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Library CONNECTION

LIBRARIES
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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Colorado State University

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Colorado State University Libraries

From the Director

Each semester in *Library Connection,* the purpose of my column will be to introduce or to update topics related to the Libraries' role in support of research, scholarship, and instruction. I look forward to the opportunity of alerting you to developments which may have either direct or indirect relevance and application to your work.

The subject of this first column is the recent merger of several separate units in the Libraries into two departments.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Department is responsible for providing Libraries services in the social sciences, humanities, arts, and business. These services include instruction and other interpretive services; reference assistance, including staffing the reference desk; access to information in electronic format, including database searching; and collection development. In addition, this department is responsible for the provision of instruction to CO 150 classes and for conducting LI 280. The head of the department is Stephen Green. Please feel free to contact him at extension 1858 if you have questions concerning the services available from this department.

The Sciences and Technology Department is responsible for providing Libraries services in science and technology subject fields. These services include instruction and other interpretive services; reference assistance, including staffing the science reference desk; access to information in electronic format, including database searching; and collection development. The head of the department is Suzanne Johnson. Please feel free to contact her at extension 1876 if you have questions concerning the services available from this department.

Both of these departments report to Joel Rutstein, Assistant Director for Collection Services. Mr. Rutstein is available at extension 1838.

We believe that these two departments will result in a cooperative, coordinated, and cohesive approach both to the provision of library services and to the development of our collections.

Subject Librarians

Subject librarians are responsible for the overall growth and development of the collection. They select most items that go into the collection and review faculty recommendations in each discipline for which they are responsible. In their roles as liaison to the faculty, they welcome consultation on all issues affecting the Libraries, especially those concerning teaching, research, and curriculum. They also participate in many other areas of library service, including database searching and reference. The following list indicates their phone numbers and academic disciplines.

Anthropology	Joel Rutstein	491-1838
Art	Ron DeWaal	491-1860
Atmospheric Sciences Branch	Suzanne Johnson	491-1876
Basic Science	Toni Lueck	491-1874
Biomedical Sciences	Suzanne Johnson	491-1876
Business and Economics	Doug Ernest	491-1861
Consumer Sciences	Barbara Branstad	491-1857
Current Awareness	Barbara Branstad	491-1857
Education	Barbara Branstad	491-1857
Engineering Sciences	Suzanne Johnson	491-1876
Engineering Sciences Branch	Suzanne Johnson	491-1876
English Language and Literature	Ron DeWaal	491-1860
Federal Documents	Fred Schmidt	491-1881
Fiction	Ron DeWaal	491-1860
Foreign Language and Literature	Jennifer Monath	491-1857
Forestry and Agriculture	Suzanne Johnson	491-1876
General	Barbara Branstad	491-1857
General Interest	Barbara Branstad	491-1857
General Reference	Stephen Green	491-1858
History (incl. Latin American Studies)	Doug Ernest	491-1861
Human Development	Ron DeWaal	491-1860
Journalism	Evelyn Haynes	491-1859
Library Science	Bill Lindgren	491-1849
Military Science	John Newman	491-1884
Music	Ron DeWaal	491-1860
Newspapers	Jennifer Monath	491-1857
Occupational Therapy	Evelyn Haynes	491-1859
Philosophy	Ron DeWaal	491-1860
Physical Education	Ron DeWaal	491-1860
Physical Sciences	Toni Lueck	491-1874
Political Science (incl. law)	Stephen Green	491-1858
Psychology	Jennifer Monath	491-1857
Science Reference	Suzanne Johnson	491-1876
Social Work	Jennifer Monath	491-1857
Sociology	Stephen Green	491-1858
Special Collections	John Newman	491-1884
Speech	Evelyn Haynes	491-1859
Textiles and Clothing	Jennifer Monath	491-1857
Veterinary Teaching Hospital Branch	Suzanne Johnson	491-1213
Vocational Education	Barbara Branstad	491-1857

A Class Act

"Library research" — how different today from just a few years ago! Although we still rely heavily on traditional literature searching techniques — the card catalog, printed periodical indexes, our favorite journals, the "good ol' boy" network — we now have the power of the computer working in many ways to take much of the tedium and imprecision out of searching. Hundreds of bibliographic or informational databases are available for access by computer, either as self-contained laserdisc or CD-ROM inhouse systems, or by microcomputer, modem and phone. New databases and systems are being announced regularly.

Over 300 databases, from vendors such as DIALOG, BRS, or the National Library of Medicine, can be accessed through Colorado State University Libraries' CLASS — Computerized Literature Access-Search Service. Trained searchers, working closely with the requestor, can identify and retrieve relevant citations to create very specific, tailored bibliographies on virtually any subject, in a matter of minutes — bibliographies that would take days or weeks to compile using traditional manual techniques.

Citations identified can be printed immediately "online," ordered "offline" (to be printed later by the vendor and mailed to us), or downloaded to disk to allow post-search editing and organization using a word-processor.

Search costs are passed on to the requestor, ranging from $10.00-100.00+, depending on the number of databases searched, their individual rates, and the complexity and comprehensiveness of the search. The average search costs about $35.00.

Information and handouts about CLASS are available at any reference desk in the library, or call Barbara Burke, Microcomputer Services Librarian, 491-1869.

If you have a microcomputer and prefer to do your own searching, there are less expensive, after-hours, user friendly services, "gateways," and special search-assisting software packages available. Barbara Burke also has information on these.

• Did you know . . .
Colorado State University Libraries has current holdings of 1.5 million printed volumes?

The Successful Library Exercise

Number 1. Setting Objectives "What is This — a Trivia Game?"

Why do you send your students over to the library to do an exercise? This question may sound impertinent but it gets right to the heart of the matter. What do you plan for them to learn through this exercise? How does it contribute to meeting the objectives of your course? Does it prepare students for anything else — future research assignments, career-related information gathering? You have carefully worked out the goals and objectives of your course, but have you given the same thought to the objectives for the library assignment?

Every librarian has worked with students struggling to complete the periodic library "scavenger hunt." As nearly as can be determined, many of these exercises have no purpose beyond "getting students acquainted with the library." Some of them do not vary from year to year. In frustration, these students will sometimes comment, "When I finish this exercise, I'm never coming back to this library again." Or when questioned later about what they learned through doing it, they remember very little.

It seems contradictory that some of the same students will really enjoy a game of Trivial Pursuit or a Trivia Bowl, which, like the above-mentioned "scavenger hunt," deals with miscellaneous facts. But apparently the "payoff" makes the game worthwhile — the prize awarded for winning or the fun of competing and exhibiting one's knowledge.

When such fact-gathering is assigned rather than left to the student's choice, the basis of motivation changes. Students require and deserve a justification of assignments; each must be viewed as an integral part of the course structure, as a necessary step toward acquiring knowledge or skills for completing college, and as essential preparation for life and career.

If you need assistance in preparing a library exercise, please call Evelyn Haynes, x1859, or the appropriate librarian for your subject area.

• Did you know . . .
University Libraries has 18.5 thousand active serial titles?

Information by Laserdisc

Looking for current information on subjects of general interest? A new computerized index can provide library users with an almost up-to-the-minute overview of a topic quickly and easily.

InfoTrac, a laserdisc system, indexes approximately one thousand business, general interest, and legal periodicals as well as several major newspapers. Database coverage begins with January, 1982, and a cumulative update to the index is received on the second week of each month, making InfoTrac one of the most "current" indexes received at Colorado State University.

A user can search InfoTrac by keying in a word or phrase for the topic sought. After pressing a "search" key, the program searches the laserdisc and displays either citations or responds with a "no exact match for your request" message. If there is no match, the program will display a portion of its thesaurus that closely corresponds alphabetically to the suggested subject. Users can browse line by line or screen by screen through either the thesaurus or the actual citations. Subject headings and citations can be printed at any point, either entry by entry or a screen at a time.

InfoTrac has proven to be immensely popular with students, especially undergraduates. Its simple instructions, user-friendly software, and "help" screens permit students to search the system effectively, and the printed citations provide accurate bibliographic information.

Because it includes selected materials from the *Magazine Index, National Newspaper Index, Business Index* and *Legal Resources Index,* InfoTrac can provide a good bibliography of current information for students in the social sciences and in business. Students or faculty doing research in the sciences, much of the humanities, or any highly specialized technical area will find InfoTrac inappropriate for their information needs.

Recent Federal Publications Received:

National Commission on Space. [Paine Commission] **Pioneering the Space Frontier: an Exciting Vision of our Next Fifty Years in Space.** (Y3.Sp1:P65/DOC)

Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident. [Rogers Commission] **Report to the President.** (Pr40.8:Sp1/R29/DOC)

Attorney General's Commission on Pornography. [Meese Commission] **Final Report.** (J1.2:P84/v.1-2/DOC)

United States Federal Trade Commission. **Empirical Approaches to Consumer Protection Economics.** (FT1.2:C76/8/DOC)

President's Commission on Organized Crime. [Kaufman Commission] **America's Habit: Drug Abuse, Drug Trafficking, and Organized Crime.** (Pr40.8:C86/D84/DOC)

United States Office of Technology Assessment. **Technology, Public Policy, and the Changing Structure of American Agriculture.** (Y3.T22/2: 2 T22/17/DOC)

United States State Department. **Inside the Sandinista Regime: a Special Investigator's Perspective.** (S1.2:Sa5/4/DOC)

United States Defense Department. **Soviet Military Power,** 1986. (D1.74:1986/DOC REF)

United States Office of Technology Assessment. **Supercomputers: Government Plans and Policies.** (Y3.T22/2:Su7/2/DOC)

United States Dept. of Agriculture. **Differing Effects of Farm Commodity Programs on Land Returns and Farmland Values.** (A1.107:544/DOC)

United States Department of Defense. **Personal Computer Security Considerations.** (D1.79/2:002-85/DOC)

Environmental Protection Agency. **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Orientation Manual.** (EP1.8:R31/3/DOC)

United States, House of Representatives. **Child Victims of Exploitation, Hearing, October 31, 1985.** (Y4.C43/2:C43/16/DOC)

United States, House of Representatives. **H.R. 3838, An Act to Reform the Internal Revenue Laws of the United States, as reported in the Senate.** [Packwood bill]. (Y1.1/5:no. 99-313/pt.1-2/DOC REF)

Colorado State University Libraries has been a depository for federal government publications since 1907. The collection is housed on the second floor, far north wing, and contains some 420,000 volumes in paper copy and 670,000 titles in microtext. Currently the major access tool to the collection is the *Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications.* Federal publications are classified according to the Superintendent of Documents classification scheme, which is designed to shelve together all the publications of each agency.

Colorado State University Libraries is one of twenty depositories for Colorado state publications, including those of Colorado State University. The depository system was established in 1980. Distribution of publications is in microfiche format. Copies of Colorado State University and other selected Colorado state publications are also received in paper copy. The microfiche formatted publications are housed in the Documents Microtext Room.

What's New

• *Pravda* in English has been ordered. It will come in microfilm format starting from January, 1986, and a paper index accompanies it.

• *The Software Encyclopedia 1985/86* is available for 24-hour checkout at the Reserve Desk. It lists software programs by subject and gives compatible hardware, language, memory, price, publishers and their addresses.

• Courier service for library materials from the Engineering Sciences and Atmospheric Sciences Branch Libraries is in effect. One run to and from these libraries will be made daily Monday-Friday.

• Reserve has moved from the basement to behind the Microtext Room on the first floor.

• Two *new* state-of-the-art reader-printers for microfilm and microfiche are available in the Microtext Room.

• Did you know that the Libraries has an expert on the preservation and conservation of books on its staff? Myra Jo Moon, ext. 1872, is available for help with such problems as waterlogged or insect infested books.

• Did you know . . .
University Libraries has 1.1 million microfiche?

NTIS May Go Commercial

The following is a summary of an article which appeared in the San Francisco Examiner, *July 30, 1986.*

Whether or not to put all or part of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) in the hands of a private company is being investigated.

NTIS is the central source for the public sale of government-sponsored research, development and engineering reports. The reports are inexpensive, from $4/microfiche to $1,200 for specialized reports. They add about 70,000 new documents each year and offer services such as abstracting research and access to the NTIS database.

The major questions this change raises are the following:

1. Federal agencies are under no obligation to submit their reports to NTIS, although they do. Would legislation be needed requiring them to provide reports to a private company?

2. Most foreign research reports come to the NTIS because of agreements between governments. Would Japan and the Soviet Union keep sending research results to a private company?

3. Many of the 1.5 million documents in the NTIS system are requested infrequently. Would a private company want to keep shelves or drawers full of documents that don't sell well?

4. Most federal reports aren't copyrighted. A private company probably would want to copyright its information so no other company could make money from it. But should publicly funded research reports have a private copyright?

5. What happens if the private company goes bankrupt? What happens if the private company is bought by

(Continued on last page)

NTIS . . .

(Continued from page three)

another company? What happens if the private company botches the system? Can the federal government take it back?

The privatization of NTIS could alter significantly the way scientists and engineers obtain this type of information. If you are concerned, you can contact Joseph Clark, Deputy Director, NTIS, Dept. of Commerce, Rm. 4824, Washington, D.C. 20230 or call (703) 487-4612.

• Did you know . . .

Approximately 1000 books and periodicals are checked out from the University Libraries every day?

Almost 3000 people use the University Libraries every day?

Library CONNECTION

Library Connection is published twice during the academic year to acquaint users with the resources of the Colorado State University Libraries. Requests to be placed on the mailing lists, comments and questions about the content may be referred to members of the faculty newsletter committee, Jennifer Monath, chair; Barbara Burke; and Martha Traynor.

Colorado State University

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