Lynch School Library Newsletter

Welcome to the latest issue of the Lynch School Library Newsletter. Please feel free to get in touch with me any time if I can assist you with your research or teaching.

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HathiTrust: A Vast Collection of Digitized Books

Over 3 million volumes in the public domain are now fully available through the HathiTrust database. Users can access HathiTrust Digital Library with their BC username and password and download full text PDFs. One can also create and save personal collections of materials on the HathiTrust site. HathiTrust is a partnership of major academic and research libraries collaborating in an extensive digital library initiative to preserve and provide access to the published record in digital form.

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Assessing Journal Quality

"To determine the scholarly worth of a journal is usually difficult without first agreeing on a set of quite precise evaluative criteria. Obviously, when such criteria change, the answer often changes."

Librarians are frequently asked to provide rankings of journals in particular disciplines. Though there are many supposedly authoritative lists that rank journals, it might be wise to heed the motto *caveat lector*. The problem is who is the "authority" behind the "authoritative"? And how is he/she/they qualified to be authoritative? Some rankings are essentially based on people's opinions, e.g. faculty are asked to rank journals in their fields. A common problem with such surveys is that the resultant lists often ignore journals focusing on more out of the way disciplinary areas; frequently they disproportionately represent American journals; and they often do not give appropriate attention to newer journals or open access journals. Even when journal ranking lists utilize bibliometrics one should bear in mind that no single metric, each having a specific focus and bias, can address all relevant variables. Moreover, while a particular metric might be useful for one subject area, it might be quite inappropriate for another.

To aid in the evaluation of journals BC Libraries have produced a guide Assessing Journal Quality that considers certain evaluative criteria under the following headings: Publishing Transitions; Impact Factors; Other Metrics; AltMetrics; Open Access Journals; Qualitative Factors.

Education in Video: "In-depth and special-topic videos give both new and experienced teachers tools for further honing their knowledge and skills and help education faculty link abstract theories to practical, real-world examples."

Two Education Video Databases

Education in Video

Containing over 1,300 hours of teaching demonstrations, lectures, documentaries, and primary-source footage of students and teachers in actual classrooms, *Education in Video* gives education students a way to observe the intricacies of behavior, tone, facial expression, and body language that define effective teaching styles.

Counseling and Therapy in Video

This database contains more than 400 hours of training videos, reenactments, and footage of actual therapy sessions conducted by well-known counselors, psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers. This collection of videos, ranging from 1985-2010, provide a valuable firsthand look at the realities of working with clients and the challenges associated with putting theoretical concepts into practice

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Quicker Access to Books Not Available at BC

WorldCat Local is an online catalog configured to search the collections of the 17 institutions in the Boston Library Consortium (BLC), a group of academic and research libraries mostly in the Boston area.

If a book you are seeking is not available at BC you may locate it in a BLC library, put in a request for it (without filling out a form), and have it at BC in 2-5 days. If the book is not available from a Consortium library, you can request it from other libraries in just a few clicks.

WorldCat Local can also be used for CDs, DVDs, microfilm, and other physical items available in BLC libraries. Books and other materials can be requested if they are not owned by the Boston College Libraries or when they are checked out or otherwise unavailable.

Note: Articles in journals, magazines, and newspapers that are not available at BC should be requested via interlibrary loan forms instead of WorldCat Local. (Books can be ordered via a ILL form as well, but the process is streamlined when done through WorldCat Local.)

Boston College faculty, students, and staff also continue to have access to the traditional WorldCat with more advanced searching options.

Several Psychology and Psychology Related Databases

Though PsycINFO, ERIC and Education Research Complete are three databases often consulted when one is researching topics in psychology, BC Libraries provide access to many others that provide a wealth of diverse psychology content:

PsycARTICLES: This is a database of full-text articles from journals published by the American Psychological Association, the APA Educational Publishing Foundation, the Canadian Psychological Association, and Hogrefe & Huber.

PsycBOOKS: This database is a full-text collection of over 1600 books published by APA. Classic books from other publishers are also included, along with over 1,500 authored entries from the APA/Oxford University Press *Encyclopedia of Psychology*.
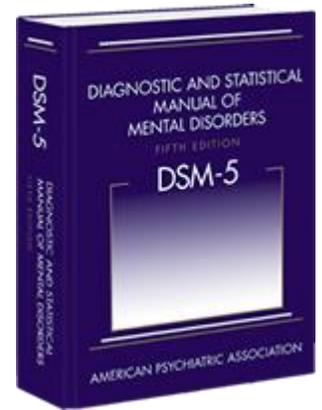
PsycTESTS: Provides access to psychological tests, measures, scales, and surveys and descriptive information about them. Most records include the full instrument.

CogNet: Provides numerous full-text resources from several fields, such as artificial intelligence, linguistics, neuroscience, psychology, philosophy and education.

Mental Measurements Yearbook: This is a comprehensive guide to over 3,000 contemporary testing instruments.

PsychiatryOnline: Full-text access to psychiatric textbooks, journals, and professional development tools. Includes *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (5th ed.).

PubGet: PubGet is an online index to journal articles published in the life sciences, biological sciences, medicine, psychiatry, cognitive psychology, and neuroscience.

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"The most comprehensive resource used by health professionals, social workers, and forensic and legal specialists to diagnose and classify mental disorders."

Popular Reading Expands to E-Books in BC Libraries

OverDrive is an e-book delivery platform offering a large collection of e-books especially suited for pleasure reading. You may also access a collection of print books and DVDs (best sellers, books of current interest, theatrical releases) that is shelved in the lobby of O'Neill Library.

"You'll find on OverDrive many 'best-sellers' listed in the New York Times, Boston Globe, NY Review of Books and elsewhere."

Spotlight on Four Social Science Databases

Assia

ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts is an indexing and abstracting tool covering a number of Social Science disciplines. Education is well represented.

ProQuest Education Journals

ProQuest® Education Journals gives users access to over 1,020 top educational publications, including more than 640 of the titles in full text. The database covers not only the literature on primary, secondary, and higher education but also special education, home schooling, adult education, and hundreds of related topics.

World Higher Education Directory

This fully cross-referenced database features information on over 17,000 institutions in over 180 countries. Detailed information on the higher education system of every country is also included.

Oxford Bibliographies Online: Education

This tool is designed to help researchers find reliable sources of information quickly by directing them to chapter, book, website, archive, or data set selected by experts in the subject. It features a selective list of bibliographic citations supported by direct recommendations about which sources to consult.

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Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities. Educational Directories

Though this directory certainly doesn't include all education and education related journals, it can help you to determine some journals that typically publish manuscripts similar to yours or could be the best fit for your manuscript.

The Directory includes information on the style and format of journals, for example whether it uses the Chicago Manual of Style or APA. Furthermore, the Directory describes the type of review process used by the editor(s) of a journal, type of review, number of reviewers, acceptance rate, time required for review, availability of reviewers' comments, number of copies required and manuscript topics. Information on the journals printed and electronic launch dates and ISSNs are also provided.