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02-2003 Newsletter

Minnesota State University, Mankato. Library Services

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Library Resources

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RENOVATION PROJECT IN THE ERC

If you have visited the Educational Resources Center (ERC) in the lower level of the Library within the last two months, you could not have missed the commotion of the renovation work that is taking place there. Two new computer-equipped classroom areas are under construction and are expected to be online by the end of spring semester. The Global Learning Lab (GLL) is finally being upgraded to a state-of-the-art classroom for modern language instruction. In its new location, the GLL will feature a powerful software system specifically designed to support language learning. Next to the GLL classroom, a semi-open area will be designed with tables for small groups of students, providing an alternative teaching/learning space in a casual learning environment. Once this renovation is complete, we plan to continue remodeling the former GLL area, as well as the rest of the public areas in the ERC, as quickly as available resources permit. During this process we ask for everyone's patience, understanding, and visions for the future while the renovation is taking place.

INFORMATION RELOCATION

To try to determine if having reference librarians working at a site more visible from the Library entrance increases questions from users, a temporary workstation has been established closer to the front door. During weekday hours when two librarians are scheduled to provide reference service, one works at the desk closer to the front doors and the other continues at the permanent location below the atrium.

Although it is too early to tell if the move has made an impact, the reference librarians hope to find out the advantages and disadvantages of the new site to help decide whether relocating both librarians to the new spot and reconfiguring the first floor area would enhance services. "We're trying to figure out the best use of our space," said Mark McCullough, Reference Coordinator. This experiment will continue at least until the mid-semester break and perhaps extend through the entire semester. To share comments or suggestions, send an e-mail message to mark.mccullough@mnsu.edu or phone 5154.

DATABASE CHANGES

Even more predictable than physical changes to the Library are the changes in the databases to which the Library subscribes. Check the announcements below to discover the latest news.

RILM, SportDiscus, Social Work Abstracts

There are currently problems for anyone trying to access RILM, SportDiscus, and Social Work Abstracts via Netscape 7.0 and Internet Explorer 6.0. The library has contacted the vendor who provides access to these databases, but the company cannot estimate when they will be able to resolve the problem. We are investigating other possibilities for accessing these databases. In the meantime, you may want to use an older browser version. Of the current versions, Internet Explorer 6.0 seems to work more often than Netscape 7.0.



Art Index, Education Abstracts, Applied Science & Technology Abstracts, Wilson Catalogs

Databases offered through Wilson have a new search interface. For MSU users, these databases include Education Abstracts, Applied Science and Technology Abstracts, and the Wilson Catalogs (Children's Catalog, Middle/Junior High School Catalog, and Senior High School Catalog). In addition, we have changed from subscribing to Art Index via FirstSearch to Art Full Text via the Wilson. This change gives users access to abstracts and selected full text articles.

When first accessing any of the Wilson databases, you will see all the available databases listed across the top and a basic search form below. Upon selecting one or more databases, the search form may change to reflect the available options. Be sure to check help screens for changes in searching and in viewing results. One important feature to note is that efforts to use AND or phrase searches will be ignored. All searches retrieve results which find your terms somewhere in the citation, abstracts, or full text. Some search results may include only some of your terms. If you retain the default display by relevance, then the first results should be those with your terms as a phrase, followed by results with all your terms, and so forth.

JSTOR

JSTOR has added full-image access to 47 more arts and sciences journals. JSTOR provides online access to back issues of core journals in humanities, business, social sciences, and sciences. Working with publishers, JSTOR creates a "moving wall" of coverage which means that the most current JSTOR article is usually 2-5 years old. However, JSTOR includes all issues from the beginning of each title. Among the recent titles added are African Studies Review, American Anthropologist, American Journal of Archaeology, American Statistician, British Journal of Sociology, China Quarterly, Classical Quarterly, College Mathematics Journal, Cultural Anthropology, English Historical Review, Family Relations, Geografiska Annaler. Series A and Series B, Geographical Journal, History Teacher, Journal of American Folklore, Journal of Field Archaeology, Mathematics Magazine, Medical Anthropology Quarterly, Political Behavior, Science and Technology Studies, and Sociological Forum. Complete lists of all journals available through JSTOR can be reached via a link from the the Electronic Resources accessible from the Library's home page. More than 400 titles are divided into broad subject areas as well as included in an alphabetical list.

Academic Press IDEAL and ScienceDirect

In 2001 Elsevier purchased Academic Press, which publishes journals in life sciences, physical sciences, engineering, medicine, social sciences, and education. This month, Elsevier discontinued access to the Academic Press IDEAL interface. Access to those 208 scholarly journals now comes via Elsevier's ScienceDirect. We are currently changing all links in WebPALS and the Serials List to go directly to ScienceDirect. Our Elsevier journals in ScienceDirect include access from 1998-present, but we have access back to 1993 for the Academic Press titles during 2003. When MINITEX renegotiates the license with Elsevier for 2004, changes in journal titles and coverage may occur.

For more information about electronic resources, please contact your library liaison or Bobby Bothmann at robert.bothmann@mnsu.edu or at 507-389-2010.

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