WRL Newsletter March 2016

Rebecca Seipp
Hollins University, seipprl@hollins.edu

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USABILITY TESTING—OUR WEBSITE NEEDS YOU!

Interested in making our website easier to navigate? The best way for us to improve the design is to learn how you use it through a usability study! As the name implies, this type of study allows us to evaluate the website based on how you interact with it. Throughout March and April we are looking for participants who can spend 20-30 minutes with our IT Librarian for the study. You will be asked to do common tasks on the website and think aloud through the process. Don’t worry, this is a test of the website and not a test of you, so you can do no wrong! As a thank you, participants in the study will receive a $10 gift card to the Hollins Bookstore or three free drink certificates for Greenberry’s Coffee in the library.

Once the testing is complete, we will combine the information from all the participants and three librarians will analyze the data (Maryke Barber, Rebecca Seipp, and James Miller). Based on how the participants navigated the website we will identity ways we can improve the design and implement those changes.

Would you like to participate? Or do you want more information? Contact James Miller, IT Librarian, at milleric@hollins.edu. You can also contact James to receive information about the changes to our website based on the usability study once it is completed.

HEAVY METAL IN THE ARCHIVES

Long before Hollins University, Hollins College, and or even Valley Union Seminary, a large bell was used to signal the schedule of the day to those near the Botetourt Springs. According to early administrators at Hollins, the bell was part of the Hotel at Botetourt Springs (c. 1820), and it stayed on-site when Valley Union Seminary took over the buildings and location. Eventually Valley Union Seminary became Hollins Institute and the bell continued to regulate activities of the day, such as meals, prayers, and classes. As the campus expanded, the bell could no longer be heard by everyone in the Hollins community and it was retired on Founder’s Day in 1899.

Learn more about the Hollins bell and its place in Hollins history by visiting our exhibit on the third floor of the Wyndham Robertson Library. You can also schedule an appointment to visit the archives and discover more about the university by contacting Beth Harris, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, at bharris@hollins.edu or 362-6237.
Something About The Author

One of the library’s premiere reference sets is now available online! Something About the Author provides biographical information about more than 15,000 individuals, ranging from award-winning authors and illustrators, to those who are just beginning their careers. Entries cover: personal life, career, writings, adaptations, additional sources, photographs, and illustrations.

To access the online version of SATA, go to the library homepage, click on the “Articles & Databases” tab, then type the title into the drop-down box. Or, from the same tab you can click on “Databases by Subject” and look in the “English” or “Children’s Literature” section.

New Layout for Second Floor Classroom

Remember the library classroom on the second floor? If you’ve been at Hollins more than a semester you’ve probably had a few classes in there. The new first floor classroom in the CLE has been warmly received, so we thought—how can we improve the second floor classroom based on the success of the first floor? Here are the changes we’ve made with that question in mind:

- We removed the older desktop computers and ordered additional laptops. Now you can use your personal laptop or borrow a Chromebook or iPad to use when your class meets in the classroom for library instruction.
- We added four easy-to-move tables so you can quickly arrange the space to fit your classroom needs. The classroom now seats 13 students.

A picture of the updated second floor classroom is below. Questions or comments about the changes? Please email Rebecca Seipp, Outreach Librarian, at seipprl@hollins.edu.

We Invite You to Create a Library Exhibit

The library has a new portable exhibit case and we’d like you to help us create exhibits! Student groups, classes, and individuals are welcome to curate exhibits. Here are some details about what this entails:

- An exhibit is a public display of items from our collection that highlight a theme or idea.
- Each exhibit needs to include at least 16 books or films.
- Some examples: Women’s History Month (currently on display), Life in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and On Race and Privilege

Questions or would you like to submit an exhibit idea? Contact Rebecca Seipp, Outreach Librarian, at seipprl@hollins.edu.

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Second floor library classroom with new furniture and Chromebooks.