

RE:refresh!

Reference Service News from Middletown Thrall Library

June 2012

“Choice compels choice...” – Epictetus

Welcome to **RE:refresh!** This is where Middletown Thrall Library's Reference Department updates you on its latest efforts to empower you with the **best research tools** and **resources** currently available! Online editions of **RE:refresh!** can be downloaded from our website at www.thrall.org/refresh

New Health Reference Works

www.thrall.org/databases

Our **Reference** collection has expanded to include two new health encyclopedias: **Complementary & Alternative Medicine** (located at REF 615.5 COM) and **Infectious Diseases & Conditions** (REF 616.9). In addition to these **print editions**, both works are available **online**: to access them, please visit our **Databases** page (at the link above), select **Health**, and then click on **Salem Health**. Members of Thrall can access these online editions *at home!*

Virtual Reference Library Updates

www.thrall.org/vrl

Our Virtual Reference Library (VRL) now has **Travel Guides!** You can access electronic **Eyewitness Travel Guides** and **Rough Guides** in the library or at home by members of Thrall.

Other additions to the VRL include new **Business Plans Handbooks**, **Shakespeare for Students**, and **The Encyclopedia of Space**.

VRL reference works are always available online, and they require no checkouts, software, or downloading!

Downloads & Apps

www.thrall.org/downloads

We updated our directory of **free and open source software**, plugins, and popular “apps” with new programs, cross-references, and listings of download providers.

Thrall Reference Services

Mary Susan Flannery Climes, Head of Reference

Call Our Reference Librarians: (845) 341-5461

or Ask a Librarian *online*: www.thrall.org/ask

Reference Blog: www.thrall.org/refblog

Information Guides: www.thrall.org/guides

Critical Thinking Skills

www.thrall.org/think

Thrall's critical thinking guides and directories of related resources/research tools have their own page at our site. Learn how to **evaluate information**, use **search engines** more effectively, locate “**opposing viewpoints**,” and more. See the above link or click on “**Critical Thinking**” in our Ready Reference Center (thrall.org/readyref).

Business & Personal Finance

www.thrall.org/business

Our various business / personal finance resources and research services have been centralized into one convenient menu. You can also explore related items in the library catalog. The new menu can be found at the above link, through our **home page** (thrall.org), or through our **Information Guides** (thrall.org/guides) page.

eBooks Help

www.thrall.org/ebooks

www.thrall.org/ebookshelp

Thanks to **new help pages** provided by **OverDrive** (the eBooks provider for the RCLS library system), you can now get **step-by-step instructions** for your computer / eReader / smart phone / portable media device!

We link to the OverDrive help/troubleshooting pages at our website, including the main eBooks page (first link above) and a *new* eBooks *help* page (second link above).

Library Catalogs

www.thrall.org/catalogs

Thrall offers you a variety of ways to explore the many items within the library system catalog. You can always *search*, of course, but **browsing** can be even more productive (and *fun*), especially when you are interested in locating **multiple sources** based on a very **specific topic**.

Browse **bestsellers** and **awarded books**, **children's** or **young adult** items, **government**, **local history** item, **famous persons**, **literature**, **videos**, and *much more*.

Please visit the link above or click the “**more**” link next to **Library Catalog** on our **home page**.

Literary Criticism Resources

www.thrall.org/litcrit

As we recently did for **Poetry** (thrall.org/poetry), our **Literature & Literary Criticism** resources now have their own unified menu. Access **Literature Criticism Online** (which includes *Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism*, *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, *Drama Criticism*, *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism*, *Poetry Criticism*), **Drama / Poetry / Short Stories... for Students**, **LitFinder**, **Critical Insights**, **Masterplots**, and more all from one menu! You can also browse related literary theory and criticism topics in the library system catalog.

Updates in Our Information Guides

www.thrall.org/guides

Our guides to library items and Web resources are updated throughout the year as we identify and catalog potentially useful information and services. The following guides have experienced major updates in recent weeks:

Our **main Guides page** (along with its related **A-Z** topics page) was updated for improved navigation.

Our **New York State** (thrall.org/newyork) guide has a new look along with all the latest NYS agency links.

Our **Booklovers** (thrall.org/booklovers) guide has new entries in **Book Lists**, **Discussion Guides**, and **eBooks**.

In our **Library Resources** (thrall.org/libres) guide, the **Virtual & Digital Libraries** section was expanded.

In our **Ready Reference Center** (thrall.org/readyref) the **Automobile** section was reorganized and expanded. Additions were made to **Education - Test Preparation**. The **Science** and **Travel** topic pages also feature new resources. **Writing** has a new subtopic: **Journalism**.

Special Coverage Center Updates

www.thrall.org/guides

In our **Special Coverage Center** (thrall.org/special) the **U.S. Presidential Election 2012** and **Hydraulic Fracturing** guides were updated substantially.

We also added information concerning recent legislative proposals such as **Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act** (CISPA), **Stop Online Piracy Act** (SOPA), and **Protect IP Act** (PIPA).

Searching for Music

www.thrall.org/catalog

The library system catalog now provides a music CD search option. To use this new limit: select "**Music CDs**" from the "**see more options**" drop-down menu (under the **search term box**) when you're at our entrance page to the catalog.

You can also limit your search to **items owned by Thrall** – a very useful option if you would like to search our extensive **classical**, **jazz**, and **music wellness** collections.

Reference Collection Highlights

The following reference works are just a sampling of the many items within our **print Reference collection**. They *never circulate*, which means they are **always available** to you! You can locate them by either asking a librarian or by going to their respective call numbers (provided below):

Dictionary of American Regional English

Call number: **REF 427.973 DIC** (5 volumes)

Publisher's description: "Each entry in *DARE* has been carefully researched to provide as complete a history of its life in America as possible. Illustrative citations extend from the seventeenth century through the twenty-first. More than 600 maps show where words were collected by the *DARE* fieldworkers. And quotations highlight the wit and wisdom of American speakers and writers. Recognized as the authoritative record of American English, *DARE* serves scholars and professionals of all stripes. It also holds treasures for readers who simply love our language."

The Dictionary of Art

Call number: **REF 703 DIC** (34 volumes)

It's *huge* – over 32,000 pages! Publisher's description: "Over 6,000 contributors from 12 countries. The *Dictionary* offers its readers authoritative and comprehensive global coverage. A resource for both art and cultural studies, the *Dictionary* serves as a unique guide to all the visual arts: painting, sculpture, architecture, photography, drawing, printmaking, as well as the decorative arts. The *Dictionary* ranges far both geographically and historically; it features unparalleled coverage of Africa, Southeast Asia, Central Asia and Mongolia, China, India, the Islamic world, Japan, Korea, Native North America, Pacific and Aboriginal Australia, Pre-Columbian America, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, the Ancient Near East, and Ancient Rome. Providing depth as well as breadth, *The Dictionary of Art* examines important art forms and key issues of design, taste, function, and patronage, illuminating them in light of the cultural context in which they developed."

Reader's Advisory Update

Our **online edition** of *Beyond the Bestsellers* has a new look! Venture *beyond* bestseller lists and discover new and interesting authors! Go to www.thrall.org/btb to begin. Free **print copies** are also available at the library.

Digital Resource Spotlight

Middletown Thrall Library offers you **free access** to many different article databases, general and specialized encyclopedias, newspapers, reference works, and online services otherwise *not freely available* on the Internet.

One of our latest and greatest electronic service offerings is the **Testing & Education Reference Center**. "TERC" can help you prepare for exams, high school and college tests, applications for financial aid, and graduate school exams. It also covers topics such as resume writing and choosing a career. Choose from over 300 practice tests and courses, including ACT, AP, CLEP, GED, GRE, LSAT, MCAT, PSAT, SAT, and TOEFL – among *many* others! It also includes guides for studying for career and/or licensing tests (Civil Service clerical, U.S. Post Office, real estate, ASE Automotive, PRAXIS, etc.). Scholarships and a Family College Planning Center are provided as well.

This is just **one of many free services** you can access as a member of Thrall. To learn about more about what's available, please stop by our **Reference Department** and pick up a copy of our **Databases** booklet – or visit our home page (www.thrall.org) and click **Databases**. If you have not done so recently, please prepare to be **amazed!**