Flora of Virginia Presentation

On January 11, 2013, several members of the Prince William Wildflower Society presented *Flora of Virginia* to George Mason University’s Mercer Library on the Prince William campus. Composed by Alan Weakley, Christopher Ludwig, and John F. Townsend, the book features the 3,164 plant species native to Virginia. *Flora of Virginia* includes 1,400 botanically correct illustrations of key parts of various plant life, which help to aid identification for anyone in the wilderness of Virginia. This book was a project undertaken in 2001, with the help of the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, among others. A digital version is in the works, with hopes to be able to create an application to go along with the print version. With the help of the Virginia Native Plant society, the Flora of Virginia project will create an app to run on tablets and phones that will allow customizable searches, making this information infinitely more valuable. In time, the project also hopes to create education programs to provide information to all willing listeners. Mercer Library was honored to accept this book, and it will eventually be available for check out by students, staff, faculty, and the public.

~Richard Plaskus
The Governor's School @ Innovation Park is a joint venture among George Mason University and Prince William County, Manassas City, and Manassas Park Public Schools. Since August 2010, junior and senior high school students from these three school districts have enjoyed rigorous coursework at George Mason University's Prince William Campus in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields as dual enrollment George Mason University undergraduates, potentially earning up to 32 college credits while still in high school.

Partnering with George Mason University's College of Science, The Governor's School @ Innovation Park STEM curriculum has an environmental science theme in which students choose either biology, physics, or chemistry as their science path. In addition to STEM coursework, students also take a "Research, Application, Integration" class as well as engage in a mentorship program where students work with local professionals in their chosen fields on their own research projects.

STEM education is rapidly becoming a focal point in the United States' educational system. In December 2012, The Center for the Study of the Presidency & Congress Committee on K-12 Education authored “A Letter on STEM Education to America’s Parents,” in which it urged parents to emphasize STEM education to their children because it “is becoming more and more difficult to succeed in the labor market or to make informed choices as citizens without STEM competency” (to read the full letter, click here). As a result, university and K-12 school libraries are being called upon to expand the STEM collection materials. With its robust STEM database subscriptions and book collection, George Mason University Libraries was already equipped with a robust STEM collection to support the Governor's School students before they arrived on campus. The staff at Mercer Library is thrilled to support these students in their STEM research endeavors.

~ Janna Mattson

Janna Mattson is the liaison librarian to the Governor's School @ Innovation Park on George Mason University's Prince William Campus. She communicates, consults and collaborates with students and faculty as well as instructs library workshops and provides one-on-one research assistance in person, by phone, e-mail & iMasonLibraries, George Mason Libraries' reference chat service. In addition, she selects books, journals, multimedia, online resources, and other scholarly materials for The Governor's School @ Innovation Park. For more information, visit infoguides.gmu.edu/govschool
Even though George Mason University offers a wide variety of books at the four different campus libraries, there are times when students and staff can't find exactly what they are looking for on site. In situations like this, students, staff, and faculty can take advantage of the Interlibrary Loan Service. This service is comprised of three different ways to access books. First, the Document Delivery service is specifically for requesting books located at one of George Mason University Libraries. Requesting items through this service usually arrive within 24 to 48 hours. Second, if the university does not have a certain item, the next step would be the Washington Research Library Consortium. This service will locate books that are held at WRLC participating Universities, such as American or Georgetown University. Third, if neither of these options helps, students, faculty, and staff can submit an Interlibrary Loan request. This service will search any participating library, including Virginia, out-of-state, and international libraries. These services help the college to find and attain hard-to-find books and articles.

To access these Interlibrary Loan services, go to http://library.gmu.edu/ and select "Interlibrary Loan" from the "Services" drop-down menu. For even more detail, please visit the ILL and Document Delivery Service Infoguide.

~ Emily Shevlin

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( infoguides.gmu.edu/ebooks )

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- Project Gutenberg
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NEW BOOKS

NEWS @ MERCER LIBRARY

New red call number sign holders were added to the library's non-circulating reference collection. They are designed to distinguish the library's shelves of reference materials from the circulating general collection.

Emily Shevlin, one of our student assistants, will be awarded the George Mason University Libraries Student Assistant Scholarship on Friday, April 12, 2013 at the Center for the Arts Concert Hall on the Fairfax Campus. Emily was selected in response to her constant commitment, dedication, and service to the University Libraries.

~ Everett Seamans

MERCER LIBRARY CONTACTS

Circulation Desk:
703-993-8340
Reference Desk:
703-993-8342
Website:
library.gmu.edu/libinfo/pwl.html

GV706.5 C644 2013

LB3061 C615 2013

LC149 M674 2012

QU342.2 H3582013

QR41.2 R42 2012