GENEVA COLLEGE's NEWS AND VIEWS FROM McCARTNEY LIBRARY
BELL TOWER

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1, Fall 2014

McCartney now offers Chromebooks

McCartney Library now has twenty Chromebooks available for check out! Chromebooks are ultrabooks: very light and thin laptops. McCartney Library's Chromebooks are provided by a $6,500 grant from a southwestern Pennsylvania non-profit foundation that prefers to remain anonymous. The arrival of Chromebooks at McCartney Library more than doubles the number of computers that students, faculty and staff can access within the library.

Chromebooks are one of Google's many innovations. These sleek laptops run what Google calls Chrome OS. Instead of a traditional operating system which allows the user to install and run many different programs, Chrome OS is built around the Chrome web browser and Chromebooks are optimized for internet productivity.

Despite being unable to run conventional software, Chromebooks offer several attractive features. The pared-down operating system combined with a solid-state hard drive results in a startup time of less than ten seconds and over six hours of battery life. Chromebooks are also equipped with a webcam, for video chats, and Bluetooth connectivity, allowing users to sync their phone or other devices.

Chromebooks are optimized for general Web browsing, such as email, social applications, or streaming music and videos. They also are configured to integrate GoogleDocs for research, writing, and class projects. GoogleDocs is a free web-based office suite, which allows anyone to create and edit documents online in a format similar to commonly available text, spreadsheet, presentation programs. Users can collaborate with others on the same document and can open and use documents from other devices, such as android phones and tablets. Any school work created or edited in GoogleDocs can easily be saved online in GoogleDocs (or even to other cloud storage services such as Dropbox) or downloaded to an external USB drive.

If users have a Google account, they can login to the Chromebook using that Google account and then easily access Gmail and GoogleDrive. Logging in under the Google account will also allow users to customize and personalize the Chrome browser with add-ons that will appear next time they login to any of the Chromebooks.

Those who don't have a Google account can login to the Chromebook as a guest and still benefit from all its functionality.

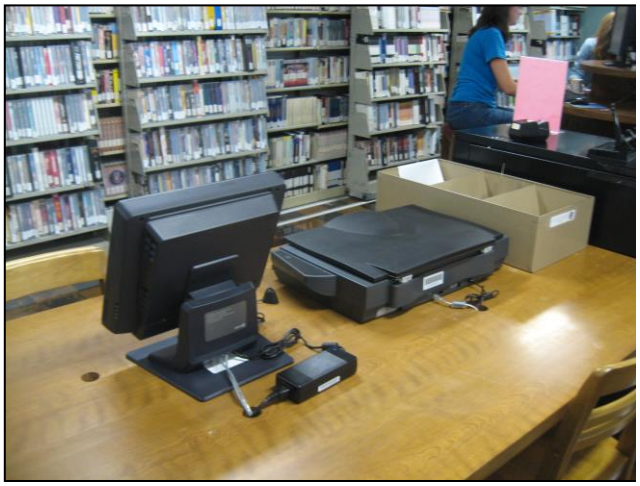
Want to try out a Chromebook for yourself? Stop by the main desk in the library today and borrow one for up to seven hours (no overnight loans). You could turn heads and be the envy of all your friends with this smart little laptop.

Technology updates

Book and Document Scanners

Beginning with the fall 2014 semester, McCartney Library offers document scanners in the Buhl Reference Room and the Media Center. These scanners operate independently of the printer system, requiring no campus login or printing capability. Users may have their documents delivered by email or to a Google Drive account, or they may use a flash drive to transfer documents directly. Our scanners offer features such as auto-cropping to reduce extra whitespace, previewing to ensure that a scan be produced properly, rotation and deletion of problem images before sending, and overall scanning speeds that are substantially faster than photocopying. Because the scanners produce only digital documents, we charge nothing for using them.

Reference Room scanner, ready to use



Media Center scanner

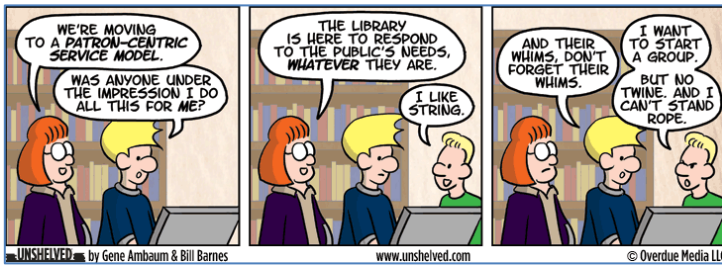
Color printing in the library!

In addition to our new scanners, McCartney Library has also installed new laser printer/photocopier machines, including one unit with color printing capabilities.

Located in the library lobby below the portrait of Clarence E.N. Macartney, the color printer can fulfill print requests from any of our campus computers; you need not order the print job from a library computer.

Color photocopies are also available; both photocopies and printing will result in a charge of 25¢ to your print account, in contrast to the 5¢ charge for black-and-white printing. If you have any questions, please be sure to see the library's reference desk or circulation desk for assistance.

Unshelved



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Pro Christo et Patria