Social networking at Milner Library

By Megan Murray

Gone are the days when you'd have to pick up a piece of scrap paper and a short pencil from a library desk and scribble out a call number. Now you can just text the number to your phone. And this fall, students will be able to text a librarian with any questions and get a quick response.

Milner Library is changing with the times. As technology is discovered and perfected, librarians are putting themselves where the students are — on the Internet.

"We aren't just changing the way we communicate with students, but also the way the library is marketed. We are using what students are using," said Toni Tucker, assistant to the dean of University Libraries for grants, development and public relations. "We need to meet the students where they're at."

The oldest social network Milner uses is Flickr, a Web site that allows users to stay connected by posting pictures and blogs. Tucker has posted more than 1,000 photos from various events and speeches at Milner and across campus.

"I get countless e-mails asking for pictures from certain events and it was really time consuming for me to find specific pictures for each individual e-mail," she said. "Using Flickr not only allowed me to organize the photos by categories and events, but it's easy to guide people there."

Milner also has a presence on popular Web sites, such as Facebook and YouTube. The Milner Facebook page gives students access to basic information, such as operating hours, as well as details on events and guest speakers.

"Flyers are becoming a thing of the past," Tucker said. "For a student to see a flyer they have to actually be in Degarmo, Stevenson, or any campus building, but posting these events on sites like Facebook gives students access to information no matter where they are. We need to be on the same level and in the same place as our students. These technologies allow us to do so."

It was during finals week that the Milner YouTube presence really spoke to students. Students were asking for a quiet place to study. The library was open 24 hours a day so it was difficult to monitor noise all the time. The student body president created a YouTube video, embedded on Milner's homepage.

"He talked about the need for quiet floors, and it was really very effective," Tucker said. "It was a student talking to a student, and there was a really positive response."

While Facebook and YouTube allow Milner to stay connected to students, the library is also changing the way staff communicates with students, said Bruce Stoffel, Milner's reference coordinator.

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"We have had e-mail since 1995, and just a couple years ago we introduced AOL Instant Messenger, AIM, to the reference services, and we plan on having Skype in the future," he said.

Instant messaging allows students to type in their questions at their computer and receive instant answers without ever having to leave their seats, whether they are in the library or in the comfort of their own room. Skype will allow librarians and students to take that a step further, chatting over video.

"Having so many forms of communication makes it both easier and harder, easier because we can reach more students and harder just because we have to multitask," Stoffel said. "We're not just getting one question from one person who comes up to our desk, we're getting questions from all different kinds of media."

The library has also become a part of iTunes U, which allows universities to offer free content through iTunes. Tucker said.

"We provide podcasts of speakers and events on iTunes. A lot of times professors assign students to go see a speaker, and often there is a conflict of schedule. This allows students to listen at their own convenience."

Milner also has changed the way students tour the library. All freshmen are supposed to take a 20-minute guided tour, but now they have the option of checking out iPods and taking a virtual tour.

"It allows students to learn about Milner on their own time, when it's most convenient for them," she said.

How students choose to communicate with librarians differs depending on the student, Stoffel said.

"It's not a function of an older student, or a young student, a grad student or an undergraduate student. It's just a personal preference. It's a challenge, but it's fun and we try to make it as personal as possible regardless of how we are contacted."

Sharon Comstock has been working in libraries since she was 16. She worked as a clerical page, a high school librarian, youth and young adult librarian, and as an academic library cataloguer at the University of Chicago's Law Library before recently joining Milner Library.

"I never wanted to be a librarian, but I found myself drawn to them at a young age and there came a time when it was do or die, do I want to do this or not," she said. "There were just too many aspects of the profession that I was drawn to. I have always been attracted to services and understanding youth, and that's just a small part of what a librarian does."

Comstock is director of the post-baccalaureate certification program in school librarianship. The program is designed for teachers seeking endorsement as a library information specialist, and requires 24 credit hours in library science.

"I am so excited to be a part of the story of this program," she said. "I'll be teaching in the core library and information science classes, as well as facilitating the overall program. I'll be on the front lines of the Milner reference desk and can't wait to serve both students and faculty."

She brings passion and poise to her role, and works to change the old stereotype of librarians.

"I fight to show that yeah, I may wear a bun and I have glasses, but I'm a thinker. I engage and I take action. Librarians are so unique, and devalued, but I have a passion for service, education, information, and sharing that information with the community that surrounds us. Being a librarian is a calling, and you have to be a passionate believer."

Comstock completed her undergraduate degree in English with a concentration in writing at the University of Illinois–Chicago. After receiving her master's in English from Northwestern University, she attended the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign and earned a master's in library science. She is working on her Ph.D. in library and information science, and is in the final stages of her doctoral dissertation, which studies everyday life information behaviors of young adult students relative to the culture of school and school libraries.
New employees

• Sharon Comstock has joined the library as program director for the post-baccalaureate certificate program in school librarianship. She has a Ph.D. and an M.L.S. from the University of Illinois in library and information science, an M.A. in English from Northwestern University in Evanston, and a B.A. in English from University of Illinois–Chicago.

• Bill McMillan is the new instruction and reference librarian. McMillan has his M.L.S. from Indiana University. He has a bachelor's degree from Maryland Institute College of Art in photography.

• Robert Oakley has joined the Systems Department as a Local Area Network (LAN) assistant. Oakley worked at Bloomington-Normal Seating Company for nine years prior to working at Milner as an information systems coordinator.

• Jennifer Sharkey has been hired as the instruction services coordinator. Sharkey comes from Purdue University, where she served as assistant professor of library science and information integration librarian. She has her M.A. in library and information science from University Wisconsin–Madison, and her M.S. in higher education administration from Mankato State University.

• Sarah Dick joined Milner Library as marketing and special projects librarian in July 2009. She was the reference and research librarian at OSF St. Francis in Peoria. Sarah has an R.N. degree from Mennonite College of Nursing, BS in medical legal studies from Illinois State University, and her M.L.I.S. from Dominican University.

Milner Library is hosting two national exhibits and an exhibit on Lincoln

Illinois State University Milner Library, in collaboration with the Hemingway Foundation, is sponsoring a major literary exhibit entitled *Picturing Hemingway: A Writer in His Time* to be displayed on the sixth floor of Milner Library until September 30, 2009.

The internationally traveled exhibit was created by the National Portrait Gallery, Frederick C. Voss, chief historian, for the centennial of Hemingway's birth in 1999. Photographs were exclusively selected and interpreted by Voss to depict a timeline of Hemingway's life in a narrative format.

For additional information, contact Jean MacDonald, literature librarian, (309) 438-3516 or jmacdon@ilstu.edu.

*John Adams Unbound*, a national traveling exhibition that explores the personal library of one of our founding fathers, opened at Milner Library September 2, 2009. Adams' personal library—a collection of 3,500 books willed by Adams to the people of Massachusetts—provides first-hand insight into how Adams shaped American history, and how he was shaped through his lifelong dedication to reading and books. Viewers will witness one of our founding fathers wrestling with intellectual and political ideas at every stage in his long life—as a boy, university student, Boston lawyer, revolutionary, diplomat, president, and citizen of the early American republic.

The Boston Public Library and the American Library Association organized the exhibit with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Great Ideas Brought to Life. The Friends of Milner Library provided funding to assist in supporting the speaker series.

Milner Library is offering free programs and other events for the public in connection with the exhibition. Information can be found at www.Library.ilstu.edu/johnadams or contact Toni Tucker, (309) 438-7402 or trucker@IllinoisState.edu.

*Honoring Lincoln: President, Father, Husband and the Person* is a walking exhibit with display cases throughout the library depicting Lincoln in a variety of different roles. View a Union soldier's letter home describing how he met Lincoln, original legal briefs written by Lincoln, and letters Lincoln wrote to his family. The exhibit will run through December 2009.

For additional information contact Maureen Brunsdale, (309) 438-2871 or mbruns1@IllinoisState.edu.
Saul Bellow Scholar presents the fifth Bryant Jackson Lectureship

Gloria Cronin, English professor at Brigham Young University, shared interesting facts and personal stories about author Saul Bellow in her presentation "A Modernist's Dilemma: Saul Bellow and his Jumble of Philosophers Re-Calling God."

In 2003 the Bryant Jackson Lectureship was instituted at Illinois State University by Joe W. Kraus as a tribute to Associate University Librarian Bryant Jackson. This annual event features speakers with distinguished reputations in library research. Past speakers have included Paul Gehl, Richard Norton Smith, Donald Krummel, Mary Case, and Ann Seidl.

Eunice H. Speer spring scholarship winner

Patricia Murphy was awarded the Eunice H. Speer Scholarship for spring 2009. Murphy is the reading specialist for Jefferson Elementary School, 4–6 grades, in the Charleston School District. She is the school librarian managing the library budget, ordering of materials, and collaborating with faculty on curricular needs. Murphy is working toward her media specialist endorsement. She has an M.A. in elementary education with a reading endorsement.

"I am very grateful for the scholarship award this past spring. Because of my location, I am unable to receive waivers to use for tuition and therefore have to use my own money to fund the coursework. The ability to take classes online is an additional benefit. I have learned a lot from my instructor and classmates. The assignments were relevant and were things I could actually use in my instruction right away."

Accomplishments

- Rick Satchwell presented "Teaching with Digital Primary Sources from the Library of Congress" at the Innovative Learning Conference. San Jose, Calif., October 15, 2008, and "Using Primary Sources for Post Secondary Instruction" at the Cuyahoga Community College Faculty Colloquium, Cleveland, January 6, 2009.
- Toni Tucker wrote the chapter "Partnerships Beyond the University Campus: Community Connections That Work" for the book Academic Library Outreach: Beyond The Campus Walls published in January 2009.
When it comes down to it, Milner is probably the most enjoyable place on campus. Although not essentially a "friend hang-out" kind of place, when one needs to buckle down and work, Milner is the place to be. I can't really explain it, but something about the library just makes someone want to work, as if our lives were on the line.

— Andrew Steckling

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Friends of Milner grant provides funds for Milner projects

In March the Friends of Milner Library granted funding for several projects supporting many library activities. The following received grant funding:

- Jo Ann Rayfield received funding for a Stevenson Collection Preservation to purchase conservation crates to house four Stevenson paintings, including a painting of Adlai E. Stevenson I, a painting of Lewis G. Stevenson, and Adlai E. Stevenson III. Rayfield also received funding to purchase two digital photo frames.

- Vanette Schwartz received funds to purchase microfilm of the Bloomington Ledger newspaper, which was published 1870–1897.

- Bruce Stoffel and Jean MacDonald received funding to pilot the latest in popular fiction and nonfiction books, including bestsellers in a digital audio file format, adding more titles to the browsing collection.

- Kathleen Lonbom received funds to purchase for Milner Library's Special Collections two limited edition artists' books created by Bea Nettles, renowned Illinois artist, photographer, and professor of art emeriti.

- Toni Tucker received funding to support the National Endowment for the Humanities exhibit John Adams Unbound scholars.

Stevenson looking at a picture of his uncle Lewis G. Stevenson
Homecoming 2009:
Rock the Red

"Rock the Red" during Homecoming October 12–18. Milner Library will be celebrating by decorating the library, marching in the Homecoming parade, and honoring one of our own. Malinda Evens '73 is this year’s honored alum. She was director of the Vespasian Warner Public Library, Clinton, for 27 years. Her crowning professional achievement was the new 30,000-square-foot Vespasian Warner Public Library. Evans will present a program at 10 a.m. October 16 in Milner Library to talk about how she raised funds to build the new library. All are invited.
Alumni update

Are you wondering where a faculty member or a classmate is? Send in who you are wondering about and we will try to see where they are and what they are up to.

+ Carol (Adloff) Bomball '66 has retired after 20 years as a media specialist at Charleston High School. She is now doing lots of volunteering, including two hours a week at the newly renovated Charleston Carnegie Public Library. Carol wrote, "I remember spending almost every evening studying at Milner Library with my future husband. Thanks to Miss Speer and Mrs. Fogerburg, I was well prepared for library work. An officer in Mu chapter of Alpha Beta Alpha library science fraternity in 1965, I attended ABA's national convention at Texas Women's University, Denton, Texas. With Miss Speer as our chaperone, we rode the train to and from the convention. What a wonderful experience!"

+ Kathryn Satorius '70 is retired, living in Minooka, and loving it!

+ Elsie (Wilken) Evelsizer '61 became the director of the Forrest Public Library District in 2001. She spent four years as a school librarian, and then worked in public libraries part time while raising her family. She was also a goat breeder, beekeeper, and truck farmer. Elsie minored in school library science and majored in geography under Miss Speer and Mrs. Fogerburg. She worked in Milner Library her four years on campus, and served as national president of Alpha Beta Alpha. Elsie remembers listening to Miss Welch complain about paperback books, and wonders what she would think of e-books.

+ Keran (Corrigan) Johnson '75, M.S. '93, has been the librarian media specialist at Bloomington High School for the last 16 years. She lives in Lexington and enjoys spending her summers gardening, and making zucchini bread and strawberry preserves.

+ Mel Vineyard '69 is an audit director with the Naval Audit Service. Mel majored in library science, minoring in political science. He recently wrote the article, "Passwords - I Hate Them" published in the ASMC Comptroller Magazine.

Redbird Connections

Have you been recently hired or promoted? Help us maintain our records and continue building networking opportunities for both our past and current students with Redbird Connections. Just visit www.IllinoisStateAlumni.org today!

You can also send your updated information or accomplishments to Toni Tucker (ttucker@ilstu.edu) or fill out this form and return it to Illinois State University, Milner Library, Alumni News, Campus Box 8900, Normal, IL 61790-8900

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Calendar of fall events

Exhibits

*Picturing Hemingway: A Writer In His Time*
Through Sept. 30
6th Floor, Milner Library

*Honoring Lincoln: President, Father, Husband and the Person*
Through Dec. 30
Display cases throughout the library

*John Adams Unbound*
Sept. 2–Oct. 16
Main Floor, Milner Library

Events

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<tr>
<td>John Adams, The Cautious Revolutionary</td>
<td>7 p.m., Tuesday, September 15</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Main Floor, Milner Library</td>
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<td>John Adams, Lawyer and Political Scientist</td>
<td>7 p.m., Tuesday, September 22</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Main Floor, Milner Library</td>
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<td>John Adams, Brilliant Bibliophile</td>
<td>7 p.m., Wednesday, October 7</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Twin City Tale Spinners, Main Floor, Milner Library</td>
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<td>Love to Love You Bradys</td>
<td>2 p.m., Tuesday, October 13</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Main Floor, Milner Library</td>
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<td>Ames/Milner Visiting Author Program featuring Louise Erdrich</td>
<td>3 p.m., Thursday, October 22</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>Main Floor, Milner Library</td>
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<td>Q and A at 7 p.m.</td>
<td>4:30–6 p.m., Friday, October 30</td>
<td>4:30–6 p.m.</td>
<td>Illinois Wesleyan University, Presser Hall</td>
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<td>Illinois School Library Media Association Reception</td>
<td>9 a.m.–5 p.m., Saturday, November 7</td>
<td>9 a.m.–5 p.m.</td>
<td>Crowne Plaza, Springfield</td>
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<td>Ames/Milner Visiting Author Program featuring Louise Erdrich</td>
<td>5:30-7 p.m., Friday, November 13</td>
<td>5:30-7 p.m.</td>
<td>Illinois State University Alumni Center</td>
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<td>Trivia Night: Friends of Milner Library Fundraiser</td>
<td>7-9:30 p.m., Friday, November 13</td>
<td>7-9:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Illinois State University Alumni Center</td>
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