11-2006 Newsletter

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Changes in Journal Access to Begin in January

Starting in January, MSU access to 73 journals published by Elsevier will change from print and electronic to electronic only. For over six years Library Services has provided electronic access to these titles through ScienceDirect while retaining subscriptions in paper. Under the provisions of a new contract negotiated by MINITEX, we will triple our access to Elsevier’s titles online, from 600 to approximately 1800, at a much lower cost than what we have been paying. However, to take advantage of this rate, we need to stop the duplicative print subscriptions*. This contract will remain in effect for at least 5 years and includes reasonable provisions for a capped inflation rate.

Although the Elsevier collection is called ScienceDirect, journals in the database range across academic disciplines. Elsevier publications include imprints such as Academic Press and Pergamon, which are familiar to many faculty members. Most journals are peer-reviewed and provide a wealth of research resources. MSU users will be able to view and print journal articles from 1997 to date in pdf format.


Library Services has experienced consistently strong financial support at MSU, and we fully recognize our responsibility to spend our budget wisely. With advances in technology and the high cost of printing and shipping journals, many publishers are encouraging libraries to move to online-only subscriptions. While we will not always choose this option because of factors such as ongoing access when contracts are terminated, we will move in that direction whenever the decision seems best for library users.

Based on analysis of costs, access, and use, we will also be discontinuing access to the Scopus database starting in January. During the year-long trial period of this expensive resource, the amount of use was low compared with many other databases to which we subscribe. As we consider availability of databases that support curricular and research needs, we continuously monitor use, adding and discontinuing electronic resources to best serve our users within our budget.

If you have questions about these changes, contact Casey Duevel, Electronic Resources Librarian at x5151 or casey.duevel@mnsu.edu.

Services for Interim and Spring Semester

Although everyone is focused on the end of fall semester, it’s not too early to think about projects and plans related to interim and next semester. We hope the following information about Library services will help as you plan for 2007.

Library hours during interim.
- Starting Monday, December 18, Memorial Library will be open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and closed on weekends during interim.
- As with other University offices, the Library will be closed December 25, January 1, and January 15.
- The Music Library will be closed December 19-January 9. If there are unusual circumstances that require access to the Music Library collection during that time, you may request assistance by contacting Access Services at x5931.
- Regular hours will resume Tuesday, January 16. For a complete listing of hours, check the Library website at www.lib.mnsu.edu or call 389-6201.

Reference services. Librarians will be on call to provide in-person reference service from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. December 19 – 22, 27-28, and January 2-5. Librarians will respond to voice mail messages on those dates as well. Starting January 8, reference librarians will staff the desk and answer phone questions during those hours. Click the “Ask a Librarian” link on the Library home page for estimated response time to e-mail questions.

Interlibrary loan. Requests will be processed through December 22 before ILL suspends operations during the holidays. MSU faculty, staff, and students may continue to submit requests electronically at any time. When ILL staff members return January 2, they will process requests in the order in which they were submitted.

Instruction services. As you plan assignments and research projects, don’t forget that librarians are available to provide instruction sessions for students whether they are enrolled in general education classes or graduate seminars. Although librarians need at least a week to work with you to tailor the session, we encourage you to submit requests early to make sure that classroom space and librarians will be available when you want to have your students learn more about information resources. To learn more about library instruction and find a link to the request form, visit http://lib.mnsu.edu/services/instruct/instruction.html.

Video reserves/booking. As you plan your syllabus for next semester, please remember to contact the Educational Resource Center to place bookings or reserves on videos that you plan to use in order to guarantee availability. If you need video titles that the Library does not own, please contact Media Services Librarian Barb Bergman (x5945) now to discuss your options for next semester.

Reserve materials. Journal articles and books can be placed on reserve as well. The Library needs at least a week from the time you request that a book or article be placed on reserve until the material can be available for students. Securing copyright permission to use an article can require as much as several weeks, and we must complete the process each time an article is used, whether for the same course or a different one. You don’t need to wait until you have selected all your articles to start submitting the reserve requests. For additional information or to receive Reserve Request forms, contact Steve Johnson, Reserve Technician, at x5064 or steven.johnson-2@mnsu.edu.

Online courses. If you are developing online classes or course modules, you can link full-text articles from many of the Library’s subscription databases to your syllabus. By using the persistent link converter available on the Distance Learning page, you can ensure students will be able to view the articles wherever they log in. The page also includes links to exercises about the library catalog and databases. To learn more, visit http://lib.mnsu.edu/distlearn/index.html or contact Paul Wyss, Distance Learning Librarian, at x2256.

Orders for materials. As you read reviews, consider submitting suggestions for items to add to the collection. You may submit requests for books, DVDs, CDs, and other materials by using the online form or sending order cards to the librarian who works with your department. Final order deadlines are February 2 for Business and SET, February 23 for Education and SBS, and March 9 for Arts and Humanities and AHN. See additional information about collection development at http://lib.mnsu.edu/collections/cd/index.html.