Jaron Lanier: Digital Optimist

--by Gavin Fernibi, University Librarian

Writer, computer scientist, musician—only some of the elements that Jaron Lanier brings to campus on Wednesday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Schine Auditorium.

Lanier describes himself as a “digital optimist” despite the way information networks have been developed that diminish people. In his book *Who Owns the Future?*, he describes these as “siren servers.”

Such super-computers tend towards *narcissism* (acting as though no other Siren Servers exist—Facebook does not acknowledge Google, for example), *extreme information asymmetry* (Apple or Amazon can know all about you, but won’t tell you what they know about you), and *risk aversion* (every risk of every transaction is borne exclusively by the user, none by the network—especially amplified in financial transactions).

Taken together, Siren Servers belonging to Goldman Sachs, the NSA, Google, Facebook, Amazon, Twitter, Apple, Microsoft, and others have the effect of diminishing the sense of shared ownership and human values that characterize and build up the middle class. These servers have steered enormous riches towards a very small entrepreneurial group while impoverishing the world’s economy as a whole.

Lanier remains optimistic that different network architecture could offer a different outcome. If people were compensated for information that they produce (what I buy, what I like, what my health is, how I work, where I go) with micro-payments, a sense of balance and human worth could be enhanced. What makes a human life significant?—is a question that permeates his thinking.

“Ordinary people ‘share,’ while elite network presences generated unprecedented fortunes.” The usual bargain goes: we will give you a service for “free” in exchange for spying on you. The information that users “share” on Facebook is monetized as a product to be sold to advertisers. The searches that Google “gives” you are in exchange for its shadowing everything you do online.

Lanier’s appearance is sponsored by the University Library, the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee, and the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology.

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The State of Connecticut provides students, faculty, and residents within the State a wide range of online library resources and information. These resources include databases (collections of journal and newspaper articles), ebooks, ejournals, and Connecticut government and history information. This State Library administers this free information service through iCONN.

The past summer iCONN signed a new multi-year agreement with EBSCO Information Services, which provides a wide-range of information resources to academic and public libraries. Some of the resources now provided by iCONN are familiar to SHU students and faculty. These include Academic Search Premier, CINAHL, ERIC, GreenFile, and PsycINFO.

Some of the new databases include biography information (Biography Reference Center) and teacher resources (Professional Development Collection, Teacher Reference Center, and three K-12 non-fiction book collections).

The library purchased access to some popular databases which had previously been supplied by iCONN, including Business Insights: Essential, Health and Wellness Resource Center, and LegalTrac.

If you would like to learn how to use these new information resources or would like a review, we encourage you to come into the library or call us at 203.371.7726.

In an effort to reach out to our students, especially incoming freshmen, the library has partnered with the Jandrisevits Learning Center and the Department of Athletic Support Services to provide library instruction onsite in the JLC and the Pitt Center. A new workshop entitled, "Understanding Your Research: Getting the Most Out of the Library", will be offered in the JLC on Monday September 30th from 11:00-12:00 and again on Wednesday October 2nd from 2:00-3:00.

Also during the week of September 30th a new workshop entitled, "The Competitive Edge: Understanding the Library" will be offered at four different times during evening study hall hours in the Pitt Center boardroom.

The JLC workshops are open to all students. The Athletic Support Services workshops are mandatory for all freshman athletes.

If you or your department would like to explore different instructional opportunities for your students or your staff please contact Libby Knapik at knapike@sacredheart.edu or at extension 4816.

The Library, JLC and Student Athletics Unite

--by Libby Knapik, Head of Information Literacy Program

The photograph above shows the first graduating class of Sacred Heart University walking up the hill on campus in 1967.

Copyright and Fair Use

--by Wenling Ma,
Library Multimedia Specialist

Higher education is about teaching, learning and research. Increasingly this requires copying, downloading, distributing, and displaying materials. Not surprisingly Copyright and Fair Use are brought up more often. Ryan Matura Library addresses copyright and intellectual property issues because of its role in teaching and promoting information literacy.

According to Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), Information literacy is defined as a set of abilities requiring individuals to "recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information" (Association of College and Research Libraries, 2010, para. 1). One of the information literacy competency standards of the Association for College and Research Libraries concerning the effective use of information states...
Reference Services: SMS/Text Messages and LibAnswers

--by Amy Jansen, Business Librarian

You may know that the Ryan Matura Library has a wide array of knowledgeable reference librarians who are available to answer your questions during most of the library’s open hours (please check the library website for current library and reference desk hours). But did you know that a librarian is available during these hours by SMS/text message or via our LibAnswers’ tool as well? You can text message your question to 203-490-4500 or submit a question through LibAnswers, go to the “Ask a Question” text box on the library homepage (see below). We look forward to hearing from you!

![Ask a Question Button]

Improvements to USPTO Patent Database & PTRC Programs

--by Robert Berry
Social Sciences Librarian

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has undertaken exciting new improvements to its patent database and its Patent & Trademark Resource Center program (PTRC). The patent documents in the USPTO’s database are now available in pdf format, a big change from the tiff files that were used until recently and that required a special plug-in to read. USPTO has also adopted a new classification system—the CPC or Cooperative Patent Classification—which will be used by both the USPTO and the European Patent Office (EPO). This reflects a long-standing effort by the United States to harmonize its intellectual property laws in order to facilitate global commerce. USPTO will also be making PubEast—a patent database used by experts and examiners—available to the eighty (80) PTRC libraries sometime soon. We will make an announcement when PubEast goes online.

As Connecticut’s only PTRC, Sacred Heart University’s Ryan-Matura Library is proud to help interested students, faculty, and members of the public understand and use USPTO resources, including the USPTO classifications systems and databases. For more information about the PTRC program—or to schedule a consultation to learn how to conduct a preliminary patent or trademark search—please contact Robert Berry (203) 365-4842 or Amy Jansen (203) 365-4818.

NEWS from the DigitalCommons@SHU

--by Beverly Lysobey, Digital Commons Librarian

The Digital Commons Network brings together free, full-text scholarly articles from hundreds of universities and colleges worldwide. Curated by university librarians and their supporting institutions, the Network includes a growing collection of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, dissertations, working papers, conference proceedings, and other original scholarly work. Everything in the Network is open access, an important resource with no password barriers. Please save this important research tool to your favorites: http://network.bepress.com

Our own Digital Commons@SHU has more than 1100 citations to faculty articles and other scholarship, many with access to the full text, others with links to the Ryan Matura Library catalog or to publisher websites. Access is worldwide thanks to search engine optimization in Google. Visit often to read about faculty and departmental work.

SelectedWorks sites (individual faculty web pages) now number over 100. Click on or enter the following link in your browser to see the gallery of SHU faculty so far: http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/sw_gallery.html. Continue to send your citations and pre-publication accepted versions of your research to lysobeyb@sacredheart.edu.

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INFORMATION

SPRING HOURS & NUMBERS
Mon. - Thurs. 8:00 AM - 3:00 AM
Friday 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Saturday 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Sunday Noon - 3:00 AM

For more Information, please call:
Ref. desk: (203-371-7726)
Circ. desk: (203-371-7702)

For a list of special hours please visit our website

CAMBRIDGE HOURS & NUMBERS
Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday Noon - 4:00 PM
Sunday Closed

For more information, please call:
Cambridge desk: (203-365-4872)

Copyright and Fair Use

that “an information literate individual is able to ... understand the economic, legal, and social surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally” (ACRL, 2010, para. 2).

What is new about Fair Use?

New Tool:

For faculty and staff, do you know SHU holds Annual Academic License from Copyright Clearance Center? You can find out if you have permission to photocopy or share content electronically to students and other faculty members within SHU by visiting www.copyright.com.

Best Practices For Library Fair Use:


New Popular Reading

--by Gavin Ferriby, University Librarian

During the summer the Library rented one hundred more books available in the Popular Reading section. There are fiction, non-fiction, biography, and sports books there, including the debut novels The Starboard Sea by Amber Dermont (reviewed in the Library’s blog) and Chad Harbach’s hilarious The Art of Fielding. Non-fiction works include Truth and Consequences: Life Inside the Madoff Family, by Laurie Sandell, and Lawrence Krauss’ A Universe From Nothing: Why There Is Something Rather Than Nothing. For really light (and enjoyable) reading, try Would It Kill You To Stop Doing That? A Modern Guide to Manners, by Henry Alford, reviewed on the Library’s blog by Stephanie Sorbara ’15.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 10, 2014 William John Sulli-van, Executive director of the Free Software Foundation and Webmaster for the GNU Project — Lecture at 6:00 PM at Sacred Heart University — Schine Auditorium

April 23, 2014 Kathleen Fitzpatrick au-thor of Obsolesce: Publishing, Technology, and the Future of Academy — Event to take place at 2:00 PM in the Schine Auditorium at SHU

Ryan Matura Library Book Club Reading List and Meeting Dates

October: Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro -- Book Club Meeting for October Book will be November 6, 2013 at 1:00 PM at the Library Café

November: And the Mountains Echoes by Khaled Hosseini -- Book Club Meeting for No-vember Book will be December 4, 2013 at 1:00 PM at the Library Café

February: March by Geraldine Brooks — Book Club Meeting for February Book will be March 12, 2014 at 1:00 PM at the Library Café

If you are interested in participating in the Book Club please email me, Renata Cioffi, at cioffim@sacredheart.edu or Libby Knapik at knapikl@sacredheart.edu

Enjoy the readings!