

# Library Connection

Vol. 15, No. 1/2

Fall 2000

Colorado State University Libraries

## *The Data Game* Designed with Freshmen in Mind

The *Data Game*, which debuted this fall, is an exciting new way for students to learn the basics of library research at CSU. Based on a 1970's-style game show, the *Data Game* uses animation, humor and interactivity to teach students where to locate information, how to find books using the Sage online catalog, and how to search databases for magazine, newspaper, and journal articles. Instruction on finding and evaluating web sites will be added next spring. After playing the *Data Game*, students can take the Big Mac Daddy Quiz, which tests them on the information they've learned. They can then email their scores directly to their instructors.

The *Data Game* was created by four CSU librarians and one undergraduate student to support the freshmen seminars in the core

curriculum. The librarians include Polly Thistlethwaite (Coordinator of Instruction), Michelle Mach, Kevin Cullen and Lori Oling. Tim Holt, the undergraduate in charge of both the computer programming and the animation, is a theater/computer science major. Together they created the game show hosts: Dewey Knowitall, Coach Chuck Locknut, and Gloria Gownwell. Their presence can be noted throughout the library.

In the first three weeks of fall semester, over 1,100 students played the *Data Game*. Since it is mounted on the Web, the game can be played on library or home computers.

Contact  
Lori Oling for additional information at  
491-6847



*Lori Oling, Michelle Mach, Kevin Cullen, and Polly Thistlethwaite following a presentation on "The Data Game" at Colorado Library Association conference, Snowmass Village, Colorado, Sept. 16, 2000.*

## GIS Services in Morgan Library New Mapping Software now Available

Several new GIS (geographic information systems) software programs have been added to Morgan Library's GIS services this fall. In addition to ArcView 3.2 with full extensions, ArcInfo 8, IDRISI, and BusinessMap Pro can be accessed in the Electronic Information Center. Four GIS workstations are available. Our GIS computers allow you to store your projects, as well as FTP and store files of data from the Internet. There is access to a scanner and a 100mb zip drive.

Morgan Library has a number of data sets available either for checkout or library use. Included are digital raster graphics for Colorado (topographic maps in digital form), Census Bureau TIGER/Line files (maps of the United States to the street level), the Digital Chart of the World, and the digital geologic map of Colorado.

A GIS staff team is available to help users get started. For more information, contact Suzanne Taylor at 491-1880 or [staylor@manta.colostate.edu](mailto:staylor@manta.colostate.edu).



## Laptops: Front Lobby – 3rd floor – Upstairs – Downstairs

These are just a few of the library areas where students use the laptops available for checkout at the Loan/Reserve Desk. Since the program began last May, over 7,000 laptop check-outs have been recorded. The wireless feature is very popular and students use it to access WebCT, search Sage, or surf the Internet. Word and Excel are popular programs loaded on the laptops. Student comments best reflect the popularity of the program: "The wireless was very nice, fast access with no plugs," and "It worked great. I like the wireless feature."

Due to the overwhelming success of this program, the library expanded this service from 20 laptops to 30 early in the summer term. You can't argue when someone says, "Super service, Thanks y'all!"

For more information on the laptop service contact Jim Farmer.

*Host Dewey checks out laptop use by a busy student.*

## Employee News

### Agricultural Reference Librarian Joins the Library

Allison Level, Assistant Professor and Agriculture Reference Librarian, joined the Libraries in July. She moved from Springfield, MO and is enjoying Colorado's lovely weather and low humidity. Allison's work experience includes science and technology reference at Southwest Missouri State University and the Library of Congress. Her academic background spans three universities with a B.S. from the University of Arkansas, an M.Ed. from Kent State, and an M.L.S. from Emporia State University. Allison is active in the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) and the U.S. Agriculture Information Network (USAIN). This year she is serving on the USAIN conference planning committee and ACRL committees on government information and ACRL-IS Research and Scholarship. Her research interests include information literacy, science education, and women in science.



Allison Level

Currently, she is one of nine faculty members working on a three-year National Science Foundation grant titled *Opening the Horizon: Strengthening Science Education for Middle School Girls in Rural Southwest Missouri*. The \$876,000 grant provides funding for a cooperative effort between Southwest Missouri State University and Drury University involving middle school students, teachers, parents, and community members combined with women in science. The project will involve continuing education, distance learning, on-site conferences, and virtual collaborations. Allison was instrumental in the project development and grant writing, and she will take an active part in the implementation of the grant over the next three years. The grant will serve as a model for other universities to design outreach programs to rural areas with limited resources for science education. You may contact Allison at 491-3918.



Teresa Neely (left) received a Ph.D. in Library Science from University of Pittsburgh last spring. She rejoined Reference Services and may be reached at 491-1906.



Tom Delaney, Coordinator, Interlibrary Loan Services, was recognized in May 2000 at the Regional ILL Conference with receipt of the Esther Snyder Citation for extraordinary ILL contributions.

## New Word Searching on Sage

Sage, the Libraries' online catalog, offers a new version of keyword searching. Traditionally, keyword searching looked for each word randomly throughout the full record. The new Word search operates as a phrase search, looking for each word entered in the order in which you typed them. For more search results, add an **and** between each word and Sage will again search for each word randomly. You might also wish to reverse the order of the words for different results, using **geology Colorado** instead of **Colorado geology**.

There are two possible versions of the new Word Search on Sage: Simple Word Search and Advanced Searching. Simple Word Search allows truncation with an asterisk (\*), boolean operators **and**, **or**, and **not**, proximity searching using **near** and **within**, and field code searching using the codes **a:** for author, **t:** for title, **s:** for subject, and **n:** for information in the notes field. Advanced Searching allows all of the above plus it allows you to limit your search to specific locations within the library (General Reference, Government Documents), particular material types (maps, sound recordings), and particular languages.

Finally, you may limit your results to a particular range of years, such as 1995 to 2000. Regardless of whether you choose to do a Simple Word Search or an Advanced Search, you will notice how much more quickly your results are returned to your screen. The Word search on Sage is up to ten times faster than the traditional keyword search. Try out the new Word search on Sage and see how much more flexible, creative, and precise your keyword searching can be. For more information contact Joan Beam at 491-4315.



*Gloria assists with searching.*

Phrase searching in Sage allows you to search more creatively. For instance, you can find all of the journals in your subject areas that are received by the library in electronic format. Enter **electronic serial** and the name of your discipline, such as economics, and all the journal titles we receive in electronic format will be retrieved and listed for you.

## ILL Spins Delivery to the Web

WebView is a new service that lets you read or print your Interlibrary Loan (ILL) articles directly from your Web browser. It eliminates email attachments and is the fastest choice for receiving ILL articles.

It's easy to use. When you place an ILL request, select WebView as your delivery choice and you will receive an email notification when your article arrives. Then go to the Library Home Page ([www.library.colostate.edu](http://www.library.colostate.edu)), click on ILL and log on. One of the choices will be "WebView link" – select this option and you will see

a list of your articles. Highlight the one you want to view and read it online or print it out by the page. You

can also automatically download articles to your PC for storing or easy printing.

Articles will remain on WebView for three weeks from the time you first view them. If you need longer access, you should use the download feature and move them to your own computer.

For questions or more information contact Tom Delaney

491-1866.



*Dewey reads his article.*

## Beyond the *Data Game*: Library Credit Course

*Library Research Methods*, LI301, is an eight-week, one-credit course offered each semester. The class strives to equip students with information seeking skills that will help them throughout their careers at CSU and when they enter the professional world. According to instructor Naomi Lederer, LI301 goes beyond teaching students how to use the libraries here at Colorado State. The successful student should be able to do research in any library, now and in the future. The class is centered around a research project, and students are encouraged to select topics that they are researching for other classes.

For more information, contact Michelle Wilde, 491-1860 or [Michelle.Wilde@colostate.edu](mailto:Michelle.Wilde@colostate.edu).



*Coach Chuck team teaches LI301 class.*

*Feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive. When asked to describe the most important thing they learned in the class, a student from last term commented, "I had a false sense of security. This course opened my eyes to just how much stuff is really out there." Another student responded, "This class exceeded my expectations. It is the most useful course I have taken at CSU . . . ."*

## Library Catalog Includes Tables of Contents



Now you can find book chapters and their authors when you are searching in Sage. This new service greatly enhances access by providing information about the contents of books that was previously impossible to find. Since 1992, Blackwell's Books Service has electronically scanned the tables of contents of many high-distribution, English-language monographs published for academic libraries. Over 42,000 books in Sage have tables of contents indexing and this number will continue to grow. For an example of a record with table of contents indexing, do a title search for the book *Achieving Diversity*. Chapter titles and authors are displayed immediately after holdings information on the screen. For more information, contact Nora Copeland.

*Game hosts check out new features.*

# Keep Connected

Check the Libraries Home Page – <http://lib.colostate.edu>

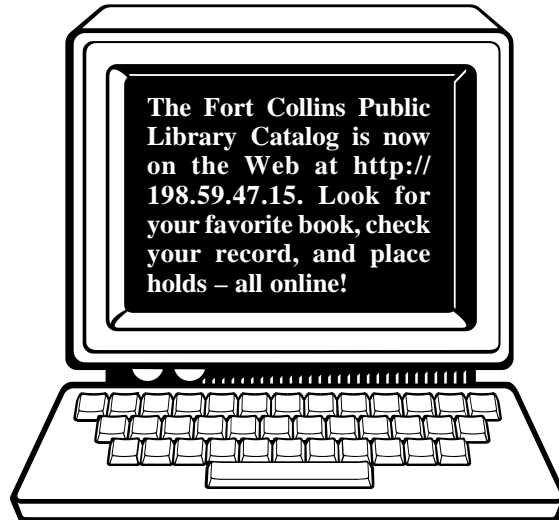
*Current Highlights* – featured services and resources, updated monthly

Identify Subject Librarian Contacts – click on *Services and Workshops*

Review Resources by Subject – click on *Research tools*

Check Hours and Special Announcements – click on *General Information*

Make Comments and Suggestions – click on *General Information*



Colorado State University Libraries  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-1019

*Library Connection* is published each semester during the academic year to acquaint users with the resources of Colorado State University Libraries. Requests to be placed on the mailing list or comments about the newsletter should be referred to the Newsletter Editorial Board: Julie Wessling, Chair (491-1838 or [jwessling@manta.colostate.edu](mailto:jwessling@manta.colostate.edu)), Allison Cowgill, Tom Delaney, Cathy Harris, Lyle Mitchell, Suzanne Taylor, and Pat Vandeventer.