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01-2004 Newsletter

Minnesota State University, Mankato. Library Services

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Library Resources

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REMODELING COMPLETED DURING WINTER BREAK

The new semester heralded the completion of significant remodeling to sections of Memorial Library and the Kiyō Suyematsu Music Library in the Performing Arts Center. Memorial Library has a new tenant, the Bookworm Café, located next to the circulation desk near the main entrance to the building. The café, which operates from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, offers a number of food and beverage selections while the remodeling of the Centennial Student Union takes place. The menu includes hot and cold beverages as well as muffins, cookies, and other baked goods. Soup, salads, and sandwiches are available for a light lunch or supper. There is a small eating area next to the service counter, or people can stop by the Library to purchase items for take-out.

The Educational Resource Center (ERC) in Memorial Library's lower level was carpeted, and most of the collections were relocated. The new arrangement creates work areas for study groups and small classes. The video and DVD collections remain accessible for browsing, in the same place they moved fall semester. Audiobooks are shelved near the new Casual Computing Lab. The collections of picture books, juvenile fiction and nonfiction, textbooks, K-12 software, and educational toys and puppets are arranged in proximity around a central work area housing tables and chairs. This configuration should facilitate the development of curriculum units and other projects that require materials from a number of collections. Casual furniture and e-tables have also been added to the ERC to enhance study options. The area housing the CCYAB and NASA collections has

also been carpeted and expanded. Additional tables and chairs will accommodate classes of up to 35 students.

In Performing Arts 201, the transformation is just as dramatic as in the ERC. New carpeting was installed after the removal of asbestos flooring. The room was painted, and the staff work area was moved and rearranged. All materials have been moved to open shelves, and the shelving area was expanded and upgraded. Now that a complete inventory of all items in the collection has brought the online catalog up-to-date, the new security system will help ensure that everyone knows which items are available and which are in circulation. Tables with electrical outlets were installed so that people in the library can use listening equipment and laptop computers.

Comments or questions about the remodeling in the ERC can be directed to Barb Bergman, Media Services Librarian, at barbara.bergman@mnsu.edu or 5945 and about the Music Library to Lynne Weber at lynneweber@mnsu.edu or 5272. You may also contact Leslie Peterson, Assistant to the Dean at L.Peterson@mnsu.edu or 2290 with comments about any of the projects.

WHERE IS MnPALS?

Plans are still underway for the migration to MnPALS, the new online system, this semester. Due to technical problems with transferring data from the current WebPALS system to the new statewide system, implementation has been delayed from January to early March.

As part of the migration process, WebPALS will be "frozen" for approximately 6 weeks before the new catalog is up and running. When that occurs, users will be able to search the catalog, but information about whether an item is checked out

will no longer be accurate. Those who remember paper card catalogs will recall that finding that the library owned an item was no guarantee that the item hadn't been checked out by someone else. Only a trip to the shelves could provide that information. This transition will take us back to those days, but only for a few weeks.

With the need for more manual entering of data for back-up systems in circulation and interlibrary loan, library users may notice a slow down when they come to check out materials or submit requests to borrow items from other libraries. During the migration, it will not be possible to place holds on books. Videos can be booked as usual by contacting ERC staff at 5943. Multimedia cart booking remains available at <http://www.intech.mnsu.edu/carts/> For other equipment, such as the laptop computers and camcorders, we will go to a first-come basis during the migration.

For the latest information about the migration schedule and to find answers to other questions you and your students might have, use the link for "MnPALS updates" under the photo on the Library's home page at <www.lib.mnsu.edu>

CHANGES IN LIBRARY DATABASES

In the world of online databases, nothing stays the same for long. Companies contract with online vendors who market their information. Prices jump substantially. New databases offer more coverage than existing resources in a subject area. Librarians try to balance user needs with budget realities to provide the best set of resources possible.

Anyone who has visited the list of electronic resources linked from the Library's home page will have noted changes that have occurred since last semester. Electronic resources that were dropped because of increased costs, low use, or overlapping coverage were Biological and Agricultural Index, Book Review Digest, General Science Index, Legal Periodicals Index, Wilson Business Abstracts, and Books in Print.

A number of indexes produced by H.W. Wilson are now searchable through Wilson Web. The titles that have made the switch are **Biography Index**, **Essay and General Literature Index**, and **Library**

Literature. In addition, **Humanities Abstracts** and **Social Science Abstracts**, now offered through Wilson, include abstracts of articles, not just the indexing available in the past.

Because the U.S. Department of Education discontinued the AskERIC service, AskERIC is now available through **Educator's Reference Desk**. This resource includes more than 2000 lesson plans and 3000 links to online information on various topics in education, a database of frequently asked questions, and coverage of hot topics in education. In another change of vendor, **SPORT Discus** is now provided through Ebsco Host.

Several electronic resources have been added as a result of dropping print or online resources in the same subject area. A number of journals published by the American Physical Society are now available online. Among the titles are APS: Physical Review A,B,C,D, & E and Physical Review Letters. Coverage in **ACS Web** has been expanded significantly. MSU users now have access to the full-text versions of many titles published by the American Chemical Society since 1879. This archives package provides PDF files so that researchers can retrieve online versions of the original paper publications. Another journal from ACS, Chemical and Engineering News, also has expanded available content. We now have access to the entire journal, not just selected articles.

With financial support provided by the College of Business, the Library has added access to several full-text databases. **Business Source Premier** and **ABI/Inform Complete** both offer full-text access to thousands of scholarly business journals, including hundreds of peer-reviewed publications. They also index thousands of other publications, a feature which offers users the opportunity to identify resources that relate to various kinds of research. A third business database, **Mergent Online**, includes financial information about thousands of public U.S. and international companies plus annual reports for many of them. The data can be used to generate a variety of reports.

Several online resources are now available as part of SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition. SPARC is a group of academic and research libraries and organizations working to provide alternatives in scholarly publishing. **BioOne** provides access to approximately 60 journals related to biology,

ecology, and environmental science. It is possible to search for specific topics or browse through entire issues of the journals. Among the titles in BioOne are American Midland Naturalist, Economic Botany, and Journal of Paleontology. Another SPARC resource is **Earthscape**, a portal to online resources related to earth and environmental science. Earthscape includes interdisciplinary research and subdivides its content into resources for teachers, learners, researchers, and policy makers. However, it is also possible to search the entire database as well as a subset of information.

Several one-year subscriptions will be available for 2004 and evaluated for use and cost at the end of the year. **Science Online** offers the full-text of Science from 1996 to the present. This resource begins where coverage for the journal ends in JSTOR. The online version also has expanded content for some articles, with links to online documentation and supporting materials not published in paper.

LISA: Library and Information Science Abstracts provides coverage of over 400 journals from more than 60 countries. Subjects covered include areas such as information management, library technology, and online information retrieval. The database includes abstracts of the articles but does not contain full-text resources.

The **Oxford English Dictionary (OED)** features numerous search capabilities that facilitate locating etymological and historical data from the resource. For example, it is possible to find all the quotations from a particular author or work or quotations that contain a specific phrase. Or someone can find what words occurred in English for the first time in a particular year. The electronic version includes quarterly updates unavailable in paper.

Lippincott's Clinical Choice is a collection of more than 60 e-books that can serve as a reference for students in nursing and other programs. The textbooks and handbooks included in the collection are standard sources in the field. New print editions are expensive and appear frequently, making e-books a cost-effective alternative.

The last one-year trial is not to a database of information but to a bibliographic citation management program, **RefWorks**. The institutional license allows MSU faculty, staff, and students to set up individual accounts to create a personal database of references. The software will format

and produce bibliographies in a number of styles such as APA and MLA. Direct export of citations to the individual's RefWorks account is currently available from the following online database services: CSA, OCLC, OVID, and ProQuest. It is also possible to import data from text files saved from many other online services. Users can log in to the RefWorks account via the Internet from anywhere, making it a valuable resource for organizing research results.

In addition to exploring the new databases, it is important to check those that have been around for a while to see what has been added. For example, resources such as **JSTOR**, **Project MUSE**, and **Oxford Reference Online** continually add new titles or years of coverage.

NEW VPN PROVIDES SECURE REMOTE ACCESS TO LIBRARY DATABASES

Students, faculty and staff who want to have access to Library databases from residence halls and off-campus locations are encouraged to use MSU's Virtual Private Network (VPN) to connect directly into MSU's network. This virtual network allows your computer to operate as though you were on campus. The encrypted connection between your computer and the MSU network provides important security, especially for wireless connections.

Before using the MSU's VPN, you must install appropriate software on your computer. VPN software is available free for computers with Windows 2000 or Windows XP or Mac OS10 and higher. Mac OS 9 users will need to spend \$95 to purchase a product necessary to install appropriate software. Installation and usage instructions are available at <www.mnsu.edu/its/vpn> There are links to this page from the Library's database pages.

In addition to providing access to Library databases, the VPN will allow MSU users to have remote access to Outlook and MavDISK. Questions about the Virtual Private Network should be addressed to the ITS Help Desk at 389-6654. For the time being, connections to the Library databases can continue through the proxy server, but that option may eventually disappear.



ASK QUESTIONS ONLINE

Students, staff, and faculty with questions about using the Library or its services now have another alternative for getting help from a reference librarian. During designated times, users can send a reference question online and get an answer in "real time." Just click on the "[Ask Us a Reference Question](#)" link located on the MSU Library Homepage. Follow the "chat" link, and you will be able to chat with a Reference Librarian from any remote location.

During spring semester, the service will be available Monday through Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. and Monday evening from 5 to 8 p.m.

The live chat feature enables library users to discuss their information needs with reference librarians through the Internet and receive help in a

series of real-time e-mail exchanges.

The service is supported by QuestionPoint software and gives MSU access to a network of reference librarians in the United States and around the world. As the number of libraries using the software increases, reference referrals and collaborations will be enhanced.

Reference librarians at MSU will continue to staff the reference desk to help users in person, answer telephone and e-mail queries, and set up appointments for reference consultations with people who need in-depth help with a research project.

For more information about available reference services, please contact Mark McCullough, Reference Coordinator, at mark.mccullough@mnsu.edu or 5154.

Open Instruction Sessions February-March

During spring semester, librarians will be holding open instruction sessions on a variety of topics. The sessions are available to students, faculty and staff on a first come, first served basis. All sessions are held in Room 110, which is in the lower level of the Library next to the corridor that runs from the Student Union to Gage-McElroy. No pre-registration is necessary.

Below are descriptions of the topics that will be covered as well as a schedule of when the sessions will be held. Additional learning opportunities will be scheduled to introduce the new online catalog system once it is up and running later this semester. Watch for notices on the campus announcements and the Library web page. To learn more about any of these sessions or suggest additional topics, contact Jim Kapoun, Instruction Coordinator, at 2251 or jim.kapoun@mnsu.edu. Come and learn something new about the Library!

Introduction to MnPALS--Learn about the new online catalog system that will arrive later this spring.

Serials List and Article Linker--Explore our new database that searches and locates journal titles and articles that we own in any format.

Finding Articles Fast--Learn how to use our electronic databases to obtain research journal articles.

Services for You--Find out about the basic services the library provides for research, including reference, interlibrary loan, circulation, media, and archives.

Spring Database Trials--Explore databases available for a limited time and learn about their contents and search features.

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| February 4 (Wednesday): | Introduction to MnPALS at 9-10 AM and 2-3 PM |
| February 18 (Wednesday): | Serials List and Article Linker at 9-10 AM and 2-3 PM |
| February 23 (Monday): | Serials List and Article Linker at 5-6 PM |
| March 1 (Monday): | Finding Articles Fast at 5-6 PM |
| March 3 (Wednesday): | Finding Articles Fast at 9- 10 AM and 2-3 PM |
| March 17 (Wednesday): | Services for You at 9-10 AM and 5-6 PM |
| March 24 (Wednesday): | Introduction to MnPALS at 9-10 AM |
| March 24 (Wednesday): | Spring Database Trials at 2-3 PM |
| March 31 (Wednesday): | Spring Database Trials at 9-10 AM and 5-6 PM |