Study Smart: Libraries After Dark

Reneau Howard

As Evening Circulation Assistant, I may be biased, but I believe the library is a great place to be when the sun goes down.

Successful students devote hours outside of class to studying, writing papers, and completing projects, and the library is the perfect environment to do that!

No roommates, no TV, no children, no pets... all things that can derail a perfectly planned evening of studying.

Come to the library to get more done in less time!

Come for close parking. Our campus is safe and well lit, and a security guard can escort you to your car.

Come for help researching or citing. We can save you lots of time by showing you the right tool or finding the perfect sources.

Hardin Valley Library is open until 9pm and other libraries until 7:30pm Monday to Thursday. See all library hours (bit.ly/2lE7p7W).

Microsoft Workshops

Feeling anxious or unprepared for a Microsoft Office Certification exam?

Sign up for our Word, Excel, PowerPoint, or Access workshops! You’ll get step-by-step instructions on what you need to know for that particular test. Continued p. 3

Money Smart Week

During Money Smart Week, we are partnering with the Financial Aid Office to help get your finances into shape and empower you to make sound financial decisions.

All income levels are welcomed! Events cover all facets of personal finance: making a budget for the first time, Money as You Grow, and Smart Saving for College. Continued p. 2

Have a question?

Just click on this icon on our website to chat with, email, or text a librarian.
Thinking about Using OERs in Your Course?

Several PSCC faculty members are considering replacing or supplementing their textbook with Open Educational Resources (OERs). What’s the appeal?

OERs give you freedom to pick and choose pertinent and current information for your course. They reduce the burden of expensive textbooks on students, eliminate that waiting period at the beginning of the semester, and allow students to access the resources from anywhere.

What do students think of OERs?

In a recent survey regarding the use of an OER textbook in PSCC business courses, most student responses were overwhelmingly positive:

“A free textbook has restored my faith in humanity. In addition to cost efficiency, the content is as appealing to me as the price.”

While the “free factor” was the highlight for most students, their responses also included aspects like accessing them on multiple devices without the carting a heavy book around.

Ready to get started but not sure where to find the right OER? Your subject librarian (lib.pstcc.edu/collection_development/subjectlibrarian) can help! We’ll work with you to find the right resource to fit your needs.

Meet Your Librarian: Whitney Taylor

Whitney Taylor is our new part-time Reference Librarian at the Hardin Valley campus.

Whitney has worked in academic and public libraries for 10 years. She has a BS in history and political science from University of the Cumberlands, a MA in history from University of Central Missouri, and a MLS from University of Kentucky. She recalls being lured to librarianship by the romanticism that surrounds researching archives.

As an academic librarian, Whitney most enjoys teaching people to find information and is passionate about open access materials. She looks forward to working with international students, as she loves learning languages. She can read in French, Latin, Spanish, Arabic, and Korean, and her personal goal is to increase this number to 15.

She moved to Knoxville in October last year but grew up in Jellico, TN. Outside of work, she enjoys rock climbing and hiking. She is a gamer and plays Magic the Gathering. She recently adopted an 8-week-old Boston terrier puppy named Zelda, so stop by the reference desk to meet Whitney and talk to her about history, puppy shenanigans, and Magic!

Money Smart Week

Money Smart Events:

- Mar 20, Strawberry, 11a–1p
- Mar 21, Hardin Valley, 10:30a–1p
- Mar 22, Blount, 11a–1p
- Mar 28, Magnolia, 11a–1p
- Mar 29, Division, 11a–1p
Microsoft Workshops

Why get Microsoft certified?
Validate your skills in Microsoft apps, spruce up your resume, and even earn college credit by getting FREE professional certification!

Each exam is just 50 minutes long, available at the Hardin Valley Testing Center.

We recommend at least six-months’ experience using the app before getting certified, but these workshops are open to all students, faculty, and staff.

Check out the Microsoft Office Workshop Schedule (lib.pstcc.edu/itacademy/workshops) or request a Microsoft Office Workshop (jcpino@pstcc.edu).

Magnolia Game Club

Sonya Elsberry

Love gaming, learning about game design, and socializing in a like-minded community? Really Awesome Gaming Evolution (RAGE) is for you!

We are a digital media community that gathers for casual games every Wednesday in the Magnolia Campus Fitness Center at 2pm. We aim to foster future game designers, artists, programmers, engineers, directors, artists, and musicians dedicated to developing interactive games and apps.

PSCC Libraries have many resources that aide us in game development, such as Lynda.com (lib.pstcc.edu/lynda) and the numerous books and ebooks that are essential tools in continually learning new skills in software and game development.

RAGE holds one tournament at the end of each semester on the Magnolia campus. Come join us!

African American Read-In Photos
Are you a BIOL 2010 or 2020 student? We have great study materials for learning the body!

Access SMART imagebase (lib.pstcc.edu/smartimagebase) from anywhere to see medical illustrations, videos, 3D models, and more.

Want something more hands-on? Hardin Valley Library has two complete skeletons available for checkout. Magnolia Library also has a skeleton and models of a textured brain, muscular arm, and muscular leg.

Get creative! On the second floor of Hardin Valley library, we have anatomy coloring books. Check out colored pencils at circulation.

Always on the go? Download Essential Skeleton 4 to your iPhone or iPad. Hardin Valley Library has iPads available for checkout with the app installed.

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**RE: Tips for Emailing Your Professor**

So, you need to email a professor? Here are a few tips to communicate effectively.

First, clarify who you are and why you are writing. Just think, you might have 4 professors this semester, but your professor might have 150 students!

In the subject box, type your class and section number (it’s in the D2L course title) and the topic of the email.

Emails are closer to letters than text messages, so make sure to write out words and check your grammar!

Also, your professor has so much to do in addition to answering emails, so be kind and write a short email.

Don’t forget to thank your professor for taking the time to answer you. Last but not least, always include your name at the bottom.

Dear Professor Green,

My name is Pete, and I am in your college success class at Magnolia. I am so sorry I missed class last week! I got the notes for that day from another student, but I had a question about the Career Project. There are some resources listed in the assignment… are we only supposed to use these or can we use others in our research?

Thank you for your help!

Best,

Pete

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**Fake News: We Have a Guide for That!**

Have you read some news that left you wondering, “Is this for real?” Beyond “Bat Boy” from Weekly World News, fake news is out there and can be hard to spot. How do you recognize the tell-tale signs of fake news?

Check out our new guide: Fake News & Credibility (lib.pstcc.edu/FakeNews). It goes over what fake news is, identifying reputable news sources, evaluating unknown sites and authors, and fact-checking content.

For in-depth coverage of a topic and historical facts written by experts, look it up on CQ Researcher (lib.pstcc.edu/cq). It has credible reports on political and social-policy issues over time.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context (lib.pstcc.edu/opposingviewpoints) covers controversial topics from many perspectives and includes scholarly journals, primary sources, websites, and more.