News from Middletown Thrall Library’s Reference Department
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“It is one thing to show a man that he is in error, and another to put him in possession of truth.” John Locke

From the Head of Reference
Mary Susan Flannery Climes
Welcome to our fourth issue of RE:fresh!
This is where Middletown Thrall Library’s Reference Department updates you on some of its many ongoing efforts to empower you with the very best research tools and resources available!
We encourage you to take advantage of our work and to make full use of all these free services, many of which Thrall members can access at home.
Past issues of RE:fresh! can be downloaded from our website at www.thrall.org/refresh

New Government Information Center Home Page
www.thrall.org/gov
Thrall’s designation as a Federal Depository Library enables our library to offer comprehensive access to U.S. government publications in their many forms.
As local, state, and federal government information is made available on the Internet (and exclusively so in many cases), we worked over the past few months to make finding such information easier and faster.

Our new Government Information Center can be reached through our home page (www.thrall.org) or directly (at www.thrall.org/gov).

A concise selection of "quick links" along with an alphabetic list of "government topics" let you browse key local, state, and federal government agencies.

Headlines from all major branches of the U.S. Government (the White House, House of Representatives, Speaker of the House, Senate) as well as key government agencies and websites (e.g. FTC, NASA, the Library of Congress) can be viewed quickly and clicked for official news.

A new “Government 2.0 Gateway” contains social networking and media links to blogs, podcasts, RSS feeds, Twitter feeds, videos, and webcams provided by the U.S. Government.

From our new Government home page you can explore any of these resources from one location:

- GovSites - our directory of government information
- Government Publications
- GovTrack.us (a Congressional action tracker)
- GPO FDSys (the Government’s latest document search engine)
- Our New York State information guide
- The Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS) Library Catalog, which lists thousands of documents either in print at Thrall or online
- USA.gov - the official information portal of the U.S. Government

Our award-winning GovSites directory of resources (www.thrall.org/govsites) also experienced a major series of updates (well over 200).

As our country faces an unprecedented array of issues – the economy, environmental concerns, conflict abroad, pandemic flu, health care reform, among others – we want to do our part and help you find authoritative information so you can make more informed decisions as a citizen and voter and better communicate your concerns to elected officials.

As dedicated information specialists interested in your informational well-being, we know such critical topics are never best researched through general web search engines. There are far more specific resources and research tools out there, and we want you to know about and take advantage of them!

With that in mind, we encourage you to visit our new Government home page and examine some of the many informative, interesting, and occasionally entertaining items from the Government.
**Current Interest Center Updates:**
- Anthropology & Archaeology News, Parents & Guardians, Twitter Feeds, Media Watchdogs

The Current Interests Center is where you can browse news by topic. We recently added several categories (listed above) to this guide.

The Anthropology/Archaeology section helps you keep up with recent discoveries, such as “Mini-Stonehenge,” the ancient skeleton dubbed “Ardi,” and the most significant Anglo-Saxon treasure find yet.

Parents and guardians can quickly read up on consumer advisories (such as toy recalls), the latest reviews designed for parents (including movies, video games, and television), as well as other news items of interest to families.

The Twitter Feeds section provides a select list of “tweets” from media and U.S. Government sources.

The Media Watchdogs section affords you closer analyses of current affairs through links to respected journalists, media monitors, and factcheckers.

You can visit the Current Interests Center through Thrall’s home page or at [www.thrall.org/current](http://www.thrall.org/current)

**Recent Blog Posts**

Our blogs were established in 2007 out of our desire to help you keep up with essential and interesting news in subjects such as Books, Consumer and Government Information, Health and Wellness, the Environment, Science and Technology, and more.

Here are some recent blog posts (for full information, please visit our blogs at [www.thrall.org/blogs](http://www.thrall.org/blogs)):

- **What the President Said**: Direct links to speeches and statements from President Obama
- 2009 Nobel Prize in Literature
- Read.gov – and the 2009 National Book Festival
- Teen Drinking: Awareness & Prevention
- Hubble’s New Vision - Hubble Space Telescope
- Kepler Mission – One of NASA’s latest probes
- Nanotechnology – What it is, links to learn more
- Comparing Health Care Reform Proposals
- Augmented Reality – New technologies on the rise
- Environment: GreenFILE – a free database!
- Health Care Reform – List of recent proposals
- Real Time News and Analysis – An examination of “real time” news sources such as Twitter and more in-depth analysis from media watchdogs.

**New Art Database at Thrall**

CAMIO, the Catalog of Art Museum Images Online, is a newly available database that can be accessed at Middletown Thrall Library.

This database features works from "prominent museums around the world," spans thousands of years, and contains nearly 100,000 works of art. Topics include architecture, costumes, drawings, decorations, jewelry, paintings, photographs, sculptures, and more.

The next time you visit the library, we encourage you to explore this wonderful electronic resource!

**New Music Information Guide**
- [www.thrall.org/music](http://www.thrall.org/music)

Thrall has a new music information guide at the above link. Following the spirit of our other web guides, this pathfinder helps you locate Thrall and online materials.


**New Job Search Computer Available**

Thanks to the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, Inc., Thrall now offers a dedicated workstation to job seekers.

On this computer is a menu we designed to make online job searching a relatively easy activity for those either new to the Internet or new to electronic job searches.

As part of this effort we renovated our Jobs and Careers web guide ("InterJob Search" at [www.thrall.org/jobs](http://www.thrall.org/jobs)) and created a series of informative publications on resumes, cover letters, computer terminology, and more.

For more details, please visit our Reference Department.

**Work in Progress: Readers’ Guides**

We’re currently developing a new series of topical guides for readers. You can preview some of these guides at our Reader’s Advisory Center by the Reference Department. They will also become available at our website.

**New Water Information Guide**
- [www.thrall.org/special/water.html](http://www.thrall.org/special/water.html)


The guide also contains a convenient menu of related subject headings in the library catalog so you can quickly and easily locate books, videos, and other materials.

**Library Resources Guide Updated**
- [www.thrall.org/libres](http://www.thrall.org/libres)
