

# Library Connection

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Colorado State University Libraries

*From the Director*

## Machines vs. Books



Joan Chambers

Someone recently characterized the budgeting choice facing the Libraries as either more books and journals or increased access through electronic databases and networks. Actually, the dilemma faced by all research libraries, including Colorado State University's, is more complex than that simple either/or choice.

Twenty years ago one of the most time-consuming chores for a scholar or researcher was to find out what had been published.

Since library catalogs were usually in the form of card catalogs, a scholar would travel from library to library in an attempt to do a comprehensive bibliographic search. The attempt was futile, not only because of the limit on time and resources, but also because many research libraries had large backlogs of uncataloged materials. The process was even more burdensome for tracking journal articles. Indexing ranged from less than comprehensive for popular or mature disciplines, to non-existent for emerging or esoteric disciplines.

Today the scope of materials that has come under bibliographic control is enormous and growing, thanks primarily to the ability to generate machine-readable records. These records reside in a myriad of databases, ranging from the two national bibliographic utilities (OCLC and RLIN) which include more than 50 million records for books and journals in the nation's

libraries, to the hundreds of databases produced by vendors and made available for a fee.

New databases are announced almost daily. For example, just one recent issue of *Library Journal* (9/15/89) carried announcements for several new databases: (a) full texts of every article that appeared in *News Digest* from 1980 through 1988; (b) business and financial information on over 5,000 non-U.S.-based companies in over 100 countries; (c) the Water Resources Abstracts database of 218,000 citations compiled by the Water Resources Scientific Information Center of the U.S. Geological Survey containing information from monographs, government reports, and all the significant water-related journals and publications from 1967 to the present; and (d) the Arctic & Antarctic Regions database compiled by the Science and Technology Division of the Library of Congress which contains over 147,000 citations (40 years' worth), including abstracts of journal articles, monographs, reports, and case studies, and covers physical and social sciences, related engineering, biology, ozone, navigation, legal, conservation, military use, and management of the polar caps and surrounding areas.

At this point in time these are primarily (though not exclusively) citation databases. This wealth of databases and citations has had several impacts on scholars and researchers at Colorado State and other research universities. As the universe of available citations expands, the need for precision in searching increases. Sophisticated software (which includes Boolean and keyword searching; truncation; and the ability to limit a search by date, language, place), the power of a computer and the availability of local and wide area networks are

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necessities. Access to the databases usually requires membership in a consortium or the payment of fees to a vendor. Since there is no uniform standard for database design, nor a common command language, scholars must contend with numerous database configurations and search protocols.

There have been concomitant impacts on research libraries, including the Libraries at Colorado State. In addition to participation in the national bibliographic utilities and memberships in consortia of research libraries, there are subscriptions, leases, search fees and network tolls, as well as the need for equipment and training in order to provide database access for faculty and students.

The greatest impact, however, has been the ever increasing demands from Colorado State University faculty and students for the books and journals located elsewhere that they are now able to identify. The number of items borrowed from other libraries for Colorado State faculty and students has increased 142% since 1983/84, growing from 6,365 to 15,400. Two years ago members

of the Research Libraries Group concurred that the sharing of library collections must be reciprocal. Libraries are now charged if their borrowing exceeds their lending. Colorado State University is the largest net borrower among the members and generated \$30,000 in charges during 1988/89.

Finally, copyright law restricts the number of photocopied articles that may be requested from any one journal through interlibrary loan. When that number is exceeded, the title must be purchased or obtained through a copyright clearance center which charges a fee. Colorado State University exceeded the copyright limits on 96 periodical titles in 1987 and on 148 periodical titles in 1988. We relied on the copyright clearance center to obtain these titles for our faculty and students.

Research universities are challenged to achieve an appropriate balance between ownership and access, between books and machines. Every research library, including Colorado State's, must "own" its share of books and journals if the scholarly community is to be assured shared access to the expanding universe of information.

## ILL Moves into the Fax Lane

The Interlibrary Loan Department took a giant step forward with the addition of a fax machine during the summer. A fax machine transmits and reproduces written material by sending it via telephone lines; it serves as a long distance copier. When required, this gives the capability to achieve same-day delivery of photocopied material, limited only by the availability of a facsimile machine at a library holding the requested item.

The Libraries purchased a sophisticated Group III telefacsimile machine which boasts high speed transmission, high resolution, and plain paper copy. Photocopied articles received on this machine have satisfied time-sensitive information needs of ILL patrons and have been of consistently high quality copy.

When you have an urgent need for a journal article or section of a monograph, ask ILL staff about obtaining it for you by telefacsimile. Every effort will be made to identify an available location with fax capability in order to meet your deadline.

ILL has recently expanded its fax service to include a relay service on campus. You may request that articles obtained through ILL be transmitted to your

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personal or departmental fax machine. Whether or not it arrives via fax, the article will be transmitted to your fax number to avoid the delay of postcard notification. You may then select to have the original article held for pickup in the ILL office, sent to your campus address, or discarded. Your choice will be influenced by the quality copy your facsimile machine produces, as well as article content — e.g., x-rays or photographs may not transmit well. To have photocopied material sent directly to your fax machine just fill out the "FAX IT TO ME" form, available in the ILL Office as well as at Reference Desks in Morgan Library, and attach it to your ILL request.

Telefacsimile does not eliminate or replace existing modes of communication used by Interlibrary Loan. But rather, it complements and expands delivery possibilities, especially when the priority is to improve turnaround time. Fax capability is an important ingredient in the ability to provide needed materials quickly.

If you have questions about obtaining materials not owned by the Libraries, call Julie Wessling, 491-1866.

*Julie Wessling, Head, Interlibrary Loan Department*

## Personal Access to the RLIN Database

Imagine a database that includes bibliographic data for thirty million books and two million periodical titles. Imagine also that this database includes listings for films, scores, maps, and archival manuscripts. Finally, imagine the ability to search by author, title, subject heading, and title keyword, manipulating the results through Boolean logical operators. A pipe dream? By no means! RLIN, the database of the Research Libraries Group (RLG), of which the Libraries is a member, offers all these features. RLIN, in effect, is an enormous computerized catalog, one that accesses the catalogs of research institutions such as the Library of Congress, Yale, Princeton, Cornell, and the University of California.

*"RLIN, an enormous computerized catalog, can now be accessed directly by individuals."*

RLIN has been available to libraries for the last decade, but was not initially intended for direct access by scholars. This spring, however, RLG announced plans to make the database accessible directly by individuals. Using accounts distributed through the Libraries, Colorado State researchers equipped with a PC and modem can log on to RLIN and execute their own searches. Charges are billed to the researcher on a regular basis. Since RLIN is command driven rather than menu driven, a training session of about one hour's duration is desirable. If you want to receive

more information about this exciting new Libraries program, contact Doug Ernest, 491-1861.

*Doug Ernest, Social Sciences and Humanities Librarian*

## CD-ROM in the Libraries

Searching flexibility and speed are just two advantages of using the Libraries growing number of bibliographic and numeric databases on CD-ROM. In addition, you can print out the results of your search -- and the service is free. CD-ROMs now available in the Social Sciences and Humanities and Sciences and Technology Departments are briefly described below. For further information, please call the Social Sciences & Humanities Reference Desk at 491-1841 or the Sciences & Technology Reference Desk at 491-1887.

### Social Sciences and Humanities Department

**ABI/INFORM:** Indexes and abstracts the last five years of 790 business and trade journals.

**ERIC:** Provides indexing and abstracts for journal articles, research reports, and conference papers related to education from 1980 to the present. It is equivalent to *Current Index to Journals in Education* and *Resources in Education*.

**PAIS:** Indexes journal and newspaper articles, books, and U.S. and foreign government reports dealing with political science, economics and public policy. It covers literature published since 1972, and cites publications in English and major European languages.

**PsycLIT:** Indexes and abstracts more than 1,300 journals in psychology and related disciplines. PsycLIT is equivalent to *Psychological Abstracts* and covers literature published since 1974.

### Sciences and Technology Department

**AGRICOLA:** Indexes books, journal articles, audiovisual media and maps acquired by the National Library of Agriculture since 1979. It is the electronic version of *Bibliography of Agriculture*.

**Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts:** Lists citations with abstracts for books, journal articles, dissertations, reports and conference proceedings for all biological,

ecological and physical aspects of marine, freshwater and brackish environments. It includes publications from 1987 to the present and is equivalent to the printed publication with the same name.

**General Science Index:** Indexes more than 100 English language general science periodicals published since 1984. Its print equivalent is also called the *General Science Index*.

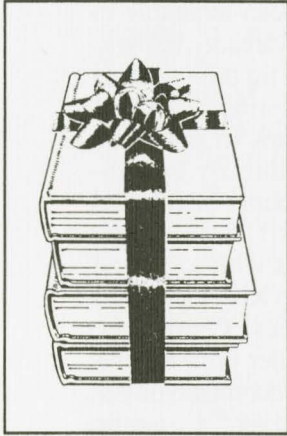
**Life Sciences Collection:** Abstracts articles found in more than 5,000 journals, series, conference proceedings, statistical publications, books and international patent publications from 1984 to the present. The corresponding printed indexes are: *Animal Behavior Abstracts*, *Biotechnology Research Abstracts*, *Ecology Abstracts*, *Entomology Abstracts* and *Genetics Abstracts*.

**MEDLINE:** Provides citations and abstracts to more than 3,200 biomedical and health-related journals published in more than 70 countries from 1984 to the present. Its print equivalents are *Index Medicus*, *International Dental Literature*, and *International Nursing Index*.

### CD-ROM in the Documents Department

The Government Documents Department is continually receiving new bibliographic and numeric databases on CD-ROM. **Arctic and Antarctic Regions**, **CLIMATEDATA**, **Earth Resources**, **Earthquake Data**, **FED STAT**, **HYDRODATA**, **NTIS**, **Selected Water Resources Abstracts**, and **World Weather Disc** are now available for use. These databases will be described in the February issue of *Library Connection*. For more information call the Government Documents Reference Desk, 491-1882.

## A Lasting Gift to the Libraries



A book is a gift to be opened again and again. For all the students, faculty, and other library users who will seek and find a particular book on the shelves of the Colorado State University Libraries, it is indeed a lasting gift. As an investment in a vital component of learning, the gift of a book to the University Libraries is among the most valuable the University can receive.

Not only is a book a gift to be opened again and again, it is a gift that endures. Because of this, a book in the University Libraries is an ideal means of honoring a special person. Each time the book is opened, it benefits the user and recognizes the person in whose name it was purchased.

To designate that a book be purchased in honor of a special person, a minimum contribution of \$50 is needed. A bookplate will be placed in the book stating it was purchased in honor of the person being recognized.

It is quite common to use books or book funds as memorials. At Colorado State, many books have been purchased as memorials to students, faculty, friends and family members. In addition to memorials, there are other times a book might be an appropriate recognition:

birthdays, promotion, retirement, getting published, winning a ball game, to name only a few. We encourage you to consider paying tribute to a special person or marking a special event with the addition of a book to the University Libraries.

For further information about making an honorary or memorial gift to the University Libraries, contact Jean McBride, Director of Development, 100 B Morgan Library, 491-1872.

*Jean McBride, Director of Development*

### Anheuser-Busch Donates \$250,000

A new periodicals room in Morgan Library will become reality thanks to a \$250,000 donation from Anheuser-Busch. The funds, to be given over the next three years, will support the centralized location of all current periodicals in Morgan Library. With a periodicals room, the now complex search for journals will be greatly simplified. The Libraries has received the first \$83,333, and planning for the room is underway.

**Colorado  
State**  
University

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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, comments and questions about the content may be referred to members of the faculty newsletter committee, Holley Lange, chair; John Schmitt; and Marty Traynor.