

## Director's message

# Welcome back to our 2005-06 academic year

by Malcolm Brantz, Director



First, I want to thank both Cori Swanson and Ed Sadowski for their investment in providing quality services here at Arapahoe Community College Library.

Cori is currently doing the circulation manager's job. Normally, Cori works 20-hour weeks. For the next three months, she'll be working 40 hours each week. No one

can replace the retired Karla Nuzman after 19 years of service. However, Cori is doing an outstanding job.

Ed Sadowski has been with ACC Library for over three years. He's another part-time librarian playing a crucial role in providing our services. In addition to being editor of this fine newsletter, Ed coordinates reference ser-

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## ACC Learning Resource Center annual report: another successful year

by Cori Swanson, Librarian



The 2004-05 school year was yet another successful year for the Arapahoe Community College Learning Resource Center, known to most as just "the library."

Success can be calculated in many ways. For a library, we tend to focus on things like number of patrons served, number of books circulated, and the number of reference questions asked and answered. There seems to be a lot of numbers involved with our concept of success. It's

true, numbers, or statistics, are one way we can compare from year to year the level of service we are providing our customers. They are also a solid way of representing, to those who want to know, specifically the kind of progress we are making.

Last year in the September-October issue of the *Library and Media Center Newsletter*, we published an annual report describing the "State of the Library," as it was titled. This year we would like to do the same sort of thing. So, how did this year compare?

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## "Open-access" movement gaining momentum, provides free access to scholarly journals

by Cori Swanson, Librarian

There's a good chance that many of you reading this article have had the experience of attending an ACC Library research class. And if you actually paid attention to what was being said (and I'm sure you did!), you will remember that your friendly college librarian put great emphasis on the importance of articles from scholarly journals.

This kind of periodical literature is authored by professionals in their field of study, which

is the first step towards being an authoritative source. A scholarly journal article is considered even more reliable if it is also peer-reviewed. Peer-reviewed articles must go through a strict editorial process that involves review and approval by other experts in the same field of study.

When a librarian discusses these kinds of sources in the context of a library research class, he or she is referring to articles from print journals that can be located and accessed

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I hate to start off on a bad note, but unfortunately the 04-05 school year saw about a 25 percent decrease in the number of people who came and went through our front doors. This year saw only 145,279 patrons, while last year measured 192,658. We have a question on the high count since we found the gate's counter to be malfunctioning half way through that fiscal year.

However, we are still up 10 percent from two years ago when 130,102 people visited the Library. While the official gate count might be down, the Library is still being utilized by our community to a satisfying degree. I am glad to report that there was an increase in the number of people using the Library's study rooms. Study room usage jumped a whopping 40 percent from the previous year. It's good to know that we continue to provide our students with a quiet and comfortable environment in which to study and learn.

Our print and electronic resources saw an overall increase in use. The library checked out about 14,600 books to patrons, which was statistically a decrease, just under 5 percent, but I would say that falls within the acceptable range of fluctuation.

Another way we connect our patrons with the resources they need is through a service called interlibrary loan, where we request items from other libraries for our users to check out. We were happy to see a 30 percent decrease in the number of books borrowed from other libraries, which hopefully means our own collection has been better at supplying the best resources for our patrons.

We also saw a significant increase in the use of our online periodical databases. Overall use increased by 30 percent, while our popular EBSCOhost and NewsBank products each saw a more than 60 percent increase from the previous year. We are especially proud of this success. The Library was also pleased to add to its offerings of online databases CQ Researcher and Facts on File's Issues and Controversies, both designed to help students research current issues.

Despite budget cuts seen by many other community college libraries, ACC Library was able to maintain a healthy balance in its materials budget enabling us to continue to purchase needed books, periodicals, audiovisual materials and other resources for our users.

This year we spent just over \$125,000 on library resources, which is actually an increase over last year. While last year saw an almost even split between money spent on books and money spent on subscriptions to print periodicals and online databases, the 04-05 school year saw an almost 15 percent increase in the amount spent on books, and about an 8 percent decrease in the amount spent on print periodicals and online databases. This number will fluctuate from year to year depending on what the library collection needs.

Our healthy materials budget also allowed the library to continue to increase its overall holdings. The 04-05 school year ended with 47,962 volumes on the library's shelves, an increase of 2,440 over last year. Audiovisual materials (videos,

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*The Library and Media Center Newsletter* is a quarterly publication.

Sept.-Oct., 2005: Volume 7, Issue 1  
©2005 Arapahoe Community College,  
Littleton, Colorado

www.arapahoe.edu 303-797-5090

Published by the Learning Resource Center,  
Malcolm Brantz, Director  
Editing/Design: Ed Sadowski, Librarian

## Hours of Operation—Fall Semester *Library, Media Center, and Open Computer Lab*

### Library

Mon–Thu: 7:30 a.m.–9 p.m....Fri: 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Sat: 8–1 p.m....Sun: 1–5 p.m.

### Media Center

Mon–Thu: 8 a.m.–9 p.m....Fri: 8–5 p.m.  
Sat: 9–1 p.m.

### Open Computer Lab

Mon–Thu: 8 a.m.–9 p.m....Fri: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Sat: 9–1 p.m....Sun: 1–5 p.m.

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in an electronic format through one of our online periodical databases like ProQuest or EBSCOhost.

For most students, databases like ProQuest and EBSCOhost are the main vehicles through which scholarly and peer-reviewed articles are located and accessed. However, the Internet provides access to other kinds of periodical literature, like online magazines, journals, and newspapers, but if you remember back to that library research class you attended, these kinds of resources should be taken with a grain of salt. Websites and other information originating online come in many forms. It's sometimes biased, subjective, not supported by research, and so on down the line. Anything, written by anyone, can be published on the Internet. It is the beauty but also the danger of the Web. However, there is a place where scholarly, peer-reviewed information and the Internet meet.

In the past five years there has been a movement slowly gaining momentum—the Open-Access Movement. This movement started in response to the increasing subscription costs of scholarly journals, especially in the fields of medicine and science. The high cost of these publications limits who may access them. Libraries, a top consumer of these journals, are often unable to afford subscription costs and are therefore unable to provide their patrons with access to these important sources of research and information.

The Open-Access Movement advocates free online access to scholarly and peer-reviewed information. The open-access model places the burden of cost on the creators of the information, not the consumers. Authors pay a fee to have their articles published, and the users get to read the information for free. These publications are referred to as open-access journals.

Currently, you will find a variety of forms of open-access journals. Some journals still offer a print version of their publication

for a subscription cost, while offering an online version free of cost. In these cases, there is often an embargo placed on the online material. That means, for example, you cannot access the most recently published articles, usually 6 to 12 months' worth, online. Other open-access journals place no restrictions on access and offer their entire journal content free online. Still others stay true to the open-access model and offer no print version, but a completely free online publication.

The open-access model has supporters and opponents and people caught somewhere in between. Librarians, whatever their view, remain concerned with how to provide efficient access to these open-access journals. Most of these online scholarly journals are not included in the common indexing tools used by libraries to locate and access scholarly and peer-reviewed journal articles, databases like ProQuest and EBSCOhost, for example.

However, there are other databases available for use on the Internet that have taken the initiative and have started indexing these types of online journals. And it doesn't cost you anything to use them. One such database is the Directory of Open Access Journals ([www.doaj.org](http://www.doaj.org)), commonly known as DOAJ. Through DOAJ you can search for titles of open-access journals, or full-text articles, found in some of those journals. DOAJ currently indexes 1,442 open-access journals, of which 358 can be searched on the article level. Though the majority of open-access journals are medical or scientific in nature, DOAJ indexes open-access journals covering a variety of subject areas. Also, a reminder, that to be included in the Directory of Open Access Journals, publications are required to be peer-reviewed and *all* content of the journals must be free.

If you look at the big picture, the vast majority of periodical literature is still found exclusively in print format. However, open-access is an emerging model of publication that can provide libraries and their patrons with still more quality information resources.

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*(Continued from page 1)* **Welcome back to new academic year**

vice, is the weekend supervisor, manages the library's research classes and online tutorials and is often called upon to provide backup support when another staff member is ill.

After much time, but not much money (we did a lot of the work ourselves), ACC has a working "archives" room, located in the Library. ACC's space for archives increased five times by moving to this room.

While not finished, the room is functional. We removed an old carpet and painted the floor and walls,

providing a clean environment. Also, lighting was added to the room. Please stop by for a tour of the room.

While I would be wrong to paint a rosy picture for the Learning Resource Center's fiscal situation, we too are holding our breath concerning the future funding for higher education. The fact remains, the LRC staff has stepped up to the challenge and I'm very pleased to be part of their team.

*(Continued from page 3)* **Open-access journals**

Below is a list of links to electronic journals and sites that index open-access journals (including the one mentioned above). Access to journal content will vary depending on the journal in question.

- ◆ AERA SIG listing of education sites  
<http://aera-cr.asu.edu/links.htm>
- ◆ BioMed Central [www.biomedcentral.com](http://www.biomedcentral.com)
- ◆ Directory of Open Access Journals [www.doaj.org](http://www.doaj.org)
- ◆ E-journals.org [www.e-journals.org](http://www.e-journals.org)
- ◆ Free Medical Journals [www.freemedicaljournals.com](http://www.freemedicaljournals.com)
- ◆ HighWire <http://highwire.stanford.edu/lists/freeart.dtl>
- ◆ New Jour Electronic Journals and Newsletters  
<http://gort.ucds.edu/newjour>
- ◆ Public Library of Science  
[www.publiclibraryofscience.org](http://www.publiclibraryofscience.org)
- ◆ PubMed Central [www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov](http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov)
- ◆ Stanford Law School Law E-journals and Journals on the Web  
[www.law.stanford.edu/library/aals/ejournals.htm](http://www.law.stanford.edu/library/aals/ejournals.htm)
- ◆ University Law Review Project—Law Journals on the Internet [www.lawreview.org](http://www.lawreview.org)
- ◆ University of Houston Scholarly Journals Distributed via the World Wide Web  
<http://info.lib.uh.edu/wj/webjour.html>

## Library Research Classes

**open to all!**

Learn about....

- The ACC Library homepage
- How to use our online catalog
- The many ACC Library online databases
- Help finding resources for class assignments
- How to find reliable info on the Internet

If you would like to attend, contact us at 303-797-5090, [librarians@arapahoe.edu](mailto:librarians@arapahoe.edu), or go to the Circulation Desk to make a reservation. Join us!

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CDs, and DVDs) saw an increase of 15 items. The Media Center is the other half of the Learning Resource Center and continues to provide excellent service to the campus. Equipment delivery to classrooms has maintained a similar level of activity, showing only a negligible 2 percent decrease—4,390 deliveries in the 04-05 school year compared to 4,484 in the 03-04 school year.

In-library usage of videotapes/DVDs and telecourse rentals, however, continues to decrease at an alarming rate, most noticeably in the use of telecourses. As last year's annual report stated, fewer telecourses are being offered by ACC, and instructors may be showing videotapes in class rather than requiring students to view them in the Library. Total tape usage decreased 31 percent over the last year, and has decreased 43 percent over the last two years.

While this report started on a bad note, let's end it on a good one. One of the Library's most popular programs, library instructional sessions, continues to grow by leaps and bounds. The Library offers these sessions for classes and individuals. They include a tour of the library, overview of the library website and databases, and can be tailored to meet specific research needs. In 2003-04 we delivered 84 instructional sessions during the Fall and Spring semesters. We are happy to report an almost 50 percent increase in the number of classes taught this past year. Our librarians were busy teaching 125 classes over the Fall and Spring semesters!

While students still utilized the option of individual and small group instructional sessions during the 04-05 school year, there was an unfortunate decrease in attendance with only 10 attendees, compared to 23 during the 03-04 school year. However, we consider it a success that we were able to help even one student.

I'd like to take this opportunity to also mention some losses the Library and Media Center have suffered over the past year in terms of staffing. We are a small facility, a close community, so changes are felt acutely. At the end of Fall Semester the Library was sad to say goodbye to Valerie Cortelyou, one of our librarians, and author of last year's annual report. The Media Center also said goodbye to a staff member, Jackie Hewitt. And more recently the Library lost a long-time worker, Karla Nuzman, our Circulation Manager for over 19 years. She has moved on to bigger and better things – retirement!

Though decreased in numbers, the ACC Library staff would like to reassure everyone that our commitment to first-rate service has not wavered. Our mission continues to be to provide a welcoming, cordial and supportive atmosphere for free and open inquiry.