INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the sixth issue of the Specker Library Newsletter! In this issue, we highlight some of the changes that have been occurring in the library, particularly our implementation of a virtual chat service to better connect with students and faculty. In the second section, we highlight a major change made to our website to improve accessibility and the research experience of our patrons.

A NEW WAY TO CONNECT WITH PATRONS

In an effort to better assist our students and faculty, the library has launched an online chat service that allows visitors to speak directly to a librarian from their computer. When students or faculty visit the library’s website, they will see a bar and a bubble in the bottom right corner of the screen (see left). Once the bar is clicked on and a message is inputted, a chat session will start with a librarian, who can help with research, Blackboard, and much more. The chat is available during all library hours including Saturday. Outside of library hours, students or faculty can leave a message, and a librarian will follow up with them via email.

SIMPLIFYING THE SEARCH EXPERIENCE

The library has recently made a significant change to the database page of its website. When you visit the library’s website and click on the “Databases” button, you will notice that this page is now less cluttered, and there are two options at the top. The first option allows you to see a list of all the databases that we subscribe to from EBSCO, and by clicking on the second option, you will see a separate page listing several subjects or programs of study. The library has divided all the databases into groups based on the subjects they cover, and when students select one of these subjects, they will be able to search all relevant databases at once.

The library believes that this change gives students a clearer picture of the resources that we offer and provides them a more efficient and effective way of searching for information.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Specker Library is able to borrow items for students and faculty from other libraries through a process called “interlibrary loan.” To request a book or an article that we may not have, click on “Interlibrary Loan” on our website or contact us for more information.

Next Issue (November 9th) : Resources for the field of psychology