



Library Connections

A newsletter of Warner Memorial Library

February 2025

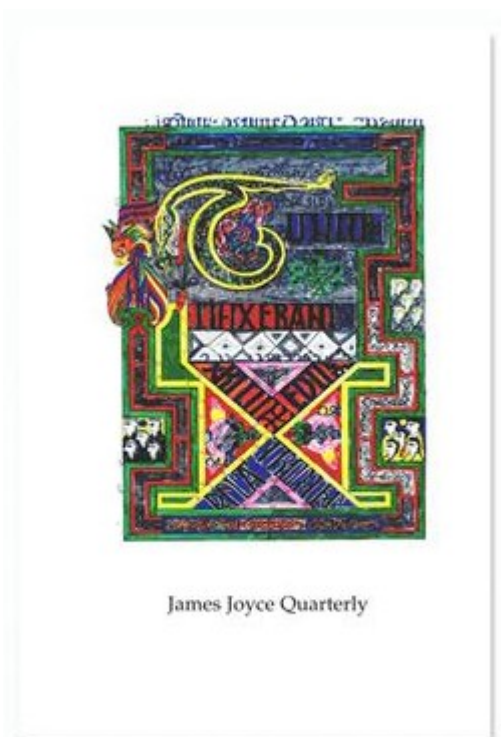
New resources added: *James Joyce Quarterly* and *Ministry Matters*

By Anne Schwelm, Director of University Libraries

We've recently added the *James Joyce Quarterly* to our print journal subscriptions. The journal provides an open and lively forum for the international community of Joyce scholars and students. Locally, it supports Eastern courses ENGL 412-James Joyce Seminar and ENGL 315-Irish Literature. We anticipate the latest issue to arrive just in time for Joyce's 143rd birthday, Feb 2nd.

The decision to add a print subscription may seem a bit unusual considering that we have access to more than 40,000 e-journals. *JJQ* is indexed in MLA (citations to current issues) and the full text is in JSTOR with a 6 yr. delay. After investigating digital access and consulting Dr. J. Christopher Bittenbender, Chair & Professor of the English Department, we determined that print works best. Our retention policy will be six years to bridge the JSTOR embargo. The print issues will be kept in the reserve room behind the circulation desk.

Ministry Matters is our newest digital resource. *Ministry Matters* is made up of two different libraries: a research library and a legacy library. The research library contains Biblical commentaries like Abingdon Old/New Testament Commentaries, The New Interpreter's One Volume Bible Commentary, as well as lectionary resources, worship resources, devotions and prayers. The legacy library contains *A History of Christian Thought*, *The Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation* and many other helpful tools. *Ministry Matters* has no restrictions on the number of simultaneous users and is accessible through the library's [online databases](#).



James Joyce Quarterly

The Study Squeeze

by Kathy Hecht, Access Services Librarian



Eastern students make great use of the library space. How do we know this? In December, during the last week of classes, we topped 100 students in the library! That's a good thing too, because at least one research study shows that there is a correlation between library use and student retention.¹ Further, students who use the library are able to find a private, quiet space for study, and that develops good habits of self-regulation (learning to make goals and meet them rather than be distracted)². The process of group study has been shown to be beneficial to student outcomes, even if group members are each working on individual projects. Another interesting finding in a recent study shows that observing other people study helps inspire students to be more dedicated to study - it rubs off on you!³

It is very encouraging that our five (walled) study rooms and three defined (without walls) study spaces are well used. The Fall 2024 statistics show 6,108 hours of study room usage over the 104 days of the semester. On Donut Night during finals week, we surveyed students on the value of the library for their academic work. 91% agreed that "the library provides a beneficial environment for studying and learning." The top two activities for library usage were study space (93%) and printing (80%). The overwhelming response for the question "what change would you like to see in the library?" was "more study rooms" (78%).

Eastern's campus population is growing, and the space squeeze that we see in the residence halls is also affecting the library. Since the 2023-2024 school year, the number of seats and especially the number of study rooms has decreased. This year, the library welcomed the ARC and Campolo scholars. Four rooms dedicated to small group study were repurposed for office space. A ground floor instruction room that was also available for group study was taken offline for the Campolo scholars' space. A quick survey of five other college libraries of similar size reveals that in those places, the number of study rooms range from 9 – 26 rooms.⁴ Our current count of five study rooms seems way too low. With the correlation between academic library use and student retention, it may be no surprise that the comparison schools have higher retention numbers.

While we are in the squeeze, we encourage students to plan ahead by [reserving a study room through the library website](#). Administrators are urged to consider the research that a college library and student retention are closely related and even more, the results of our own student survey, and assist in locating, building and allocating for private and group study spaces within Warner Library.

Sources:

¹ Scoulas, J.M. et al., A Holistic Approach to Understanding Undergraduates: Campus Engagement, Library Use and Psychological Factors. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 50(5) (September 1, 2024). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2024.102936>.

² Soria, K.M., Fransen, J., & Nackerud, S. Library Use and Undergraduate Student Outcomes: New Evidence for Students' Retention and Academic Success. *portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 13, 147-164(2013).

³ Ibid.

⁴ Dickinson College: 13 rooms, retention 89%; Carnegie Mellon University: 26 rooms in 2 libraries, retention 97%; Lehigh University: 17 rooms, retention 91%; York College of PA: 14 rooms, retention 76%; Haverford College: 9 rooms, retention 88%. Eastern University: 5 rooms, retention 75.28% (average 2019-2022).

BLIND DATE

WITH A BOOK

FEB. 3 – 14

**PRESENTED BY
WARNER LIBRARY**



Mark your calendars!

Warner Library is teaming up with the Writing Center for a series of workshops this semester, both in person and in Zoom.

Here are the dates, times, locations, and topics:

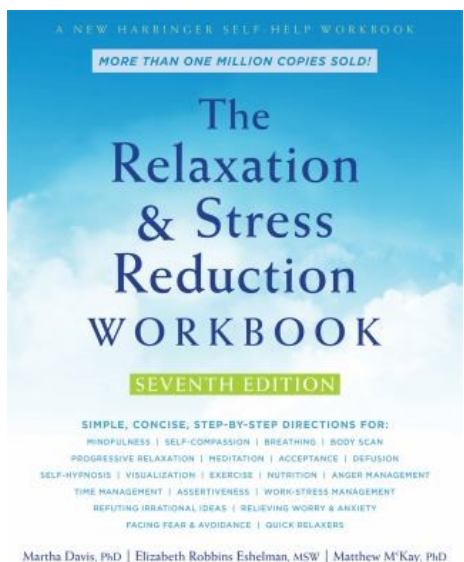
Cleaning Up Your Notes—February 17, 3PM, HHC 200

Chicago Citation Style—March 17, 3PM, HHC 200

RefWorks—April 14, 3PM, HHC 200



Ask Paisley the Library Cat!
Send your library-related
questions to
reference1777@eastern.edu!



Dear Paisley,

Question: Paisley, you look like you're also an anxious girly. So I don't know if you can help. How do I relax and not worry so much about the future?

Submitted by Concerned

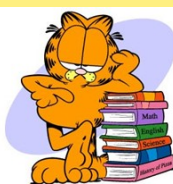
Dear Concerned,

For some reason, things are always worse in the middle of the night. Most nights, about 2AM, I wonder to myself, "Where is everyone? What is going on? Is everyone ok?" Just last night, I woke up and wandered around crying until someone cuddled me. The middle of the night is scary for everyone, things look bleaker. Maybe you and I both need to remember that.

This question sounds like something your people researchers have studied. I think an ebook might be helpful because then you can access it anywhere. To find an ebook on the topic: go to the [library website](#) and choose "Ejournals and ebooks" to the right of the main search bar. Let's try searching for "stress reduction." The first result is *The Relaxation and Stress reduction workbook* by Martha Davis, Elizabeth Robbins Eshelman and Matthew McKay. Clicking through and skimming the first chapter, it helpfully talked about the causes of anxiety, the prevention of anxiety and the physical symptoms of anxiety. The book has exercises to help a person think through and plan for future events, and to manage their symptoms of anxiety and stress. The next chapter in the book was all about being aware of your body and your internal state and what is happening outside of you. Cats are super good at body awareness. We are always judging, "Can I jump on that? Can I climb that?" We are aware of our internal state and can turn on the purrs if we are super happy, or hide if it's too noisy. So, basically, one step to reducing anxiety is to channel your inner cat and know what's happening inside you and around you and discerning how you feel about those things.

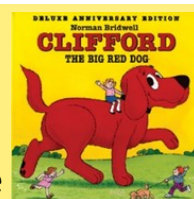
Using the techniques in this book, next time I get those middle-of-the-night-scares, I may have more tools to not be so scared and anxious. Concerned, I know that sharing your anxiety is always something that helps, share with another human or come hang with me, the library cat, and maybe it will make it a little better.

Sincerely, Paisley the Library Cat



Cats or Dogs? You Choose!

The fur will fly in this year's **Meowch Barkness Bracket Contest** at the library! Vote for your favorite cat and dog from famous books starting **March 10**; each week's vote gives you a chance to win a prize at the end. Stop by the library and help decide who's the best cat and dog!



OUT OF THE BOX!

*By Caroline Coriell, Information Literacy Librarian
(and starring her cat, Panda, in a box)*



Out Of The Box is a somewhat new segment where we share requests that have been placed in our suggestion box and how we've addressed them. If anything comes up that we can't assist you with, we'll do our best to direct you to someone who can help.

Since our last newsletter, we have not had any new suggestions. We are still taking them and would love to hear from you. But, in the meantime, I'd like to update you on where we are with previous requests.

Per popular request, **we have extended our hours till 6pm on Fridays**. We'll keep doing headcounts and see if this will be a long term change.

We are still in the process of acquiring the books requested last semester, but we still want to know what you want to read. [Click here to Suggest a Purchase](#); we look forward to your ideas!

Here's a little library-themed comic for you... Enjoy!

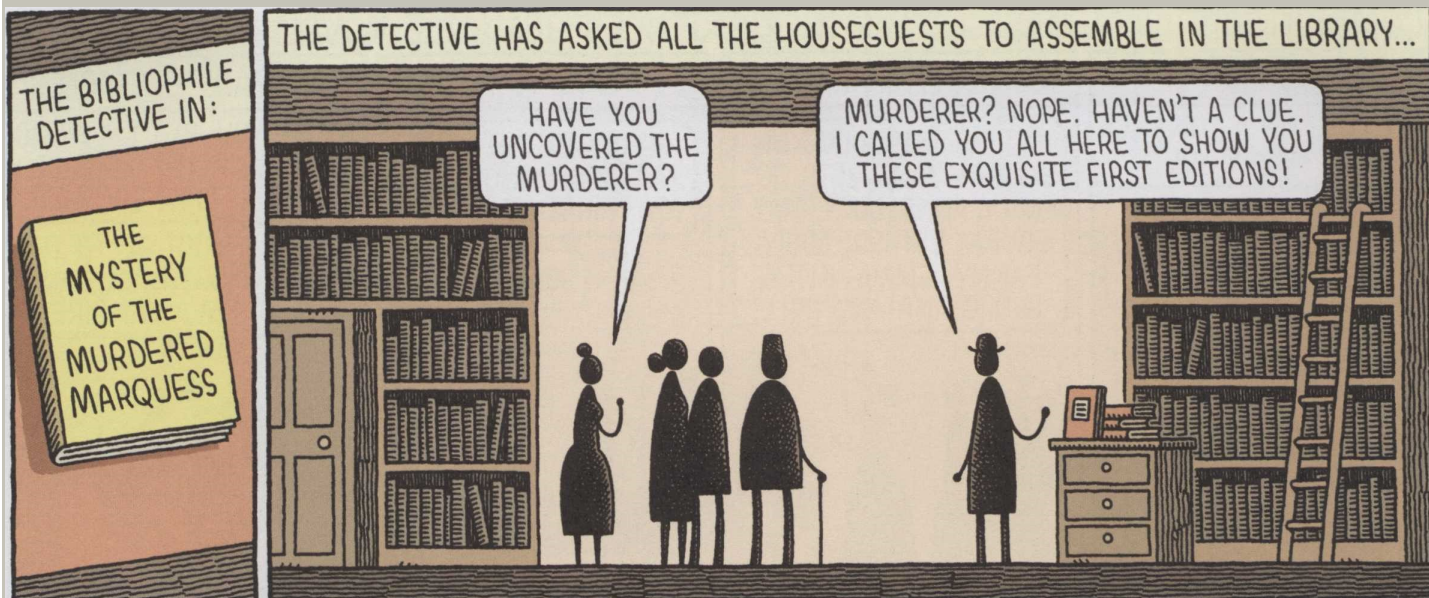


Image from: Revenge of the Librarians: Cartoons by Tom Gauld



Keep in touch with all the library's updates on our Instagram page!