Having trouble linking from your Canvas course pages to documentaries in the Films on Demand database? Pamela Contakos and Gerol Petruzella have collaborated on a shortcut to make it easier for you to embed the films you want your students to watch. Pull up a course page and click on Edit. You’ll see the Films on Demand icon in the editing menu bar. A box titled Embed content from Films on Demand will appear. Enter your search terms (keyword or title). Each item in the results list will have a blue Embed box on the right. Click on it, then click on the Canvas Save button. A play box will appear, with the title of the film at the top. Remind your students that when accessing the film from off campus, they will be prompted to log in.

New features on the Films on Demand platform include options for controlling the display of closed captions, keyword tags for all films to help users find all films on a topic and a continuous play option for user-created playlists. Students or faculty who create playlists from FOD film segments can now create short introductory videos to give context to their audience. For more information on these features, check out “What’s New”.

Book a Librarian

Last year, we introduced an online appointment service to make it easier for students to set up a visit with a librarian. This year, we’ve introduced a similar online service for faculty who would like to request a librarian to visit a class to talk about library resources and research. The link can be found on the Faculty Resources page under Book an Instruction Session. The service allows you to choose a date and see which librarian is available, then submit your request for a visit. Within limits, we tailor our presentations to suit the needs of your class, so let us know what you want your students to learn about the library and its resources. Faculty are also welcome to stop by or make an appointment with us if they would like a refresher on library resources for their own research needs or in order to help their students.
Faculty as Go-Between

Freel Library librarians believe that one of the most effective ways for us to reach as many students as possible is with faculty support, so we want to remind you of the ways that you and your students can get in touch with us for help with research and information literacy needs. Surprisingly, some students don’t realize that they can ask a librarian for help. Some are just shy. Others think that everything they need for their course work is on the web and they just make do with what they can find through Google.

- Suggest to your students that a visit to the library might be helpful and tell them to ask for one of us by name or for a reference librarian.
- They can contact us using email, Chat, TXT or by phone. The Reference Desk phone number is 662-5325 and links to our emails addresses, etc. can be found on the library web site.
- Let them know that they can make an appointment with a reference librarian via our online scheduler. They can see when any librarian is available and reserve a time that suits them.

Reminders

Faculty may borrow materials from the Williams College libraries with their MCLA IDs. Students must meet with an MCLA reference librarian to discuss their research needs and, if appropriate, receive paperwork approving the loan.

*The Chronicle of Higher Education* is available online for all members of the MCLA community on the Faculty Resources page.

If you want to put library materials on reserve in the library, we recommend that you let us know at the beginning of the semester. Don’t wait and then find out the item you want is checked out or missing. Additional information on library reserves can be found here.

Quick Tips for Finding Articles

Are articles from a specific journal available in any of the Freel Library databases? Click on the Journal Titles tab on the main library page. Enter the title of the journal/magazine/newspaper. If it’s available in any of the databases we subscribe to (EBSCOhost, Gale, etc.) links to the databases will appear, along with the date range of available issues.

If not available in Freel Library databases, is the article available online elsewhere for free? The best way to figure this out is to use Google Scholar, to which we have provided a link on the main library web page, and search by article title. Google Scholar often provides links to articles posted elsewhere that can be accessed at no cost. It’s worth clicking on the article title in Google Scholar, which usually takes you to the publisher’s web site. More and publishers are making some of their content freely available.

Google Scholar also displays links to researchgate.net and academia.edu, both of which provide full-text articles for free. You may be prompted to register for each service, but no cost is involved.

The photograph at the top of the previous page is of members of the North Adams Normal School class of 1913. It was taken on Mt. Greylock in 1912. The original of the photograph, along with many others, is kept in the college archives in Freel Library. Historical materials in the archives, including all our yearbooks, can be found online at library.mcla.edu/friendly.php?w=localhistory. We have additional materials in the collection that have not been digitized. For further information on the archives, contact Linda Kaufmann at 662-4325.