



News & Notes

Western Carolina University • Spring 2008

Map Area Opening

Hunter Library has a new location for maps! The maps collection moved from the library's lower mezzanine to the main floor. As a result of the relocation, the Map Area now observes the same operating hours as the rest of the building.

The opening of the new Map Area was held on "GIS Day," an international event that promotes geographic literacy. Hunter Library hosted Western Carolina University's second annual GIS Day on November 14, 2007. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) combines mapping with data management capabilities. Students demonstrated recent work and prizes were awarded for the best presentations and posters. In addition, faculty led several workshops on GIS, remote sensing, and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

Chat With a Librarian!

Hunter Library's chat service has new extended hours! Now you can instant message your reference questions to a librarian anytime Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Add the library to your buddy list:

- HunterLibrary (AIM)
- HunterLibrary3000 (Yahoo)
- HunterLibrary3000@hotmail.com (MSN)

Didn't Start Researching Until Midnight?

The library is now participating in NC Knows, an online chat service that students, faculty, and staff can use when the Reference Desk is closed. NC Knows is staffed by librarians from all over the country, 24 hours a day, seven days a week!

To find out more, click "Ask-A-Librarian" on Hunter Library's website, <http://library.wcu.edu>.

In Search of Quality Online Video? PBS Comes to the Library (and Just About Anywhere Else Folks May Roam)

Nearly 250 PBS documentaries and other programs are now available from Hunter Library in partnership with NC LIVE. Contents include insightful documentaries such as "Citizen King," "Broadway: The American Musical Experience," and Ken Burns' "The Civil War," just to name a few.

The videos are streamed (no big downloads or messy DVDs) and can be viewed from any computer running Flash Player version 9 or higher with an Internet connection of at least 175 Kbps. Sorry, dial up connections do not work for this service – but most classrooms and homes with high speed Internet should be fine.

To browse available online PBS videos, just go to the Library's All Resources A-Z list <http://www.wcu.edu/4251.asp> select the letter P, and click the link for PBS Video Collection.

The eBook Collection has Grown!

Hunter Library recently expanded the eBook collection to include tens of thousands of titles in subjects and disciplines spanning the academic curriculum. EBooks can be accessed through the library catalog or directly through individual eBook databases. EBook databases include *ebrary*, *NetLibrary*, *Oxford Scholarship Online*, *Gale Virtual Reference Library*, and selected titles from Wiley InterScience.

The eBook initiative supports the increasing number of distance education programs and initiatives at WCU and gives users ready access to an increasingly popular format. For more information contact Heath Martin, Collection Development Librarian, at hmartin@email.wcu.edu.

Craft Revival Project Attracts Third Year Funding, Thousands of Visitors

Like a complex and colorful quilt, the pieces of Western Carolina University's ambitious Craft Revival project come together to showcase a successful attempt in the late 1800s and early 1900s to preserve mountain crafts and hand-crafting skills of the Southern Appalachians.

The project, with its Internet-accessible collection of digitized images centered at Western's Hunter Library, recently received a grant of \$100,000 from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services through the North Carolina State Library. That brings the project's three-year funding total to nearly \$350,000.

A new component of the collection is "Taking the Train" which highlights travel by railroad during the years from 1900 to 1920. The 27 stops featured describe the 123 mile rail journey from Murphy to Asheville, including Biltmore, as described in the 1912 travel guide *The Western North Carolina Section at a Glance* (Passenger Traffic Department, Southern Railway; Washington, DC, 1912).

Each stop provides a brief description of the community as presented in the travel guide along with additional images and text. Visit <http://craftrevival.wcu.edu/story/train/index.html>.



Also, "Craft Revival: The Story, The People, The Crafts" is an exhibition currently on view in the lower stairwell of Hunter Library. The story is more fully told on Hunter Library's website "Craft Revival: Shaping Western North Carolina Past & Present." The website features over 100 pages of text explaining the movement, the people who participated, and the crafts they made. Paired with the web-based story is a digital collection of over 2,000 images submitted by seven regional Heritage Partners: the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown; the Museum of the Cherokee Indian and Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, both in Cherokee; the Penland School of Crafts near Spruce Pine; and the Southern Highland Craft Guild, located in the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway just north of Asheville. The online archive provides the visitor with a firsthand look at period documents, vintage photographs, and images of craft objects.

Visit <http://craftrevival.wcu.edu>.