DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

I write to you at the beginning of the Spring 2022 semester, just a few days after my third anniversary as the Dean of the Library at Río Hondo College, and one month before the second anniversary of our switch to remote learning necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It’s strange to think I’ve spent fully two-thirds of my time at Río in these unusual and often challenging circumstances! I’m very proud of the excellent job the Library team has done making library resources and services available to students remotely during this time. However, as someone who thinks about a library in large part as the “living room” of any campus—a safe, friendly, and comfortable place to recreate as much as study and get help with research—I’m also encouraged by recent, peer-reviewed reports whose data indicate 2022 is the year COVID will become an endemic, not pandemic disease; and we can return to a more balanced normal that has more of us back on campus, and back in the Library in person.

For now, I want to make certain every Río Hondo College student, staff member, and faculty member knows: YOUR LIBRARY IS OPEN!

Indeed, RHC Library is open just 10% fewer weekday hours than before the pandemic—7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Fridays. The Library is the place on campus for quiet study space with Wi-Fi and power outlets; access to reference librarians who help students with all sorts of research- and library-related questions at the Reference Desk; dozens of desktop computers on which to complete homework, get online, and even attend remote courses; copy, scan, and print documents in the Library’s Copy Center; and of course check out books, reserve texts, and technology equipment like Chromebooks and mobile hotspots at the Circulation Desk.

Of course, the pandemic is still just that, so we will continue to follow the recommendations of public health officials and the safety rules we’re all observing on campus: At this time group study rooms are closed, we’re still socially distancing, and everyone in the Library will wear masks. But we do these things in the knowledge that it’s the right thing to do, and protecting one another like this will help our community get past the pandemic sooner.

I’m happy to introduce this seventh issue the official Library newsletter, The Library Checkout, edited by Librarian Brian Young, and composed of contributions written by Library team members. In addition to the news Librarian Claudia Rivas shares on the Library’s Facebook and Instagram pages (@riohondolibrary), we publish the Checkout as a slightly more permanent way to let the RHC community know what’s happening at the Library at the start of every semester. In this issue once again we highlight the Library’s services, resources, hours, and patron expectations on page 2; take up new electronic resources, a worthy new collection development initiative, and worthwhile librarian book recommendations on page 3; and share some useful as well as fun information (and bittersweet personal news) on page 4.

In short, there’s plenty of good information in this issue of The Library Checkout, but if you take away nothing else, remember, again: YOUR LIBRARY IS OPEN! The professional librarians and staff members here are committed to helping students with every research and resource need, and the space itself is as useful—and comfortable—as ever. As such we look forward to connecting with students whenever and wherever is most convenient, but note with gratitude that increasingly these connections can be in person.

Sincerely,
Mike Garabedian
Dean, Library and Instructional Support
LIBRARY SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Get Help from a Librarian

Friendly librarians are back at the Reference Desk to help with all your library-related needs. This includes assistance with finding resources (like books and e-books, as well as academic journal articles), research consultations, and more! We are also available online through text, chat, email, or Zoom—so whether you are on or off-campus, we are here for you. Visit the RHC Library website at [www.riohondo.edu/library](http://www.riohondo.edu/library) (or page 1 of this newsletter!) for information about this semester’s on-campus/online reference hours, and how to connect with a librarian.

Technology Checkout

Chromebooks, mobile hotspots, and graphing calculators are now available for checkout! Currently registered RHC students, faculty, or staff must first fill out a Technology Reservation Form at [https://www.riohondo.edu/library/technology-request](https://www.riohondo.edu/library/technology-request). Once submitted, you will be placed on a waiting list and contacted when your item is ready for pickup. For questions regarding technology items, call the Library Circulation Desk at (562) 908-3416.

Library Resources

This semester, library patrons are able to borrow books from our circulating book collection, and check out reserve textbooks (for up to 2 hours, in-library use only). We have also reopened access to individual study spaces and library computers, while continuing to practice social distancing within these areas. Wi-fi and power outlets are available throughout the Library, and headphones are available for checkout for students who want to attend remote courses via Zoom in the Library. Unfortunately, group study rooms will remain closed until further notice.

RHC Library provides access to hundreds of thousands of online, electronic resources—including e-books, scholarly and popular articles, audio/video content, images, and datasets—all of which are accessible through the RHC Library website at [https://www.riohondo.edu/library](https://www.riohondo.edu/library). For help finding sources for your assignments, contact a librarian today.

LIBRARY SERVICES FOR FACULTY

Library Instruction

Librarians work directly with faculty to teach information literacy to students through library orientations. This can happen “live” via Zoom, or in some cases, with asynchronous, librarian-created videos. To request library instruction, please fill out a Faculty Request for Library Instruction form at [http://bit.ly/RioLibRequest](http://bit.ly/RioLibRequest). Orientations typically cover both general library information (library services and resources, digital scavenger hunts, etc.) or more specialized topics (such as using specific databases, narrowing a research topic, evaluating online sources, citation styles, etc.). Whatever your needs, we can design an orientation that will be beneficial to you and your students!

Division Liaison Librarians

Liaison librarians serve as a primary library contact, and provide specialized information, instruction and resources to their respective academic divisions. In addition, librarians also take purchase requests and recommendations for library materials (for more details, see page 4), can work with you on extended projects, and offer one-on-one research consultations for your students. Visit [https://www.riohondo.edu/library/about/division-liaisons](https://www.riohondo.edu/library/about/division-liaisons) to learn more about and connect with your liaison librarian.

Research Guides (LibGuides) and Video Tutorials

Librarians can create an online research guide (LibGuide) for your specific course, subject area, and/or assignment. LibGuides can easily be shared on your Canvas page or syllabus, and give your students easy and direct access to a variety of resources. With the Library’s recent addition of LibWizard software, we are also developing new ways to embed tutorials and quizzes directly into LibGuides to promote assessment and active learning.

RHC Librarians have created a series of video tutorials to help students find resources through the library catalog and subscription databases. Along with an updated list of free student resources, these tutorials can be found on our “Library Resources During COVID-19” LibGuide at [https://libguides.riohondo.edu/libresourcesC19/tutorials](https://libguides.riohondo.edu/libresourcesC19/tutorials). New video tutorials are being produced on a regular basis and added throughout the semester to the RHC Library YouTube page.

@riohondolibrary

The Library Checkout, Spring 2022

www.riohondo.edu/library
**New Library Databases**

Library databases are an invaluable resource for scholarly research articles and more! Check out these new databases, along with a variety of others at: [https://libguides.riohondo.edu/az.php](https://libguides.riohondo.edu/az.php)

**Gale in Context: U.S. History**
Contains comprehensive information (reference content, news and periodical articles, primary source documents, etc.) on hundreds of the most significant people, events, and topics in U.S. history. Formatted similarly to the Gale in Context: Opposing Viewpoints database, topics are easily explored and researched through the “Browse Issues” feature.

**Gale in Context: World History**
This database reaches back from the ancient world to today’s headlines to deliver a chronicle of the people, cultures, events, and societies that have shaped human history. Rare primary sources, reliable reference, and multimedia content are easily searchable, to help put this vast subject into context for students. World History is also cross-searchable with Gale in Context: U.S. History.

**Historical Abstracts with Full Text (EBSCO)**
This EBSO database includes a curated, high-quality collection of peer-reviewed historical journals. In addition to standard search functions, students are also able to find information by filtering searches according to specific time periods.

**Diversity Collection (ProQuest)**
An inclusive, user-friendly resource which combines three unique full-text databases—Ethnic NewsWatch, GenderWatch, and AltPressWatch—to provide critical viewpoints from a variety of different perspectives.

**SPORTDiscus with Full Text (EBSCO)**
A database dedicated to sports and sports medicine research, SPORTDiscus provides access to hundreds of full-text sports medicine journals, making it an essential tool for health professionals and researchers studying fitness, health and sports.

**Recommended Reads**

Here are some new books and e-books at RHC Library that we are excited about! As selected by your division’s liaison librarians:

**Good Thinking: Why Flawed Logic Puts Us All at Risk and How Critical Thinking Can Save the World by David Robert Grimes**
Exposes misinformation, due to logical fallacies and cognitive biases, on a wide range of topics – from vaccination to 9/11 conspiracy theories, astrology to wrongful convictions and racism. (Robin)

**Areli is a Dreamer** by Areli Morales and Luisa Uribe (Illustrator)
This book is the first children’s book written by a DACA Dreamer, and tells her story of becoming a citizen in the United States. It reflects what many of our own RHC students may have experienced in their own lives making it a relatable story for our community. (Claudia)

**Plagued: Pandemics From the Black Death to Covid-19 and Beyond by Dr. John Froude**
Written by an infectious disease specialist with decades of experience, this timely book not only covers the start of the current COVID-19 pandemic but also places it in context with other past pandemics and scourges using narrative storytelling to cover not only the underlying medicine and science but also the human impact. (Young)

**MS-13: The Making of America’s Most Notorious Gang** by Steven Dudley
This title offers a researched history of the criminal gang known as MS-13. What started out as a network of Salvadoran immigrants who fled to the United States to escape guerrilla assaults and death squads later became the criminal organization it is today after brushes with local gangs, and members multiplying within incarcerated and deported populations. The author offers a look on how the United States and Central American governments are complicit in the gang’s formation and growth. (Irene)

**Rockonomics: A Backstage Tour of What the Music Industry Can Teach Us about Economics and Life by Alan Krueger**
As an indicator of today’s economy, the music industry has been severely disrupted by new technologies. In Rockonomics, Alan Krueger uses the music industry to explain key principles of economics, and offers advice to other businesses that are adapting to change. (Brian)

(Continued on Page 4)
To the simultaneous chagrin and delight of her colleagues, Library legend Elizabeth Telles retired in December 2021 after 13 years of service! Liz, who spent her formative years in neighboring La Puente, is an alumna not only of Bassett High but also Rio Hondo College, and worked as an underwriter for a mortgage banker before returning to her latter alma mater in 2008, where she contributed to Basic Skills, DSP&S, the Flex Office, IT Services, and of course RHC Library. In addition to her second-to-none professionalism, Library team members already miss Liz’s no-nonsense attitude, generosity, humor, and kindness; but are happy to know that in retirement she is still able to keep in touch with her coworkers, who she says are “like family,” and that she now has ample time to focus on taking care of herself—Liz is now walking three miles every day—and spending time with her seven grandbabies!

Staff ANNOUNCEMENT

RECOMMENDED READS

(Continued from Page 3)

The Art of Statistics: How to Learn from Data by David Spiegelhalter
Given their importance and prevalence in science and health disciplines, being able to properly understand, work with, and interpret statistics is essential. Using real world examples and the author’s decades of work as a statistician, this book covers not only the basic principles of statistics but also their application and implication to communication and critical thinking. (Young)

Starting Strength: Basic Barbell Training by Mark Rippetoe
Considered “the Bible” among strength athletes, Starting Strength offers a great introduction to barbell training with a simple, logical, and practical approach to strength training. Whether readers are young or old, male or female, expert or new, sick or healthy, or weak or already strong, anyone can apply basic barbell training into their exercise routine to improve strength, health, and life. (Irene)

More Fun in the New World: The Unmaking and Legacy of L.A. Punk by John Doe and Tom Desavia
In the sequel to Under the Big Black Sun, X singer/bassist John Doe and Tom Desavia explore the L.A. punk scene from 1982 to 1987, and in doing so detail its diverse cast of characters, rise to global prominence, and lasting influence on popular culture. (Brian)

Beautiful Country by Qian Julie Wang
A New York Times bestseller, this is the story of a 7-year-old Chinese immigrant and her coming of age experiences in New York City. The ups and downs of living in a country as an undocumented child told lyrically and charmingly make this book a must-read. (Claudia)

Animalkind: Remarkable Discoveries About Animals and Revolutionary New Ways to Show Them Compassion by Ingrid Newkirk and Gene Stone
Provides a fascinating look at astounding beings with intelligence, emotions, and intricate communication networks, then lays out the steps everyone can take to avoid using and abusing animals. (Robin)

READ ACROSS AMERICA 2022

Read Across America, an event sponsored by the National Education Association, will be held on March 2, 2022. Similar to last year’s observance of the annual event, the Library is inviting ALL students, faculty and staff to take safe-at-home “selfies” with their favorite books. All of your Read Across America submissions and questions should be sent to Librarian Claudia Rivas (crivas@riohondo.edu) by Wednesday, February 23. READ posters, created from your photos, will be featured on the RHC Library website and social media later in the Spring 2022 semester. To view last year’s submissions, visit https://www.riohondo.edu/library/read-across-america-2021/.

RHC CAMPUS VIRTUAL TOUR

Have you ever felt lost on campus at Rio Hondo? Most of us have! But, did you know that a virtual tour of the entire campus, including all parking lots and buildings, is now available online? Check out the RHC 360 virtual tour on the RHC homepage (www.riohondo.edu), or simply use the QR code at right. To find RHC Library, go to “LRC/Library Quick Links,” then click on “Library Entrance.” Happy exploring!