

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X  
**OCTOBER**  
 2006  
 X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

# SHELFLIFE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FINTEL LIBRARY

October.  
 Term papers,  
 fall break and  
 warmer clothes.



Seasons change, but  
 Fintel Library stays  
 constant in its will-  
 ingness to help you  
 find what you're look-  
 ing for.

Visit often this  
 month! You'll be glad  
 you did when the end  
 of the semester rolls  
 around!

- Fintel Library Staff

### Some of Fintel's Latest DVD Arrivals

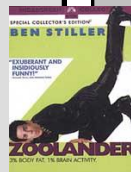
**Slaughterhouse Five.** A  
 man has come unstuck in  
 time and jumps back and  
 forth in his life with no con-  
 trol over where he is going  
 next.



**Akeelah and the Bee.**

Akeelah's aptitude earns her an  
 opportunity to compete for a spot  
 in the Scripps National Spelling Bee  
 and in turn unites her neighbor-  
 hood who witnesses the courage  
 and inspiration of one amazing 11  
 year old little girl.

**Zoolander.** 3-time winner of  
 the Male Model of the Year,  
 Derek, loses out the fourth  
 time to rival, Hansen. Now  
 the ridiculously good-looking  
 supermodel must save the  
 world from an evil fashion  
 czar.



**The Sentinel.** There's never been a  
 traitor in the United States Secret  
 Service...until now.

**Invisible Children.** In

Uganda's long-lasting civil  
 war, many children have  
 been abducted to be trained  
 as child soldiers. This film  
 documents the children's life  
 and general social conditions  
 in Uganda in 2003.



## Meet your library staff



### Andrew Hartman Speaks!

*Andrew is a senior from Richmond, majoring in History and minoring in Education.*

**SHELFLIFE:** You've been working at the library for over a year now. What's it like working at Fintel? I don't think you can pick a better place to work on campus than "Club Fintel". You get to work with the best people, and learn where books are, which makes doing research so much faster! You learn all the little research tricks, and it really makes homework easier and faster. Working with really good people and learning useful skills... who wouldn't want to work at the library? Plus, when your parents ask if you've been to the library yet this semester, you can honestly answer yes.

**SHELFLIFE:** Name one or two things every RC student should know about Fintel that would make their academic lives easier. It's open Saturday mornings at 10:00! Actually, though, I would say that students should know about the incredible value of the reference librarians. If you're having trouble researching a topic, or finding books, go talk to a reference librarian. They seem to know where everything is, and how to find it! I think with that, I would say that students should take advantage of the ILL service. Just because it's not in our library doesn't mean it's not out there. And if it's out there, chances are we can get it!

**SHELFLIFE:** Here's a chance to give a plug to your favorite class/instructor. Any absolute must classes worth sharing? I think my favorite class so far has been the History of World War Two taught by John Long. That probably makes me sound like a really big nerd but, really, I kind of am. It's a really interesting class about my favorite time period in history, and Professor Long mixes in a lot of humor to keep it interesting. If you want to take a history class just for fun (which everyone should), take this one.

**SHELFLIFE:** Favorite place to go to forget about homework? Anywhere outside. I love to go on hikes, up to Smith Mountain Lake for some fishing, or just for a drive out in the woods. I love just getting off campus and away from the stress of homework and classes and school. Anywhere out in the woods on a pretty day is guaranteed to lower the stress level to zero.

**SHELFLIFE:** Any plans for life after RC? Life after RC is going to be here before I know it, and that's a little on the scary side. I still vividly remember the day I moved into Crawford to start my freshman year. Now its senior year and I can't believe how fast 4 years can go by. That being said, I'm really looking forward to life after RC, too! Right now the plan is to acquire gainful employment teaching History. I want to stay in this area, and right now I'm thinking I want to teach at Patrick Henry High School in Roanoke City. I really want to get a little house downtown, maybe off of Grandin, and do everything I couldn't do in the dorms, like paint the walls. Right now I'm just trying not to plan too much and see where life takes me, but that's the direction it seems to be going right now.

**SHELFLIFE:** Rumor has it you're a Jeep freak. Is it something that the rest of us might understand? It's true. If you think your car looks a lot better covered in mud than clean, you might understand. I love the combination of brown mud on my black Cherokee. I really like finding a little dirt or gravel road in the woods that goes nowhere and just exploring. Going nowhere fast, and getting really muddy doing it just can't be beat. I might not get incredible gas mileage, and it doesn't take the corners like a sports car, but I wouldn't trade my Jeep for anything.

<http://www.roanoke.edu/library/>



375-2294 (general info.)  
 375-2295 (reference assistance)

Graduation. Let us help you get there.

# BLOGGING FOR SCHOLARS - BLOGGING FOR SCHOLARS - BLOGGING FOR SCHOLARS

Does your prof blog? If he or she does, you had better know about it. Professors who blog do so for a variety of reasons. Some are musing aloud over new ideas or research that will later appear in scholarly journals and on your library's shelves, virtual or physical. Some are exploring new ways of expression or appealing to a larger audience than they get in the paid lecture hall. Or they may be trying out a side of themselves that they don't quite dare expose fact-to-face with their primary community.

Years ago, academics spoke of an "invisible college," a college that existed beyond the brick and mortar one in which they were employed to teach and research. It was formed by other professors and students, especially graduate students, pursuing similar and related fields of interest, regardless of where they were geographically. It was the group that read preprints of articles or conference papers and who collaborated and competed in similar research. That invisible college is now a bit more visible--it can be centered in an easy-to-create-and-maintain blog and all those who read and contribute to it.

Whatever scholars' reasons for blogging, and whether they're a part of the college or not, students can enjoy and learn from blogs run by academics all over the world. Unlike most classroom assignment reading, blog reading is informal and can be done in short sessions, perhaps when you need a break. And if you start to follow an academic blog or two, you probably will see a different side of academic life than you have known so far.

## Who's Blogging?

You may run into individual entries from academic blogs of interest just by running a search query in a general search engine. But if you want to get a semi-structured idea of what's out there, go to PhDweblogs (<http://www.phdweblogs.net/>), a world-wide listing of over 400 Weblogs. You can scan descriptions by research area (social sciences, computer science, language and literature, multidisciplinary, economics, and business), country, or language and then hop to the blogsite itself. Most of these blogs are very interesting--the authors are not even professors yet, but Ph.D. students, most of whom write freely about their research but also their lives, wherever they may be.

Professors Who Blog ([http://rhetorica.net/professors\\_who\\_blog.htm](http://rhetorica.net/professors_who_blog.htm)) also provides a good listing of blogs, many of them in the area of media and politics, but the list has not been updated since May 2005. It's still useful--while one might expect that blogs come and go quickly, there is really more stability than we expected. A *Chronicle of Higher Education* article from June 6, 2003 (<http://chronicle.com/free/v49/i39/39a01401.htm>) quoted Jack M. Balkin, professor of law, director of Yale University's Information Society Project, and Balkinization blogger (<http://balkin.blogspot.com/>), who predicted that the popularity of blogs would change quickly--those at the top of the popularity poll would be replaced in two years. We didn't check popularity, but of the nine notable blogs pointed out in the *Chronicle* article three years ago, nine are still very active, showing posts from the past week if not the current day. Only one is now inaccessible, and one other showed a last entry from 2004.

In terms of numbers, there are more blogs on the subjects of news media, politics and computer science than in humanities and other scientific and social science topics. But there are some noteworthy ones in all areas. The Best of the Web Blog Directory (<http://blogs.botw.org/>) lists popular and academic blogs by broad subject categories (arts, science, business, science, computers) and several subcategories within each. A long list of history blogs appears at History News Network (<http://hnn.us/articles/1572.html>). Good leads to blogs of interest to economists are at RFE: Blogs and Commentaries ([http://rfe.org/showCat.php?cat\\_id=96](http://rfe.org/showCat.php?cat_id=96)), and links and descriptions in social science areas can be found at Social Science Weblogs (<http://www.sociosite.net/weblogs.php>)

## Librarians Who Blog

One academic group that seems to blog more than most disciplines is librarians, and you can find some intriguing blog titles at the Open Directory Project: Blog Driver's Waltz, Christina's Library Rant, Explodedlibrary.info, Librarian on the Edge, Odd Things in Pitt's Libraries, and more.

Frequently librarians blog to announce and comment on new and interesting Internet resources. For example, there's Marylaine Block's weekly Neat New Stuff on the Net (<http://marylaine.com/neatnew.html>). Gary Price started his daily ResourceShelf blog (<http://www.resourceshelf.com/>) when he was reference librarian at George Washington University. Since 2001, ResourceShelf has grown into a group blog with several contributing editors, Gary Price became a fulltime library and Internet research consultant, and now is librarian advocate and director of online information resources at Ask.com. Gary and his ResourceShelf team still post anywhere from 3 to a dozen resource entries, with useful links and extensive commentary, 7 days a week.

There's lots of good blog reading out there.

Copyright 2006. This article is reproduced with the kind permission of Emerald Group Publishing and its Library Link virtual community service (<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/librarylink>) This article may be reprinted in its entirety, in paper or electronic format, as long as this statement accompanies the reprint.

**ATTACK OF THE BLOG**  
THE HOTTEST THING TO HIT PUBLISHING SINCE LEAD TYPE

## Fintel Library Hours for October 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 12 n - mid	2 8 am-mid	3 8 am-mid	4 8 am-mid	5 8 am-mid	6 8 am - 5:30 pm	7 10:00 am - 5:30 pm
8 12 n - mid	9 8 am-mid	10 8 am-mid	11 8 am-mid	12 8 am-mid	13 8 am - 4:30 pm	14 Closed
15 Closed	16 8 am-4:30 pm	17 8 am-4:30 pm	18 8 am-4:30 pm	19 8 am-4:30 pm	20 8 am-4:30 pm	21 Closed
22 12 n - mid	23 8 am-mid	24 8 am-mid	25 8 am-mid	26 8 am-mid	27 8 am - 5:30 pm	28 10:00 am - 5:30 pm
29 12 n - mid	30 8 am-mid	31 8 am-mid				

**Library tip number 321:**  
Get free access to **NEWSPAPERS** in Argentina, Austria, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, etc.

1. Go to Fintel Library's main page and click on **Factiva** (fourth in the list under general journals and images).
2. Click on **News Pages** tab at the top of the page.
3. Use the pull down menu on the left to select the country whose news you would like to view.
4. Results appear on the right. You can further specify the dates and sections of the newspaper which interest you. Clicking on any of these results will take you to the full text articles.

