

RE:refresh!

News from Middletown Thrall Library's Reference Department
ISSUE # 4
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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:refresh!*

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:refresh!* 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

(New Government Information Center Home Page – continued)

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.

Thrall Reference Department
Middletown Thrall Library
11-19 Depot Street, Middletown, New York 10940
Ask Our Librarians: (845) 341-5461
Ask us on the Web: www.thrall.org/ask

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 skelton dubbed "Ardi," and the most significant Anglo-Saxon treasure find yet.

Parents and gaurdians 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

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):

- **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

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.

Local topics include: How Music Information is Classified, Music Topics in the Library Catalog, Databases, Educational Materials, Music Collections at Thrall. Online topics include: Awards & Charts, Blogs, Classical Music, Composers & Conductors, Contemporary Music, Dance, Dancers, Ballet, Databases / Searches, Education & Theory, History of Music, Instruments, Jazz and Blues, Listening & Appreciation, Lyrics, Music Notation, Musicals, News, Opera, Organizations, Rock & Popular Music, Sheet Music & Scores, Singers, Software / MIDI, Songwriting, Terminology, Trivia, Web Radio Stations, World & Folk Music.

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) and created a series of informative publications on resumés, 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

Our latest Special Coverage Guide on all aspects of the topic of water. Subjects include: Drinking Water, Government Information, International Challenges and Efforts, Global Water Issues, Oceanography, Sea Levels, Desalination, Water Scarcity, Pollution and Contaminants, Conservation and Recycling, News and Special Reports.

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

Our revised and expanded guide contains informative resources for patrons and library students / professionals.

The "For Everyone" section includes topics: Learn about Librarians and Libraries, Local Libraries and Systems, Libraries Worldwide, Humor & Fun, News & Events, Presidential Libraries, Reading Suggestions, Research, Terminology, Trivia & History, Virtual & Digital Libraries.

The "Library Personnel" section includes: Advocacy, Associations & Organizations, Blogs / Lists / Discussions, Cataloging & Classification, Collection Development, Education & Training, Jobs & Careers, Professional Literature, News from the Library World, Preserving Materials, Readers' Advisory, Reference Services, Resource Awareness, Terminology, Web Resources.