New @ Your Library

APA Reprints New Edition

By Eric Jennings, jenninge@uwec.edu

Over this past winter there was quite a kerfuffle over the sixth edition of the APA Publication Manual. As many of you know, there were quite a few errors in the first printing of this newest iteration of the Publication Manual. They have since been corrected in the second printing, but if you are unsure whether you have the first or second printing, check the verso of the title page at the bottom for printing information. If you have the first printing — do not fear — you can get information on the updates and answers to any questions you may have online at www.apastyle.org.

One of the first things that you will notice as a difference between the fifth and sixth edition of the Publication Manual is that the latest edition is significantly smaller (439 pages in the fifth edition and 272 in the sixth.) The editors of the Publication Manual attempted to condense all information on a given topic to one page to “simplify the reader’s job.” (p. 3 APA manual) That, however, does not mean that the editors have not significantly updated or expanded coverage of specific issues in the new edition. For example, in Chapter 1, a lengthier description of ethics-related topics has been included because of the proliferation of information available to researchers in various formats. Similarly, in Chapter 5, the editors have expanded and updated information on how to develop and present graphic material and data. The final change I will highlight is the inclusion of how to properly cite electronic resources in the sixth edition. If you remember, the fifth edition, originally published in 2001, had a 2007 supplement that described an updated way to cite electronic resources. The sixth edition has included these changes in the body of the work, making it much easier on the researcher to find and properly cite an electronically retrieved article.

It goes without saying that there are many changes in the text of the sixth edition that are not directly influenced by electronic media. But, in my opinion, the Publication Manual revision task force has placed an emphasis on the ramifications that electronic media play on publication procedures. This makes a lot of sense because that is the trend in publishing: blogs, Twitter, Facebook, etc. are all part of today’s information lexicon and must be addressed for today’s researcher. To see any of the additional changes, consult the introduction to the Publication Manual (p. 3-8), or view an online tutorial (http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/whatsnew/index.htm).

Reinvigorating the Reference Collection with Reference Universe

By Anna Knutson, knutosam@uwec.edu

There is a new search tool in town, a starting point for your student’s research. It is called Reference Universe and it is making it easier than ever to search the reference and background materials at McIntyre Library. Imagine a tool that allows users to combine their love of searching the Internet with the ability to locate quality print reference materials that are often overlooked in Wikipedia entries and Googled results. Reference Universe has the ability to bring our print reference collection to life by providing access points and search results that go beyond the normal searching of the online catalog. The value of the print reference collection at McIntyre Library is revealed to its potential users. Most importantly, it provides an authoritative introduction to any topic.

Reference Universe allows users to search complete indexes and article titles from more than 40,000 print and electronic reference books, and allows for deep exploration of subject encyclopedias by using information provided in indexes and abstracts. It works with our library’s online catalog, matching a user’s search to our library’s holdings. Reference Universe can also be used to search beyond McIntyre Library’s local collection, and it can be used to search our e-book reference collection. If an article is located within a reference e-book, Reference Universe will provide a link to that article.

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