

## PGCC Librarians Speak at the American Library Association



Imogene Zachery presents the library tutorial while panel moderator, Marianne Rough looks on

Approximately 190 people attended an information literacy session, **Bridging the Gap**, at ALA Orlando where Electronic Resources Librarian, Imogene Zachery, presented the Quick Research Library Tutorial. At the June 26, 2004 session Marianne Rough, Acquisitions Librarian and Program Planning Chair of the Community and Junior College Libraries Section of the American Library Association, moderated the panel. The session was highlighted in the June, 2004 issue of the *Library Journal* as a program that promised “to educate, inform, excite and entertain.” Evaluations from the attendees included responses such as “fantastic,” “very helpful,” “interesting,” and “timely.” The panel consisted of librarians from a high school, community college, four-year college and a research university.



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### Library Services for Online Courses

Students enrolled in online courses can get help from a librarian as they work their assignments on Blackboard. Library instruction for online courses can be customized and made available on the “Discussion Board” feature of Blackboard. To use this new service, online course instructors assign a period of time (usually 7 - 10 days) for students to interact with a librarian. The librarian checks the “Discussion Board” several times a day during this period to answer questions regarding re-

search for the course. Courses taught at extension centers can also make use of this new service. For more information, contact Norma Schmidt at x-0471 or email her at [nschmid@pgcc.edu](mailto:nschmid@pgcc.edu).

## Information Literacy and Critical Thinking

All of us are constantly bombarded with information in all forms. Your students need to be educated in knowing when, where, and how to find, retrieve, analyze and use information. Critically evaluating information sources is essential as students gather information from books, magazines, journals, newspapers, online databases, and from the Internet. Sources of information can present challenges in identifying authoritative sources. Knowing how to identify a few categories and synthesize information will be invaluable for students doing research. For example, information sites provide factual information such as reference sources, libraries, statistics, and events. Educational institutions or governmental bodies frequently publish these sites. These sites usually have **edu** or **gov** as their domains.

Before assigning a research project, have students review the *Library Tutorial* modules ([www.pgcc.edu/library/tutorial](http://www.pgcc.edu/library/tutorial)), which explain how to evaluate sources, search the Internet, and cite sources. To assess students' information literacy, have students take the quiz at the end of the module.

*Portions of this article were taken from the 2004-2005 Handbook of Critical Thinking Resources, compiled by Bill Peirce*

## Coming Attraction

Ever wondered what magazines, journals, or newspapers are available from the PGCC library? Well wonder no more. In a few months the library web site will provide a link to a listing of periodicals. The *Periodicals* link will give detailed information as to whether the item is physically owned by the library or available through one of our subscription online databases. Stay tuned for this new service.

## Remote Access - [my.pgcc.edu](http://my.pgcc.edu)

The library has several subscriptions to databases accessible via the Internet. These databases contain many refereed or peer reviewed full text articles. Students who use articles from the databases are using authoritative sources. We would like to remind you that you and your students may access many of the subscription online databases off campus. As faculty you simply need to use your Novell Network login and password. Students will need to create a username and password. Direct them to the web site <http://my.pgcc.edu>. Once a username and password has been created, accessing the databases remotely becomes easy to do. However, if you or your students encounter any problems, the same web site provides a "Report a Problem" screen. Simply fill in the boxes and click submit.



## Help Us Help Your Students

As we approach mid-semester we'd like to take this opportunity to offer some helpful tips in support of better assisting your students in their research efforts.

Provide the librarians advance notice of an assignment that will use certain printed sources (send us a copy of the printed assignment).

Contact Norma Schmidt to schedule instructional sessions or other "in-library" class sessions.

Inform students when a book or video is available "on Reserve" rather than simply "in the library."

Current course textbooks are generally not available. You may send one to be placed "on Reserve."



@ your library

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