The More Things Change

No Library newsletter would be complete without an article about various changes that have occurred recently. Perhaps the most striking difference people notice when they come into the building is the **relocation of the reference desk**. The large edifice under the atrium has been replaced by temporary desks closer to the Library Commons area where many computer workstations are located. The new reference work space is southeast of the old site and nearer the front of the Library. During this semester, librarians will be trying to determine what kind of new "reference desk" is needed and where it should be located for maximum interaction with people who come with questions about research, assignments, and library services. Comments or suggestions can be directed to Mark McCullough, Reference Coordinator, at x5154 or mark.mccullough@mnsu.edu

A **new classroom/lab space** is now available in the ERC. ML81 is equipped with a projection system and 30 workstations so that students can have hands-on practice as they learn about Library databases and other electronic resources. Library users can log in on the computers in the room to do their research whenever instruction sessions are not scheduled.

Among the **electronic resources changes** that have occurred is the consolidation of a number of databases produced by H.W. Wilson in Wilson Mega Omnifile. This multidisciplinary resource includes articles from over 1750 publications. The database provides complete content from Education Full Text, General Science Full Text, Humanities Full Text, Reader's Guide Full Text, Social Sciences Full Text, and Wilson Business Full Text databases. Includes full text articles (no additional citations or abstracts) from Applied Science & Technology Full Text, Art Full Text, Biological & Agricultural Full Text, Index to Legal Periodicals & Books, and Library Literature & Information Science Full Text databases. Within Wilson Mega Omnifile, it is possible to search any combination of these databases. Some indexing has been lost from Applied Science & Technology and Library Literature, but many citations can be found in other library databases. We retained a subscription to Art Full Text in order to preserve the full indexing available in that source. The new Wilson Mega Omnifile package includes provisions for many more users to access the databases simultaneously.

Another group of electronic resources is now available through CQ Electronic Library. The Congress Collection, CQ Weekly, Historic Documents (1972 on), and CQ Researcher provide a wealth of full-text documents and comparative analyses on public policy issues. Researchers can find out how legislators voted on specific bills and compare their voting records to others in Congress. They can find the status of pending legislation and read articles about current hearings and other government activities. This dynamic source of current information changes almost daily.

The semester will also provide faculty, staff, and students with opportunities to try out new electronic resources and to evaluate their value in supporting the curriculum. Among the **database trials** underway are the following:

- Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, which includes 50,000 full-text biographies of individuals who played a significant role in British history from ancient times to the twenty-first century.
- Scientific American Archive includes articles and editorials from that journal from 1993 to date.

- <u>Play Index</u> includes citations to more than 30,000 plays and monologues to help locate the texts in anthologies and monographs. Users may search by author, title, keyword, or subject. It is also possible to specify the number of cast members and to choose a specific genre, such as comedy.

Numerous other database trials will be available at various times during the semester. Among them are the following:

- <u>Black Short Fiction</u> includes full-text versions of over 8,000 works by writers from Africa and the African diaspora. Fables, ballads, folktales, novellas, short stories, and other works under 10,000 words are included.
- <u>Black Drama</u>, a related database from Alexander Street Press, includes full-text versions of 1,200 plays written from the mid 1800s to the present.
- <u>Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center</u>, based on the print resources offered by Greenhaven Press, provides coverage of topics of current issue and offers links to related online resources to enhance exploration of multiple opinions.
- <u>Consumer Health Complete</u> covers health issues from a consumer viewpoint. In addition to full-text articles from over 700 journals, the database offers access to more than 1000 pamphlets and leaflets, over 5000 reports on prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications, and other resources aimed at the nonspecialist.
- <u>Business Source Complete</u> supplements the current coverage in Business Source Premier with over 500 full-text monographs plus reviews of business books and author profiles.
- <u>Lexis-Nexis Congressional Research Digital Collection</u> allows controlled vocabulary and full-text searching of Congressional Research Service reports from 1916 to the present and Committee reports from 1830 to the present. The database provides PDF images of the original documents.
- <u>Proquest Dissertations and Theses</u> provides access to more than 600,000 full-text documents.
- <u>Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals</u> offers a comprehensive survey of the fields of architecture and design by indexing more than 2500 related journals.
- <u>19th Century Masterfile</u> focuses on resources published before 1925. Included are citations to articles from more than 8,000 periodicals as well as to books and government documents.

- <u>Reference Universe</u> indexes print and online reference sources and links with the Library's online catalog to provide users with information about what titles are available at MSU.

For more information and to check what database trials are currently available, click on the link from the Library's homepage at www.lib.mnsu.edu To share your comments about any of these electronic resources, contact the librarian who works with your department or Bobby Bothmann, Electronic Access/Cataloging Librarian at x2010 or robert.bothmann@mnsu.edu

Although the **interlibrary loan system** (ILLiad) remains the same for the moment, statewide implementation of a new system may occur this semester. When the migration occurs at the state level, there may be a short period during which dual systems will have to be maintained. No one will have to complete individual registration forms in the new system, and materials people have checked out from Memorial Library or through interlibrary loan will all appear on the same borrowing record. No date has been determined for implementing the new system. For additional information, contact Polly Frank, Interlibrary Loan Librarian, at x5961 or polly.frank@mnsu.edu

Lass Center Endowment

Dr. William E. Lass, Professor Emeritus, has given the University a substantial gift to establish the Marilyn J. Lass Memorial Endowment. The fund will help support the needs of Memorial Library, particularly the Marilyn J. Lass Center for Minnesota Studies. A reception on January 26 acknowledged the contribution and recalled the important work of Marilyn Lass, who was a librarian at MSU from 1967 to 1994.

Marilyn created the Library's Minnesota collection, which began as a special section of the reference collection and emphasized Minnesota history. Through the years, the scope expanded. Marilyn's expertise in handling archival materials and her knowledge of state documents proved invaluable to faculty, students, and researchers. As a reference librarian, she shared her knowledge of Library resources in general and Minnesota materials in particular.

Marilyn's husband, Dr. William E. Lass, who taught in the MSU History Department for many years, continues to use the Library collections for his research. The establishment of this endowment will help provide resources for others to do the same.

Learning about the Library

Throughout the semester, librarians offer drop-in sessions on a number of different topics in order to reach students, faculty, and staff who want to learn more about various Library resources. Many of our newsletters include the schedule for these classes. However, these informal sessions cannot replace the class-specific instruction offered in connection with specific courses. If your students need to use Library resources to complete assignments or research projects, why not schedule a time for them to come for an instruction session with a librarian? We work with you to determine what resources and services would be most appropriate to include and try to allow time for hands-on practice by the students. You may schedule a class session by using the online request form www.lib.mnsu.edu/cgi/forms/askinstr.html or calling Justine Martin, Instruction Coordinator, at x2251.

This semester's drop-in sessions will be held in ML 81 in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) in the lower level of the Library. The schedule includes

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Finding Journal Articles
Learn how to use our electronic databases, including Academic Search Premier, to obtain high quality journal articles.

Wednesday, February 15	5 – 6 pm
Monday, February 20	2 – 3 pm
Thursday, February 23	2 – 3 pm

RefWorks (Citation Manager)
Learn to create bibliographies and in-text citations automatically with RefWorks! RefWorks organizes citations much like EndNote or ProCite, but it is web-based.

Wednesday, February 22	2 – 3:30 pm
Monday, February 27	2 – 3:30 pm
Tuesday, March 21	4:30 – 6 pm

Database Trials Review
Explore database trials and learn about their functions and coverage.

Monday, March 27	9-10 am
Thursday, March 30	2-3 pm
Monday, February 27	2-3:30 pm
Tuesday, March 21	4:30-6 pm

River Valley Reads Plans Activities

Minnesota State faculty, staff, and students are invited to participate in River Valley Reads activities planned for this month. Library Services is one of the co-sponsors of the River Valley Reads project, which encourages everyone in the Mankato community to read and discuss the same book.

This year's selection is Peace Like a River, a novel by Leif Enger, who lives on a Minnesota farm and was a reporter for Minnesota Public Radio. The story is told in the voice of 11-year-old Reuben Land. His older brother Davy kills two bullies who threaten the family, but before his trial, he escapes from prison. Reuben's father takes him and his younger sister Swede to search for Davy. However, the police are on the trail as well, and the journey takes all of them on a journey through parts of Minnesota and North Dakota as well as into their own views of right and wrong and family relationships and miracles.

The starred review in Booklist concluded that "Enger's profound understanding of human nature stands behind his compelling prose." Five copies that can be checked out are available in the Lass Center on the second floor of the Library. The location number is PS3555.N4223 P42 2001. In addition, a non-circulating copy can be read in the Center.

Companion books are available for younger readers. Those in elementary school are encouraged to read Bud, Not Buddy, by Christopher Paul Curtis. The book, which won the Newbery Medal in 2000, is set in Michigan during the Depression. Ten-year-old Buddy escapes from an oppressive foster care home and sets out in search of the man he believes is his father.

A picture book for young readers and listeners is Papa, Do You Love Me? by Barbara Joosse., whose visit to Kenya inspired her to make the title character a member of the Maasai people. He provides reassurance to his son that he is his greatest treasure. Copies of both books are available for checkout in the ERC. They are shelved by the author's last name in the Fiction (Curtis) and Easy (Joosse) collections. An examination copy of each title is also available for use in the Library in the Center for Children's and Young Adult books, also located on the Library's lower level.

Among the events planned for River Valley Reads are the following:

Monday, Feb. 13, 2-4 pm Discussion of <u>Peace Like a River</u> Old Main Heritage Dining Room, Mankato

Wednesday. Feb. 15, 7-9 pm "How to form a Book Club and Reading Group" Dino's Pizza, North Mankato

Saturday, Feb.18, 10:30 am to noon Story time and Maasai culture discussion of <u>Papa, Do you Love Me?</u> Memorial Library Casual Learning Lab

Sunday, Feb. 19, 2-4 pm Discussion of <u>Peace Like a River</u> Christ the King Lutheran Church, Mankato

Monday, Feb. 20, 2-4 pm Discussion of <u>Bud, not Buddy</u> and the Great Depression in Mankato at Blue Earth Co. Historical Society, Mankato

Saturday, Feb. 25, 10:30 am to noon, Discussion of <u>Bud, Not Buddy</u> Memorial Library Casual Learning Lab

All events are free and open to the public. For more information about River Valley Reads, visit www.beclibrary.org/bookvote/

Where's the Book or DVD or . . .?

Maybe you've read a review in an academic journal or a newspaper or heard an interview on public radio. You decide to check the MSU Library catalog to see if we own the book or DVD that has caught your attention. But how do you know if we have ordered it or have it in the collection already? How do you make sure that you can get a copy?

In the PALS system, the catalog that the public could view didn't include ordering information. The work of acquisitions and cataloging went on in different modules that most faculty and staff never saw. Now, however, as soon as an order is created to send to a vendor, a record appears in the catalog. If you search by author, title, or subject, you may encounter several designations to indicate where the material is in the order and processing sequence.

The first designation, "Order Initiated," doesn't appear often. This status exists only between the time a record is created and when the order is sent to a vendor. The "On Order" notation lasts longer, sometimes a lot longer. If the book or video is out of stock or out of print, available only from a vendor in another country or from a specialized dealer, the time between order and arrival can stretch to weeks. The catalog doesn't indicate when the order was sent.

Once the item arrives, its status changes again. "In Process" lets you know that the book is actually in the building. If there is also a location number, the item has made its way through cataloging and will soon head to the shelves. "Circulation Office" indicates that final processing is underway. "ERC Previewing" denotes materials that are in process for the DVD or video collections.

The "Cataloging" designation indicates that the material is somewhere in that unit. Perhaps a book came as a gift. Maybe it needed to be mended or relabeled. In any event, it is in the building.

If an item has any of the following designations, you may fill out a form to request that it receive "rush processing": In Process, Cataloging, ERC Previewing, or Circulation Office. The goal is to handle requests received Monday through Thursday within 24 hours. Requests submitted Friday through Sunday will be completed by the following Tuesday, whenever possible. As soon as the material is ready, the requestor will be notified. The Rush Process Request forms are available at the Circulation Desk near the front entrance.

This new service does not replace the notification requests that a professor can make when submitting order forms on paper or online. If you indicate that you want to be notified when a book is ready for check out, you will receive a notice that it is on hold for you behind the Circulation Desk as soon as it is ready.

On final note: Materials such as alternate plan papers and theses don't appear online until they have been catalogued. Because we receive them directly, no order record is created. If you know that someone graduated at the end of spring semester, for example, and want to check out a copy of the paper in fall, you may fill out one of the forms so that the item will go through the rush cataloging process.

For more information, contact Lynne Weber, Access Services Librarian, at x5272 or lynne.weber@mnsu.edu