



Inside

The Clarion University Libraries

January 13, 2009

Volume 4, Number 16

In This Issue

- Welcome Back!
- RefWorks For Students
- RefWorks For Faculty
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday & Weekend
- Computer Tip: Passwords That Pass The Tough Test
- Something To Think About

CU Libraries' Links

Inside The Clarion University Libraries

Read back issues of the Libraries' newsletter

Library Home

Your link to all of the Libraries' resources

PILOT

Search the Libraries' online catalog

A-Z Database

Search the Libraries' extensive collection of electronic journals and e-books

Contact Us

Dr. Terry Latour

Dean of Libraries

About "Inside The Clarion University Libraries"

The Clarion University Libraries newsletter is published weekly when classes are in session. Through *Inside*, we share information about our services and resources with the campus community.

Inside is best viewed with Microsoft Outlook.

However, you can read a PDF version of *Inside* online.

Access it through the Libraries' homepage at: www.clarion.edu/library

Welcome Back!



The staff and faculty of Carlson and Suhr Libraries welcome you back for the 2009 Spring Semester. Whether you are on one of Clarion's campuses, taking classes at a remote location, or enrolled in an online course, we are here for you. Please don't hesitate to stop by or call us for your information service needs.

Carlson Library Reference Desk.....814-393-2490

Carlson Library Circulation Desk.....814-393-2301

Carlson Library Interlibrary Loan Office.....814-393-2481

Suhr Library.....814-676-6591

Or contact us through our Web page at <http://www.clarion.edu/library>.

If you are a distance education student, we have a range of special services just for you. Check them out at our Distance Education Web page, <http://www.clarion.edu/12781> or call us toll free at 1-866-272-5612, press #3 for library.

RefWorks For Students

Research papers are often assigned and due earlier in the spring semester. We can help.

With funding from Technology Fees, the University Libraries offer RefWorks, an online research management and writing tool that makes it easier to gather, manage, cite, and share all types of information.

To help you take full advantage of RefWorks, plan on attending one of the Libraries' workshops:

Wednesday, January 14 at 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 14 at 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, January 16 at 10:00 a.m.

All instructional sessions are held in Room 201, on Level 2 of Carlson Library. To register, contact Karen at 393-1841.

RefWorks For Faculty

The University Libraries are offering two RefWorks workshops exclusively for faculty and staff...

Thursday, January 15, 11:00 a.m.

Friday, January 16, 2:00 p.m.

All instructional sessions are held in Room 201, on Level 2 of Carlson Library. To register, contact Karen at 393-1841.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday & Weekend



Carlson and Suhr Libraries will be closed on Monday, January 19th, in recognition of the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Both libraries will also be closed this Saturday and Sunday, January 17th and 18th.

Computer Tip: Passwords That Pass The Tough Test



Given enough time and using the correct tools, a hacker can break into a computer and access the files. Why? Because the user did not create a strong enough password. Many computer users create passwords using family pet names, favorite objects, and familiar words. **This is an extremely bad idea.**



For starters, don't choose a password that is in the dictionary. It takes password cracking software about 10 seconds to crack a word that is in the dictionary. For more effective passwords, try taking two or three words, slicing them at random points and then crunching them together. For example, I could use house and railroad. My outcome might result as "**houroad**," which is not in the dictionary. Although this method of password creation is better, it is not the best way to go. Eventually, it will be cracked, probably within nine days or so. If you are locking important information, this is not good enough.

The best password that a user can create is by mixing upper and lower case letters with numbers. An example of this would be "**5xBM34z**." This password would probably take around 238 years or so to crack. (I don't know a single hacker who would want to wait that long). These types of passwords are hard to memorize, but are the hardest to crack.

Password Length	Lowercase Only	Upper & Lower and Numbers
3	2 seconds	1 minute
4	1 minute	2.5 hours
5	20 minutes	9 days
6	8.7 hours	2 years

The length of the password is a major factor as well. The longer the password, the longer it takes to crack. To make the most complex password, a user can also add symbols to their password. Again, the greater the complexity of the password, the greater the time it takes to break it.

Something To Think About:



Man can learn nothing
except by going from
the known to the unknown.

--Claude Berna