RHODES COLLEGE
INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION

February 2015

A MESSAGE FROM DR. BOB JOHNSON

FAST FACTS

‣ Dlynx, Rhodes College Digital Archives, has over 23,000 digital items!
‣ An image of the Memphis pyramid downtown has received over 1,000 views.

CONTACT US

Helpdesk@rhodes.edu

901-843-3890

Download Print Version Here

The Library as Incubator

In the last ten or so years, we have seen the development of discussion around the role of the library move from "Library as Place" to "Place as Library" to "Library as Incubator." While none of these discussions has ever ended, the conditions that prompted the first – low gate counts, poor use of facilities and services, and disinterest in the institution of the library – are transformed in this most recent movement, which puts the library in the role of *providing* and guidance around *making*.

Where libraries in the first case were offering "learning commons" or "information commons" in order to address concerns of relevance and to augment the already canonical activities associated with information fluency, the second discussion was motivated by the recognition that the virtual library is as important as the physical one. The pendulum is swinging back to the facility and the activities that take place in it in this latest discussion, but the distinction is that the focus is not so much the collection as the activities. The topic is not information literacy as a critical thinking skill only but as a matter of creativity and entrepreneurial learning.

This transition is taking place not only at research libraries but at libraries of all kinds, including corporate and public institutions, and the energy of this discussion requires us to take notice.

Last week, Memphis Public Library celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony for its new teen learning lab, dubbed "Cloud 901," as a "social creative, production, research, and performance lab that engages teens through technology." Further, the facility's purpose is defined in terms that are familiar to Rhodes, in providing "access and training for 21st century skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, and innovation." The features of the 8,300 square foot facility, described as an "incubator," are video and audio production labs, editing and mixing stations, formal and informal learning areas, digital and analog displays, a performance area, a Maker Space "[following] successful models for teen service delivery that encourages 'connected learning' through social, collaborative, and focused environments… to assist teens in developing a toolbox for 21st century literacy and life skills."

These immersive environments are also emerging rapidly among the high schools Rhodes routinely visits for recruitment. While Raspberry Pi and Arduino programming, 3D printing, and audio and video editing and production are not in themselves the traditional business of the library, or of Information Services generally, the development of the

discussions from "Library as Place" to "Library as Incubator" put the college, the whole college, on notice. Our competition comes not from other colleges but from high schools and public institutions. The expectations and ambitions of the students and families we recruit are shaped not during college visits but in these other environments. The college visits simply confirm the validity and importance of these expectations, or they disappoint them. Our challenge is not so much to create a MakerSpace or Cloud 901, although the development of these spaces should be a campus discussion, our challenge is to respond in our curriculum, our services, our functions, and our attitudes to the evolving understanding of information literacy and critical thinking.

Free Microsoft Office for Students!

Students often ask about purchasing Microsoft Office for personal use. *Now, students can download a free version of the Microsoft Office Suite* (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote) by going here:

 http://office.com/getoffice365

Follow the instructions by entering your *Rhodes email address* and follow the prompts for downloading the software. You can use this copy of the software as long as you are a student at Rhodes College. If you have questions or problems, please contact the Help Desk.

zotero

Zotero Workshops

Zotero is a free, web-based tool that allows you to collect, manage, and export all your research resources into *a customized, style-ready format with the click of a button!* Students find this on-line tool extremely useful, especially those who are in Senior Seminars and classes that require the heavy use of bibliographies and works cited lists. Learn how to use Zotero in these upcoming sessions. Please pass this information on to students - all are welcome to attend.

- **February 18, 3 - 4pm, Barret 128**

Featured Student Worker:
Matthew Moore

Matthew Moore, Class of 2015, is currently working in Special Collections and Archives under the direction of Associate Director, Bill Short. Matthew searched for his natural talents in a few areas before landing upon the field of library and information science. As a History major, Matthew is following his passion for historical documents and archival management to further a career in preservation and information science. Also, Matthew is working as an assistant in the Memphis & Shelby County Room at the Memphis Public Library. Other Rhodes students, Matt Hicks '15, and Katie Jakovich '16, have shared these same interests and are working with Matthew as well. We are excited to have Matthew on board and foster his career choice!

DATABASE HIGHLIGHTS

Database Guide A-Z

Our Database A-Z guide allows you to quickly find the database resources you need for your papers and projects. You can browse through the databases alphabetically, or search for the most appropriate database by department or by program. No need to wonder where to go, because we have made it easier to find the relevant resources you need!