



# INSIDE

## The Clarion University Libraries



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### CU Libraries' Links:

### Inside The Clarion University Libraries

Read back issues of the Libraries' newsletter

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 through the [Libraries' homepage](#).

## Virtual Campus/Distance Education Support



If you are a Virtual Campus student or faculty member, you face unique challenges in gaining access to the information resources and services that you need to be successful. The Clarion University Libraries are committed to doing all that we can to address your needs.

We suggest that you watch the video presentation: [Introduction to the Libraries' Services](#). This is an excellent introduction to our Virtual Library Services.

Guides to our services and resources can be accessed through the Libraries' homepage by clicking on the [Virtual Campus Library/Distance Education](#) link. Once there, the link to the [Distance Education Virtual Library](#) leads to a handy LibGuide designed especially for you. There are other videos available that provide insights including:

- Searching journal articles
- ILLiad borrowing services
- Log-on information
- And much more!

When you need help with distance education-related library matters, contact the University Libraries ...

- Use the toll-free number: 1-866-272-5612  
Press #5 for the Library
- On the [Libraries' Homepage](#):
  - Click [Live Chat](#) to connect with a reference librarian via computer - *in real time*
  - Click [Ask A Librarian](#) to send an e-mail that a reference librarian will usually answer in 24 hours – or less!
  - Contact Linda Cheresnowski, our Virtual Campus librarian and work directly with her.
    - Linda works:

## Library Home

Your link to all of the Libraries' resources

## PILOT

Search the Libraries' online catalog

## Databases A-Z

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

## Contact Us

Dr. Terry Latour  
Dean of Libraries

- Monday – Wednesday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Saturday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Call her at 814-676-6591 ext. 1242.
- Email her at [lcheresnowsk@clarion.edu](mailto:lcheresnowsk@clarion.edu)

## Student Tip: Group Study Rooms



Group Study Rooms are available in Carlson Library on Levels A, 1, and 3. The rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis, although in special cases they may be reserved ahead of time.

Our policy states:

“Study rooms are available for either individual or group use.

**Priority for study room space is normally given to groups of three (3) or more. Library staff may request that an individual study elsewhere when the space is requested for group use.”**

In the event that groups need a study space and the room is occupied by fewer than three people, group members should first check the availability of other study rooms on Levels A, 1, & 3. If another room is not available, you may ask individuals or smaller groups to vacate a room or request that Circulation Desk staff (Level 1) ask individuals to relinquish the room for group use.

Level 3 is a Quiet Zone, so if you expect to have a spirited discussion, please do so quietly or use a Group Study Room on Levels A or 1.

## Faculty Tip: Faculty Study Room



Carlson Library offers current and retired faculty a place where they can conduct research or other business while they are in the building.

Located on Level A, in room A-17, this shared space has two tables and a networked computer. Faculty may borrow the key from the Reference Desk on Level 1. Please remember to bring your ID Card!

## Computer Tip: Five Ways to Destroy Your Laptop

A laptop is one of the most fragile consumer electronics devices you will buy. It's a complex system packed with fast hardware, yet it also finds

itself in constant use, which often means constant danger. Accidents happen. Hardware fails. According to third-party warranty provider Squaretrader, about one in three laptops will bite the dust within three years.

Luck is part of the equation, but there are also specific actions that can send your laptop to an early grave, or at least result in major repair. Let's become the destroyer. Uh, of laptops.



- ***Turn Your Laptop Into An Oven***

Laptops generate heat. A *lot* of heat. Processors are more power efficient than ever before, and overall heat has gone down, but a laptop will still become warm to the touch if stressed.

This heat must be expelled by a fan, and that fan vent has to be kept clear. If it's not, the heat has nowhere to go. So it hangs out with your laptop's critical components, and your laptop overheats. Some laptops don't like to overheat, and sometimes will shut down automatically. But others are real troopers and won't complain one bit while they are slowly baked to death.

Furniture, carpets, and blankets are all surfaces that can cause havoc. Pay attention to your laptop's fan volume. If it's going like a hair-dryer, and your computer is not involved in a demanding task (like gaming or video encoding), consider it a cry for help.



- ***Shaken Laptop Syndrome***

Solid state drives are becoming more common in laptops, but most still have a mechanical hard drive – and probably will for at least the next few years.

One problem with a mechanical hard drive is its use of moving parts. There's a read/write head that must move to interact with the disk, which spins. These moving parts have their own inertia, so if a laptop is moved while they are active, they'll try to move along their original direction. This can cause contact between internal hard disk components. And that makes your data die.

You can reduce the risk by moving your laptop gently and not moving it when running a program that frequently accesses the hard drive. Treat your laptop like a baby. No quick movement. Instead use a gentle, soft touch.



- ***Use Your Display As A Handle***

If you hate your laptop, start picking it up and throwing it in a bag by its display, or by any corner, or by the optical drive. That's a good way to make it crack like an egg. Even premium laptops can sometimes succumb to this seemingly innocent abuse.

If a laptop is closed, the best way to pick it up is by grabbing the front or rear of the laptop. If a laptop is open, it's best to just pick it up with both

hands, one on each side. Do not pick up a laptop by the display, or by the side of the chassis with the optical drive, or by one corner. You should also keep the laptop on a firm, level surface whenever possible. This will prevent it from getting all bent out of shape.

Some laptops will take abuse in stride, but others will run into issues. Picking up a laptop by the display, for example, puts a lot of stress on the hinges. This can damage the hinges or surrounding materials.



- **Mangle The Cords**

If you want to make your life harder, just start mangling your cords. Wrap them around weird things, twist them at weird angles, and wait for something to break. It'll happen sooner than you think. You'd think power cords would be made to handle lots of twisting and bending, but they aren't. Laptops are meant to be mobile, after all, so there's reason to make cords thin, light and easy to move.

The most common issue occurs when a person wraps the cord over some other object to keep it bundled. Sometimes that object has sharp edges which cut in to the cord. We're not talking about Bowie knives, here. A hard plastic edge is all it takes. Some power adapters will do the trick if you wrap the power cable around them.

Avoid this problem by bundling a cord over *itself*. Most cords come packaged this way when you receive them and some come with a little piece of Velcro you can use to keep the cord together. If your laptop did not come with Velcro, well, it's cheap. Make a visit to your local craft store.



- **Give Your Laptop The Jitters**

Laptops don't like to be shaken. Or stirred. Or jarred in any way, really. Despite what movies might have you think, you can't use them on the back of a motorcycle, or while running away from guys with machine guns, or in the back of a car while missiles are fired at you. Unlike Bruce Willis, laptops don't die hard.

Most users buy a laptop bag to take the edge off sharp bumps. That's a great first step, but you need to make sure the bag actually provides protection. Cheap laptop bags only include a compartment that is laptop sized but lacks protection. Others will pad the sides of the bag but then completely neglect to pad the top or bottom. Guess what hits the floor if you drop a bag you're holding or have strapped over your shoulder. The bottom!

An alternative is to place your laptop in a padded sleeve. This can protect your laptop from bumps and jolts while also keeping objects in your bag from scratching the laptop's exterior. Just make sure the sleeve is padded. Cheap sleeves, like cheap bags, may be too thin to offer real protection.



### ▪ **Conclusion**

In summary: ***sweat the small stuff.***

I've read stories of people dropping their laptop in a pool, or spilling a soda on it, or knocking it off a fourth-story balcony. Such things do happen. But dramatic accidents are not how most damage occurs.

It's often a combination of small actions, some of which may have no consequences at first. Over time, however, the damage caused by constant overheating and mishandling your laptop will surely send it to an early grave. If you'd like to kill your laptop, you can do it gently.

(Borrowed From: [www.makeuseof.com/tag/5-ways-utterly-destroy-laptop-slowly-surely/](http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/5-ways-utterly-destroy-laptop-slowly-surely/))

## **Cranial Candy: Paper Toys!**

[PaperToys.com](http://PaperToys.com) is the place to get free paper foldup toys to print, color, fold, and glue! Loaded with fun paper stuff for kids and grown-ups, you can create anything from a tiara to the Taj Mahal...from an Alfa Romeo to an Apache Helicopter...and more.

Practice your scissor and glue skills today!

## **Something To Think About:**



*Forgiveness does not  
change the past,  
but it does  
enlarge the future..  
~Paul Boese*