

10-2005

10-2005 Newsletter

Minnesota State University, Mankato. Library Services.

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LIBRARY SERVICES
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

Volume 11 Number 4

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Changes to Library Web Pages

Even if you don't venture into the Library building often, you probably have noticed changes to the Library's web pages. The home page at lib.mnsu.edu has a whole new look!

Among the more striking changes beyond the homepage is the reorganization of the Electronic Resources page to better support search strategies. The new **Research Resources** format is tailored to specific subject areas. Each subject page provides links that allow users to search for articles in various databases and books in World Cat as well as the MSU online catalog. Other links provide access to electronic sources of facts and statistics as well as visual resources such as collections of photographs or art work. In addition, each subject page includes a search box at the top of the screen that allows users to search many resources simultaneously. The resources that will not be included in this consolidated search are noted by a red circle following the title.

Faculty and students who want to go directly to a specific database can choose the *Databases A-Z* option under *Quick Links* on the home page or *A-Z* on the *Research*



MSU Library - Research Resources

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Select a Subject Find a Journal Guides and Handouts

A-Z or
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Accounting and Business Law	Alphabetical List
Anthropology	Getting Started: Composition, Speech 100, FYE
Art	General Resources
Automotive and Manufacturing Engineerin...	
Aviation	
Biological Sciences	
Chemistry and Geology	

Submit

Resources page (see above).

However, searching multiple resources might be useful in a preliminary search to identify relevant databases. Listings next to the search results will indicate how many matches for the terms were found in individual databases. Links will take researchers to the identified databases so that they can use that single resource in more depth.

Faculty members are encouraged to send comments about the Research Resources to their department's collection development librarian (listed at lib.mnsu.edu/lib/cd/Librns.html)

New Library Spaces to Promote Learning

Anyone who enters the Library soon notices changes on first floor between the reference desk and government documents area. New furniture and computers allow students to work individually and in small groups on research and assignments.

The most striking furniture installations are clusters of eight computers around pillars, with tables shaped to provide students with surface space to spread out notebooks and study materials. The open design of the area gives reference librarians easy access to help students use databases to identify resources for class and research projects.

Tall study tables and chairs offer alternate seating choices for individual and group work. Additional types of comfortable furniture will arrive during the semester. Many seating choices will have ready access to power

outlets for laptops.

In addition to this new computer area, the small first-floor seminar room that has been used for reference consultations and small-group instruction will be updated to provide more opportunity for hands-on practice. The room will be especially valuable for classes with fewer than 10 people.

Another instruction venue will be available by the end of October in the Educational Resource Center (ERC), in the lower level of the Library. This class space, for up to 30 students, will include computers to facilitate hands-on instruction sessions taught by librarians. When the ERC is staffed and no classes are scheduled, the room will be open for MSU users to work on research and assignments. Instruction schedules will be posted.

AT THE LIBRARY?

Yes, you expect to find computers at the Library. You know you can check out books. You wouldn't be surprised to encounter instruction sessions and tours. But a discussion of patriotism or a poetry festival celebrating Don Quixote?

During fall semester the Library is hosting a number of events involving campus and community participation. On September 11, as part of national Patriot Day observances, the Kessel Peace Institute and Library Services hosted a forum about patriotism. The afternoon session included a panel presentation followed by general discussion about issues surrounding patriotism today.

In connection with the conference on "Don Quixote Across the Disciplines" sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages, the Library will host a poetry recital on Tuesday, October 11, at 2 p.m. in the Casual Computing Lab in the lower level of the Library. Faculty and students will read poems inspired by Don Quixote in the languages in which they were written. The event is open to the public. The Library also has a display of materials related to Don Quixote and Cervantes.

On November 5 the Library, in cooperation with the Blue Earth County Historical Society, will sponsor the South-Central Minnesota Genealogy Expo. The all-day event will take place in Centennial Student Union. Participants can view a variety of exhibits and participate in workshops such as "Getting Started in Genealogy" and "Beyond Vital Records." Additional information, including registration forms, can be found at lib.mnsu.edu/lib/archives/expo/expo.html

The following weekend, November 12-13, the Library will participate in the Deep Valley Book Festival at the Civic Center. Minnesota authors will read from their work and sign books. Displays will include organizations such as the Betsy-Tacy Society, Wanda Gag House and local libraries.

The Book Festival will also introduce the three books nominated for the community reading program "River Valley Reads," which will take place in February. Everyone in the Mankato area, including MSU students, faculty, and staff can vote for one title. A ballot box will be available in Memorial Library toward the end of the semester. Learn more about the Deep Valley Book Festival at www.festivalofbooksandauthors.com.

OPEN INSTRUCTION SESSIONS SCHEDULED

In addition to instruction sessions tailored to specific courses, the Library offers one-hour introductions to topics of interest to faculty, staff, and students from many disciplines. These sessions are open to the university community on a first come, first-served basis. Sessions will be held in classrooms located on the lower level of the Library, off the corridor that runs between Crawford-McElroy and the Student Union.

Finding Journal Articles—Room 110

Learn how to use our electronic databases, including Academic Search Premier, to locate research journal articles.

Wednesday, October 19	9:00-10:00 A.M.
Thursday, October 20	2:00-3:00 P.M.
Monday, October 24	2:00-3:00 P.M.
Tuesday, November 15	5:00-6:00 P.M.
Thursday, November 10	5:00-6:00 P.M.

RefWorks (Citation Manager)—Room 109

Learn to create bibliographies and in-text citations automatically with RefWorks! This organizes citations much like EndNote or ProCite but is web-based.

Note: This workshop is for library users with large research projects requiring at least 10 citations.

Wednesday, October 26	2:00-3:30 P.M.
Monday, October 31	2:00-3:30 P.M.
Wednesday, November 2	4:30-6:00 P.M.
Monday, November 14	9:00-10:30 A.M.

Database Trials Overview—Room 110

Explore database trials and learn about their search features and coverage.

Monday, October 24	9:00-10:00 A.M.
Thursday, October 27	9:00-10:00 A.M.

For more information contact Justine Martin, Instruction Coordinator, justine.martin@mnsu.edu or 389-2251. To schedule an instruction session for a particular class, contact Justine or use the web form on the Library web site, lib.mnsu.edu.

