

# First Year Engineering Students Invading The Library: Integrating Outreach, Collaboration, and Information Literacy

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## EVENT GOALS

- Establish and foster relationships with faculty, staff, and students in the science and education departments
- Familiarize our patrons with the services that are available through the libraries
- Promote a library atmosphere that is non-threatening and conducive to learning
- Make the libraries an integral part of a university-wide event series

## OUTPOST LAYOUT

Each station included a library staff member who explained the nature of the station with a 1-2 minute talk. Each talk included some aspect of information literacy (e.g. how to find article) that connected with the Silk Road and the library service being discussed. Station layouts varied greatly...the Silk Station contained a Chinese wedding dress, while the Reference Desk was set up as an oasis with comfy chairs set around the desk and teas for attendees to sample. The food station had fortune cookies with library-related fortunes.

Most stations also contained informational posters that further informed attendees on the Silk Road and library services.

**The Silk Road: An Innovation in Transportation and Communication**

The trade routes of the Silk Road were the communications highways of the ancient world. New inventions, religious beliefs, art, languages, customs, and goods were transported by those moving along the routes. The Silk Road helped create a global culture and the use and influence of many innovations.

**Goods Traded**

Some goods exchanged along the Silk Road:

- From India: Pets, exotic furs, cashmere, perfume, gems, sandalwood
- From China: Silk, weapons, jade, tea, gunpowder, ginseng, snake bile, Wujiang, seaweed
- From Central Asia: gems (lapis lazuli, jadeite), silver and gold, spices (cayenne, ginger, cloves, nutmeg), horses, flowers, and humans (acrobats, jugglers, grooms)
- From Persia and the Middle East: Incense, dates, peaches, muslin cloth, wines, olive oil

**Paper: An Illustrious History**

Around 105 AD, the invention of paper was invented in China. The first paper was made from the bark of the mulberry tree. The Chinese used paper for writing and record-keeping. Paper was introduced to the West by Arab traders in the 7th century. The first paper mill in Europe was established in 1291 in Spain. Paper was used for writing and record-keeping. Paper was introduced to the West by Arab traders in the 7th century. The first paper mill in Europe was established in 1291 in Spain.

**MIAMI UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

Follow the silk road to Brill Science Library & IMC  
September 23, 2005

Funding assistance for this event provided in part by the Havighurst Fund

"Follow the Silk Road to Brill Science Library and IMC (Instructional Materials Center) was created as a fun method for Miami students/faculty/staff to become acquainted with our library. The Silk Road was chosen it gave us an opportunity to partner with another University Center (The Havighurst Center for Soviet and Post-Russian Studies), and provided grant funding, not money from the library budget.

The afternoon-long event transformed Brill into an ancient trading route of the Silk Road, featuring several outposts with information on library services and aspects of this ancient time. Stations included circulation services, silk, gemstones, innovations, reference services oasis, food & spices, maps, IMC services, and the Silk Road Theater featuring faculty presentations.

Attendees arrived at a tent (yurt) posted outside the library where they received their passport to document their attendance at the outposts. Attendees were required to attend 5 stations and to fill out a short assessment. Completed passports were submitted to be eligible for prizes (iPods, gift certificates, university paraphernalia) and to document attendance for those who were required to attend or received extra credit for attending.

500 people visited the Science Library during the afternoon of September 23, 2005, with approximately 60% of the attendees Engineering and Computer Science majors. All of the first-year engineering/computer science students were required to attend as part of an endeavor to infuse information literacy into the first-year engineering experience.

The event was a huge success, with those attending not only having a good time, but also learning more about the library in a laid-back and non-threatening environment. Plans for a 2006 orientation are currently underway.



A Partnership of the Miami University Libraries and the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post Soviet Studies

## THE PASSPORT

**PRIZE REGISTRATION**

To be eligible for the prize drawing or to receive credit for extra credit, your passport must have 5 of 10 LOCATIONS (AND THE SURVEY completed)!\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**PASSPORT**

If you are attending this orientation for assignment credit or extra credit, please indicate the classes and professor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!**

Miami University Libraries

**NOTICE TO TRAVELERS:** You must document at 5 of the 10 stations and take the assessment to be eligible for prizes and extra credit.

<b>IMC Oasis</b> Learn about various aspects of IMC that support your research needs. Become familiar with the IMC. Discover the IMC's services and resources.	<b>Reference Desk</b> Learn about the Reference Desk. Discover the Reference Desk's services and resources. Discover ways to access research materials.
<b>Map Booth</b> Learn about the geography of the Silk Road. View maps of the Silk Road. Discover ways to access research materials.	<b>SILK COILS</b> View beautiful examples of silk. Find out how silk is made. Accept the importance of silk to this era.
<b>Consolidated Reference Services</b> See how you can check out books. Discover the consolidated reference services. Discover ways to access research materials.	<b>Silk Road Theater</b> View plays about the Silk Road. Hear tales of adventure along the Silk Road. Learn more about the Silk Road Theater.
<b>Innovations</b> Discover inventions of the past. Discover ways to access research materials.	<b>Food and Drink Outpost</b> Sample foods of the Silk Road. Discover the spices and ingredients.
<b>Assessment</b> Take a short assessment to test your information literacy skills. Discover ways to access research materials.	

WHEN YOUR PASSPORT MEETS THE ABOVE CHECKPOINTS, FILL OUT THE FORM ON THE BACK PAGE AND RETURN IT TO THE CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER IN THE BRILL SCIENCE LIBRARY.

Visit the Library's homepage for great enlightenment:  
<http://www.lib.muohio.edu>

## MARKETING

The following methods were utilized in publicizing the event:

- \*A unifying logo for all documents (see below)
- \*A blog to keep users updated on the event: <http://brillsilkroad.blogspot.com>
- \*A countdown poster at the entrance of the library
- \*Partnering with faculty to require attendance or provide extra credit for students attending
- \* Small adverts placed in books at checkout
- \* Adverts in new faculty/grad student packets
- \* Press Releases (University Newspapers)/Placement on University Calendar



You will discover that there are many other tools besides Google to accomplish good research



Evaluate the sources you find for your research. The questioning person finds success and great wealth.

