CAS Information Services Newsletter

Fall 2012

September

1. Center of Alcohol Studies Archives Project Update

As stated in the last two newsletters, we at the library are continuing work on the digital archives and are adding more material. The archives are composed of three main sections: CAS Publications, Notable People, and the Summer School. Publications covers everything from the Alco-Calculator and The Classics of Alcohol Literature to monographs and pamphlets published. It aims to provide a clear example of the impact the Center has had on the field of alcohol studies over the years.

Notable People includes researchers such as Mark Keller and Howard W. Haggard as well as lesser known figures such as Vera Efron and Yandell Henderson. A biography and comprehensive bibliography is available for each of the researchers. While some did not work at the Center while it has been hosted by Rutgers, their influence on the library collection and in the field of alcohol studies makes them important historical figures.

The Summer School provides both a detailed history of the program as well as up-to-date information on current sessions. Other information included on the site includes references to the different editors who have contributed to the various incarnations of the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs. The site is expected to be launched to the public by the 75th anniversary of the Journal of Studies of Alcohol and Drugs. Stay tuned for more in the near future.
2. How to get cited: A Follow-up for Junior Researchers

It’s difficult to predict the future for a researcher at the beginning of a promising career. A few tricks, however, are worth considering when it comes to publication which enhance those cruel performance metrics, such as citation counts, H-index, and the like in the long run. Picking and choosing carefully the journals in which you choose to publish may include a thorough investigation of the journals’ web sites for information about the turnover time, rejection rates, journal impact factor, and similar indicators. At the CAS Library we can help find the best journal to submit a particular article, based on a variety of factors, as some CAS faculty can attest to.

In our experience, which also includes numerous private communications with senior CAS faculty, there are a few variables that can ruin or at least diminish someone’s performance indicators. The most important is the consistent use of one’s pen name across publications so that different databases can correctly identify an author and profiling sites can consolidate all publications for the same author under one name. Name variations and changes make the author especially vulnerable and render him/her at the mercy of the indexed fields of databases. Failing to use the same name may result in underreporting your research output in any database with citation analysis capabilities due to their weak author disambiguation.

Note some of the automated services that can notify the author when a paper has been cited, such as:

- Using the Citation Alert feature of Web of Science
  http://images.webofknowledge.com/WOK45/help/WOK/h_citalerts.html
- Setting up email alerts in Google Scholar
- Saving searches and creating email alerts on PubMed/Medline (video)
- Email alerts for Ovid databases (Medline, PsycINFO)
  http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/indexes/alert_services.shtml#ovid

The following publications might give you a few more ideas, but feel free to contact us in the library for more details.

- Article from Nature which suggests that including more references for more citations
- Article from Dartmouth Graduate Forum suggests publishing in prominent and core journals
- Article called Advice to a Young Researcher: with reminiscences of a life in science offers important lessons from how to choose a mentor to how to prepare publications.
3. Featured Website: NIH’s National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcohol

From the National Institute of Health’s News in Health website: “This redesigned website for NIH’s National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) offers a wealth of information about how alcohol use affects human health. Learn about ongoing research into treating and preventing alcohol-related problems.”

Click here to see the improvements for yourself.

Recent tweets, news releases and upcoming events are all prominently displayed on the home screen with quick links along the top to publications, research, grant funding, and other important topics.

4. 34th Annual SALIS conference

Held at the University of Nevada this year, the Annual Substance Abuse Librarians & Information Specialists (SALIS) Conference took place over 4 days in May. It was hosted by Stephanie Asteriadis and Marie Tully of the Nevada Prevention Resource Center in Reno, NV. The theme this year was "Stepping Out of Our Silos: Creating Partnerships, Building Capacity, Delivering Information."

CAS was represented by a talk entitled This is how we do it: The research library in the 21st century during which the presenter, Judit Ward, also had a chance to solicit feedback from her peers on the reorganized services of the CAS Library.

Related to the presentation, a poster (Happy accidents: Resourceful use of technology creates unexpected outcomes), on the innovative cloth, co-authored by Molly Stewart and Judit Ward, illustrated the creative use of technology not only in the everyday work of a research library (RefWorks, RefShare, LibGuides, Readers’ Advisory), but also in a broader sense: in regards to the library’s participation in Center-wide initiatives, such as RASRR, and the library’s contribution to the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.
5. 2012 NJLA Annual Conference

The New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) hosted their annual conference in June. Instead of the usual Long Branch location, this year NJ librarians met in the brand new Revel Casino in Atlantic City. The theme for the two-day conference was “ReTooling 4 Tomorrow.” The Center was represented by Judit Ward who was overwhelmed by conference attendees at the poster session, probably due to the engaging title Playing detective in the library: How to find information on your long lost love.

Focusing on the tools librarians and the public can use to profile researchers, the poster showed a journey of three librarians (Molly Stewart, Frank Jolliffe, Judit Ward) and a researcher (Sylvia Clark) in their quest to locate international scholars. The poster session was dedicated to Frank Jolliffe, who passed away earlier this year, with a song played by Spook Handy, NJ folk singer. For more, see page 5 of the NJLA Reference Section Quarterly at https://files.pbworks.com/download/BSBmhxBX73/njla/55741987/RefSectionJuly12.pdf

6. Beefing Up Online Security

Internet privacy has become an even more important topic as people increasingly work online. The stories became even more frightening as in July as Yahoo confirmed that 450,000 unencrypted usernames and passwords were stolen and in September as the unique identification data for over 1 million Apple iOS devices were released from the compromised laptop of an FBI agent.

Wired’s Mat Honan was famously hacked this August. His Twitter and Google accounts were taken over and all the data on his iPhone, iPad, and MacBook were remotely erased in a matter of hours.

How can you prevent the same disasters from happening to you?

1. Do not use a publicly known email address for your account login and password-reset contact info. Rutgers and other universities make it easy to find contact information for its researchers and professors available. While this can be of benefit for those looking to contact you, it can also put you at risk.
2. Turn on Google's two-step verification, which requires entering an additional code sent to your mobile phone before an account password can be changed. To enable two-step verification, go to the drop-down menu at top right under your email address to get to Account settings, then select Security from the left navigation and click the Edit button next to "2-step verification." Google provides more information on two-step verification here.

3. Do not store credit cards anywhere you do not have to, even if it takes some time to type in the number for each purchase. Delete already stored credit card information. The last four digits of a credit card on file is often a key piece of identification at online destinations.

4. If your mobile device can access your email and other important accounts, it needs to be password-protected. While you may not want to have to type in the complex string, you do want more security than a simple screen slide if someone else finds your device.

In an age where information is power, it becomes even more important to keep personal and financial information safe. These quick steps can help make it more difficult for hackers to take over your online presence.

7. Static Site Generators

As part of our ongoing project to construct a digital archives website, the library is investigating different ways to publish and manage Web content. One option we are experimenting with puts a new spin on a classic method. Static site generators are tools which process text files – plain old HTML templates, HTML content (though content can be written using other, more readable markup languages), and YAML interspersed to set variables – to produce entirely static, self-contained HTML websites.

One might think that static websites disappeared with the nineties; today, most websites employ a server-side content management system such as WordPress or Drupal, allowing pages to serve dynamic content such as comments. However, in the last few years, a number of factors have led many developers to rediscover static websites: they load faster, have fewer security vulnerabilities, and, with the help of advanced JavaScript and external APIs, offer nearly the same dynamic functionality as dynamic content management systems.

Of course, building with a static site generator involves more work upfront. Templates are usually designed by hand, so a thorough understanding of HTML and CSS is required. Familiarity with the command line and the language in which the generator is built (typically Ruby or Python) is also recommended.
8. Picasa for your Images

Google’s Picasa is an innovative image organizer, which allows individuals to edit, share, and integrate photos into a digital collection. Picasa was created in 2002 by Lifescape, and was acquired by Google in 2004. This application has allowed the creation of a digital archive collection for the Center of Alcohol Studies at Rutgers University. Throughout the past two decades, the field of digital archiving has continued to make tremendous strides in creating effective platforms for Research Specialist and Archivists. Picasa provides a variety of ways to present material with features such as collages, photo timelines, as well as a documentary film formats. The advantages of implementing Picasa go beyond just traditional usage.

Libraries can create archival presentations much more quickly and efficiently. Most importantly, Picasa is user-friendly and may be used on just about any computer. Many library organizations tend to be on a tight budget, and usually cannot afford the most exclusive software. However, Google’s Picasa is free and can be downloaded from the Google website!

For more information go to: http://picasa.google.com

9. New Face in the Library

My name is Edina Bekesi, a new volunteer at the CAS library. I just received my Master’s degree in Psychology in Budapest, Hungary. I believe that we can effectively cope with stress using our mind/brain, so I learned relaxation techniques (autogenic training) and I am a certified relaxation trainer now.

During my five years as a student, I helped people with disabilities and gained valuable experiences. I also worked in a children’s hospital with children who had to wait for their medical examination. I taught them relaxation strategies, gave them advice how to cope with negative emotions, and kept them busy by playing.

I also worked at the Department of Child Psychiatry at Kenezy Gyula Hospital in Debrecen for a summer. I really enjoyed being a part of a professional team and giving emotional support to children who needed it. These experiences meant a lot to me and I feel that I learned about human nature in these places more than anywhere else.

I am looking forward to acquiring new skills and facing challenges in the Library. I hope I can become a useful part of the team.

This issue of the newsletter was edited by Karen Thomas with contributions from Scott Goldstein, Jonathan Torres, and Judit Ward.