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## 04-2003 Newsletter

Minnesota State University, Mankato. Library Services

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# Library Resources

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## Spring Database Trials

MINITEX has been working with a number of vendors to offer free trials of a variety of databases for member libraries. As part of its service, MINITEX negotiates with vendors on behalf of libraries in Minnesota and the Dakotas to obtain reduced subscription rates to databases. Database trials enable potential purchasers to familiarize themselves with new resources available. Considering the current budget situation, adding databases right now is extremely unlikely and cannot occur without dropping current subscriptions. However, librarians continually evaluate new resources to make sure that we use available funds to provide a mix of databases that support the MSU curriculum.

We encourage faculty and students to use these databases while they are available to search for information to support research and teaching and to identify possible future purchases.

If you have questions about using these resources, you may call the reference desk at 5958 or send an e-mail message to [askref@mnsu.edu](mailto:askref@mnsu.edu). To share your comments about databases, contact Bobby Bothmann, Electronic Access/Catalog Librarian, at 2010 or talk with the librarian who works with your department for collection development.

To reach these databases, click on the "Database Trials" link under the photo on the Library's home page: [www.lib.mnsu.edu](http://www.lib.mnsu.edu). To take advantage of trials that are set up without passwords, you will need to dial in to MSU or set up your browser to use the MSU proxy server. **Unless otherwise indicated, the trials last until June.** They include the following electronic resources:

**ABC-CLIO eBooks.** More than 200 electronic versions of ABC-CLIO's printed books. Trial is available until **April 19**. Contact the reference desk (5958) for username and password.

**Academic Search Premier** Multidisciplinary, scholarly database with full-text resources.

**Business Source Premier** Citations, abstracts and selected full-text coverage for a wide range of business topics.

**Encyclopedia of Astronomy and Astrophysics** Over 2750 articles with links to primary source materials and websites. Includes nearly 3500 illustrations. Trial is available until **April 30**. Contact the reference desk (5958) for username and password.

**Environmental Policy Index** Citations and abstracts to articles on a broad range of environmental issues.

**Facts for Learning** Links to Facts for Learning reference database for elementary and middle school students plus Reference Suite with Facts on File World News Digest, World Almanac Reference Database and other products. Trial available until **April 30**.

**Gale Group** is offering a variety of databases including

**Ancestry Plus** Support for genealogical research with links to primary sources documents plus searchable version of Passenger and Immigration Lists Index.

**Associations Unlimited** Information on 457,000 organizations from Encyclopedia of Associations plus IRS information on nonprofit organizations.

**Biography Resource Center** More than 50 biographical databases and 250 full-text periodicals.

**Gale Ready Reference Shelf** Information from Gale general reference databases about publishers, publications, television stations, research centers, and more.

**Health & Wellness Resource Center—Alternative Health Module** Additional resources to those in our current subscription to the Health & Wellness database.

**History Resource Center: The Modern World** and **History Resource Center: US Primary** and secondary sources related to historical topics.

**Literature Resource Center** Full-text journal articles, author biographies and portraits, and links to the MLA International Bibliography and web sites.

**Times Digital Archive** Full-image reproductions of London Times 1787-1985.

**Information Science and Technology Abstracts** Citations and abstracts to materials about information science, librarianship, and related disciplines.

**Oxford English Dictionary** All volumes of print OED plus additions

**Professional Development Collection** Citations, abstracts, and some full-text materials of interest to professional educators, librarians, and education researchers.

**Scientific American Online Archive** Text and graphics of issues 1993 to date. Trial is available until **April 25**. Contact the reference desk (x5958) for username and password.

**SIRS Knowledge Source** Online interface for finding information in SIRS Researcher, Government Reporter, Renaissance and NetSelect. These resources cover a broad range of full-text resources and include links to Internet sites that relate to many academic disciplines in areas. Contact the reference desk (5958) for username and password.

**SPORTDiscus** Alternative search interface for a database MSU has now.

**SYB World** Information on government politics, geography, history, economics, arts and culture for 192 countries. Trial is available until **April 30**. Contact the reference desk (5958) for username and password

**xreferplus** Access to full-text versions of 120 reference books.

**National Library Week**  
**April 6 – 12, 2003**



Celebrate @your library™

## Are You Ready? Disaster Planning in the Library

No one is ever truly ready for a disaster but you can be prepared for one at home or at work by planning ahead. Over the last few years, MSU Library Services has developed a disaster plan for the Library in an effort to prevent and limit any damage that may occur as the result of a disaster.

The Library Services disaster plan includes components related to emergency response, evacuation procedures, contact lists, salvage procedures, priority lists, supplies, insurance, building diagrams, and links to relevant websites.

Since the development of the plan, the Library has responded to “minor” disasters that have occurred such as water leaks. Having a plan has resulted in quick and accurate responses to problems and limited damage to Library resources.

Ongoing education is another component in disaster planning. In an effort to educate ourselves and others about the disaster plan and related safety/security issues, the Library building faculty and staff organized “Disaster Awareness Week” in February 2002 and 2003. Disaster Awareness Week activities have included educational displays, presentations by MSU Security, MSU Disability Services, MSU ITS and Mankato Public Safety, bullhorn training, fire drills, and more. We will be glad to share information about the disaster plan and education activities.

Daardi Sizemore, Archives/Special Collections Librarian, [daardi.sizemore@mnsu.edu](mailto:daardi.sizemore@mnsu.edu), 1029

## MINITEX cuts and increasing subscription costs Threaten library funding

As the legislative session unfolds, we are all following with great concern how the proposed cuts to higher education will affect our campus and our Library. In addition to cuts in MSU funding that result from reductions in the MnSCU system, reductions in the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office are likely to affect 1) the state grant program that funds financial aid for our students and 2) the funding that MINITEX provides to subsidize shared subscriptions to online resources available to academic libraries statewide.

We cannot overstate how much MSU benefits from the services of MINITEX, which include not only the interlibrary loan network that provides quick delivery of library materials, but also many subsidies or licensing agreements that significantly decrease our cost of online access to databases and journals. Library personnel, other faculty, and students have spoken out frequently and forcefully at legislative hearings and information sessions about these concerns.

The reduction of the MINITEX budget in FY2003 has already resulted in our Library absorbing the cost of online subscription to five major newspapers. To make matters worse, **this year the MSU Library has absorbed an overall 17% increase (\$35,000) in the cost of online subscriptions.** This is **in addition to the \$40,000 in inflationary increase on paper periodicals that averages 8% in the current year.** In order to address our eroding purchasing power, the MSU Library is currently analyzing all reference and newspaper subscriptions and **targeting an immediate reduction of \$55,000.** Since we can expect similar increases from the publishers next year, the evaluation of journal subscriptions will continue into the coming years, as we

assess the best allocation of our limited funding. As in the past when the Library faced similar reductions, we will follow an open process of consultation with affected departments.

In summary, the Library continues to face increased subscription costs for this year. The potential impact of losing additional MINITEX funding is very sobering. As our university focuses on quality education, distance learning, and graduate programs, it is imperative that we support these efforts adequately with the resources critical to their success. We welcome cooperation and creative suggestions from all faculty, staff, and students as we confront these ongoing challenges.

Dr. Joan Roca, Dean of Library Services, [roca@mnsu.edu](mailto:roca@mnsu.edu), 5953

## **Interlibrary Loan Expands Electronic Delivery Of Articles**

Electronic delivery of journal articles requested through interlibrary loan has expanded from a pilot project to a regular service that helps speed delivery to users.

Instead of receiving a copy of an article through intercampus or U.S. mail, MSU faculty, staff, or students who request electronic delivery receive an e-mail message with instructions about how to retrieve the article from a secure web server. The article is available for the requestor to view, print, and/or download up to five times within a 14-day period. The system automatically deletes the file after five viewings or 14 days, whichever occurs first. In order to read the articles at the web site, you must have software such as Adobe Acrobat on your computer.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The notification message that the article has been posted on the web is sent to a person's official campus e-mail address, not one supplied through another provider such as AOL or Yahoo. Instructions for forwarding e-mail messages are available on the Library's interlibrary loan web page, <[www.lib.mnsu.edu/lib/ILLhome.html](http://www.lib.mnsu.edu/lib/ILLhome.html)>. Setting up that forwarding mechanism is the user's responsibility.

To use the electronic delivery option, click on "Prefer Electronic Delivery" on the ILL web form, or indicate "Electronic Delivery" in the notes field on other interlibrary loan request forms. If the requested article comes from a library that cannot supply an electronic version, a paper copy will be sent. Copies of articles, as well as other library notices, are mailed to the address noted in the PALS record. In other words, simply asking for electronic delivery does not guarantee an article will arrive that way.

For more information about this service, call the Interlibrary Loan Technicians at 5959 or Interlibrary Loan Librarian, Polly Frank, at 5961. Send e-mail queries to [msuill@mnsu.edu](mailto:msuill@mnsu.edu)

## **Interlibrary Loan of Videos**

After more than a year of lending and borrowing videos through interlibrary loan (ILL), this new service is definitely benefiting the MSU community. Although borrowing a video via interlibrary loan tends to be more difficult borrowing a book, we have been quite successful in meeting requests. In six months from July through December 2002, we borrowed 200 videos from other libraries, filling 73% of requests made by MSU faculty, staff, and students. In the same time period, we were asked to lend fewer than 100 titles, filling less than 50% of the requests we received.

We lend reciprocally, which means that we will send videos only to those libraries that will share with us. We are hoping this policy encourages more libraries to open up their video collections to interlibrary loan.

As with books and articles requested through ILL, we first look at other Minnesota libraries, but will then try nationwide if not successful within Minnesota. Interlibrary loan is a great option if you would like to preview a program for possible purchase, have some flexibility in when you want to show the video, or just want to watch something that isn't available locally. If you need to show a video on a specific date, call Media Services at the number below to see about the possibility of arranging for a video rental.

Please remember that it is always a good idea to place an advance booking on videos that you plan to use in class, so they will be available when you need them. Videos booked for use within the next four weeks will not be sent out on loan. More important, booking prevents other people—your colleagues or students—from checking out a video on the same day that you need it.

Barb Bergman, Media Services Librarian, [barbara.bergman@mnsu.edu](mailto:barbara.bergman@mnsu.edu), 5945

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LIBRARY SERVICES – MSU-ML3097 – P O Box 8419, Mankato, MN 56002-8419 – Phone: 507-389-5952 – Fax: 507-389-5155

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