

# NEUMANN NEWS

Highlighting Scholarly Information Services & Resources for the UHCL Community

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As Shakespeare's Juliet asked so memorably, what's in a name when a rose by any other name would smell as sweet? We think names are important and that the name of a service or location should communicate its purpose clearly to its intended audience.

Traditionally libraries have been organized into two major divisions. Technical services units have focused on acquiring and making accessible published works in all of their formats, whether physical or digital. The focus for public services units has been to assist, teach, and interact with library users and scholars.

The **Reference Desk** always has been one of the public service points where students, faculty, and staff could speak with a Reference Librarian for any type of need related to identifying, accessing, and using the library's vast collections. As librarians' roles in teaching and information literacy efforts have grown, the job title for many became Reference & Instruction Librarian. The time has come for another name change as Research & Instruction Librarians will now work with users at the Neumann Library's **Research Consultation Desk**.

We hope these changes will help to inform and clarify for our users, especially incoming freshmen, our purpose and the nature of key services designed to assist them.

**Chloris Yue**

Guest Columnist and Coordinator  
of Library Research Services

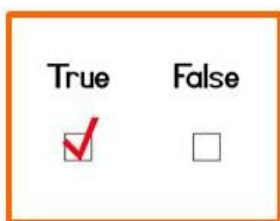
**Susan Steele**

Guest Columnist and Coordinator  
of Library Instructional Services

Alfred R. Neumann Library  
University of Houston-Clear Lake

[www.uhcl.edu/library](http://www.uhcl.edu/library)

## Reliable alternatives to Wikipedia



Let's admit it. Most of us — all of us? — have used Wikipedia when we needed a quick introduction to a subject outside our own areas of expertise. Wikipedia is not, however, a resource we want students to use for academic work. Tom Simonite's recent article titled [The Decline of Wikipedia](#) (*MIT Technology Review*, October 22, 2013) is cause for

## Research services

For librarians at the Research Consultation (formerly Reference) Desk, serving your research needs is our top priority. Our services are available beyond the physical desk of course. The big green [Ask a Librarian](#) link on the library homepage and research guides connects us with users through a variety of communication channels. From voice to quick online chat to text messaging to detailed email exchanges to a web-based, self-help answer repository, we hope you'll find options to meet your immediate information needs. For more in-depth assistance, we offer [scheduled research consultations](#) in addition to drop-in, face-to-face desk service.

Our research services extend beyond local collections for the information you need. Whether it's a journal article, book, thesis, dissertation, or video, if we don't have it, we'll provide it in a timely manner via our [interlibrary loan and document delivery](#) service.

We want to hear from you. Please let us know how our team of [research](#) and [instruction](#) librarians can better serve you and your students.

even further caution.

Neumann Library provides authoritative encyclopedias, online when possible, that are excellent resources when context, background, or introductory information, including a fact, name, place, or date, is needed. Our [research guides'](#) *Background Information* pages include multidisciplinary resources like [Britannica](#) (academic ed.) and subject-specific works such as [Encyclopedia of Human Behavior](#) (2nd ed., Elsevier), [Encyclopedia of the Sciences of Learning](#) (Springer), or [Dictionary of DNA and Genome Technology](#) (2nd ed., Wiley-Blackwell).

You also can find such works easily by

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## Farewell to Frances

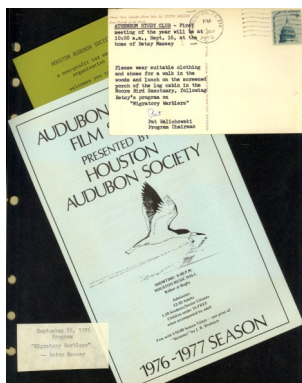
Frances Weeks, Coordinator of Access Services, retired in late October after more than 17 years of service. Her contributions to Neumann Library and to the University were enormous. She was instrumental in the creation of and a major donor of UHCL's first scholarship for veterans. It's a cliché but so true that she will be deeply, deeply missed.



## A LOOK BACK IN TIME



The University Archives holds the records of the Atheneum Study Club, one of the oldest social clubs in the Clear Lake area. The group originally consisted of seven ladies who met in January of 1946 to discuss literature, music, and the arts. At the club's first meeting the name, club colors, and the club flower were chosen: Atheneum, relating to Pallas Athena and the study of the arts; white and gold; and the marigold, a golden flower that grows in the southern climate. Documented activities include meetings, tours, guest speakers, and themed programs "to increase [the] interests, knowledge, and understanding of a variety of subjects."



Photos: [University Archives](#) collections

## WIKIPEDIA ALTERNATIVES, cont.

using [Advanced Search](#) in the Library Catalog. Sample search: [psychology AND \(encyclopedias OR dictionaries\)](#) with a format limiter for ebooks to restrict results to online resources.

## New Research & Instruction librarians



Karen Yarbrough (left) and Jennifer Holland (right) are pictured in the Easy Book Room, part of the library's Juvenile collections, which support teacher education programs. Kari earned a Masters in Library and Information Science at Univ. of South Florida and also has the M. Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction of Children's Literature from Pennsylvania State Univ. and a B. S. in Education from Univ. of Tennessee at Martin. Her program liaison responsibilities include Early

Childhood Education; Educational Foundations (shared with Jennifer); Instructional Technology; Literacy, Language, and Library Science; Reading; Special Education; and Communication.

Jennifer earned her M. A. in Information Resources and Library Science and M. F. A. in Creative Writing at Univ. of Arizona. She also has a B. A. in English from Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas. Her liaison areas include Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Leadership, Educational Management, Multicultural Studies, and Geography.

Kari can be contacted at [yarbrough@uhcl.edu](mailto:yarbrough@uhcl.edu) or extension 3914 and Jennifer at [holland@uhcl.edu](mailto:holland@uhcl.edu) or extension 3981.

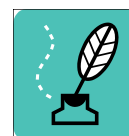
## Freshman mindset

Are you curious about the mindset and experiences of those 18- and 19-year-olds who will be part of the university's first freshman class? [Getting to Know Our First UHCL Freshmen](#) includes information from Beloit College's annual freshman mindset list and related polls, surveys, and resources about young adults.



### FROM THE EDITOR...

Heartfelt thanks to FW for her friendship, years of service, and many standards set.



### Neumann News, Fall 2013

#### Editorial Staff:

Susan Steele, Editor  
Lauren Meyers  
Chloris Yue

#### Library hours during regular academic session:

Monday—Thursday	8 am—12 midnight
Friday	8 am—5 pm
Saturday	9 am—6 pm
Sunday	1 pm—9 pm

This newsletter is available with hyperlinks at [www.uhcl.edu/library/NEWS](http://www.uhcl.edu/library/NEWS).

#### Can we be of assistance?

Call the Research Consultation Desk at 281-283-3910, or see additional [Ask a Librarian](#) options.