

# RHODES COLLEGE

## INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION

April 2015

### A MESSAGE FROM DR. BOB JOHNSON

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#### FAST FACTS

- Students can download Microsoft Office **for free!**  
*Click here for details.*
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#### CONTACT US

[Helpdesk@rhodes.edu](mailto:Helpdesk@rhodes.edu)

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Since Clayton Christensen made the term [\*disruptive innovation\*](#), especially *disruptive technology*, so popular, doomsayers have identified industries ripe for disruption. Once Christensen himself singled out [\*education as a test case\*](#), every critic of higher education has foretold the doom awaiting institutions fostering the intimate process of learning. Nothing makes a critic more respectable than to invoke *disruptive technology*, and it indicates that one understands what other, less insightful people either cannot or will not acknowledge, namely that their world and its ideology belong to a nostalgic past. In contrast, most proponents of intimate learning relationships lump their critics into similarly simplistic groups, often with the label *technocrat*, and reduce their critics' insights to ridicule. Moreover, the tendency to stereotype scholars involved in digital pedagogies or scholarship as "fetishizing technology" threatens to miss the degree to which intimate learning environments already depend on some technological support if only to maintain a level of convenience.

Reality is negotiated in the margins between the two, and the truth is that technology has already changed the nature of intimacy in learning, and it has dramatically changed the habits of those most supportive of intimacy in learning environments. Setting

aside Moodle and other online learning platforms and learning management systems, technology has shifted the notions of acceptable efficiency and effectiveness, of productivity and quality, and of authority and reliability. Although all of us in Information Services would lament the transition toward using common search engines rather than library systems – either the online catalog or federated searching through Summon – the use of common search is widely accepted not only among students but also faculty. Additionally, we would lament the passing of the importance of physical materials, including both books and journals, to research, but far more resources are available digitally than are available materially regardless of the library one is using, and the speed of digital retrieval makes the size of the material collection irrelevant.

To learn more about the sweeping nature of technological changes in the environment and their effects on treasured and traditional practices, see Roger Schonfeld's and Matthew Long's report in the latest [\*Ithaka S+R Library Report\*](#). Technology has already disrupted the environment and the process of teaching, learning, and research. Our tasks now are to find the best means of adopting these changes.



### Crossroads to Freedom: LeMoyne College Project

A recent project completed by Crossroads students features written reflections by LeMoyne College students. In April 1968, Professor Michael P. Johnson (now at Johns Hopkins University) asked students in his History courses at LeMoyne to submit eye-witness accounts of the events that took place between March 28-April 1. He made mimeographed copies of these accounts, and Rhodes Board member Cary Fowler (then an activist in Memphis) acquired a copy, which he contributed to the Crossroads archive. These were digitized and transcribed by Crossroads students who graduated last year. Current Crossroads students Jessica Johnson, Evan Cuccia, Alex Abdo and Morgan McCullough continued work on the project and decided to bring these documents to life by enlisting faculty, students, and staff to record some of the selections and make them available online. The website featuring all the documents is nearing completion, and we have published several of the recordings. Please contact [Suzanne Bonefas](#) if you would like access to the full transcript.

### Featured Student Worker: Kirby Rodgers



Kirby Rodgers, class of 2015, is the RSAP for our Circulation Department. Kirby has worked in circulation since her freshman year, and she is graduating with a degree in Psychology in May. Kirby manages the student workers and comes in on the weekends to assist students and faculty with library and reference needs. She is taking a year off after graduation but plans on going to graduate school to pursue the field of Arts Journalism. Kirby is an important member of the library, and we are happy to have her!



### Book Sale Coming in April!

The library will be hosting another First Book book sale on April 10 & 11 in the cloistered walkway. First Book is a non-profit organization that provides disadvantaged children with books. First Book has been in existence for over 20 years and has provided over 125 million books to children in need. Please stop by and purchase some books to benefit this worthy cause.

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### New Books and Media

Recently, we've purchased a variety of new books and DVDs that you may find of interest. Our business book section now includes some best selling books such as *Lean In: women, work, and the will to lead*, *Mobile Influence: the new power of the consumer*, and *What Works for Women at Work: four patterns working women need to know*. Also, we have the following DVDs: *The Theory of Everything*, *Game of Thrones*, and *Boyshood*. Stop by and check these out!

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