



Hamilton College Library News

September 2009

First Year Registration

The Library once again hosted First Year Registration, during Orientation, to great success. The amount of computers available on the first floor of Burke Library lets the Registrar and staff keep track of what's going on very easily, and gives the First Year's plenty of space to register. Orientation Leaders help guide students to computers during their allotted registration time. Students were also able to play miniature golf after registering. The Library became home to a seven hole miniature golf course, with "holes" scattered throughout the library including a Wii Golf hole on the third floor!



Media Library Policy Change

Now you can check out most DVDs and VHS tapes from the [Media Library](#) to watch in your dorm room, office, or home. The following terms apply:

- Students may check items out for three days;
- Faculty and staff can still check out items for a week;
- Items may be renewed once unless a hold has been placed on them;
- Recalled items must be returned within 24 hours;
- Individuals may have no more than three items checked out at any time; and
- Items must be checked out from the Media Library. However, they may be returned to the Media Library or Burke Library.
- Items reserved for classes can be checked out for three hours and viewed in the library.

The Media Library is located in Room 303 in the Christian A. Johnson Building.

For more information, please contact [Linda Brennan](#), Media Library Coordinator, 859-4923, or [Carolyn Carpan](#), Director of Public Services, 859-4485.

Have a Question? Ask a Librarian

Now you can ask a librarian for help using IM! Please use the chat box found on our Ask a Librarian page or on Facebook at [Burke Library@Hamilton College](#). Reference librarians are also available in person at the Information Commons in Burke Library, by phone at (315) 859-4735, by appointment, and by texting or emailing askref@hamilton.edu. Reference librarians are available during the following hours when classes are in session:

Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 5:00 pm; 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Friday
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday



Major Upgrades to ALEX

The library's catalog, [ALEX](#), has a new look and feel, following a summer upgrade to the system. This major system upgrade gives us more flexibility to make searching and viewing records in ALEX easier and more efficient. We have added the ability to hide or view tables of contents on many records, with links to book covers and previews also now available. New features also include expanded options for limiting searches by location and format and enhanced request forms. Under account information, you are now able to view interlibrary loan requests for the past 90 days, and request renewals directly from ALEX.

We will continue to make small changes to the interface throughout the fall aimed at making the catalog more user friendly.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at askref@hamilton.edu with any questions or suggestions.

Bridge to Asia Donations



The Library recently donated almost 22,000 volumes of journals to [Bridge to Asia](#), a nonprofit organization that supplies donated books and journals to universities in China. We are pleased to announce that this is the largest single donation Bridge to Asia has ever received.

The journals sent to China have been in storage for seven years. All of information is available to the Hamilton College community through [JSTOR](#), one of the many subscription services the Library provides. After only two retrievals from the storage unit in seven years, we decided to save the expense of the storage and withdraw the journals from our collection. Rather than send the volumes to a land-fill, however, we discovered Bridge to Asia who were eager to receive our volumes and could put them to good use. Not only were we able to save money and dispose of material in an ecologically sound manner, we are assured the journals are being put to good use in other universities—important values for libraries.

News from the Archives—Orange, Pink, then Buff and Blue?

Did the result of a track meet between Syracuse University and Hamilton College make SU change their school color to orange? Between 1875 and 1894, both Hamilton and Syracuse's color was pink. An [article](#) on Syracuse University history states that Syracuse beat Hamilton but didn't feel inspired by pink banners. An edition of the *Hamilton Review* (June 1890, no. 1) documented the meet, but suspiciously failed to declare a victor. Nevertheless, another meet occurring later at Syracuse resulted in a spectacular victory for Hamilton, and as it was followed shortly by SU's shift to orange, may be the instance that Hamilton campus lore refers to (*Hamilton Literary Monthly*, October 1890).

Hamilton's current colors were adopted in 1894 due to student discontent with pink. Students cited a lack of symbolism in the color, an inability to rhyme with "suitable" words, and poor appearance on banners as reasons for a color change. Under the auspices of President Melancthon Woolsey Stryker, Hamilton's colors were changed to the current buff and blue. These colors were felt to be associated with fighters in the American Revolution, and therefore deemed much more appropriate (*Hamilton Literary Monthly*, October, 1894).

Interestingly enough, Hamilton's color prior to 1875 was orange. (*Hamilton Literary Monthly*, February, 1875).

Don't forget to check the Library blog, [From the Lion's Mouth](#), for updated library news and information!

Questions or comments? Email us at askref@hamilton.edu or call 315-859-4735.