

Library Connection

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Colorado State University Libraries

Access vs. Acquisitions: Beginning a New Era

Based on data gathered to prepare the Libraries' 1991-92 budget request, it appears that Colorado State University, along with most other research universities, is moving into a new era – an era of increased reliance on access to information rather than on the acquisition of comprehensive collections of books and journals. That is certainly not to say that we will cease to rely on or cease to collect books and journals. On the contrary, we will continue to provide the strongest possible justification for increases in the Libraries' materials budget – to add new books and journals and to fill significant gaps in our existing collection.

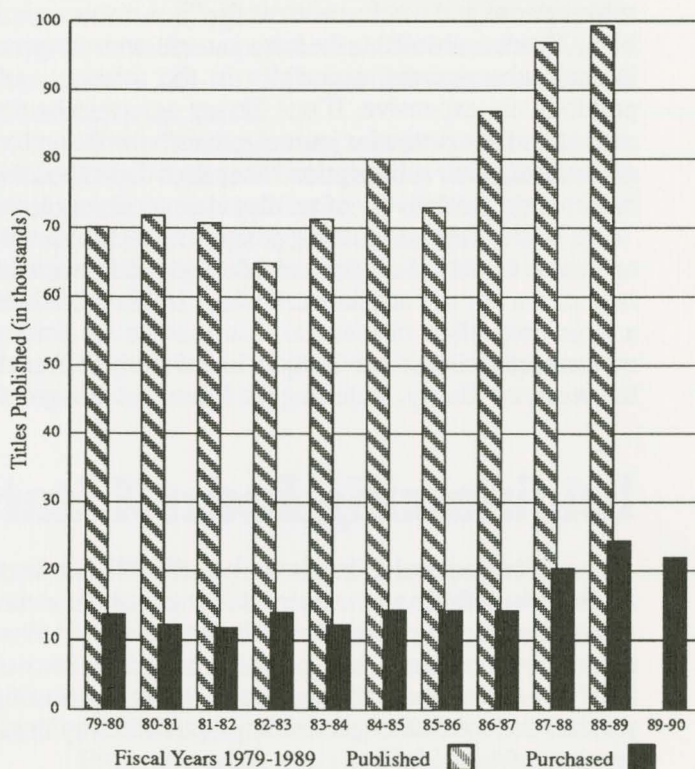
Then what am I talking about? I am referring to the fact that, while we are spending more and more to buy materials, we are actually acquiring fewer items and a smaller percentage of the universe of published materials than we were 10 years ago. At the same time, we are relying more on access to materials in other libraries – materials that are not owned by Colorado State, but are borrowed on interlibrary loan for our faculty and students.

The accompanying graph illustrates that the universe of published academic books continues to grow and that the rate of growth has greatly accelerated since 1985. The rate of growth for new journal titles has accelerated even more than that for books. In 1979-80, the Libraries purchased 21 percent of the academic book titles published. In 1986-87, the Libraries purchased 17 percent of the academic book titles published. (In 1987-88, 1988-89, and 1989-90, the Libraries received one-time supplements to purchase books. No supplement was received in 1990-91.) We rely on borrowing from other libraries for access to the 50,000-75,000 academic titles that we do not buy each year. Borrowing, however, is also very costly. In 1990-91, the direct cost to the

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	79-80	89-90	Change	%
Volumes Added	46,509	38,133	- 8,376	-18%
Paid for Books	\$257,726	\$727,424	+\$469,698	+182%
Current Journals	16,781	11,720	- 5,061	-30%
Paid for Journals	\$617,072	\$1,803,023	+\$1,185,951	+192%
Borrow on ILL	5,150	18,529	+13,379	+260%

Academic Titles Published Compared to Academic Titles Purchased by the Libraries



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Libraries for borrowing from other libraries is expected to reach \$98,400.

These costs are absorbed by the Libraries; none are passed on to faculty and students. Combined with the cost of network and consortia memberships, which support resource sharing among research libraries, the Libraries currently spends about 11 percent of the materials budget for access to information and about 84 percent for acquisition of books and journals. The remaining 5

percent pays for binding.

If the publishing, purchasing, and borrowing trends described above continue, the percentage spent for access will undoubtedly increase and that for acquisition will decrease. Are we ushering in a new era--an era of increased reliance on access to information rather than on the acquisition of comprehensive collections of books and journals?

Joan Chambers, Director of Libraries

The Corner on Collection Development:**Regional Cooperation, Will It Ever Work?**

Through cooperative collection development, libraries work together in building their collections. Cost savings is frequently cited as a prime reason for such cooperation, especially as libraries find it increasingly difficult to satisfy user needs as publishing costs rise and institutional budgets are cut. In cooperative collection development one library agrees to collect heavily in certain subject areas, so another can scale back its commitments in those areas while concentrating on others which, due to limited funds, had been neglected.

This scenario is particularly appropriate for journal subscriptions and is referred to as the "last resort copy." Many libraries subscribe to the same journals, and numerous journal subscriptions, especially in the sciences, are prohibitively expensive. If one library agrees to be the repository for a particular journal, others have the option of canceling their subscription. They then depend on the holder for rapid delivery of articles via interlibrary loan.

Another benefit of cooperative collection development is the "overlap" feature. Most libraries, even the largest, are not self sufficient. Various studies conclude a large proportion of material distributed even among major research libraries is unique. In one study of French literature, no library, including the Library of Congress,

held more than 62 percent of scholarly titles cited. On the other hand, four large university libraries combined possessed 83 percent.

Like so many altruistic ideas, there are drawbacks to a cooperative environment. Cost savings certainly occur when collections are de-emphasized and journals canceled, but does the quality of service remain the same? Local availability is a long accepted norm among students and faculty. What limits are they willing to tolerate? Further, preliminary cost savings may be counterbalanced by needs for increased staff to handle greater loan requests, purchase of electronic equipment to speed up document delivery, and direct borrowing costs. Even the basic library infrastructure may have to change to adapt to new services.

The potential for success in this brave new world resides in regional networks like CARL, where each member contributes its database of holdings to a larger network. Although the original purposes of such consortia were not for collaborative collection management, they may serve as the necessary foundation to resolve inherent difficulties and inertia.

Joel Rutstein, Collection Development Officer

Engineering Index Citations Available on RLIN

The Research Libraries Information Network, or RLIN, now offers a new service designed for engineers and others interested in technical literature. Called Citations File it contains EI Page One, a collection of over 800,000 citations from the contents of 3,000 engineering journals and conference proceedings, published by Engineering Information, Inc.

The database covers January 1986 to the present, and new records are added each week. Over the next year, coverage is expected to grow to 4,000 publications, about half of which will be conference proceedings. The information is to be available on Citations File approximately six weeks before it appears on Engineering Index

and COMPENDEX Plus.

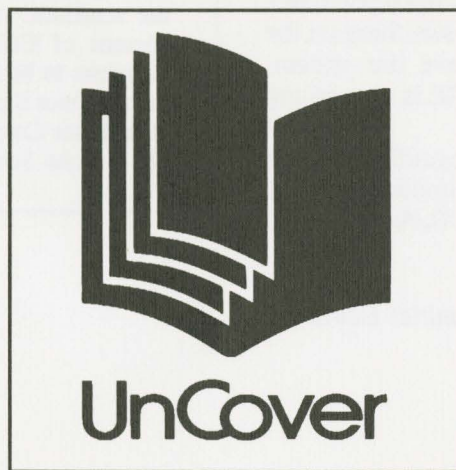
Citations File can be accessed from the Library's RLIN terminals located at the Social Sciences and Humanities and the Sciences and Technology Reference Desks. Citations File can be searched by keyword and author and provides basic bibliographic information for each article. The full text of articles can be ordered from Engineering Information (800-221-1044) for \$8.50 each or through the Interlibrary Loan Department.

For more information, contact Mike Culbertson, 491-1874, or stop by the reference desks for assistance.

Michael Culbertson, Sciences and Technology Librarian

Rising with the Tide of User Expectations

It may be in the nature of desire never to feel satisfied, but computers sure don't simplify things. Library users who never asked for improvements in a card catalog are rife with notions of what should be found in an on-line catalog: access to journal articles, retrospective holdings, other libraries' collections, deeper indexing, and ultimately the item itself. The rising tide of user expectations reaches higher with each advance in technology. It's enough to make librarians nostalgic for 3x5 cards in neatly labeled drawers.



Fortunately, CARL has anticipated some of these demands in its on-line catalog. Among the selections on the CARL menu is a category labeled Current Article Indexes and Access. It includes three files which extend access to the article level for recent journal literature: UnCover (file 50), Magazine Index (file 80), and Trade & Industry Index (file 81).

UnCover is an index and table of contents service for 10,000 journal titles subscribed to by Front Range libraries. Coverage goes back just two years, but includes indexing for a staggering 1.4 million articles. A word search on UnCover retrieves indexing on any articles with a match occurring in the title or in the article summary, if available. A search on a journal title in UnCover enables users to examine the tables of contents for recent issues. In effect, you scan the journals without going to the Current Periodicals Room or visiting other area libraries.

The Libraries owns many of the 10,020 journals, though we are not yet listed as a holding library on UnCover. When our journals are loaded into the system

later in 1991, UnCover will show stronger coverage of the journal literature in veterinary medicine, agriculture, and technology-related areas.

Between article indexing and the document itself lies a gap which has been breached by two other entries: Magazine Index and Trade & Industry Index. Magazine Index includes coverage of about 400 popular and general interest journals going back to 1988 or 1989. About 80 of them offer the option of requesting delivery of the article itself either on-line or by

fax. Trade & Industry Index covers roughly 700 periodicals and can provide delivery for about 350 titles.

You will know when you have come across one of these full-text services by a prompt indicating the availability of fax and asking for your MasterCard or VISA card number. For an \$8 charge, the CARL computer will verify your credit card, pull up the article and fax it to the machine you have indicated. The fee includes payment for copyright clearance. Within Morgan Library, the most convenient fax number is that for Campus Copies: (303) 221-3100. They will assess an additional \$2 to receive the article.

While this represents a small breakthrough in terms of the volume of material, it is a heartening development in the application of technology to meet user needs. Breaching the gap between desire and satisfaction will be a part of the agenda for future enhancements of the CARL online catalog.

John Schmitt, Head, Social Sciences and Humanities Department

Gaining Access to CARL from Remote Terminals

To search CARL, the Libraries' online catalog, from your home or office, just follow these few short steps to connect to the system. If your computer has a modem and phone line, set the computer to 7 data bits, one stop bit, even parity, and an appropriate rate for your workstation. Then you may dial (303) 491-1000 to connect to the University's PACX.

If your terminal has a direct PACX connection, you need only set your terminal as defined above. When you are connected to the PACX, press the RETURN or ENTER key until the message "enter class" is displayed. In response, type the number 44 and press the ENTER key a few times. The screen will display "class start."

Press the ENTER key a few more times, and the screen will now display "Welcome to the CSUnet Terminal Server." Select CARL from the menu, by typing CARL. You will be asked to identify your terminal from a list. Selecting number 8 "hardcopy" will often work. If not, consult your telecommunications software.

From this point, you may follow directions on the screen to search the CARL databases, including the Colorado State University Libraries' online catalog. If you would like to search UnCover, the current article database, you will be asked to provide your user ID and

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your name. Enter your University identification number with no spaces between the numbers and, when prompted, your last name. When you are finished searching on the CARL databases, type //EXIT to leave the system. Internet users: the direct address for CARL is csn.carl.org or 192.54.81.121.

If you have any questions regarding remote access to CARL, please call the general reference desk, 491-1841; Joan Beam, 491-1861; or Barbara Burke, 491-1869.

Joan Beam, Social Sciences and Humanities Librarian

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.

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