photographs and help students with their research.

Q: What type of genre do you read?
Justin: I read all types of genres but lately I’ve been reading a lot of American history.

Q: What’s your favorite book from that genre?
Justin: I’d say Confederates in the Attic is my favorite American history title. It explores the modern day fascination with Confederate culture.

Q: If you could be any character in any book, whom would you be and why?
Justin: Most of the novels I read have pretty terrible main characters who aren’t in very enviable positions, but it would be hard to pass up being Sherlock Holmes.

-Martha Young

Want Something Fun to Check Out? Look At This!

The Read It Forward Apothecary is perfect to help you find a book to suit whatever mood you are in. To access this website go to http://www.readitforward.com/book-apothecary/

Did you know…
The library flashes the lights 20 minutes before closing?
IU Kokomo Library

Summer Semester Hours
May 16 – August 12, 2016

Monday 8 a.m.—8 p.m.
Tuesday 8 a.m.— 8 p.m.
Wednesday 8 a.m.— 8 p.m.
Thursday 8 a.m.— 8 p.m. July 2-4 (Sat.—Mon.) CLOSED
Friday 8 a.m.—8 p.m. Aug 13-14 (Sat.—Sun.) CLOSED
Saturday noon— 5 p.m. Aug 20-21 (Sat.—Sun.) CLOSED

Sunday CLOSED

Intersession Hours:
August 15-19 (Mon.-Fri.) 8 a.m.—5 p.m.

If you have a question, head on over to the Ask A Librarian Service Desk.

Ask A Librarian Service Desk
Located on the first floor of the Library
Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday by appointment
Saturday Closed
Sunday Closed

For more details about these services, please see the Reference and Research Services web page.

765-455-9521 during service desk hours.