

# THE CORNER SHELF



OCTOBER 1, 2008

## News and Alerts

October is **Canadian Library Month** with the theme **YOUR LIBRARY, YOUR WORLD**. Check the displays in the library or the [CLA website](#) for more information

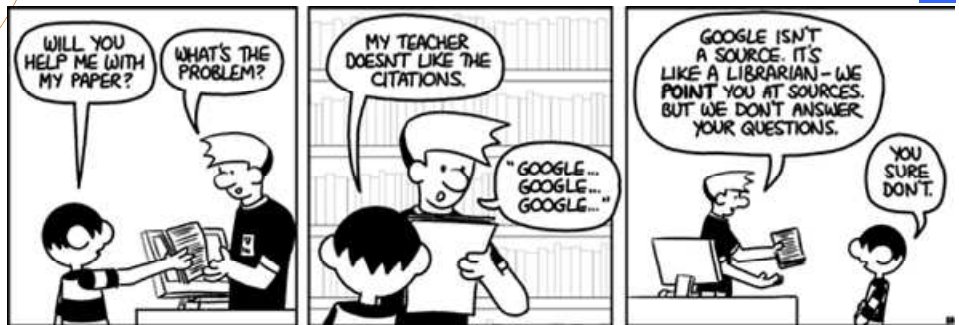
The library will be closed Sunday, October 12th and Monday, the 13th for the **Thanksgiving** holiday.

The **Recreational Reading Collection** has a fresh new look. It was weeded over the summer and we've added many new books for your reading pleasure. We've also added genre labels - **Suspense SciFi Horror Historical Fiction Romance Mystery FANTASY** - to make it easier to browse.

**Banned Books Week** is September 27-October 4 in the U.S. . In Canada we will celebrate **Freedom to Read Week** February 22-28, 2009.

## What's Inside

- **Tips to Help With Your Research**
- **Self-Service Holds Pick-Up**
- **Staff Pick**
- **Library Hours**
- **Cool Web Stuff**
- **Featured New Databases**



Unshelved® by Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum ©2007 Overdue Media LLC unshelved@overduemedia.com www.unshelved.com  
<http://www.unshelved.com/> Copyright © Overdue Media LLC Used with permission

## TIPS TO HELP WITH YOUR RESEARCH

Learning to do scholarly research is a vital part of your university education. This type of research can be complex and everyone encounters obstacles along the way. Library staff are your partners, supporting the development of your research skills and working with you throughout your time here. Although every person and every topic is different, here are a few things you can do to get the most out of your encounter with our Information Services staff.

**Tip #1 – Allow enough time.** We have all been there. The day before the paper is due, struggling to find one more resource and being disappointed because it is not on the shelf. Although Concordia does have an amazing amount of electronic resources that can be accessed 24x7, doing your research at the last minute can lead to

frustration. Plan sufficient time for each stage of your project: learning to use the databases and other search tools, ordering material in from other libraries, reading and analyzing your results, revising and perfecting your project, and getting those citations and references just right. Giving yourself enough time is the best way to get a good grade.

**Tip #2 – Ask a specific question.** Take a moment to think about the information you need. What exactly is your topic? For example – the history of Christianity is a very broad subject but the life of St. Augustine is much more specific. Many people try to help library staff out by asking for the general area where they think their information might be. For example, “Where are the books on Christianity”? Information Desk staff will respond to a broad question like that by asking some questions of their own in order to find out what information is actually needed. The

clearer you can be in stating what you need, the better we can help you find it. Sometimes it’s tough to be specific and you just don’t know exactly what you need. That’s okay too. Come and ask and we’ll figure it out together.

### Tip #3 – Think about what type of information you need.

Just like ice cream, information comes in different flavors: books, articles, newspapers, e-resources, websites, videos and more. Phewf! Has your instructor asked for “primary sources”, “scholarly material” or “peer-reviewed” articles? Do you need maps, statistics, or formulas? Sometimes you only want one type of information and sometimes you want a mix of anything you can find. Let us know what “flavor” you want today.

Submitted by Jenna Innes  
Circulation and Information  
Services Assistant



## SELF-SERVICE HOLDS PICK-UP



Self-service pick-up of holds is common in many Edmonton libraries. Now it’s arrived at Concordia! The new **Holds Shelf** is located at the end of the Circulation

Desk (see photo above).

Finding your hold is easy. The books are shelved alphabetically by the first three letters of your

last name. The label will also have the last four digits of your student ID **barcode** number (not your student ID#). To ensure your privacy, the labels will be attached to the book so that the spine (with the title) will be facing the back of the bookcase.

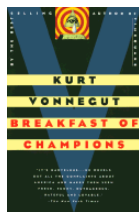
Retrieve your books from the Holds Shelf and bring them to the Circulation Desk for checkout. Photocopied articles and

non-NEOS books requested through Interlibrary Loan are still held for you at the Circulation Desk.

You will continue to receive email notification when a hold arrives at the library for you and we will still maintain the [Items on Hold List](#) on the Concordia website.

If you have any questions about this new system, please ask at the Circulation Desk.

## STAFF PICK



**The Breakfast of Champions : or, goodbye blue Monday!** (FIC VON) by Kurt Vonnegut was recommended to me as a must read because I had read **Slaughterhouse - five** many years ago and really enjoyed it. This book is a darkly humorous look at everything from politics to suicide and sex. It's written as a stream of consciousness of someone who is unaware of earth and its nuances. As such, the main story is often interrupted by tidbits of information and illustrations that one should know when visiting our planet. The illustrations are crudely drawn and range from a transport truck to girl's underwear.

This book is definitely not for the squeamish. It's from the point of view of a narrator who is writing the book as a present to himself on his fiftieth birthday. The narrator includes himself in the story by giving each main character his own attributes or those of people he knows.

The main story is about Kilgore Trout and Dwayne Hoover. Trout is an unsuccessful science fiction writer who is invited to an Arts festival in Mr. Hoover's home town. One of Trout's novels inadvertently triggers "the bad chemicals in Dwayne Hoover's brain" which cause him - a successful business man - to attack several different people, including his son, secretary/lover and even Mr. Trout.

At the end of the novel the narrator physically shows up in the book he is writing and reveals himself to Kilgore Trout. Kilgore's last words to his creator are "make me young again" which the author seems to ignore as he walks away. The ending of this novel gives the impression that these words are from a tired Vonnegut who feels old and doesn't want to write anymore. Not a cheery novel by any means, but one that is thought provoking, amusing and disturbing all at once. You can find this book in the Recreational Reading collection, located on the two stands across from the Circulation Desk.

Submitted by Deb Quast  
Circulation Services Clerk

**Weekly New Books List:** <http://catalogue.library.ualberta.ca/newbooks/library/index.cfm?Libraryfilter=21>

**Subscribe to New Books RSS feed:** [http://www.library.ualberta.ca/rss/newbooks/library/library\\_Concordia\\_University\\_College.xml](http://www.library.ualberta.ca/rss/newbooks/library/library_Concordia_University_College.xml)

## COOL WEB STUFF

There are so many great new search engines cropping up with varying levels of scope, usability, relevance, etc.- so how do you choose which one to use? [niouba](#) is available in 10 languages with 8 categories: web, MP3, video, image, FTP, book, Rapidshare, and Torrent. [search.io](#) claims to be the world's first tabbed search engine - 18 search categories include audio/music, CSS galleries (10 points if you know what that is! - I had to look it up), fonts, jobs, social bookmarks, torrents, tutorials and video. [AllPlus](#) aggregates your search using Google, Yahoo, Ask and MSN Live in 5 categories: web, news, images, video or blogs. But, if you're securely attached to Google, there's a great Firefox addon called [CusomizeGoogle](#). The search results page gives the option to try your search in 12 other search engines including AllTheWeb, Wikipedia and A9. The best thing about this addon is the extensive list of options - you can choose to remove ads (No Ads!) from Google pages and filter out sites you don't want to see, as well as customize other Google apps: Gmail, Calendar, Docs, Groups, Maps and Reader. Happy searching!

Education students, here's something for you. [Instructify](#) is a blog with the philosophy "Teach smarter, not harder" and is brought to you by [LEARN NC](#), a program of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Education. Although this isn't a Canadian site, there are so many great ideas for K-12 teachers that it's definitely worth subscribing to or bookmarking. Recent posts include [Free Interactive Math Manipulatives](#), [Give beginning readers a head start with Starfall](#) (a free interactive reading phonics based web site), and [Monday by the Numbers](#), which includes tips and tricks for beginning teachers. Good luck to those of you on a practicum and have fun with those kids!

Any feedback or suggestions would be *mutch* [sic] appreciated. Contact me at 479-9335 or [jan.mutch@concordia.ab.ca](mailto:jan.mutch@concordia.ab.ca).

## FEATURED NEW DATABASES

Attention history buffs! This month we are featuring seven new collections, all of which offer an abundance of original source materials. The collections are all produced as a part of the *Adam Matthews Digital Publications*, but we have made them available by their individual collection titles:

- **China: Trade, Politics and Culture, 1793-1980**
- **Defining Gender, 1450-1910**
- **Eighteenth Century Journals I & II**

- **Empire Online**
- **Mass Observation Online**
- **Medieval Travel Writing**
- **Slavery, Abolition and Social Justice, 1490-2007**

These collections contain a wide range of original sources including ephemera, pamphlets, commonplace books, diaries, periodicals, letters, ledgers, manuscript journals, poetry, receipt books, conduct and advice literature, maps, colour paintings,

## Fall / Winter Library Hours

Monday - Thursday	7:45 am - 9 pm
Friday	7:45 am - 5 pm
Saturday	11 am - 6 pm
Sunday	1 - 8 pm

## Statutory Holiday Closures

October 12 and 13 Closed

**\*\*Check the website for details\*\***



photographs and drawings, contemporary newspapers and journals, rare books, original manuscripts, pamphlets, books, paintings, maps and images and more.

You can access these resources under "All E-resources" <http://library.concordia.ab.ca/eresources/title/> or under the subject heading "History & Classics". Remember if you are off-campus you need to sign in to use some e-resources.

Submitted by Renee Morrissey  
Information Services Librarian