West Side Informer

Welcome Back Aggies!

We hope you had a great summer! Those of you who haven't been back since last spring will notice that we've undergone a lot of changes this summer.

We've opened up the reading room on the first floor and created lounge and bar seating, added more OAL machines in the R.C. Barclay Reference area, and moved the doors on the second floor to create more group study space.

The front desk area is also very different; we've combined the service and reference desks, making it the place to come whether you're looking for a text book for one of your classes, if you have a question about how to use one of the databases, or if you need help finding information for a project.

For those of you who are new to A&M and the WCL: welcome! In addition to course textbooks, you can check out things like calculators, laptop computers, headphones, flip video cameras, thumb drives, and iPods. You can also reserve group study rooms by going online to: reservations.library.tamu.edu ahead of time or by asking for a room at the front desk. (During exams, we suggest getting a room ahead of time; they go fast!)

We're open 24 hours during the week: once we open at noon on Sundays we don't close again until Friday nights at 10pm. On Saturdays we're only open from 1-5pm; come study with us for a little while but enjoy your weekend!

If you need help with anything, please ask us, and we hope everyone has a great Fall Semester!
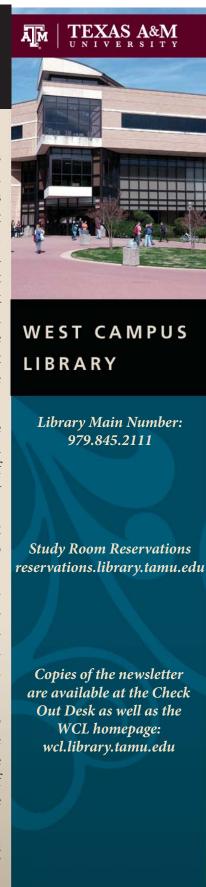
Social Networks & Privacy

Privacy on Social Networking sites is one of the biggest topics when discussing privacy issues. Business Technology News recently came out with the Top Ten Privacy Issues for 2011. Of these issues, four directly related to Social Networking sites. With that being said, most of us use a Facebook account or some other form of social networking and when setting up these sites may not have thought about just how much personal information we are putting out there for the world to see.

Name, email, date of birth, mobile number, home town, schools, jobs, and interests are just a few of the items of personal information that can easily be seen on Social Networking sites. This information, along with a recent picture of oneself, can not only help friends identify you, but also strangers. By making just one private information field available for anyone to see, you are opening your page up for personal information leakage. Not only can a stranger access this information, but also companies and third parties.

There are many risks when it comes to online Social Networking sites and the main issue is not being aware of the risks. Be smart and protect yourself from personal information leakage and check your privacy settings.

Top 10 privacy issues for 2011. (2010). Retrieved from http://www.itbusinessedge.com/slideshows/show.aspx?c=85523

Devmane, M. A., & Rana, N. K. (2012). Privacy issues in online social networks. *International Journal of Computer Applications, 41*(13), 5-8. Retrieved from http://research.ijcaonline.org/volume41/number13/pxc3877851.pdf

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