Libraries

# Library Connection

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Colorado State University Libraries

## Mega-Results from Compact Discs

It's usually true that the cost of a commodity goes up in direct relation to the demand. In the world of Libraries, though, there is nothing so costly as a resource that passes unnoticed and unused. Librarians have long struggled with how best to promote printed materials in order to make them more useful. This has been particularly true for academic journals.

It would appear that technology has provided the necessary lever, if use of Morgan Library's CD-ROM databases is any measure. These electronic tools have proven far more popular than anyone in the information industry could have predicted even four years ago. Since most CD-ROMs are bibliographic databases which index the journal literature, our periodicals are not in danger of being overlooked.

How popular are these CD-ROM products, and why didn't someone think of this before? In the academic year 1989-1990, Morgan Library logged 5,621 reservations for just four CD-ROMs in the Social Sciences and Business. In Science and Technology, 3,937 library users signed up to use 10 of the optical discs. That's 9,558 half-hour search sessions on our more specialized compact discs. Untallied are the uses of Infotrac, our most popular product. It is a general interest CD-ROM available on a first-come, first-served basis.

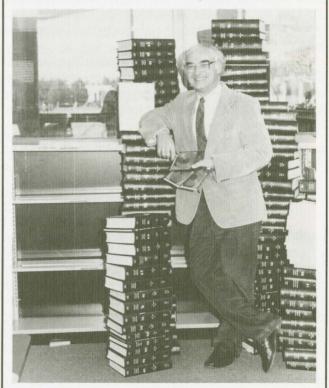
An interesting element in this scheme is the fact that these databases have been available for years on a pay-as-you-go basis, by dialing into a mainframe computer in Palo Alto which tallies connect time, telecommunications, and printing charges. Trained librarians run these searches in order to keep the time (and cost) down.

This raises an interesting question: how much **would** all of those searches have cost if they were run by

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### **Graduate School Funds Dissertations CD-ROM**

Colorado State's Graduate School is supporting the purchase of Dissertation Abstracts on CD-ROM, covering 1980 to the present. Dissertation Abstracts is widely used by faculty and students, and the CD-ROM version will make searching easier, faster, and much more comprehensive.



Dean Jaros, Dean of the Graduate School, with more than 100 volumes of Dissertation Abstracts and the three compact discs that will replace them.



### The Materials Budget: New Challenges for the Academic Year

The Libraries' materials budget provides support for the University's programs in instruction and research. Traditionally, the materials budget has concentrated on the purchase of books, journals, microform, and other formats, depending upon the nature of the market and the money available for purchases.

Until recently, the packaging of information had changed little. In fact, the placement of print on paper between covers is no different than when the first books were printed on movable type in the 15th century. Micrographics were introduced in the 1930s, but never particularly appealed to readers and remain a necessary, yet ancillary tool in libraries.

In the last ten to fifteen years two dramatic shifts have challenged the status quo: the exponential increases in journal subscription costs, and the introduction of databases on CD-ROM. Both have forced librarians to question how information is to be accessed and acquired. Since Colorado State is very strong in the sciences, and much of the scientific literature is in journal format, nearly 70 percent of the materials budget is allocated for subscription renewals.

The rapid proliferation of databases on CD-ROM has directly affected the materials budget. Until the mid-1980s, most electronic databases were available online through large vendors, often as a fee-for-service operation which had little impact on the materials budget. But CD-ROM titles, available through lease agreements, are wholly subsidized by the Libraries. Most contain bibliographic databases with myriad citations in a variety of subject fields. These products allow rapid access to citations and keywords in a way that library users frequently find irresistible. Since 1988, the Libraries has leased over 30 CD-ROM titles, costing more than \$60,000 a year. With the clamor for new titles unabated, judicious selection is necessary to keep these products from overwhelming the rest of the materials budget. The challenge is to become state-of-the art while attempting to balance the demands for new books, journals, and microform sets.

What does this mean for the Libraries' materials budget? The CD-ROM revolution has arrived and databases on CD-ROM are now in demand. Yet books, journals, and microform also remain essential. We are faced with new information formats, but must maintain our traditional information resources as well. Simply put, there is no extra money for CD-ROMs. In a finite budget, purchase of a CD-ROM title invariably means some journals and books will not be acquired. This is a sobering thought as we enter a new information decade.

Joel Rutstein Collection Development Officer

### **How Far Can the Dollar Stretch?**

As the dollar plunges to a record post-World War II low against most other major currencies, the prices of academic and scholarly journals published abroad skyrocket. The one-time \$300,000 supplement the Libraries received in the spring, plus the recent \$180,000 permanent increase to the materials budget has enabled the Libraries to maintain existing journal subscriptions for 1990. Inflation, coupled with devaluation of the dollar, is expected to add \$340,000 to the cost of Colorado State University journal subscriptions in 1991 and \$65,000 to the cost of books. Some foreign publishers have already announced that the price of their journal subscriptions will increase more than 25 percent.

These increases tend to be most severe in science and technology disciplines and come at a time when many new journals are being introduced. A recent study of journals listed in *Index Medicus* in-

cludes the following average prices per journal and price changes:

		% Change
Subject	<b>Average Price</b>	1986 - 90
Chemistry, Analytical	\$811.25	54%
Biochemistry	\$614.42	66%
Neurosciences	\$547.83	148%
Embryology	\$490.58	73%
Anatomy	\$418.85	69%

The subject area showing the greatest average price increase since 1986 was biotechnology, which jumped 166 percent. A copy of the study is available from EBSCO Subscription Services, P.O. Box 1943, Birmingham, AL 35201.

Joan Chambers Director of Libraries

### **1989-1990 Donors to the Colorado State University Libraries**

The following individuals contributed to the Colorado State University Libraries in the 1989-1990 fiscal year. A gift of \$35.00 or more included membership in the Friends of the Library. The generosity of these individuals contributes to the success of Colorado State University Libraries. Thank You!

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# Travel = \$\$ = Books

Professional Travel Corporation and Bon Voyage Travel continue to donate two percent of travel fares to the University Libraries for the purchase of books. If you travel, consider arranging your trip through these two agencies. For details, please contact Lisa Hinton, Library Development Office, 491-1872.

### **Anheuser-Busch Current Periodicals Room Opens**

Thanks to a \$250,000 gift and a lot of hard work, the Current Periodicals Room, second floor, east wing of the Morgan Library is open for business. For the first time, all current, unbound journal issues are shelved together.

The room contains approximately 8,000 journal titles, seating for about 140, a self-service copy area, CARL terminals, and a staffed information window. Journals are shelved in call number order to allow those in the same subject to be grouped together. The arrangement enables users to locate the journal they need, regardless of title changes or variations. Now all books, current and bound journals, microforms, and documents in Morgan Library are shelved by call number.

When security and exit control equipment is installed early in 1991, current journal issues will no longer circulate. In order to guarantee their availability, use of the journals will be limited to the Current Periodicals Room. Until January, current issues will continue to be charged from the Loan Desk for a 2-day loan period. Bound journals will be loaned as in the past.

Self-service copiers and a coin changer are available in the new room. With a \$20 copy card purchased from Campus Copies, the per-page cost is competitive and affordable at 6 cents per copy.

Staff will be available at the information window all hours the library is open to answer questions and

### **Mega-Results from page 1**

knowledgeable librarian-searchers performing a fee-based, dial-up search?

1,474 users searched the ABI/Inform Business CD-ROM last year. This product leases for \$4,995 per year. If librarians had executed 10-minute searches for these users and retrieved 10 journal citations each, someone would have incurred a cost of \$41,770 plus telecommunications.

Our 1,567 users of PsycLit — mainly graduate students — are just as happy to have avoided a bill of \$28,670. That disc costs the Libraries \$3,500 per year.

The Life Sciences Collection CD attracted 468 searchers. At \$90 per hour connect time and printing charges of .78 each, those researchers would have been billed \$10,663.40 for mediated searches.

The federally subsidized Medline database is relatively inexpensive to dial into, but 1,643 biomedical searches still would have rung up a \$10,998.24 tab.

How does one value an intangible like information? Probably only those 9,558 CD-ROM users could answer that question adequately.

#### John Schmitt

Head, Social Sciences & Humanities Department



assist in locating journal issues. Library users can find call numbers by searching the CARL online terminals in the room, or by checking a printout that lists all journals with their alternative and previous titles and their call numbers.

Please stop in Morgan Library, visit the new Current Periodicals Room, and see just how many journal titles are now available to you in one area.

Nancy Allen Assistant Director, Public Services

## Searches for Research: Subsidized Online Searching

If you are planning to submit a research proposal for external funding this academic year, you should take advantage of "Searches for Research." Up to \$250 per search is available through the Vice President for Research. You must be a general faculty member, and only one search per faculty member per academic year is funded. Funding is available for projects where there is the expectation that a proposal will be developed and submitted for external support.

An online bibliographic search provides the opportunity to review the literature in an efficient and thorough manner. We can match your research topic with the appropriate database, and conduct your search on a complex, multifaceted topic with relative ease. For more information, call Mike Culbertson (Sciences/Technology) at 491-1874 or Jennifer Monath (Social Sciences, Humanities, and Business) at 491-1860.

#### Jennifer Monath

Social Sciences and Humanities Librarian

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# **The Special Collections Department**

The Special Collections Department was established in 1974 to administer the Libraries' holdings of university archives, rare books and special subject collections. The Special Collections Librarian also serves as University Archivist.

The University Archives houses institutional publications and noncurrent files that require permanent retention. The Archivist provides records management assistance to the campus community.

The rare book collection is based on some ten thousand titles acquired in 1965 from the Trianon Palace in Colorado Springs. Subsequent additions include a Gutenberg leaf, several medieval manuscripts, two papyrii and a fine group of fore-edge paintings. The Dr. D. K. Bailey Collection of rare botanical books is a recent and welcome addition.

Special subject collections are closely managed to provide unique resources for research. The Germans from Russia Collection documents the experience of Colorado's second largest ethnic group. The Imaginary Wars Collection includes post-apocalyptic and dystopian fiction from the early nineteenth century to the present. The world-class Vietnam War Collection, begun in 1975, enjoys heavy local use and draws visiting scholars from the United States and abroad.

In the past several years, the department has made particular efforts to acquire historical and social manuscript collections with potential for research. These include the papers of Carl Akers, the Colorado Chapter of the American Public Works Association and the Fort Collins Council on the Arts and Humanities. Additional manuscripts are actively sought, and anyone with an interest in this subject, or in any of the holdings of the Special Collections Department, is invited to call John Newman or Alice Spaulding at 491-1844.

#### John Newman

University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian

### New CD-ROMs in Morgan Library

#### **Sciences and Technology Department**

CAB Abstracts, 1984-1989 (agricultural) Compendex Plus (Engineering Index), 1985-1990 Science Citation Index, 1986-1990 Tomes Plus (toxicology), 1989-

#### **Documents Department**

CIA World Factbook (country profiles) Drugs and Crime (U.S. Dept. of Justice) Statistical Masterfile (American Statistics Index, Statistical Reference Index, Index to International Statistics), current year

Wildlife and Fish Worldwide (Wildlife Review and Fisheries Review), 1971-1990



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*Library Connection* is published four times 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 may be referred to the Newsletter Committee, Holley Lange, chair (491-1847); John Schmitt; and Marty Traynor.