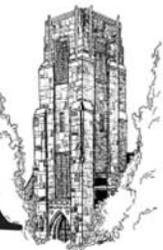


# GENEVA COLLEGE'S NEWS AND VIEWS FROM MCCARTNEY LIBRARY BELL TOWER



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## Inaugural issue

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *Bell Tower*, a semesterly newsletter of McCartney Library. In the *Bell Tower* you will find small articles about research, Library resources, Library staff updates, events in the McCartney Library, faculty publications, ways to integrate your faith into research, and interesting tidbits of information from the place on campus that is all about information.



## Twenty sentences or less: Plagiarism

**Plagiarism.** It sounds like a disease. It is like a disease because it is so prevalent in society today—on campus and in the workplace. Here, in twenty sentences or less, is what it is and how to avoid becoming infected.

**What it is:** Plagiarism, from the Latin for “kidnapping,” is taking someone else’s ideas (whether in words, images, music) and presenting them as if they are your own. Today it is easier to plagiarize than before because of word processors’ “cut and paste” ability, and because of the tremendous amount of information available digitally.

**How it happens:** Plagiarism can occur intentionally—meaning that you decided to steal (or pay for through an “essay service”) someone else’s work and present it as your own work. Or it can occur unintentionally by not properly citing someone’s work. Since our goal as students and researchers is to glorify God in whatever we do, even with mundane things like eating and drinking, we ought to make all effort to avoid plagiarism.

**Ways to avoid it:** First, start early on your paper. Professors give ample time to complete the assignment; waiting until the day before inclines you to the temptation of pilfering, or to the danger of improperly citing. Second, methodically document while you are researching. If you find a great quote, jot down the details of where you found it. That way, when you get to the writing stage you will have a log. Joseph Gibaldi recommends that you keep your ideas separate from the author’s ideas, as you are writing down notes. Third, if you are unsure of the source, do not use it until you verify where it came

from by actually going to the source and looking it up. Finally, cite it properly according to the style that your professor requests.

### References:

Mary H. Cooper and David Masci, “Combating Plagiarism,” *CQ Researcher* 13, no. 32 (2003): 773-795.

Joseph Gibaldi, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (New York: MLA, 2005), 65-75.

## Reference Toolbox: Wikipedia

**Wikipedia is popular:** A Pew research poll found that more than one third of Americans use it, and it is especially popular with well-educated and college-aged persons. You’ve also heard it before: never, no never, ever use Wikipedia! Well, think again. This article will explain what Wikipedia is, and how it can be useful in some cases as a research tool.

According to its website, Wikipedia “is a multilingual, web-based, free content encyclopedia project, operated by the Wikimedia Foundation, a non-profit organization. As of July 2007, Wikipedia has approximately 7.8 million articles in 253 languages, 1.888 million of which are in the English edition. This makes it the largest, most extensive, and fastest growing encyclopedia ever compiled. It has been written collaboratively by volunteers around the world and the vast majority of its articles can be edited by anyone with access to the Internet ... it currently ranks among the top ten most-visited websites worldwide.”

That it can be edited by anyone makes Wikipedia unlike other encyclopedias, which are ordinarily edited by subject experts. And critics argue that because anyone can contribute, the entries are easily tainted by fraud or incompetence. This is a valid point, often supported by news headlines: For that reason, and because we seek as Christian scholars to dedicate our work to God’s glory, Wikipedia should never be relied upon as an authority.

Yet, despite dangers of unreliability, Wikipedia has value for the discerning researcher. Lawrence Mykytiuk writes that “Wikipedia is an unreliable source but a frequently useful heuristic tool.” Mykytiuk explains that because anyone can contribute to the Wikipedia entry, a researcher may discover “leads” that are not found elsewhere. These leads provide new perspectives and further avenues of research, much like a detective putting together an investigation. (*continued on reverse*).

For example, if a student is researching the history of Geneva College, the definitive historical account is the book *Pro Christo Et Patria* by David Carson, available in every good library. Yet, the book and leading print encyclopedia articles do not explain that Geneva was recently involved in federal litigation to preserve its right to post job vacancies on a state job service. But Wikipedia does explain this fact. Would a prudent researcher rely on Wikipedia alone? No. However, the researcher now has a “lead” for further research, and this lead may not have been discoverable elsewhere except from Wikipedia.

The Wikipedia entry for Geneva also names the mountaineer, Norman Clyde (1885-1972), as one of Geneva’s graduates. Fascinating!

**What to make of it?** First, you should read every Wikipedia entry cautiously, and never, no never, rely upon it as authority. Instead, the prudent researcher should verify any fact from Wikipedia against another source, preferably one that is peer reviewed or professionally edited. Second, you can use Wikipedia as a heuristic tool, much like a detective to get leads for further research. As always if you need help, please visit a librarian or e-mail us at [ref.lib@geneva.edu](mailto:ref.lib@geneva.edu).

**References:**

Pew Internet and American Life Project, Report on Wikipedia use  
<[http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP\\_Wikipedia07.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Wikipedia07.pdf)>

Lawrence J. Mykytiuk, “Wikipedia: Unreliable Source, Useful Heuristic Tool,” *SBL Forum* (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2007)  
<<http://www.sbl-site.org/Article.aspx?ArticleId=612>>

## Database Highlighter ♪Naxos Music Library♪

McCartney Library subscribes to the Naxos Music Library. The Naxos Music Library is a comprehensive collection over 165,000 music tracks, including Classical music, Jazz, World, Folk and Chinese music. The digital library is searchable, and the music is available for play through streaming audio to your desktop!

Try it at: [www.geneva.edu/object/lib\\_genresearch.html](http://www.geneva.edu/object/lib_genresearch.html)

## Research Gizmo: WebFeat

While researching a topic, have you ever been annoyed that you have to replicate your searches in different library databases? First you enter search words in MacCat, the library’s book/video catalog. Then, you have to navigate to another part of the library web page and enter the same words again in a database, such as Academic Search Complete.

To help streamline this redundancy, McCartney Library now has WebFeat, which is a “Federated Search Tool.” WebFeat allows you to do one search across multiple databases. You can choose which databases you want to search

Try it at: [www.geneva.edu/object/lib\\_databases](http://www.geneva.edu/object/lib_databases)

## Research Sleuth

Can you name a former Geneva Student who won the Pulitzer Prize?

The first faculty, student or staff to email the library director with the correct answer along with the citation from a print resource available in the Library (no internet citations permitted) will win a \$15 gift certificate to Beaver Falls Coffee and Tea Company.

**E-mail John (the Director) at [jgdoncev@geneva.edu](mailto:jgdoncev@geneva.edu)**

## Noise, and what to do about it

Have you noticed that society is louder and noisier than ever? Beeping cell phones, booming radios, blaring televisions, rumbling motorcycles; in town or on campus—even in the dorms—you have no place where you can reasonably expect any quiet.

McCartney Library recognizes that society is getting louder and that fewer places are available for solace from noise. Libraries have always been places of quiet and solitude. So we will continue—as we have for 77 years—to provide a place where you can expect to find a quiet spot.

What you can do about noise is **come to the Library!**

We also realize that group study is important, so we have designated places in the Library where you can work and talk together to complete group assignments. See one of the library staff and we can show you where places for group projects are located.

Finally, we also realize the value of having campus-wide cultural events, such as poetry readings, in the Library. We will post a sign near the room before these events if we expect extra noise.



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*Pro Christo et Patria*