

# Library Connection

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Colorado State University Libraries

## Library Moves Up in ARL Rankings

This year's significant leap in rank for Colorado State University Libraries in the Association of Research Libraries, from 106th (out of 107) in 1989-90 to 98th in 1990-91, represents a move up by an impressive 8 places, or 7 percent – surpassing the improvement made by any other member library.

Membership in the Association of Research Libraries is extended to major university libraries who apply, are reviewed, and are judged to meet the criteria. Such libraries have parent institutions that broadly emphasize research and graduate instruction at the doctoral level and grant their own degrees; that support large, comprehensive research collections on a permanent basis; and that give evidence of an institutional capacity for and commitment to the advancement and transmittal of knowledge. A qualifying library and its parent institution must exhibit the depth and breadth of its research programs by offering the Ph.D. degree in a required number of fields. Of the hundreds of institutions of higher education in the U.S. and Canada, only 107 have qualified for membership.

Once membership is established, the library's similarity to other current members is assessed annually by calculating its ARL Membership Index score. The elements chosen for the index are those in which ARL libraries most closely resemble each other. The index is essentially a collection-based index, influenced somewhat by total expenditures and staff. The variables are (1) total number of volumes in the collection which are represented in the public catalogs, (2) number of volumes added annually, (3) number of journal subscriptions, (4) total staff, and (5) total expenditures.

*The Libraries has made great progress toward improving the quality of its services.*

In 1985-86, Colorado State failed to demonstrate the continuing support needed to sustain ARL membership. After receiving notice of probation from ARL, the University redoubled its commitment to support research and graduate instruction through support of the Libraries. In addition to annual increases to the Libraries' base budget, \$1,130,000 in supplementary one-time funds have been allocated since 1986-87 specifically to enrich the collections.

Finally, in 1990-91, thanks to a special allocation and data load project, Colorado State was able to include in its report to ARL the 123,103 volumes representing records added to the CARL online catalog for government documents already held in the collection. This one-time addition enabled the dramatic 31-percent boost in Colorado State's ARL Membership Index score from -2.38 in 1985-86 to -1.65.

Through increasing the Libraries' ability to purchase new collections and through projects to extend accessibility to existing collections, the Libraries has made great progress toward improving the quality of its services. The challenge now is to sustain this upward momentum as an indication of the seriousness and quality of Colorado State's commitment to research and graduate education. Those who more carefully analyze the ARL statistics will notice that the Colorado State University Libraries remains near the bottom of the list of members in several categories, such as staff size, journal subscriptions, and volumes purchased annually. Both the Libraries and the University intend to work to turn this year's jump into an annual upward trend.

Joan Chambers, Director of Libraries

LIBRARIES

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## *The Corner on Collection Development*

# The Academic Community Library

When we think of the role played by a library within the framework of a comprehensive research-oriented university, most of what comes to mind are the collections supporting this mission. Examples are professional and scholarly journals and books, publications of conference proceedings, titles to support the broad range of curricula, extensive reference and bibliographic sources, government documents, statistics, administrative regulations and reports, and special collections and archives.

Colorado State University fits this definition, and the library materials budget devotes almost its entire allocation to support these programs. But university libraries also serve a campus community function, the purpose of which is to provide a center for general information and learning. This includes current literature, such as best sellers, recreational reading, and newspapers, which bring the world to our doorstep and enable

international students to keep up with events in their homeland. Perhaps just as important, the library strives to make reading itself an enjoyable, life-long experience.

Morgan Library staff work to identify and maintain such support services for the campus community. The Library receives newspapers on a daily basis from all over the world. A "current awareness" collection has its own location in the library, consisting mostly of paperback books ranging from science fiction to home gardening. A new books display on the first floor includes the most recent novels and best sellers. Popular works on the environment are included in a separate science new books display on the second floor. Persons planning a trip can consult a "where-in-the-world" file of travel information and brochures. These are just some examples of how the collections also support the Colorado State community as a family of interested readers.

*Joel Rutstein, Collection Development Officer*

## INSPEC Available on CD-ROM

You can now search for research publications in physics, computer science, and electrical engineering using Morgan Library's new CD-ROM database, *INSPEC*. *INSPEC Ondisk* is the CD-ROM version of *Electrical and Electronics Abstracts*, *Computer and Control Abstracts*, and *Physics Abstracts* and is published by the Institute of Electrical Engineers. This CD-ROM provides access to research articles in 4,200 journals, 1,000 conference proceedings, reports, books and dissertations indexed between 1989 and the present. *INSPEC* also allows you to search by chemical substance names or numerical values.

*INSPEC* encompasses a wide variety of subjects. In the field of physics, for example, it includes such topics as mathematical and theoretical physics; nuclear

physics; geophysics; and astronomy and astrophysics. In the area of electronics and electrical engineering, it covers circuits and components; electromagnetics and communications; energy and power systems; and telecommunications. And finally, in computer and control, *INSPEC* includes systems and control theory; computer programming and applications; and production, storage, transmission, and interpretation of visual, oral, and digitally encoded information.

The database can be reserved for one hour per day. To reserve time on the database or for more information, call the Sciences and Technology Reference Desk at 491-1887.

*Tom Moothart*

*Sciences and Technology Department*

## National Trade Data Bank CD-ROM

The *National Trade Data Bank CD-ROM* provides access to international trade and export data from 15 U.S. government agencies. The CD-ROM contains information from government sources such as the International Trade Administration, Bureau of the Census, Department of Labor, and the Central Intelligence Agency. The database contains more than 100,000 documents with basic export information (*The Basic Guide to Exporting*); country profiles (*The World Factbook*); industry-specific information (*The Industrial Outlook*); industry-country data (*Market Research Reports*); import and export statistics; and listings of foreign firms wanting

U.S. products (*The Foreign Traders Index*).

Simple software programs provide access and retrieval of text, time series, and tabular data. *Data Bank* searches can be based on country and product or specific words in the titles of documents. Retrieved information can be viewed on the screen, printed, or exported to a floppy disk. *The National Trade Data Bank CD-ROM* is located in the Documents Department Reference area. For more information about this CD-ROM, call the Documents Department, 491-1882.

*Suzanne Taylor*

*Documents Department*



## ERIC Database Now on CARL

Researchers at Colorado State University interested in areas related to education may now search the ERIC database on CARL from their office, home, or in Morgan Library. ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and is a national information system, providing access to the current education literature. It is comprised of *Resources in Education (RIE)* and *Current Index to Journals in Education (CIJE)*. *RIE* contains citations to research reports, unpublished manuscripts, technical reports, and speeches, while *CIJE* indexes the current periodical literature relating to education. Until the end of April, only records added to ERIC from 1991 to the present will be on CARL, but after that date the entire ERIC file, 1966 to the present, will be available.

The ERIC files on CARL are found under the second main menu selection, "Current Article Indexing and Access." CARL has divided the ERIC database into four separate files: the ERIC Thesaurus, *RIE*, *CIJE*, and a combined file of both *RIE* and *CIJE*. The ERIC database uses a controlled vocabulary to assign major and minor descriptors to each entry, and the list of these subject headings, or descriptors, is in the ERIC Thesaurus file.

CARL has created several new searching commands to use with the ERIC files: NB for name browsing through the alphabetical list of authors; SB for subject browsing through the ERIC descriptors; and SW for searching through the subject words and phrases. The ERIC files also use the same N for name, W for word, and T for title search commands as the other CARL databases.

If you would like to see the full text of any records you identify on ERIC, there are two methods to



*Robert Richburg, School of Occupational and Educational Studies, uses ERIC in both paper and CD-ROM format. ERIC is now even more widely available through CARL.*

find them. Records designated with an "ED" number are from *RIE*. Most of these are available in Morgan Library and can be located under their "ED" number in the microtext room. Records designated with "EJ" are journal articles from *CIJE*, and you will need to check our catalog to see if we carry the journal. For more information about ERIC on CARL, contact Judy Berndt, 491-1860, or Joan Beam, 491-1861.

*Joan Beam*

*Social Sciences and Humanities Department*

## Morgan's CD-ROM Network Expanding

Success can create problems of its own, as library users of CD-ROM databases have already found out. Some of these computer files have been in such demand that spontaneous access was about as likely as getting a table in a popular restaurant on a Saturday night without a reservation. The situation was particularly acute for some CD-ROMs offering unique, comprehensive access to the published literature of their respective fields: *Medline*, published by the National Library of Medicine; *PsycLit*, a product of the American Psychological Association; and *ABI/Inform*, a business periodicals database are but three examples.

Since January, the Libraries has been running these and other heavily used databases on a local area network. This has had the happy result of making these CD-ROMs available for simultaneous use by two or

more individuals on any of the networked computers. Six machines in the Social Sciences and Humanities Department are linked to the LAN, as are three computers in Sciences and Technology. Users still need to reserve time on a workstation, but no longer need to worry about the availability of these CD-ROM titles: *Medline*, 1986-1992; *PsycLit*, 1974-1992; *ABI/Inform*, 1987-1992; *Dissertation Abstracts*, 1861-1991; and the *Cambridge Life Sciences Collection*, 1986-1992. These products are available on the nine networked computers in Morgan Library all hours the library is open. Anyone may make a reservation either in person or by phone for a CD workstation (or for a stand-alone CD-ROM product) by contacting one the reference desks in Morgan Library.

*John Schmitt*

*Social Sciences and Humanities Department*



## Conversion of All Books to CARL Underway

In 1993, the Libraries plans to add records to CARL for more than 140,000 books now listed only in the card catalog, making CARL the single source to search for library holdings. At present, library users must check both CARL and the card catalog for books with pre-1976 publication dates, although some older titles in the sciences and agriculture, as well as all journal titles are already on CARL.

The work is being done in several stages. Last year, the Libraries contracted with OCLC, a national bibliographic database, to create machine readable bibliographic records for the pre-1976 titles on diversity related topics. These records will be added to CARL when new programming is completed.

The biggest project this year has been the bar coding of more than 110,000 titles in Morgan and the Lake Street Book Depository. This is the first stage in transferring information from the old catalog cards to CARL. Supervised by two project coordinators, 23 student assistants are identifying books not yet on CARL and putting bar codes on them. There are several side benefits to this project. In effect, the students are inventorying a significant part of the collection, identifying missing books or books that have been returned but recorded as withdrawn, and finding and correcting mislabeled books.

When the bar coding of all volumes is completed in the fall, the Libraries will send the inventory list to a vendor to match against existing machine readable bib-

liographic records. A tape of these will then be loaded on CARL, and the card catalog will be discarded, another relic outdated by the computer age.

*Margo Sassé*

*Head, Catalog Department*

## New Delivery Service Offered

The University Libraries, in cooperation with the Office of Resources for Disabled Students, is now offering a document delivery service for disabled students. This service provides retrieval and delivery of materials housed in Morgan Library to one of three designated pick-up points on campus – the Reception Desk at Braiden Hall, the reception area of the Office of Resources for Disabled Students (116A Student Services), or the Interlibrary Loan Office (210 Morgan Library).

Students can request materials by using the forms provided at the pick-up points or via computer to the Interlibrary Loan electronic access program. Upon receiving a request, ILL will retrieve the materials, photocopy, and/or check them out to the patron and deliver or provide notice of unavailability within 48 hours to the site selected at the time of the request. Materials can also be returned to the same sites. For more information, call Jean Winkler at 491-1847.

*Jean Winkler*

*Coordinator of Library Resources for Disabled Students*

**Colorado  
State  
University**

Colorado State University Libraries  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

**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 should be referred to the Newsletter Committee: Holley Lange, chair (491-1846 or [hlange@vines.ColoState.EDU](mailto:hlange@vines.ColoState.EDU)), John Schmitt, and Tom Delaney.

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