

# RMLetter

## Your news about the Library

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

### LibGuides: a “One-Stop Shop” for Research

#### Hours:

Monday: 8:30a-10p

Tuesday: 8:30a-10p

Wednesday: 8:30a-10p

Thursday: 8:30a-10p

Friday: 8:30a-4:30p

Saturday: 9:30a-4:30p

Sunday: 1p-10p

**Library will close at 2:00p on Nov. 25 and will be closed Nov. 26-28 for Thanksgiving!**

#### Important Links:

[Library Homepage](#)

[Online Catalog](#)

[LibGuides](#)

[Course Reserves](#)

#### Calendar of Events:

Thanksgiving Break **Nov. 24-29**

Find the Knick-Knack on the Stack Contest **Ends Dec. 13**

It’s officially crunch time in the Seminary, and more students than normal are coming into the library in search of resources for their papers. In anticipation of this hectic study season, the staff at RML has been dutifully creating a new place where students can find the help they need: LibGuides.

Truthfully, the “LibGuides” have merely replaced the Research Guides that RML has had since the beginning—but there is hardly a comparison between the two. LibGuides works almost like a blog, allowing librarians that purchase the online content managing tool to create pages of information that can be easily maintained and shared across the Web. Anything from lists

The screenshot shows the Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary LibGuides website. At the top is the seminary's logo and name. Below that is a navigation bar with tabs for 'ALL GUIDES', 'BY SUBJECT', 'BY TYPE', and 'BY OWNER'. A search bar is located to the right of the navigation tabs. Below the search bar, it says 'Showing 48 Guides' and 'Display: Alphabetically'. A list of guides is displayed, each with a title, a date, and a number of items. The guides listed are: Acts of the Apostles (Sep 30, 2015, 8 items), C.S. Lewis (Sep 19, 2015, 1 item), Canon Law Resources Guide (Sep 23, 2015, 15 items), Catholic Education Resources Guide (Sep 30, 2015, 16 items), Catholic Literature Resources Guide (Sep 30, 2015, 22 items), Catholic Liturgy Resources Guide (Sep 30, 2015, 25 items), Catholic Statistics Resources Guide (Sep 30, 2015, 0 items), Christian Art and Iconography Guide (Nov 4, 2015, 22 items), and Church History Resources Guide (Sep 23, 2015, 10 items).

**At [scs.libguides.com](http://scs.libguides.com), students will be able to find more than forty different research guides on different topics.**

of books and hyperlinks to videos from YouTube can be uploaded to a LibGuide of the librarian’s choice—and all

under a single topic for “one-stop shopping.”

*Continued on Page 3*

### Note from the Director’s Desk

Once, when pushing the virtues of research to a class whose papers weren’t due for several weeks, I was met with a snide question: “Why do you tell us to do research? I haven’t even done one search yet. Shouldn’t you just tell us to search, since we’re just starting?”

My interlocutor was perhaps right to be tired of my earnest advertisement for the benefits of early (and deep) research, but he didn’t quite have the etymology right. Research derives from two French words, *rechercher* (“to examine closely”) and the older *recherchier* (“to search”). Research, then, connotes a certain kind

of painstaking search.

This issue’s main story introduces the electronic guides the library has developed to aid you in your research. I hope you will consult them and send us your thoughts.

## A Tale to Tell: Review of *The Story of My Life*

“Tell me your story”: a perfectly natural thing to say to people when we meet them for the first time. “Let me tell you the story of my days as a volunteer firefighter”: a casual intro, yet drawing a definite boundary around the events to be recounted. Bloggers and other online diarists keep a running record of the “stories” they find themselves in. Newscasters seek “the story” that supposedly lies within the interviews, photos and video footage by assembling them into a series of progressive revelations.

Mankind has always relied on storytellers, not simply for entertainment, but to learn about and understand the world. Events, as they rush by us, can seem chaotic, but when we recast them as stories, with unnecessary details cut out and beginnings and endings sharply defined, they seem clear and orderly. Now that the events are past, we are no longer inside them; outside, we gain perspective on them.

This habit of narrativizing, then, seems to be necessary if we are to make sense of our own lives. Saint Augustine set the mold with his *Confessions*: in reviewing his personal history, he found a narrative shape for the Christian life, where the drama lies in man’s vacillating response to God’s incessant call to conversion. On the other hand, simply by retelling our

experience as a “story,” we have already imposed a structure onto it—the reassuring rhythm of beginning-middle-end—that is foreign to the lived experience of life itself. In this view, there are no “plot points” when we’re in the thick of things, since we don’t know what the plot is.

The issue becomes more apparent in the matter of autobiography. If I, in writing about myself, fix a narrative shape over my life simply to make my experiences accessible to others, I risk falsifying those experiences. However, a day-by-day march of events, ending only because I’ve reached the present day, would be intolerable without a sense of progression, an assurance that this “story” is going somewhere.

This problem was taken up this past February by Richard Moran when he delivered the Aquinas Lecture, an annual series in honor of its namesake hosted by the philosophy department at Marquette University. As with all the lectures in the series, Moran’s has now been published in a compact volume, entitled *The Story of My Life: Narrative and Self-Understanding* (Marquette University Press, 2015; 49 pages).

As a philosopher, Moran is concerned with whether a human life, our own or someone else’s, can (or should) be

considered a “story” in itself, and with whether our attempts to truthfully recount our experiences are inevitably corrupted by the nature of the story-form. He contrasts the views of the main character of Sartre’s *Nausea*, who doubts that narrative can express the truth of human experience, with those of Alasdair MacIntyre, who in *After Virtue* claims that narrative form is true to life precisely because human life does indeed have a narrative basis.

While not reaching a final pronouncement on all aspects of this problem, Moran ultimately suggests that these competing solutions may both be lacking, since they assume a “one person-one story” model. If each of us does have our own storyline, then we also are part of each other’s storylines, which may in turn be contributions to the working-out of one grand storyline.

**“MANKIND HAS ALWAYS RELIED ON STORYTELLERS, NOT SIMPLY FOR ENTERTAINMENT, BUT TO LEARN ABOUT AND UNDERSTAND THE WORLD.”**

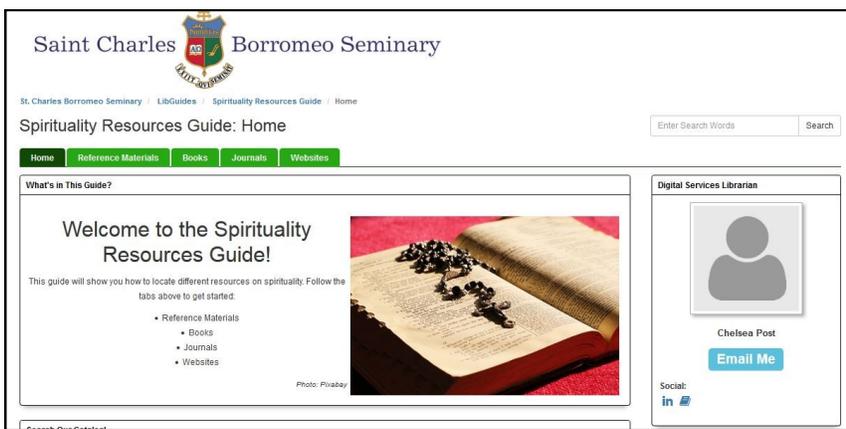
-James Humble

Will you be able to find the **Knick-Knack** in the **Stacks**?

Go to [scs.libguides.com/contest](http://scs.libguides.com/contest) for more information!



## LibGuides (cont.)



The basic format for each LibGuide is shown above: a Home page, followed by Reference, Books, Journals and Websites related to the subject. Example searches and call numbers can be found within most guides, and some of them include an extra tab for Related Guides for additional searching. There are also many specialized LibGuides, including ones on Pope Francis, the Bible, C.S. Lewis and even RML that contain extra information in differing formats.

Perhaps the best feature of these LibGuides, besides their aesthetics, is

their versatility. RML is free to make as many LibGuides on whatever topic we choose—for example, our “What to Do Outside the Seminary” guide—and we can continue to add to these guides over time, keeping them up to date far easier than we could ever dream.

But most importantly of all, these LibGuides have been made with the seminarians in mind—and we would love to hear your feedback! Send Chelsea Post an email at [cpost@scs.edu](mailto:cpost@scs.edu) for suggestions on future LibGuides.

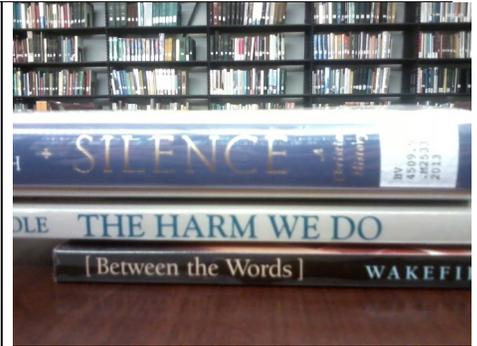
## Latest One-Shot Workshop



**BAD LUCK RESEARCH:**  
How to **Better** Your Search Habits

**When?** Fri. Nov. 13  
**Time?** 3-4 PM  
**Where?** Library classroom  
**\*Bring a Laptop! \***

## Book Spine Poetry Contest Winners



**First Place:** Peter Bernetsky with “Silence”



**Second Place:** Dan Amadio with “Dear Seminarian”



**Third Place:** John Kane & Peter McShurley with “Where is God When It Hurts?”

**Congratulations to the winners!**  
**Thank you all for entering!**

## Meet the RML Staff: Juan De Jesus

Most students see Mr. De Jesus at night, ready with a smile to answer any last-minute reference questions behind the front desk. Read on to learn more about our resident Interlibrary Loan librarian:

### First off, what is Interlibrary Loan and how can students use this service to their advantage?

“Interlibrary Loan is a service for borrowing books from other libraries for the use of our students. And the advantage is that students get a book that we don’t possess without the hassle of having to search through different libraries for it. It’s nicely delivered to us.”

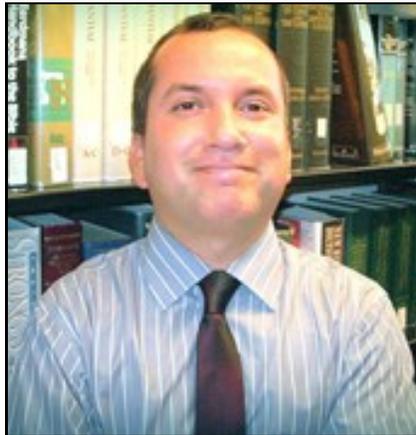
### You haven’t always been a librarian. What other jobs did you have before joining the RML Staff?

“Retail, English translation for Family courts, warehouse work—the works! I had almost applied for the FBI... for their maintenance department.”

### What is the most influential change to RML that you’ve seen?

“Our new circulation software which speeds things up. When seminarians are checking out a ton of books for their MAs, scanning books out at record speeds is truly divine. Also, our revamped website, an excellent tool. Check our LibGuides, then visit our bookshelves. ‘Nuff said.”

### Do you have any advice for students as they work on their final



### exams and papers for the semester?

“Research, research, research. The library is a deposit of knowledge to be used wisely. You see, any student should be able to use the resources available to the maximum for better grades and personal growth. Good research skills and clear objectives are trained at the library... not Wikipedia.”

### What can students look forward to in RML’s future?

“Innovation on an old theme: online books, updated audiovisual material, more computers. In a nutshell, technology with a vengeance in a modernized RML! Our web expert Chelsea (Post) and our IT professional Rome (LaFair) keep us updated on everything new out there in the digital world. That said, I would like to go back to the card catalog (*wistful sigh*) Ahhh, those were the days...”

## Collection Corner

In this issue, the Collection Corner will focus on a section of our catalog that is seldom used. Why this is, we cannot say for certain. Perhaps it is because its location is a bit of a misnomer; or maybe students don’t know they exist. Whatever the case, the Collection Corner is proud to introduce... the Great Courses!



Located along the wall behind the microfilm machines, this collection of color-coded CDs and DVDs are lectures on various topics ranging from philosophy and history to literature and science. Hosted by professors throughout the country, the Great Courses series places emphasis on “engaging, immersive learning experiences you can’t get in a lecture hall,” as explained on their website.

Here is a list of some of our favorite Great Courses, along with their Call Numbers—be sure to check them out when you have a chance!

- *Latin 101: Learning a Classical Language*—A-V DVD PA2001.H36 2013
- *The Era of the Crusades*—A-V DVD D159.H38 2003
- *The Catholic Church: A History*—A-V CD BX945.C66 2009
- *Great Figures of the New Testament*—A-V CD BS2430.L48 2002
- *Augustine: Philosopher and Saint*—A-V CD BR65.A9 C278 2005b

**Last Chance to see Fr. Collins’ election button collection!**

**Make sure to come and see it before it’s gone!**

