LINKS TO LAKES

The Newsletter of the Arthur Lakes Library

No. 12, Spring 1998   Colorado School of Mines

From the Director
by Joanne Lerud

Excuse Our Dust (Again)!! The Arthur Lakes Library will be undergoing construction, or should I say reconstruction, of the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system. This is probably not surprising, as the new addition is now 20 years old. Summer in the Library will include NOISE, dust, and heat. The staff will make every attempt to keep the Library open during stated business hours but there may be times the door will be closed for the health and well-being of patrons and staff. Over the past few years, all have experienced hot spots and cold spots in the Library--remember the refrigerator conditions of the old Colorado Room or the Sahara atmosphere of Reference? By October, we should have a new chiller (and a building to house it in), new duct work, no radiators, and constant and dependable temperatures. There will be inconveniences to patrons and staff but we do look forward to the finished product.

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To those of you who thought we were not listening to your concerns -- the Library crafted a Request for Information (RFI) regarding an integrated library system (ILS). We are currently using the CARL system but are concerned that CARL is not quite the right system for academic libraries, and recent corporate take-overs may indicate that the CARL ILS might not be supported in the future. It is also true that most CARL academic libraries have recently migrated to the Innovative Interfaces Inc. System. If we are approved to begin a selection process for a new system, the campus community will be involved in that process. Please see the article in this Newsletter describing the various facets of an ILS.

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What Is an ILS? [and, Frowns the Reader, Why Should I Care?]
by Janice Christopher

CARL, the library's online catalog (telnet pac.coalliance.org or http://www.carl.org/carlweb/index.html), is an ILS. An ILS is an Integrated Library System, a computer system built to handle multiple library functions (the catalog, item check-out, journal check-in, etc.) in a single, integrated environment.

Computers have been used in libraries for a long time; librarians were among the first to recognize the potential of computers for information storage and retrieval, and especially for the automation of the library catalog. Early efforts were often hampered by limitations in the computer environment, however: often various library functions were developed as separate

systems, with no communication between them. A library might have a circulation system to keep track of checkouts, but this system would not be tied to the online catalog, which then could not show what was checked out and what was on the shelf. (This is still the situation at the Library of Congress.) The evolutionary leap occurred when advances in computing permitted the building of more complex systems. Library functions could now be brought together in one system, and the result was an automated library catalog that could say what books were checked out and what journal issues had been received--a better (though still not ideal) window onto the library's holdings.

An ILS at its simplest includes the following parts:
1) A PAC (Public Access Catalog) module that permits users to search the catalog and pulls information from the other modules into its display as needed.
2) A Serials module that supports staff check-in of journal issues and the creation of holdings statements so that users can learn which journal issues have been received and how much of a journal run is held.
3) An Acquisitions module that permits staff to create orders for materials.
4) A Cataloging module that staff use to manipulate and edit catalog records--again, so that users will find in the catalog an accurate representation of the library's resources.
5) A Circulation module that allows item check-out, keeps track of the status of items--on the shelf, checked out, on hold, etc.--and maintains a database of library patron records.

It seems to be human nature to want more of things, and demands from librarians and users alike have resulted in the inclusion of more and more features into ILSs. System development in recent years has been nothing short of phenomenal. Client-server technology, the growth of the Internet, and the adoption of the Z39.50 network protocol (an ANSI/ISO standard for computer query and retrieval which permits disparate library systems to exchange information) have strongly influenced the top-of-the-line systems and led to new ILSs that provide greatly improved functionality for both users and staff. Some of the best new features include:
1) Increased PAC searching functions: full Boolean, truncation, nesting, various limiting options (type of material, language, date, etc.).
2) Cannot find what you need in this catalog? Try a global search, rebroadcasting your search automatically to other Z39.50-compliant catalogs and databases via the Internet.
3) One-terminal access, via the ILS, to the library's catalog, electronic databases, etc., and--in some systems--presentation of search results in one set.
4) Full Web interactivity: find a catalog record with a hot-linked URL, click on it, and you are at a web page or networked library resource; telnet to character-based resources; return to the catalog with ease. Some ILSs can even authenticate you as a CSM person and allow you to see full text in appropriate databases.
5) Patron-initiated document delivery and interlibrary loan, with on-line forms provided; the ability to import citations from Z39.50 sites; and easy copyright compliance and processing features for staff. (We have a form of this through FirstSearch, which allows you to request specific items on-line.)
6) Patron-placed holds: if an item you want is checked out and you are not in a rush, you can place a hold on the item directly through the catalog. (CARL can do this at present.)
7) Choice of interfaces: most provide character, graphical proprietary, and Web interfaces; many libraries are opting for Web interfaces.
8) Electronic Reserves: document scanning and online availability with appropriate controls, plus (in some systems) copyright compliance support and support for fee-based access.
9) Standards compliance: to library standards such as USMARC and Z39.50 and to computer industry standards. Networking is the new reality.
10) Ease of staff use: flexible setup parameters, statistics collection, global real-time updating--all those things we do behind the scenes (tours are available, by the way) to make the library function.

The ILS makes it far easier to search the catalog and the electronic indexes; to flit into other libraries' catalogs and find out if they have an item and if it's on the shelf; to search really big databases like WorldCat (rapidly nearing 39 million items) on your own to find out if anything like what you need is really out there. A really good ILS eases this process considerably and makes it all nearly seamless.

All this abundance and ease does come with a hidden cost: many users, and some librarians, get so caught up that they do not move away from the electronic resource. Everything seems to be there, after all, and an ILS may be so easy to use that it's simpler to tell yourself that you do not need to check anywhere else. But our library still has paper indexes that will remain on paper in the foreseeable future, and if items are not digitized (and a great number of materials may never be), you cannot call them up electronically. Information environments are multiplying and expanding, and information-finding skills in both students and faculty are becoming more necessary than ever.

The Arthur Lakes Library recently sent out an RFI to various ILS vendors, to get a sense of what is out there in terms of features and cost. URLs for the respondents are listed below. While no funding has yet been provided for purchase, we hope to be able to give the Mines community the top-flight information tools that it needs for scholarship, research, and a competitive edge in today's marketplace.
Ameritech -- http://www.als.ameritech.com:80/
DRA -- http://www.dra.com/
Endeavor -- http://www.endinfosys.com/
EOSi -- http://www.eosintl.com/
Geac -- http://www.geac.com/library/
Innovative Interfaces -- http://www.iii.com/
Sirsi -- http://www.sirsi.com/
VTLS -- http://www.vtls.com/

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Sleep Thieves: An Eye-Opening Exploration into the Science and Mysteries of Sleep. Coren, Stanley. NY: Free Press. 1996. Lisa Dunn, reviewer

Feeling sleepy after lunch? This book is a readable account of what happens when we sleep and why we sleep at all. Coren discusses the amount of sleep humans need, the factors that deprive us of it, and the consequences. Experiments on human subjects show that, given the opportunity, they typically choose 9-10 hours of sleep per day. These subjects were more alert, performed better on tests and experienced strong feelings of well-being. Coren argues that our current lifestyles rob us of needed sleep. Given all the things we want to do in one day, we are most likely to shorten sleeping time. We commonly (especially when we are tired) ingest chemicals in tea, coffee, soda, chocolate, alcohol and tobacco that impair our ability to sleep. Society even rewards people who sleep less (dedicated, hard-working) and frowns on those who pursue sleep (unmotivated, lazy). "Sleep debt" impairs judgment, creativity and alertness--pulling a classic all-nighter can result in successful short-term memorization for a test, but mediocrity in logic and creativity for your paper or experiment. You may work better with your team late at night simply because everybody is too tired to care how things get done. Considering jobs with erratic, demanding schedules (airline pilot, doctor, long-distance trucker), lack of sleep can be disastrous not just for the worker, but for others as well. Coren offers suggestions on how to tell if your sleep deprived and strategies for improving sleep. As he points out, while time is money, lack of sleep is costing you in ways you do not realize.

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New Electronic Databases

Venture into the *Congressional Universe*

Need to know more information about the U.S. Congress? Try the new database **Congressional Universe**. The CSM community now has electronic access an index of U.S. congressional information from 1970 to the present as well information on bills and laws (including the *Federal Register* (1980-), *Code of Federal Regulations*, full text of selected bills, reports, documents, prints, and testimonies), and information on current congressional members. This user friendly database is available campus wide at http://web.lexis-nexis.com/congcomp .

Full-text newspaper and journal databases available via *DIALOG@CARL*

Nearly 250 electronic databases providing access to of local, national and international full-text newspaper and journal articles are now available to the CSM campus community via the database service DIALOG@CARL. By setting a WWW browser to **http://www.mines.edu/library/annc/dbcol.html** or **http://set.coalliance.org:2000**, one can search and retrieve recent full-text articles from the *Denver Post*, *Rocky Mountain News*, *Boulder Daily Camera*, *NY Times*, *USA Today*, *Washington Post*, and hundreds more. In addition, national and international reference sources in a variety of subjects (notably business and economics) are included at this site. For more information, stop by the Reference Desk or give us a call at 273-3694.

Corporate Annual Reports

Corporation Annual Reports Cataloging Project

The reference librarians maintain an extensive collection of corporation annual reports that are housed in file cabinets in the Reference Room. Last year staff members began the process of cataloging the reports so that they will be accessible on the Library's online CARL database. Approximately 150 company reports currently appear on CARL, with additions being made weekly. The CARL record for each company indicates the years for which annual reports are on file. The reports are available for use in the Library and may be accessed by contacting one of the reference librarians.

Library Notes

CHARLIE CALLAHAN has been working in the Information Delivery Services section on a temporary basis.

Library Directory

Director	x3690
Circulation	x3698
Information Delivery/ILL	x3699
Information 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