



Library Resources

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INTRODUCING MnPALS

Just in time for spring, the catalog "freeze" has ended, and MnPALS has arrived at MSU! Although many changes in procedures and workflow continue to be implemented behind the scenes, the public catalog was up and running just before spring break.

To introduce faculty, staff, and students to MnPALS, librarians have scheduled a number of **half-hour overview sessions** to present the basic features of the new online catalog. All sessions will take place in ML110, a classroom off the lower level corridor pedestrians use to travel from McElroy to the Centennial Student Union. No registration is required. Just stop by!

Open sessions designed especially for faculty and staff will be held at the following times:

Wednesday, March 17	3:30-4 pm
Thursday, March 18	9-9:30 am
Thursday, March 18	3:30-4 pm
Friday, March 19	9-9:30 am
Monday, March 22	9-9:30 am
Monday, March 22	3:30-4 pm
Tuesday, March 23	9-9:30 am
Tuesday, March 23	3:30-4 pm

Open sessions for everyone on campus who wants to learn about MnPALS are scheduled at the following times:

Monday, March 15	9-9:30 am
Tuesday, March 16	3:30-4 pm
Wednesday, March 17	9-9:30 am
Wednesday, March 24	9-9:30 am
Wednesday, March 24	3-3:30 pm

Please let students know about the open sessions available for everyone. **To schedule a separate instruction session** for one of your classes, either complete the form from the Library home page at

<http://www.lib.mnsu.edu> (in QuickLinks) or contact Jim Kapoun, Instruction Coordinator, at 2251 or jim.kapoun@mnsu.edu.

Although the online catalog is available, not all parts of the system are fully functional yet. During this developmental phase, we continue to rely on other avenues to offer services such as interlibrary loan. In addition, library faculty and staff in all areas must learn and practice new procedures related to circulation, acquisitions, cataloging, and other essential tasks. We appreciate your patience. Perhaps the following explanations will answer some additional questions.

What changes will occur in interlibrary loan?

The interlibrary loan process may take longer than usual until that section of the new system is fully developed. Requests can be made by using the online forms at the Library website. Book requests from non-MnPALS libraries that were part of WebPALS will require that all information such as title, author, and publisher be re-entered rather than just the person's barcode and password. During the statewide migration process, there continue to be changes in how we interact with other libraries. Because some Minnesota libraries remain on WebPALS as others switch, we will not be able to communicate with some libraries as quickly as in the past. We do not anticipate problems with filling borrowing requests, but the process will be somewhat slower.

What happened to the order requests my department sent in during the past few months?

All ordering had to be suspended during the "freeze." Acquisitions staff members are mastering the new system. Any items that faculty identified as necessary for summer session 2004 are being ordered first. We are working to get those

materials purchased and catalogued in time for summer. The rest of the orders will then be processed as quickly as possible.

How can I book videos and equipment?

Continue to contact the ERC staff at 5943 or 5944 if you need to book videos or equipment.

Will other online resources stay the same?

Access to online databases remains the same. You can continue to search from the Library, your office, or home. Serials List lets you know what periodicals we have in paper and electronic formats. In addition to the databases with which you are familiar, you might want to take advantage of the database trials described in the following article.

CURRENT DATABASE TRIALS

MINITEX is sponsoring a series of trials of databases so that member libraries can evaluate them in light of their needs for electronic resources. The trials will last until April 2. **To obtain the password needed to explore a specific company's databases, contact the Reference Desk at 5958.** You then can link to the trials from the Library's home page at <www.lib.mnsu.edu>

In addition to the many electronic resources we have available from **Gale**, the company is providing access to **LegalTrac**, a source for legal materials, and **Health and Wellness Resource Center with Alternative Health Module**. They also allow users to search a number of selections from their e-book collection of the **Gale Virtual Reference Library**.

H.W. Wilson is offering three databases for consideration. **Biography Reference Bank** includes full-text items plus links to citations from books and journals for information about notable people past and present. Two multidisciplinary databases, **Omni File Full Text Mega** and **Omni File Full Text Select**, include full-text materials plus citations to many other sources.

Newsbank provides access to full-text content of almost 500 U.S. newspapers, including those from St. Cloud, Duluth, St. Paul, Bismarck, and Sioux Falls.

Grolier's full-text materials feature a number of encyclopedias written for different target audiences from elementary school students to adults. Titles include *New Book of Knowledge*, *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*, *Encyclopedia Americana*, *Nueva Enciclopedia Cumbre en linea*, and *Lands and Peoples*.

OCLC FirstSearch offers access to two databases of Spanish and Portuguese materials, **CLAS** and **PERIODICA**, as well as to **Wilson Select Plus**.

Teaching Books concentrates on information about children's literature, including materials about authors, books, and teaching materials.

By far the most extensive trial package comes from **EBSCO**. Databases related to health and medical topics include **Health Source: Consumer Edition** and **Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition, Clinical Pharmacology**. There are also two Spanish-language health and medical databases, **Salud para todos** and **MedicLatina**. Full-text coverage of over 150 scholarly academic Spanish language journals is provided in **Fuente Academica**. More than 2000 scholarly journals from a wide range of academic disciplines can be found in **Academic Search Elite**. Full-text information dates back almost 20 years. **MasterFILE Premier** offers multidisciplinary coverage for general reference publications, photos, and images. For elementary and secondary school students, **EBSCO** offers **Primary Search, Middle Search Plus, and MAS Ultra: School Edition**. Educators may want to consult **Professional Development Collection**, a database of full-text education journals. Other full-text resources are available in the **Religion and Philosophy Collection** and **Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection**. Other databases offered during this trial period are **Newspaper Source, TOPICsearch** (for current events), **American Humanities Index**, and **BookSource: Nonfiction**.

We hope you will have a chance to investigate one or more of these databases during March.



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