

RE:fresh!

News from Middletown Thrall Library's Reference Department

ISSUE # 2

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"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." Edith Wharton

From the Head of Reference

Mary Susan Flannery Climes

Welcome to the second issue of *RE:fresh!* where the Reference Department at Middletown Thrall Library reports on some of its many monthly updates, including recent acquisitions, new electronic resources, and much more.

We encourage you to make full use of all these great and free services, many of which can be accessed at home by members of our library.

New & Expanded Databases

www.thrall.org/databases

Our databases pages have been completely revised and expanded. We have done so in hopes of improving access to them for our researchers.

If you never used databases before, you can learn about them by clicking the "quick introduction" link at the top of any database page.

Each database now has its own page, complete with an extended description, helpful tips, technical considerations wherever necessary, "see also" links to related databases or websites, as well as information on how and where each database can be accessed (e.g. at home or only in the library).

Every database page also contains an alphabetical and topical list of databases, so that, no matter where you are, you can always access any other database. You also can access a list of all our databases right on our home page: **www.thrall.org**

Many database topics exist, such as: Automotive Repair, Biography, Book Searches & Reviews, Business, Education, Encyclopedias, Genealogy, General Research, Health, History, Language, Law, Literature, Multicultural Resources, Music, Newspapers, Religion, Science, Social Issues, Student Research, and Virtual Reference Library.

Virtual Reference Library

www.thrall.org/vrl

Virtual Reference Library (VRL) titles are Internet editions of major reference books that also appear in print. Our VRL collection has a growing number of titles you can access in the library or at home (if you are an active Thrall cardholder).

VRL topics include: Arts, Biography, Business, Environment, History, Law, Literature, Medicine, Multicultural Studies, Nation and World, Religion, Science, and Social Science.

These encyclopedias and multi-volume sets have tables of contents, indexes, and can be browsed like regular book or searched. Some even have illustrations and photographs.

These excellent resources can be freely accessed over the Internet by Thrall members outside of the library. Please try them when you get a chance.

Global Economic Crisis Guide

www.thrall.org/economy

Our latest Special Coverage guide gives you instant access to essential news and other information provided by various sources as well as New York State and the Federal Government. The guide is updated regularly, and we hope you find it helpful.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

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Please contact our Reference Librarians at:

(845) 341-5461 or (845) 341-5462

or on the web at **www.thrall.org/ask**

Web Resource News

www.thrall.org/guides

Our web guides are constantly updated. Here are recent changes you might want to know about:

Our **Literature guide** (www.thrall.org/literature) has been completely revised and expanded.

There are two main sections: "Literature in the Library" and "Literature on the Web. The "Library" section offers an introduction to literature ("Rediscovering Literature") as well as information on how literature is classified in the library and a list of major literary reference materials in print.

A new "Literature Explorer" can be found when you click the "Classics in the Library Catalog" link. Here you can browse famous authors and literary works available throughout the library system.

The "Web" section of the guide gives you quick links to literary websites arranged under the following subject headings: American Literature, Authors, Awarded Books, Blogs/Discussions, Classical Literature, Comparative Literature, Criticism/Literary Theory, Databases, eBooks, Drama, English Literature, Essays, History, Jane Austen, Literary Journals, Literary Terms, Novels, Poetry, Quotations, Short Stories, Study Guides, Trivia, William Shakespeare, and World Literature.

Our **Law guide** (www.thrall.org/law) experienced a comparable transformation, bringing you extended access to legal topics on the web and in the library.

Like the new Literature guide, the Law guide offers information on classification, reference and circulating materials in the library, databases, as well as a wealth of web-based resources.

Websites in the Law guide are arranged under these topics: General and Comprehensive Information, International / Foreign Law, United States Federal Law, New York State Law, Other State Laws, County / City / Town / Local Government, Blogs, Directories, History & Philosophy, Law by Topic, Law Enforcement, News, and Research Tools.

The "Law by Topic" section includes: Adoption, Agriculture, Bankruptcy, Commercial Law, Civil Lawsuits, Civil Rights, Consumer Law, Copyrights, Criminal Law, Domestic Violence, Education, Elder Law, Employment, Environment, Family, Health, Marriage & Divorce, Megan's Law, Patents, Privacy, Technology & Law, Trademarks, Traffic Violations, and Wills & Estates.

Our **Ready Reference guide** (thrall.org/readyref) has a new "**Urban Legends**" category you can use to investigate rumors circulating on and off the Web.

Go "*Beyond the Box Office!*"

www.thrall.org/btbo

Thrall has created a new publication called "Beyond the Box Office." Available at the library and on the web as a blog (at the above web link), this quarterly list of movies features some of the lesser-known yet very interesting films from our collections. The web edition also includes links you can click to check the catalog for any title you like. Free print copies are available at Reference and by the DVD browser boxes across from the New Books section.

From Our Blogs...

www.thrall.org/blogs

Our blogs contain news we think might interest you. In addition to websites, we also showcase resources available in our library system. You now also have the option of subscribing to our blogs through "RSS feeds." Some recently blogged topics include:

Fractals - An introduction to the amazing geometrical phenomenon found throughout science and nature (in our *Science & Technology* blog)

What's "New in November" in the publishing world? Who won the **2008 Nobel Prize in Literature**? Our *Booklovers* blog has the answers!

Our *Environment* blog talks about our updated *Climate Change* guide and other timely topics.

Salem History Encyclopedias in Print and on the Web

www.thrall.org/databases

We recently purchased a number of encyclopedic sets from Salem Press in addition to others we acquired over the past couple of years. Titles in the *Great Lives from History* and *Great Events from History* series include:

- *The Ancient World* and *The Middle Ages*
- *The Renaissance and Early Modern Era*
- *The 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th Century* sets
- *Fifties, Sixties, Seventies, & Eighties in America*
- *Notorious Lives*

These and many other related encyclopedic sets can be found throughout the 900s section (History) in the Reference Department at Thrall.

Members of our library can access most of these titles freely on the web until December 31, 2011 as part of an offer from the publisher. To get started, go to the above web link, click "History" and then click "Salem History." Enjoy them while they last!