

PCTC

Library Links



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In hard times, libraries are more important than ever. Human beings need what books give them better than any other medium. Since those ancient nights around prehistoric campfires, we have needed myth. And heroes. And moral tales. And information about the world beyond the nearest mountains or oceans.

Today, with books and movies more expensive than ever, and television entertainment in free fall to the lowest levels of stupidity, freely circulating books are an absolute necessity. They are quite simply another kind of food. We imagine, and then we live.

~Pete Hamill. "Libraries Face Sad Chapter" New York Daily News, February 25, 2002

Thanks...

Thanks to all of those individuals who attended the Spring Library Open House on Thursday, March 25 (which seems like a long time ago). Food, conversation, and, of course, newly-acquired library materials were the focus of the occasion, and it was nice to see all those who turned out for it.

Also, thank you to those individuals who have recommended new materials to me for addition to the collection. Whether it's a book, a journal, or a DVD, it is your expertise that helps me to make the collection not only bigger but more relevant to the needs of the staff, the instructors, and those who train here. Please keep those suggestions coming!!

Homeland Security News

SportEvac: Stadium evacuation gets a new game plan

by Doug Page

A new breed of simulation software called SportEvac is being developed and tested by the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety & Security

Getting 100,000 people into the University of Tennessee's Neyland Stadium for a Saturday afternoon college football game in an orderly fashion is one thing. But getting that same crowd back out safely in a hurry, or evacuating any high-profile sports venue, is a recurring nightmare for disaster managers.

What keeps them awake at night are visions of, say, terrorists launching several large smoke canisters from a boat on the Tennessee River just across Highway 158 from Neyland's south end zone. As the red cloud drifts into the stadium, the crowd will have no way of knowing the plume is harmless. The intent of the terrorists is not to kill anyone with the smoke; their intent is to incite a deadly stampede for the exits.

For evacuations on this scale, there's no dress rehearsal or practice drill, so disaster managers must rely on simulation software. To help disaster planners sleep better, a new breed of simulation software, called SportEvac, is being developed and tested by the [National Center for Spectator Sports Safety & Security](#) (NCS4) at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Using blueprints from real venues, the Southern Miss researchers are creating virtual, 3-D e-stadiums, crammed with as many as 70,000 animated human agents programmed to respond to threats as unpredictably as the humans they are modeled after. Managers will then be able to see how 70,000 fans behave, and misbehave, when spooked by a security threat. Earlier evacuation simulators were generally limited to crowds of about 5,000.

"Since it's nearly impossible to use a live audience for evacuation training, SportEvac provides us the capability of simulating a stadium/arena crowd virtually," said NCS4 director Louis Marciani.

Marciani said by simulating how sports fans behave in the minutes following an attack, SportEvac will help security experts answer key questions, such as how a stadium can be evacuated in the shortest time, how emergency workers can get in as fans are dashing out and what happens in the event of

unpredictable complications such as wet floors, wheelchair congestion, stubborn aisle-seaters, fans fetching forgotten field glasses or inebriated bleacher bums.

SportEvac software is open source, meaning its capabilities will likely improve as users add enhancements. If a user creates a module that more accurately predicts parking lot gridlock or what happens when the power goes out, it can simply be plugged in.

SportEvac is currently in alpha testing; beta tests are set for July. Three tabletop exercises are planned this fall at Southern Mississippi, the University of Tennessee and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

***This article appeared in [Homeland1 Newsletter](#), March 25, 2010, week 97.**

Adding On

Acquiring new resources for the library is an ongoing process. I am always in search of any new materials that can bolster our collection and provide you with quality books and DVDs to support your teaching and research activities.

Since there may sometimes be a delay between when requisitions are submitted and when the orders are placed, please pass your requests on to me as soon as you have them.

Calling for Reviewers

You, the library user, are the best person to review one of the resources that you have checked out. If you borrowed a book to help with a lesson plan or unit or have used a particular video or DVD with your students that you found invaluable, please consider writing a review for this newsletter. This will help to get the word out about a helpful, well-written, or, for that matter, not-so-highly recommended

source that you've used. Your colleagues will appreciate your feedback and so will the librarian.

CJPI

For those who are new on staff or who may have forgotten, PCTC subscribes to a database called Criminal Justice Periodical Index, one of the many such products from a company called ProQuest. This database indexes over 200 journals relevant to the field of criminal justice and makes about 25% of those available as full-text documents. This means that you and your students have access to a wealth of police and corrections information in one place without surfing the Internet and without worrying about the quality of that information.

To access CJPI, just go to <http://proquest.umi.com/login> and you will be at the start page. You can perform author searches, title searches, subject or keyword searches, publication searches, etc. In addition, a user can browse various topics to explore the contents of the database and limit a search by time period or type of journal.

Anyone who is interested in a private tutorial of CJPI is welcome to contact me at x3544 to set up a time.

Did You Know...

~ that according to a recent report issued by the University of Washington Information School (UWIS) and published as the *Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries*, more Americans are taking advantage of Internet access at public libraries to keep up with friends and family, do research, and find job?

~ that this same study found that 77 million people, or one-third of

Americans older than 14, use public libraries or wireless networks to go online?

~ that, according to this UWIS report, it is low-income adults who are most likely to rely on public libraries as their sole means of access to computers and the Internet than any other group (44% of those living below the federal poverty line)?

**To see a more complete summary of this report, you can click on the following link:
<http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/750590>.

Training Notes

If you haven't already checked out the March-April issue of Training Notes online, be sure to do so. There are some articles that pay tribute to Lee Goldman as well as other pieces to inform you about the goings-on here at PCTC. The May-June issue is in progress, and it will hopefully be in your hands (at least virtually speaking) later on this month.

Remember that this publication is a reflection of all that we do here at the Public Safety Education and Training Center, and we invite contributors from any unit to submit an article idea or a finished piece that we can include in an upcoming issue.

Recently Added

Ray Franklin has donated a book to the library entitled Sykesville by Bill Hall. This new acquisition to our shelves is a wonderful history of the area with lots of photographs and chapters about Main Street, business and industry in Sykesville, various public and historic buildings, and, of course, a chapter on Springfield Hospital Center. Feel free to come and check it out!
