



Baxter Library

Spring 2012

Library Hours

Mon. 8am to 8:30pm

Tues. 8am to 8:30pm

Wed. 8am to 8:30pm

Thur. 8am to 8:30pm

Fri. 8am to 2:00pm

Sat. 9am to 1:00pm

Sun. Closed

Contacts

Librarians x4478

Circulation x4482

Periodicals x4471

Orientations x4473

Newsletter x4471

Library Chair

Jonathon Lee x4475

Email library@lahc.edu

<http://www.lahc.edu/library>

DATABASE CHANGES

Baxter Library has made some important changes to our database collection. You'll notice on our [databases page](#) we no longer subscribe to the Gale product AcademicOneFile. Instead, we have acquired a comprehensive collection of mostly Ebsco databases (most with the Ebscohost interface). Titles include: Periodicals Premier, an extensive collection of interdisciplinary periodicals; Newspaper Source Plus (which has replaced the Proquest database National Newspapers); American History and Life, over 1,700 scholarly journals covering U.S. history and culture; Health Source Nursing, which contains journals covering nursing and allied health; Psychology Collection, which contains scholarly journals in psychology, psychiatry and counseling; and several other titles. Thanks to CTE grant money we also have the Ebsco database Vocational Studies Complete for one year. Studies have shown (see page 3) that students don't use databases unless professors tell them to, so please encourage them to do so! Other new databases are highlighted on page 2.

USING PERMALINKS

Permalinks are permanent url links to documents in a library database that can be accessed by students (or professors) from on or off campus. Permalinks are stable and are, therefore, the ones you should use to create reading lists (if you have a web presence or teach online). Creating reading lists using library databases is a great way students can get familiar with databases without getting search fatigue. It also helps keep them off Google and guides them to quality reading. There are different procedures for creating permalinks, depending on which library database you use. For an updated handout on how to create a permalink in each of our databases, click [HERE](#). Faculty access can be gained off-campus using the campus email username and password.



Yes, we're excited about our new building opening this June!

NEW DATABASE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The library has purchased, on a one year trial basis (to see if it gets used!), the criminal justice database FORENSICnetBASE. With the many online criminal justice classes taught at Harbor College, we hope it will be a valuable resource for access to hundreds of e-reference books on the subject. Subjects covered also include law enforcement, forensics, arson and fire investigation, and security management. To browse the entire collection click [HERE](#). Or, try this document example [permalink](#).



NEW DATABASE FOR ART

Baxter has a new database especially for research in the fine arts. Like the criminal justice database, if it gets used enough we hope to keep it. Oxford Art Online includes the entire (32 volumes in print) 'Dictionary of Art' commonly called 'Groves'. We noticed many students using this print source last year so we thought we'd trial it online. Here, using a permalink, is an example of an entry for

[Hieronymus Bosch](#).



L.A. TIMES HISTORICAL RETURNS

Baxter Library is happy to bring back the Los Angeles Times Historical Database (full-text coverage from 1881 to 1988). This is an invaluable source for history or labor studies and is often the only California specific information available at Harbor College. Try out these permalinks and see for yourself:

[PORT CHICAGO](#)

[ZOOT SUIT RIOTS](#)

[PHINEAS BANNING OBITUARY](#)

LIBRARY ORIENTATIONS

The Library offers information literacy workshops tailored to your class, generally scheduled during your class meeting time. If you are interested in scheduling one, please complete the Library Workshop Request Form, and bring it to the Librarian at the reference desk or save it to your desktop and send it as a file attachment to dessouia@lahc.edu.

[Library Workshop Request Form](#). (form is fillable, in .docx format).

[Library Workshop Request Form](#) (form must be printed and handwritten, in .doc format)

Please note that our workshop schedule is filling up quickly so please sign up for a workshop soon to guarantee a spot. Please give Ibtesam a call at 310-233-4473 if you have any questions.

TRY THIS WITH GOOGLE SCHOLAR:

The library has recently acquired a new tool. This tool, called 360 LINK, enables students to see links to full-text scholarly articles from the Harbor College database collection directly from Google Scholar. (Much of what's in Google Scholar is not full-text or free)! Give it a try. Go to Google, then choose MORE at the top of the page, then choose SCHOLAR. Now click on SCHOLAR PREFERENCES. Next to LIBRARY LINKS, type HARBOR COLLEGE and then click on FIND LIBRARY. You'll notice a check in the resulting Los Angeles Harbor College box. Click SAVE PREFERENCES at the top of the page. Now that your preferences are set, try a Google Scholar search and try linking to any of the results that say FULL-TEXT @ HARBOR COLLEGE next to them. (You will now have to 'authenticate'. Sign in using your campus email 'username' and 'password' if you are off campus.) Confused? Watch this brief video:





MEET STUDENT WORKER KATHLEEN YOUNG

Born in Michigan but a resident of California since age 3, Kathleen began working at Baxter Library last semester. She has been attending Harbor College since 2010 and her aim is for a career in the social and behavioral sciences. Kathleen grew up in Manhattan Beach, attended Mira Costa high school and now lives in San Pedro. When not studying or working Kathleen loves to read (she read five novels over the winter break) and to work out. Kathleen helps out in the computer lab, shelves books and processes periodicals and we very much appreciate her ready smile and upbeat personality!

LIBRARIES AND STUDENT CULTURE: WHAT WE NOW KNOW

A two-year, five campus ethnographic study was conducted at five Illinois academic libraries. The resulting document was called [LIBRARIES AND STUDENT CULTURE: WHAT WE NOW KNOW](#). Here are the primary findings in point form:

Students rarely ask librarians for help, even when they need it. The idea of a librarian as an academic expert who is available to talk about assignments and hold their hands through the research process is, in fact, foreign to most students. Those who even have the word 'librarian' in their vocabularies often think library staff are only good for pointing to different sections of the stacks.

The majority of students exhibited significant difficulties that ranged across nearly every aspect of the search process. They tended to overuse Google and misuse scholarly databases. They exhibited a lack of understanding of search logic.

Librarians and professors tend to overestimate the research skills of some of their students and project an idealistic view of the research process onto students. Students don't know what scholarly sources are, for example.

Only seven out of 30 students conducted what a librarian might consider a reasonably well-executed search.

Students are not even very good at using Google and lacked even the most basic information literacy skills that it was assumed they would have mastered in high school. Even students who were high achievers in high school suffered from these deficiencies.

Many students were confused about where in the constellation of library databases they should turn to locate sources for their particular research topics and half wound up using databases a librarian would never recommend for their topic. Students became discouraged and changed their research topic in frustration. Many students described anxiety and confusion.

Students who had attended library orientations or tutorials showed more proficiency than those who had not.

Students unaware of the extent of their own information illiteracy did not identify that they were having difficulties with which they could use help.

Relationships with professors determine students' relationships with librarians; professors play a critical role in brokering students' relationships with librarians. Because librarians hold little sway with students, they can do only so much to rehabilitate students' habits. They need professors' help.

Professors are not necessarily any more knowledgeable about library resources than their students are. Faculty have low expectations for librarians and libraries.

If students aren't told to use library databases, they won't.

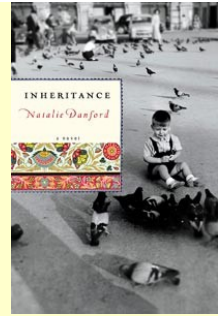
Librarians often have to walk the line between giving a student a fish and teaching him or her how to fish, depending on how quickly the student needs the fish. Educators do, however, have an obligation to encourage good research.

For an excellent podcast about this study go [HERE](#) and scroll down to 'The Myth of the Digital Native'.

WHAT WE'VE READ LATELY: NOVELS

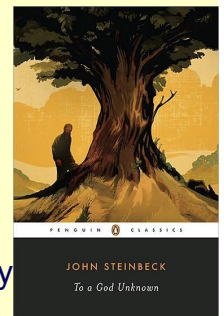
Inheritance By Natalie Danford

'Inheritance' (2008, 224pg.) is a beautifully written book which should be read slowly so that the reader can savor every word and paragraph. 'Under the Tuscan Sun' is a similar book but 'Inheritance' is richer in feeling and emotion. Natalie Danford has a talent for drawing the reader into the emotional state of her characters. The story of Olivia and her father Luigi switches back and forth from New York to Urbino Italy. Luigi immigrates to New York in 1945, works as a janitor and eventually gets a better job in a medical lab. He marries in 1959, becomes a father to Olivia in 1960 and settles in a New York City suburb called Shaleford. Luigi has secrets about World War II and a Jewish family in Urbino but never discusses them with his family. After her father dies Olivia finds a deed to a house in Urbino and decides to go to Italy to investigate. At the time of her father's death Olivia is a middle school art teacher and creates ceramics as a hobby. She is sort of a "grunge girl" who loves her baggy jeans and comfortable cotton T-shirts. Olivia goes to Italy and meets her cousin Claudia who is the same age but wears tight jeans and sheer navel exposing tops with lots of glitter. They look alike but are opposites in fashion choices. They get along well. Natalie Danford's scenes of Claudia cooking in a small kitchen capture perfectly the Italian personality. The author has a unique ability to take the reader to Urbino, Italy and experience what Olivia is feeling and enjoying. There are some painful scenes in the book but are included to make the story realistic. This is a book I loved and thoroughly enjoyed reading. Harbor College Library has this excellent book in our fiction collection. *Pat Brough-Cervantes*



To a God Unknown By John Steinbeck

John Steinbeck never wrote of the easy issues of life. His stories and novels are often about complex moral issues based on biblical stories, Greek myths and the way people react to life's bad and good times. The novels and short stories of John Steinbeck are entertaining because the characters are odd, colorful people with lots of different ideas. 'To a God Unknown' (1933, 240pg.) is a classic western story about ranchers living in the "long valley of Our Lady" in central California in 1900. The actual location of the story is the area in Monterey County between King City and Jolon in the present day San Antonio Valley. Homesteader Joseph Wayne settles in this beautiful valley and sets up his ranch. His father dies and his two brothers and their families come out to join him from Vermont. The local ranchers inform Joseph of the "big drought of 1880." Joseph Wayne becomes obsessed with weather and rain. Joseph starts to believe that his dead father's spirit is living in the old oak tree near the ranch house. In order to prevent dry weather, Joseph starts worshipping the oak tree by leaving food and offerings, hoping and praying for a wet season. Joseph also talks to the tree daily as if it were his father. Clearly, Joseph is trying to control nature. Members of his family are not happy about this behavior and the oak tree is eventually destroyed. A terrible drought does occur which kills off about half of their cattle. How Joseph handles the death of the oak tree and the ensuing famine and dry weather comprises the rest of the story. Steinbeck's descriptions of the natural wildlife, weather, fauna and geography are so well written that the reader has no problem visualizing the environment in which the story takes place. I have read most of Steinbeck's work and have enjoyed reading every single one of his books and short stories, even the very tragic 'The Red Pony'. *Pat Brough-Cervantes*

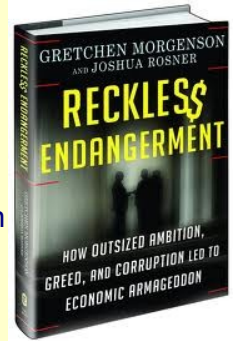


WHAT WE'VE READ LATELY: NON FICTION

Reckless Endangerment

How Outsized Ambition, Greed and Corruption Led to Economic Armageddon

by Gretchen Morgenson and Joshua Rosner



'Reckless Endangerment' (2011, 352pg) is one of many books written about the financial crisis. Due to numerous positive reviews and because co-author Gretchen Morgenson is an unbiased, Pulitzer Prize winning New York Times journalist, it was the title I chose to read. I'm glad I did. Even if one reads multiple news stories everyday, when some major protracted event occurs one is often left with no comprehensive overview of why it happened. Reading today's headlines one may well conclude that some unnamed 1% of greedy corporate executives and bankers are to blame. This is pure demonology, an oversimplification that somehow makes us feel better. It provides an easy fix (throw the bankers in jail) to complex problems (human avarice, deference to authority, naivete and ego). In order for this crisis to have happened, thousands of people must have chosen, in the face of reality, to look the other way.

Morgenson and Rosner are not afraid to name names. James Johnson, head of Fannie Mae in the 1990's, used a popular cause (broadening home ownership) to increase his and Fannie Mae's influence in Washington. He bought off politicians through lobbying, campaign contributions and perks (like a job for Nancy Pelosi's son and Barney Frank's partner). Johnson paid himself \$100 million in nine years. Crooked mortgage lenders like Angelo Mozilo of Countrywide (and many others) got on the Fannie Mae bandwagon and encourage their employees to hoodwink unsophisticated borrowers while individual mortgage brokers actually changed mortgage applicant information so loans would go through.

Laws that protected consumers were eliminated. For example in 1999 the law that protected consumers from rapacious bankers (Glass-Steagall) was struck down. This move was instigated by three Republicans (Gramm, Leach and Thomas) and was supported by both Alan Greenspan and then President Clinton. Back in 1991 a law known as the Federal Deposit Insurance Act was created and an obscure amendment was "quietly inserted late in the legislative process by Christopher Dodd, the Connecticut senator whose constituents include most of the nation's large insurance companies." This amendment allowed for federal assistance to go to investment banks and insurance companies thereby creating a new moral hazard— bank managers became less likely to exercise caution and began to encourage risk.

Perhaps most disturbing of all, at least to me, is the fact that all the credit-rating agencies (Standard & Poors, Fitch, Moody's etc.) were co-opted and kept giving banks, mortgage lenders and mortgage backed securities AAA ratings despite the fact that they did little digging into the numbers. (Perhaps this is why CALPERS (and other investors) are now suing the ratings agencies.



Thanks Jennifer, for the tour and for all your hard work.

Meanwhile, as interest rates were kept low by the Fed, the housing boom continued, and investors held 4 trillion dollars in debt issued by Fanny and Freddie, millions of borrowers used their real estate gains to borrow against the increased value of their homes. "In 2005 alone, homeowners extracted three quarters of a trillion dollars from their homes spending two thirds of it on a personal consumption, home improvements, and credit-card debt." Not all borrowers were taken; many chose to remain ignorant or to hope that raising home prices would bail them out. The financial crisis of 2008 is mostly about a culture of self-interest in Washington and on Wall Street (the authors do save a great deal of wrath for Bear-Stearns, Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers, etc.). It is particularly disturbing that "the cast of characters that helped to create the mess continues to hold high positions..." A good example here is Timothy Geithner, currently Secretary of the Treasury. Also disturbing is, according to the authors, despite the fact that it's 1500 pages long, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 will not stop another crisis. I wonder why. *Marian Locascio*

A FAMILY HIKE TO STURTEVANT FALLS

On December 27th, 2011 after exchanging the gifts and stuffing ourselves with delicious Christmas dinner with all of my family we were ready for a good workout to shed off the pounds gained.

My son Maged and his wife Monica had been to the [Sturtevant Falls](#) with Maged's USC students

before, and both of them highly recommended that we go there. In the picture are my twin sons Maged & Yasser, Monica, Dahlia, my daughter and her husband Saleh and myself.

The distance to the hike is 4.6 miles round-trip, elevation is 399 feet. There is no charge for entering but there is for parking. The 50-foot waterfall is named after William M. Sturtevant who arrived in California in the early 1980s.

The walk down to the waterfalls is ok but the climb back up is steep. Also to cross the creek to reach the waterfalls you have to hop on rocks and that may require balance. The trail was crowded most of the hike but it was a delightful day and we all enjoyed the hike. On the way out we stopped at Starbucks in a quaint part of Arcadia. I strongly recommend that you go there if you enjoy hiking. *Ibtessam Dessouky*



Library Science Classes

Library Science 101: Library Research Methods is a one-unit course and is transferrable to UC & CSU. Section 7638 is offered in the spring semester, starting on 2/6/2012 and ending on 3/31/2012. Library Science 102: Internet Research Methods is a one-unit course and is transferrable to CSU. Section 7644 is also offered in the spring semester; it starts on 3/26/2012 and ends on 6/4/2012. Both courses are now closed. I am making exceptions for students who are graduating in the spring or are honor students. If you are in one of these categories and interested in any of these courses please send me an e-mail as soon as possible requesting to enroll you in the course. My e-mail address is des-souia@lahc.edu and send it as soon as you can so that you don't get delayed.

E-TEXTBOOKS

HAVE YOU LOOKED AT 'FLAT WORLD KNOWLEDGE'?

Every day there is news about the takeover of digital textbooks. Whether it is the President encouraging schools to use them, Apple taking aim at the textbook market (for iPad), or state senator Darrell Steinberg's proposal for a digital library of free (paid for by the taxpayer) undergrad level e-textbooks (with a \$20.00 print option), it seems that everyone is on the 'e' bandwagon. One worries about the creation of either a device specific or publisher specific monopoly, of a world in which authors are paid very little (and therefore in which quality suffers), and where even 'the reading class' (see 'The Pleasure of Reading' by Alan Jacobs) will be forced into being interactive—whether they want to be or not. I wish more publishers would follow the model pioneered by Flat World Knowledge. They provide free online access, a reasonable fee for either a b&w or color print copy or for a device neutral (or even audio) download. Watch their video [HERE](#).