Book Sale Proceeds Directly Impact Collection Growth

Thanks to so many book aficionados, the ODU Library’s Fall 2003 Book Sale was a huge success! Another book sale will be hosted during National Library Week, April 18-24, so mark your calendars.

Our book sales offer you an opportunity to build your own personal collection at significant savings. For our Spring book sale, the sciences and business will represent the largest number of books available, but many other subject areas will be included.

Money from our book sales is used to replenish the library’s shelves with more current, relevant materials for research and studies across all disciplines. Additionally, we are using this money to build a popular media section of bestselling books and videos for the casual reader and viewer.

Book Review: Leaders Who Make a Difference

Leaders Who Make a Difference: Essential Strategies for Meeting the Nonprofit Challenge by Burt Nanus and Stephen M. Dobbs, (Jossey-Bass Inc.: San Francisco, 1999) is a wonderful source of inspiration, encouragement, and knowledge. The authors discuss many important aspects of leadership such as the qualities for successful leadership, which include honesty, vision, inspiration, integrity, and competence. The main purpose of the book is to explicate six essential roles of leadership: visionary, strategist, change agent, coach, politician, and campaigner. The authors accomplish this by incorporating stories about leaders who were able to overcome seemingly insurmountable barriers in order to establish or sustain successful nonprofit organizations.

The book is divided into four parts. Part One is entitled “Leadership in Nonprofit Organizations” and discusses the difference between leadership and management, the distinctive character of nonprofit leadership, the role that nonprofit organizations play in society, and the values associated with nonprofit leadership.

Part Two, “Building the Organization” discusses the leader as visionary, strategist, and change agent. In Part Three “Strengthening Relationships,” the leader as coach, politician, and campaigner is discussed.

Part Four, “Making a Difference” concludes with information concerning accountability and leaving a legacy. The authors use various lists, exhibits, and diagrams, to illustrate the many aspects of nonprofit leadership. A bibliography is included.

At the time of this publication, Burt Nanus was professor emeritus of management at the Marshall School of Business of the University of Southern California. He is a noted speaker on leadership, and he has published several books on this topic. Stephen M. Dobbs was the executive vice president of the Bernard Osher Foundation of San Francisco, and has extensive experience with community organizations along with an earlier career in the academic world.

The library staff is actively responding to the many complaints we have received lately regarding noise levels in Spangler. Please be conscious of quiet areas, respectful towards fellow patrons, and understanding of building staff if you are asked to keep your voice down and your cell phone off. Thanks for your cooperation!
Evaluating Information

It is important to evaluate the information you use in your research. Not all sources are written or reviewed by experts. This is especially true with Internet sites, where anyone can publish information without quality review.

Ask yourself these questions:

Accuracy

HOW was the resource written?
- As a report, factually?
- As an opinion or column, with a point of view?
- Is it a highly-biased or a balanced perspective?
- Are sources cited? Is information verifiable?

Audience

WHY was the information published?
- To inform? Will content support an informational paper?
- To explain? Will content support an informational or position paper?
- To persuade? Will content support a position paper? Compare & contrast an issue?
- To sell? Will content support a position paper?

Location

WHERE is the source found?
- In a recognized publication? Is the information from a respected or known publisher?
- Is the publication neutral, offering different points of view or does it express certain biases?

Authority

WHO is responsible for the information?
- Who is the author? Is it written by an expert?
- What is the reputation of author/organization? (For Web sites, domain names ending with .edu or .gov are considered better research-oriented sites than .com or .org domains.)

Currency

WHEN was the source published?
- Is it up-to-date enough for your needs?
- Does the source provide enough historical information for the time period?
- When was the item last revised? (For Web sites, are there many “dead links”?)

Scope

WHAT is the subject of the source?
- Does it relate to your topic?
- Does the table of contents or index indicate sufficient topic coverage?

Library Display Preview

“Breaking Boundaries: Stories of Spunky Women” is the Library’s latest display. Coinciding with Women’s History Month, this display features books, films, articles, and pictorial materials highlighting achievements of women in the arts and sciences. Take a moment to view the display located near the library entrance, and look for upcoming displays, centering on modern poetry and the history of catholic education.

“Read Anything Good Lately?” is an upcoming display which will highlight titles students, staff, and faculty have recently read and enjoyed. Please tell us about a book you would recommend. Submit titles at http://library.ohiodominican.edu/suggest and be sure to briefly describe the book, explaining why you recommend it. Entries should be received by April 25th.

Faculty and staff are welcome to suggest display themes which promote awareness of ODU events, highlight topics for investigation, or provide opportunities for learning. Stop by the Library’s Circulation Services desk to complete a request form.

New Library Staff Member!

The ODU library staff welcomes Cathy Zimmerman as our new Periodicals Assistant! Cathy is a student at the Columbus branch of Kent State and is working on her Master’s in Library and Information Science. Cathy is making a career change after over twenty years in accounting for companies such as Coca Cola and Huntington Bank. She works twenty hours a week, Monday through Friday. Cathy is an enthusiastic person who brings a fresh perspective to the library!

OCDE 2004 Conference Report

The Ohio Commons for Digital Education (OCDE) Conference took place at the Hilton Easton March 8th & 9th. This event, entitled “The Convergence of Libraries, Learning & Technology,” brought together faculty, librarians, and instructional technology administrators who are interested in the integration of technology into teaching and learning activities.

OCDE also is a state-wide project that is working to create the Digital Resource Commons, an advanced state network that will provide storage and network technologies for course materials and information resources. See: http://www.ohn.org and click on OCDE.