Introducing....

the NEW IM Reference Service!

Want instant help finding information for an assignment or research paper? Would you like to send an Instant Message (IM) to a librarian and have a live, interactive conversation about your research needs? Now you can!

All ODU students, faculty, and staff can IM a librarian with a reference question. A reference librarian will be available between 11am-2pm Monday through Thursday.

Look for the icon shown here, from either the ODU Library homepage http://www.ohiodominican.edu/library or elsewhere on the ODU Library website.

You can also bookmark the ODU Library Reference IM webpage: http://www.ohiodominican.edu/library/help/ask/im/default.asp

We are excited about bringing this new service to you on a trial basis during the spring 2010 semester. Try it out and let us know if you like this additional reference option. We welcome your ideas about how this service may better suit your needs in the future!

Note: If you begin a conversation but navigate to another page your IM session will be lost. Please open up a new window if you need to navigate away from the IM Reference webpage during your conversation.

Thank you for Your Contributions!

St. Stephens Community House to Receive Children’s Books

As part of the ODU Library Christmas celebration, the library staff held a children’s book drive with the proceeds to benefit the St. Stephen’s Community House. Because of your generous giving we are able to donate the precious gift of new and nearly new books to these worthy recipients.

St. Stephen’s Christ Child Center provides quality care for children of parents who are working, receiving job training, or attending an educational program. Since 1991 they have served the nearby Linden neighborhood by providing this and other vital community services.

To learn more about St. Stephen’s we encourage you to visit their website. http://www.saintstephensch.org/child_care.shtml

Photo by Matthew Heller
Cool link from the Reference Desk

Hey, travelers!
During this winter weather, do you have worries about getting places in the snow/rain/sleet?

Check out http://www.buckeyetraffic.org/ to see travel warnings around the state in a Google Map/MapQuest format, and see what’s shaking before you head out!

Matthew Heller, Reference Librarian

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**Literary Lovers**

Match the title to the literary lovers.

1. Ron & Hermione
2. Mr Darcy & Elizabeth Bennet
3. Emma and Knightley
4. Bella & Edward
5. Rhett Butler & Scarlett O’Hara
6. Mark Anthony & Cleopatra
7. Lancelot and Guinevere
8. Odysseus and Penelope
9. Gatsby and Daisy
10. Jane and Rochester
11. Catherine and Heathcliff

a. *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell
b. William Shakespeare play
c. *Wuthering Heights* by Charlotte Brontë
d. *Emma* by Jane Austen
e. *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling
f. *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer
g. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
h. *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
i. *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table* (Legend)
j. *Homer’s Odyssey*
k. *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Answers:
1.f 2.h 3.e 4.g 5.b 6.c 7.j 8.k 9.l 10.i 11.d

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**Tell us why you *heart* ODU Library and win!**

- E-mail us at circulation@ohiodominican.edu
- Write us!
- Tweet us at “ODU_Spangler”!
- Facebook us! (Post to “I Heart ODU Library”)

Your submission should be 140 characters or less.

Include your name, social networking alias(es), e-mail address, & phone number.

Deadline: Valentine’s Day, February 14th

Winners to be announced Tuesday, February 16th
A s with all Koontz novels, *Relentless* is well written, fast paced, and engrossing. Unlike most thrillers, this book is well seasoned with humor. In that respect, it’s a lot like an earlier Koontz book, *Life Expectancy*, in which a menacing clown and assorted circus performers (aerialists) threaten the life, liberty, and happiness of a long line of bakers. This book is certainly less tongue-in-cheek, but it’s still a fun read.

The main character in *Relentless* is an author. (It’s never explained what types of books he writes, but they aren’t thrillers.) His wife is a writer and illustrator of children’s books, and his six-year-old son is a certifiable genius. These are the good guys, and Koontz does an excellent job of making them a likeable family, filling in their lives with laughter and an eccentric extended family. If the whole book focused on characters like these, I would urge my 14-year-old to read it; however, there is a darker side ...

Granted, that’s the point of a thriller. There has to be conflict, some sort of tension against which the heroes must struggle, but the villains in *Relentless* are the reason I can’t let my teenagers read it. These guys are brutal. Yes, this kind of character has a purpose; it provides the pure evil backdrop against which goodness, nobility, and self-sacrifice can be easily identified.

I think that’s what keeps drawing me back to Dean Koontz: the nobility of his good guys. The heroes in *Relentless* are not much different from you and me (with the exception of the six-year-old genius), but together they overcome overwhelming odds. In the end, they are stronger and more appreciative of one another.

I’m glad I read the book, but I’ll be glad for a respite from the gruesome villains. That’s the reason I swing back and forth between being a huge Koontz fan to needing a break. There is almost always something noble and redeeming in his books, but you have to struggle through a good bit of darkness to reach it.

--Paul Allen is Data Analyst in ODU Information Services