Students are now able to logon to the University’s Student Portal, “Access Ottawa”, which can be accessed from anywhere once they have “activated” their student account. Access Ottawa is located at http://my.ottawa.edu

The new student portal has many useful features that should make it very popular with students. Students have access to chat, blackboard, email, online class signup and their grade reports.

The new portal also offers one-time login access to the Myers Library Databases. Students will only need one additional password in order to access the HR Library Database; but all other library databases are available once a student is logged into the student portal through a proxy-server setup. The student portal can be accessed by students from all Ottawa University’s sites.

Special points of interest:
- Try the new student portal at http://my.ottawa.edu
- Try out the interface of the new LexisNexis
- Email us at Ask-a-librarian if you have library questions

LexisNexis Database Changes Interface

If you have not used the LexisNexis database for a while, you will be in for quite a surprise. LexisNexis’ interface has changed a great deal; and so has its overall organization. Changes to the new interface includes: new search tabs titled: Easy Search, Power Search and General Search.

The new LexisNexis Academic now has five very basic areas: General, News, Legal, Business and People; along with nine search within tags and a specify date tab. LexisNexis also has a new Source tab, which allows the user to search by country and also by topic, industry, area law and publication type. LexisNexis’ capabilities and search-ability are very much improved.
The Myers Library and Ottawa Genealogy

Have you ever been curious about the types of questions that the Ottawa library gets when it comes to Genealogy?

Genealogy is most definitely a favorite pastime for many Americans who are interested in tracing their family history and finding out more about the lives of their grandparents and great-great parents. They are especially interested in those who went to school at Ottawa U prior to 1920. We get several questions a year at the library asking about the activities and graduation dates of Ottawa University's earliest graduates. One recent question asked for information about Baptist history and how it would have related to the University.

If you are interested in researching people who lived in Ottawa or other Ottawa historical phenomena, there are also research collections held at the Ottawa Historical Society and the Ottawa Public Library that would be of great interest to you.

If you are just beginning your genealogical quest, here are some general search tools on the web that would be of good use to you:

- Use your Kansas library card to access the State Library Database, Heritage Quest from the Blueskyways link on our library webpage
- For a tutorial to begin your genealogy research see: Rootsweb’s Guide to Tracing Family Trees at http://www.rootsweb.com

Here are some additional US genealogy links that can jumpstart your research:

- www.cyndislist.com/ks.htm
- www.kansasheritage.org/research/inter-gen/
- www.genealogylinks.net/usa/kansas/index.html
- http://www.usgenweb.org/
- http://www.genhomepage.com

Newest Database Acquisition: StatUSA

Our newest database StatUSA was acquired last year from the Regents Consortium. This database was acquired so that it could be used by Senior Core, Business and HR students who were writing papers that required the inclusion of international and US statistical information. StatUSA is divided into three major databases: State of the Union, Globus and NTB. The State of the Union Database provides students with US statistical information such as: US economic indicators, statistics from the housing, industrial, employment and manufacturing sectors and monetary and economic policy information. The Globus and NTB databases provides information about international trade, e.g. UN and Commercial trade leads and foreign exchange rates.
Have you used Ask-A-Librarian?

How many times a semester do you have questions about acquiring a book that you need to read for class, gathering materials for a paper or using APA style correctly in an assignment that you have to submit in a class...

Ask-a-librarian is a link on the Myers Library webpage, that allows you to make contact with the librarians at the library and ask any questions or address any concerns that you might have when it comes to accessing information, using the databases, locating materials through the library catalog, using an e-book, logging into the student portal or trying to complete an assignment using APA style.

The Ask-a-librarian link can be found on both the old and the new Ottawa University websites. On the old website, the link can be found at http://uwin.ottawa.edu/libraryservices.htm and on the new website the link can be found at http://www.ottawa.edu/main/content/view/330

We certainly look forward to hearing from you the next time you are stuck and need help to solve a library-related dilemma.

The Kansas Virtual Library Rocks!

If you love to listen to music on your mp3 players or checkout audio-books to listen to in your car, the Kansas Virtual Library provides you with access to both. The Kansas Virtual Library includes the following: digital video, music, audio-books and e-book collections that may be checked out and downloaded to computers and mp3 players.

The Kansas Virtual Library can be accessed from the Myers Library database page at http://uwin.ottawa.edu/librarycampusdatabases.htm

It has been made available by the Kansas State Library, to Kansas residents and students who live in Kansas in order to go to school. To use this virtual library and checkout music or audio-books, you would need to get a Kansas Library Card from the Myers Library front desk. If you are in possession of a Johnson County, Olathe, or Topeka-Shawnee County library card, any of these will allow you to download, checkout and place holds on items from the Kansas Virtual library.
I arrived at the Conference Center just after 8am and had to go downstairs to check-in for a day of community service at Washington’s DCPL Martin Luther King Branch. Small groups of librarians were sitting on the floor, next to signs on the wall that described different DC projects that were being undertaken. I sat with my technical services group, received my sky-blue T-Shirt, and later followed a long line of colleagues down the street from the Convention Center to a high-rise, glass library building: the main branch of the system. On arrival, we were divided into teams. My team had five librarians, almost all from larger universities and one public librarian. The DCPL technical services department was short staffed and backlogged by at least a year. The library was only starting to be revitalized this year and had started hiring managers that would make a difference in the system…but of course, making a difference, takes time.

I worked with my team packing boxes of newly acquired books marking invoices and placing them on carts, ready for processing. We labeled already processed materials and sent them on to the library’s branches. Our team worked well together and developed a rapport very early in our experience. There was a great deal of camaraderie, high spirits and the willingness to get a great deal of work done in a short time. This was definitely an exhilarating experience which I will not forget for a very long time.  ~ Gloria Creed-Dikeogu.