

# LINKS TO LAKES

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## The Newsletter of the Arthur Lakes Library

No. 9, Spring 1996

Colorado School of Mines

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### **From the Director**

*by Joanne Lerud*

In response to popular demand, the departments/divisions will be selecting (and deselecting) journals appropriate to their mission and goals as part of a three year trial program. We ask your support of library materials as a priority of the institution and evidenced as such in the budget. The Budget Committee is deliberating on a 15% increase in the Learning Materials line item. If that is approved by the Committee and Administration, the departments will have true choices to make.

The infrastructure of the Colorado School of Mines needs an infusion of capital. The Computing Center and Library, now so inexorably entwined, must be as critical to the institution as the investment in good faculty. Learning materials are not only journals and books; it is also access to databases, support of document delivery, development of cooperative agreements with other information providers, and participation in consortial activities for economies of scale.

We are grateful to all of you who have worked with us in the past years and look forward to future interactions as the departments/divisions deliberate on journal selection.



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### **End of an Era? Drastic Changes for Users of Government Info**

*by Lisa Stomberg*

The Arthur Lakes Library has participated as a selective depository library in the Federal Depository Library Program since 1939. The Library is one of about 1,400 depository libraries nationwide receiving publications from the largest publisher in the world, the US Government. Our collection consists of over 600,000 documents in paper, microfiche and electronic formats from the US Geological Survey, US Bureau of Mines, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautic and Space Administration, and many other current and historical federal government agencies.

The growth in the distribution of electronic formats through the depository program has been increasing over the past few years, but the percentage of titles distributed electronically is still

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## End of an Era? *cont.*

very low when compared with paper and microfiche titles. For example, over the last few years the Library has been receiving less than 5% of US government publications in electronic format. In our government publications collection of over 600,000 documents, only a little over 500 publications are currently in electronic format.

In addition to those electronic publications depository libraries receive in a physical format (i.e. CD-ROMS and diskettes), government agencies have been increasingly using online distribution methods. Agencies such as the EPA and DOE have been using electronic bulletin boards for some time to offer access to their databases. Some of these agencies are now making selected publications accessible through the Internet as well. For example, the DOE's Energy Information Administration (EIA) offers statistical reports electronically through their Electronic Publishing System (EPUB) bulletin board. Many of these same reports are now accessible through the EIA's Internet web page. For many people, using an electronic bulletin board requires a long distance phone call and an awareness of correct communications parameters. With the same products available on the Internet, people with Internet connections are finding access and use easier and/or less expensive.

Electronic access to government information varies greatly by agency. While some agencies are providing only basic information such as mission statements and organizational charts, others are including more substantial information such as full text publications and agency-produced software programs. Members of the 104th Congress have been aware of the growth of government electronic information and many have expressed a strong desire to move towards an almost entirely electronic Federal Depository Library Program by October 1998. During the fall of 1995, the US Senate Appropriations Committee called for a study to determine the feasibility of an electronic depository program. The first document to outline the transition was released by the Government Printing Office (GPO) at the end of 1995. It was intended to be the basis of a national discussion to help the group charged with supplying the longer-range, more strategic plan to Congress. Some of the issues raised in this Transition Plan that are concerns to the Arthur Lakes Library and its patrons are:

- The short list of core titles that are to remain publishable in a paper format.
- The impact of local library funding.
- Archiving and preservation of electronic government information.

The Transition Plan calls for a group of only 24 titles to remain in paper format. Not included in this list, but heavily used by our Library's patrons, are the **USGS Professional Papers and Bulletins**, and the Department of Defense/Library of Congress **Area Handbook Series**. Will these items be acceptable in electronic form with their maps and lengthy texts? If they are available only in electronic form, will the software used to access the information be user friendly? There will be significant costs to depository libraries to provide equipment ensuring acceptable and equal access. If most depository items are available only in electronic form, this will require more accessibility than the Library currently offers.

Finally, some of the most troubling issues raised in this plan are the archival and preservation aspects of electronic government information. The Federal Depository Library Program was established to make US Government information, both current and historical, accessible to US citizens. The archival responsibility fell to depository libraries to physically retain this information. Currently, as a selective depository we retain information most useful to our patrons in the CSM community and Colorado's 6th Congressional District. Colorado has two other depository libraries, CU-Boulder's Norlin Library and Denver Public Library, that receive and are required to retain all publications distributed through the Depository Program. The Transition Plan shifts this archival responsibility from the libraries to the GPO and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The GPO would then determine how long electronic information would remain publicly accessible on various servers before being archived at NARA. In essence, the Transition Plan shifts the decision of the life-cycle of government information from a local to a national level. The Plan does not address preservation of information after it is archived. As new technology emerges, will any agency

take the responsibility of shifting “old” information to new compatible formats so it will remain accessible in the future? Will future generations be able to examine US government publications published in electronic form, or will this information be lost to them?

These are only a few of the issues that need to be examined before a transition to a mostly electronic Federal Depository Library System can succeed. Librarians from the Arthur Lakes Library are working with local, state and national groups to remain informed of and discuss the implications of this “Transition Plan.” The Library will continue to see more electronic government information available, but is also expecting to continue to receive and support other formats, including paper and microfiche. For more information, contact **Lisa Stomberg** (x3695 or [lstomber@mines.edu](mailto:lstomber@mines.edu)). Information about the Library’s Government Publications section, including government web sites, can be found at

<http://www.mines.edu:8080/library/govpubs/index.html>.



**The Lawn: A History of an American Obsession.** Virginia Scott Jenkins. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution. 1994. L. Dunn, reviewer.

For all those who’ve spent long hours mowing, watering or weeding lawns, wondering “Why am I doing this?,” this book provides some answers. According to Jenkins, 18th century American middle class yards were commonly bare dirt, sand or pasturage for animals, and often used as a dumping ground for household garbage. Only the wealthy could afford the luxury of a lawn, which required mowing by horse-drawn mowers or groundsmen with scythes. She traces the evolution of the concept of “lawn” from this model to the bright green weedless carpet of today’s ideal suburban lawn (a very American concept).

While the book is about lawns, the author makes interesting observations about technology and advertising and their cultural impacts. The chapters “Men, Women, and Lawns” and “War Between Man and Nature” discuss lawn care product trends. For example, in early ads women were assured that products were clean and “so easy to use, even I can do it.” Men were sold products promising to make cutting grass enjoyable or giving them “power” and “control” in their battle with nature. Jenkins also points out the inappropriateness of some of these developments, such as overuse of chemical fertilizers and herbicides or water misallocation. This book turns a subject we take for granted into a truly bizarre concept-- We are a culture that spends millions to cultivate small plots of grass for ornamental effect.



You can now use CARL to review the status of your library account by using **PIP (Patron Information in PAC)**. This feature allows you to display materials checked out to you, determine whether your materials are overdue, or see if another person has recalled a book checked out by you. You can also place your own “Hold” on an item that is checked out, ensuring that you will be notified when the item is returned to the Library and becomes available for check-out again. *This is a display feature only-- You cannot update or change your account information in PIP.*

To use PIP in CARL, you must be a registered CSM borrower. In the CSM Library Catalog (#7), select **PI** from the menu options. The system will prompt you to enter your library ID number (A9/xxxxxxxx on your CSM ID or your library card). You may then select the options of interest.

*Caution: By using PIP you are logging into your library account. Please log out after you are finished, or else others will have access to your account from that terminal. If you have any questions about PIP or the information in your library account displayed by this feature, please contact library staff at the Circulation Desk or call them at 273-3698.*



## Book Review

## CARL’s Patron Information in PAC

## CARL Tips

How do you locate a journal title on CARL?

**For our Library's holdings**, use CSM's Library Catalog (#7):

Do a TITLE search if you know the journal's exact title, or

Do a WORD search using words in the journal's title. If you aren't sure about spelling (physics or physical, for example), truncate the word with an asterisk (physic\*). You can also add the word "serial" to your search to eliminate other formats.

This works for **other CARL libraries' catalogs** as well. (CU-Boulder's catalog is searched in a different manner-- Read the directions on CU's menu.)

You can search **all of the CARL libraries at once** by searching UnCover (#50) [journal articles from 1988- present in CARL libraries]:

Do a TITLE search and browse the alphabetical list displayed. An abbreviated list of owners appears on the right side of the display, and full holdings information appears when you select the journal record.

(Caution! WORD searches also work for journal titles but they are inefficient and may take a long time to process. DON'T use the word "journal" in a WORD search on UnCover.)  
*UnCover works best with current journal holdings (1988- present).*

Remember to check the journal's full record on CARL. The full record can tell you useful information such as how many issues a library owns, where the journal is located within the library, and whether its title has changed.

## Library Notes

An experimental library journal selection process is underway on campus, using an allocation formula developed by the Resource Infra-Structure Committee (RISC). Departments have been assigned dollar amounts based on the formula to guide them in journal recommendations. The deadline for submitting a ranked journal list of departmental recommendations is **May 3**. See your department head or Bob Sorgenfrei (x3691) for details.

The Library's web page is located at <http://www.mines.edu:8080/library/>. Please check it out for information on library resources, current developments and access to other websites.

Lucille Retke is retiring this spring after 27 years of service as our administrative assistant. In addition to administrative responsibilities, she has hired Library student assistants and in the past acted as supervisor for the Library's photocopy services. She will be sorely missed.

New employees: Rosalind Yocom and Karen McKnight were hired as library technicians for Circulation this year. Their responsibilities include staffing the Circulation Desk. Craig Robbins was hired as a library technician in Collection Management, with responsibilities for collection maintenance and processing.

### Library Directory

Director.....	x3690
Circulation.....	x3698
Document Delivery/ILL.....	x3699
Document Delivery/Photocopy.....	x3899
Reference.....	x3694
Government Publications.....	x3695
Maps.....	x3697
Acquisitions.....	x3691
Cataloging.....	x3692

### Library Hours (School Term)

Monday-Thursday.....	7:30 AM to 12 Midnight
Friday.....	7:30 AM to 6:00 PM
Saturday.....	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Sunday.....	3:00 PM to 12 Midnight