



Editorial

Once again, the first term is almost over. First acquaintances have been made, friendships have been formed and all the students have now settled into their own schedules and routines.

The Library has also been busy organizing the monthly Book Clubs. This year we have also introduced the monthly Italian Book Club meetings.

We encourage you to like our Facebook page which we constantly update to keep you informed about our latest events. You may also get in touch with us through our Facebook page for advice and support on the services offered by the Library.

Since we are only a couple of weeks away from the end of term, may we take this opportunity to wish all our readers peace and blessings throughout the Christmas season and a blissful New Year ahead.

JE Library Staff



this issue

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So, what does a Librarian actually do?

This is a question that every librarian has been asked at some point or other. It is pretty obvious that librarianship is one of the most misunderstood professions, as many people have no idea what a Librarian does. The most common perception of a librarian is a stern-looking lady, with spectacles perched on the edge of her nose checking out books and warning patrons to keep silent. That however, is far from being a precise description of the whole picture.

Librarians fundamentally deal with information - the collection, organization, storage and retrieval of information. However, they come in many different forms. There are reference librarians, subject librarians, cataloguers, systems specialists, managers, school librarians and a host of other variations. Although the role of each varies, there is one common aim, and that is to help people find information. Some do it directly as in actually helping patrons with their queries, whilst others are hidden, such as those in the Acquisitions and Cataloguing departments.

Cataloguing for example demands concentration, precision and attention to detail. Basically, it is describing what something is and what it is about. Every item which has to become part of the Library's collection, including books, journals, CDs and DVDs needs to be catalogued as soon as it arrives. Different pieces of information need to be recorded for each item such as author, title, date of publication, number of pages, etc., That is fairly straightforward, but other items need more thought and research in order to achieve accuracy, such as finding the right keywords. *The better-described an item is, the more likely it will be that it can be retrieved by a library user through a catalogue search.* It is also important to follow international standards when entering data. *A semi-colon in the wrong place or a missing full stop can cause untold havoc in the cataloguing world!*

Then comes the **Classification** of items in which *we decide where in the library an item should be shelved, hopefully in such a way that it sits alongside items which deal with similar subject matter.* During classification we try to find the answer to the question *'What is this book about?'* The answer is not as straightforward as it seems though, as it is not always easy to narrow down the subject material contained into one particular classification.

That is a taste of just two of the activities carried out by Librarians. So besides the obvious tasks of putting books in order on the shelves, issuing books to people, collecting fines for items returned late etc., Librarians try to organise information as accurately as possible by adhering to codes and standards, in the hope that this will improve access to said information. (Adapted from a blog post article on <http://thesinginglibrarian.com/2010/08/28/what-does-a-librarian-do/>)



One Stop Search
through all the Library's
print and online resources

Librarians' Choice

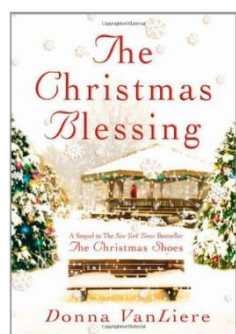
Recommended reading from our bookshelves



Christmas in the Snow by Karen Swan (2014)

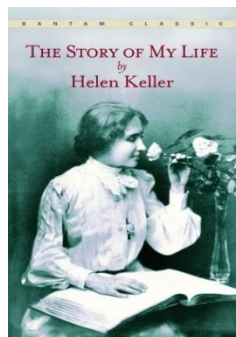
In London, the snow is falling and Christmas is just around the corner - but Allegra Fisher barely has time to notice. She's pitching for the biggest deal of her career and can't afford to fail. And when she meets attractive stranger, Sam Kemp, on the plane to the meeting, she can't afford to lose her focus either. She learned to shut off her emotions long ago and only her sister and best friend Isobel knows why. But when Allegra finds herself up against Sam for the bid, their passion quickly turns sour.

In Zermatt in the Swiss Alps, a long-lost mountain hut is discovered in the snow after sixty years and the last person expecting to become involved is Allegra - she hasn't even heard of the woman they found inside. But it soon becomes clear the two women are linked and, as she and Iz travel out to make sense of the mystery, hearts thaw and dark secrets are uncovered, long buried by the snow.



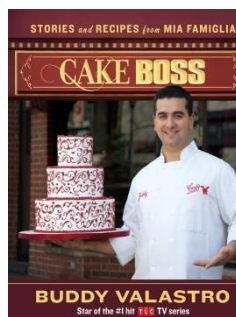
The Christmas Blessing by Donna VanLiere (2003)

Each of us is destined for something, a purpose that often seems muddy, or vague at best. We want nothing more than to know what our purpose is, to know that we haven't just been plopped down to fumble our way through to the end, but that there is a reason for our being here. We may not discover that purpose in the way that we'd want, as time in the valley will be longer and darker than we imagined, but if we are patient or still long enough, we will catch it in fleeting glimpses. We will see tiny sparks of revelation that push us closer and closer to our destiny. There will be pain, sometimes more than we bargained for, but as my mother promised so many years ago, in the end there will be joy.



The Story of my Life by Helen Keller (2011)

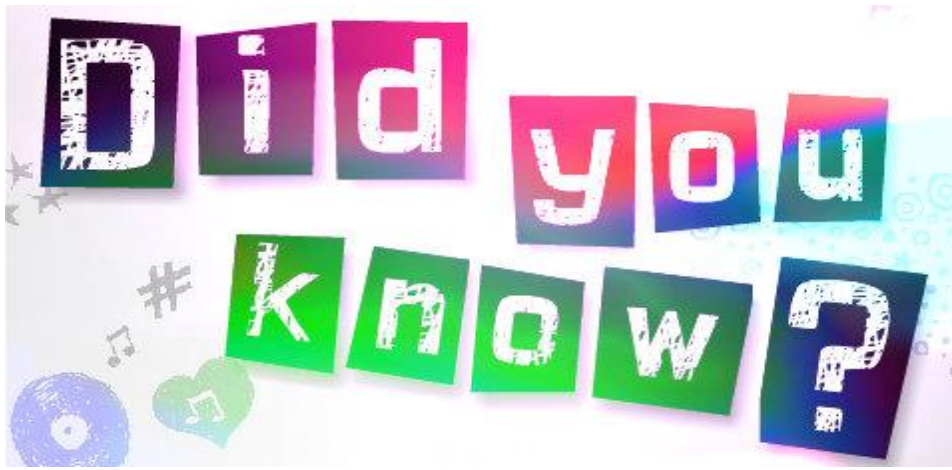
This book was published when Keller was only twenty-two, and portrays the wild child who is locked in the dark and silent prison of her own body. With an extraordinary immediacy, Keller reveals her frustrations and rage, and takes the reader on the unforgettable journey of her education and breakthroughs into the world of communication. From the moment Keller recognizes the word "water" when her teacher finger-spells the letters, we share her triumph as "that living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free!" An unparalleled chronicle of courage, The Story of My Life remains startlingly fresh and vital more than a century after its first publication, a timeless testament to an indomitable will.



Cake Boss: Stories and recipes from mia famiglia (2010)

In this heartfelt memoir, master baker and star of the #1 hit TLC show, Buddy Valastro tells his inspiring story—and recounts his family's warm memories from a lifetime of living, loving, and cake making.

Buddy's beautifully designed cakes are the stuff of legend—and so is the remarkable story of his father, a beloved pillar of the community and himself a talented baker who set the stage for his family's rise to the pinnacle of their industry. Cake Boss recounts the story of Buddy's life and of his family's bakeshop, originally established in 1910 and now a Hoboken, New Jersey, landmark and culinary tourist destination. Here are also twenty-five recipes for Carlo's Bakery's most sought-after pastries, pies, cupcakes, and cakes, an irresistible combination of time-tested old-world recipes and modern creations, all founded on a rock-solid "old-school" baking foundation and classic techniques.



An **emoticon** etymologically a portmanteau of emotion and icon, is a metacommunicative pictorial representation of a facial expression that, in the absence of body language and prosody, serves to draw a receiver's attention to the tenor or temper of a sender's nominal non-verbal communication, changing and improving its interpretation. It expresses usually by means of punctuation marks, (though it can include numbers and letters) a person's feelings or mood, though as emoticons have become more popular, some devices have provided stylized pictures that do not use punctuation.

The word is a portmanteau word of the English words "emote" and "icon". In web forums, instant messengers and online games, text emoticons are often automatically replaced with small corresponding images, which came to be called "emoticons" as well. Emoticons for a smiley face :-) and sad face :-(appear in the first documented use in digital form. The use of emoticons can be traced back to the 19th century, and they were commonly used in casual and humorous writing. Digital forms of emoticons on the Internet were included in a proposal by Scott Fahlman of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in a message on 19 September 1982

Emoji are the ideograms or smileys used in Japanese electronic messages and web pages, that are spreading outside Japan. Originally meaning pictograph, the word emoji literally means "picture" (e) + "character" (moji). The characters are used much like ASCII emoticons or kaomoji, but a wider range is provided, and the icons are standardized and built into the handsets.

A large number of emoji exist in various genres, including facial expressions, common objects, places and types of weather, and animals. They are similar to but more comprehensive than previous dingbat fonts. The original designer of emoji, Shigetaka Kurita, took inspiration from weather forecasts that used symbols to show weather, and from manga that used stock symbols to express emotions, such as lightbulbs signifying inspiration. Some emoji are very specific to Japanese culture, such as a bowing businessman, a face wearing a face mask, a white flower used to denote "brilliant homework", or a group of emoji representing popular foods : ramen noodles, dango, onigiri, Japanese curry, and sushi.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emoji>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emoticon>

Research Tip

What Information should I include when citing an information source?

Information for articles: author(s), title, source title, volume/issue, date, page range, URL (Web address) and date accessed if an online source.

Information for books: author(s)/editor(s), title(s), publisher, publisher location, date, and pages used.

Information for web page(s): author(s), title, last update date, date accessed, and URL (Web address).

What Citation Style to Use?

There are many different citation or documentation styles such as MLA, APA, and Chicago Manual of Style. Check with your instructor to determine which style you should use. Different areas of study (e.g., history, medicine, psychology) tend to use specific citation styles.



Is-Seher tal-Letteratura

Kitba ta' Mario Cassar

Għandi domanda għalikom: Għala, aħna bħala għalliema, għandna ngħallmu l-letteratura? jew Għala l-istudenti għandhom jitgħallmu l-letteratura?

Meta nsaqsu din id-domanda, normalment u puntwalment jiġu f'moħħna żewġ twegibiet li bħal donnhom jissodisfaw lil kulfadd. L-ewwel risposta: Il-letteratura hija sura ta' gost – u dak li jagħti gost fih valur. It-tieni risposta: Il-letteratura tgħallimna ħafna affarijiet – u t-tagħlim fih valur. Kif jgħid tajjeb Orazju, l-arti (u għaldaqstant il-letteratura) kapaci żżewweġ is-sabiħ mal-utli; u b'estensjoni t'hekk il-gost mat-tagħlim.

Is-sabiħ joħroġ mill-intervent artistiku tal-awtur. Dan jissawwar mill-forom espressivi li jagħżel: mill-unità tal-ħsieb u t-tema, mill-konsistenza tat-tonalità u l-burdata, mis-sens ta' bilanċ, mill-użu tal-kuntrasti, mill-kompleksità tal-ideat, u fuq kollox mit-tħaddim ispirat tal-kelma. Din hija l-ewwel grazzja tal-letteratura.

L-utli joħroġ min-natura nfisha tat-test. Il-letteratura titkellem essenzjalment fuq l-esperjenza umana. Meta naqraw poezija jew rakkont, inkunu nixtiequ naqraw xi ħaġa fuqna nfusna – fuq il-fini tal-eżistenza tagħna, fuq x'aħna nagħmlu hawn, fuq minn fejn ġejna u fuq fejn sejrin, fuq it-twemmin tagħna, fuq dak li nħossu u ngarrbu, fuq dak li jferraħna u jnikkita, u l-kumplament. Letteratura li ma titkellimx fuq il-ħajja u fuq il-bniedem, fil-fatt, ma tinteressanix. Il-letteratura tirrifletti l-ħajja; anzi għandha l-obbligu li tiffoka fuq id-diversi aspetti tal-ħajja. Imma l-letteratura mhijiex sempliċement mera tal-ħajja; hija wkoll lampa li tillumina l-ħajja; jiġifieri hija kapaci tinterpreta l-ħajja. Il-letteratura ma titkellimx fuq il-ħajja b'mod astratt jew teoretiku bħalma tagħmel ħafna drabi l-filosofija, imma b'mod konkret u dirett. Din hija t-tieni grazzja tal-letteratura.

Bin-nisġa ta' dawn iż-żewġ aspetti, l-utli u s-sabiħ, il-letteratura kapaci tqanqal il-kuxjenza tagħna u ssinn is-sensi tagħna; b'hekk suppost tarrekkixxi l-ħajja emozzjonali u intima tagħna. Fl-istess waqt, kapaci tgħinna napprofondixxu l-viżjoni tagħna billi tgħinna nifhmu x'inhu l-aktar bażiku u neċessarju fil-ħajja, u tixprunana biex neżaminaw kontinwament dak li nħossu, nafu u anki nemmnu fih.

Ix-xettiċi jgħidulek: Hija ħrafa (u allura gidba) li l-letteratura tista' ssalvalna ruħna jew li tista' tittrasformana f'nies aktar sensitivi u altruwisti. U probabbilment għandhom raġun! Forsi t-twegiba tiegħi sa tinħass pjuttost naive: Nitgħallmu l-letteratura għax għad għandna l-għatx għall-esperjenza estetika, għall-maġija tal-kelma, għal dawk il-mumentali ta' illuminazzjoni li jġibuna wiċċ imb wiċċ mal-ġenjalità artistika. Kemm-il darba smajna nies jgħidu: "Kemm nixtieq li dan li qrajt ktibtu jien. Dawn l-affarijiet dejjem kienu f'moħħi imma qatt ma kont kapaci nesprimihom b'dal mod hekk meraviljuż." X'hemm allura wara l-ħila ta' test letterarju li b'mod straordinarju kapaci jisseduċina? Kif jgħid Alexander Pope: "What oft thought but ne'er so well expressed". Mela forsi mhux id-dimensjoni filosofika, etika jew spiritwali tal-poeżiji, in-novelli u r-rumanzi jiġġustifiaw l-istudju tal-letteratura imma l-faxxinu u l-misteru intrinsiku tal-istess xogħlijiet. Hawn forsi minn sa jakkużani li qed nerġa' lura lejn l-idea ta' art for art's sake. U forsi għandu raġun. Is-sens tal-utli u d-dimensjoni edificanti, kif rajna, ġew ikkontestati bil-qawwi f'dawn l-aħħar ħamsin sena, imma s-sens tal-gost bħal donnu ħadd ma kellu l-ħila jkissru. It-tieni grazzja tal-letteratura donnha ċediet taħt it-toqol tal-kritika kulturali ta' żminijietna, imma l-ewwel grazzja bħal donnha baqgħet tirreżisti kull attakk. Ħafna tfal u studenti għadhom iħossu l-kilba li jiktbu u jesprimu ruħhom; ħafna għadhom miġbudin lejn is-seher tal-att kreattiv; ħafna għadhom iħossu l-ħajra li jistudjaw il-letteratura anki f'livell universitarju. Mela anke jekk biċċa mużika, jew pittura, jew statwa, jew poezija, jew storja mhux ħa jibdluk u mhux ħa jagħmluk bniedem aħjar minkejja s-seher tagħhom, xorta trid tismagħha, taraha, jew taqraha, għax bħall-għanja tas-sirena mitoloġika, il-ġibda lejn is-sabiħ tibqa' irrezistibbli.

• Hacker, hoaxer, whistleblower, spy: the many faces of Anonymous by Gabriella Coleman.

• The Solitude of Prime Numbers by Paolo Giordano

• Spitfire Girl by Lily Baxter

• The Quickening Maze by Adam Foulds

• The Magus by John Fowles.

• The Garden Party and other stories by Katharine Mansfield

• Oxford Pure Mathematics 2 & 3: for Cambridge International AS & A level by Jean Linsky, James Nicholson, Brian Western.

• Biology in context : for Cambridge International A level by Glenn and Susan Toole, Stephanie Fowler.

• Long time no see : a memoir of fathers, daughters and games of chance by Hannah Lowe.

• Alasdair MacIntyre's engagement with Marxism : selected writings, 1953-1974 edited by Paul Blackledge and Neil Davidson.

... and many more

Useful links



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA's Vision: To reach for new heights and reveal the unknown so that what we do and learn will benefit all humankind.

<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/index.html>

If you need an online encyclopedia that allows you to cite reputable sources, this is a great place to look.

Encyclopedia.com pulls search results from more than 100 reputable encyclopedias and dictionaries, including sources like the Oxford University Press.

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/>

Essay Punch is an interactive online essay-writing tutorial. It helps students organize thoughts and improve their essay skills.

<http://www.essaypunch.com/>

You can use Google Scholar to search for scholarly articles, excerpts, and documentation. It's a great way to find legitimate sources for a research paper when you don't have access to other major paid-for databases.

<https://scholar.google.com>

News from the Library



Book Club Meetings

Book Club Meetings in both English and Italian are being held regularly in the Library. They are normally held once a month.

Book Clubs are open to all. Those who are interested in joining are kindly requested to contact the Junior College Library Staff.

6 BOOK CHALLENGE

The Six Book Challenge which runs from October till March, invites you to pick six reads and record them in a diary to get a certificate. Please contact the Library staff for more information.

Facebook

Visit our Facebook page to keep up-to-date with any news, events and research tips from the Library.



Exhibitions in the Library

The Library will once again be providing space for art exhibits which reflect the diverse talent of our art students at the Junior College. The Library can display up to EIGHT different artworks for a period of two months. For more details, please contact the Library staff.

Library Opening Hours

1 October - 15 June
Monday to Friday 08:00 - 16:00

Saturday Closed

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