Librarian, Cybrarian Bailey Joins Billington Staff

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Need to twitter a librarian? Chat online about reference material? Find a book's location from your iPhone? The Billington Library is going digital, and you can do all the above and more. Billington Library is making itself more accessible and interactive by means of digital media like Facebook, blogs and libraryMobile.

The move is due, in part, to techno-savvy Barry Bailey, digital projects librarian, who has a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His jobs have ranged from visiting faculty at Grainger Engineering Library, UIUC, to game development for the Xbox game *Saints Row*.

"My JCCC job is, one, to preserve the creativity of the institution by digitizing relevant collections and, two, to interact and socialize with students so that the library becomes part of their academic life."

Preserving the institution's collection means creating a digital repository of faculty, staff and student writings and presentations. The repository, ScholarSpace@JCCC, is up and running, and you can search by collection, discipline or author. Billington also has an existing digital collection, and Bailey continues to add to it.

But posting digital material on library sites dates back to the late 1990s. The news is about the library's social networking and Web culture, the second aspect of Bailey's job.

At the library's Web site, you can sign up for an RSS feed of the library's new books and DVDs; use your phone or iPod to research a book's call number and stack location; and read staff reviews of new books on Billington Blog.

Still in the works are JCCC Audio Tours, audio campus directions accompanied by picture-by-picture locations available as a podcast, and the 10-Minute Paper Guide, a one-stop site for students to research papers using reputable resources. The Paper Guide will allow students to search a topic and have topical materials – Billington books, respected news and peer-reviewed journal articles and the library's bibliographies – retrieved from multiple online databases to one location. And if that's not enough, live-chat capability will connect students to a research librarian.

"We want students to have one place to go with good information easily available," Bailey said.

Behind all these gee-whiz digital library options is the vast world of application programming interface (API) and federated search engines. That's where Bailey's expertise is critical. Few inexpensive library management systems are available for organizing the burgeoning electronic collections so Bailey writes his own programs. Bailey knows libraries, and he knows how to program.

Barry Bailey has been the digital projects librarian since May 2008.