

Off the Shelf

Your Information Advantage

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McIntyre Library | www.uwec.edu/library/ots/otshmpg.html

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Contact
haydenm@uwec.edu



You'll Like the New IMC

by Becky Wojahn, wojahnrlt@uwec.edu

After almost two years of planning, an overhaul of the collections, and a busy summer of construction, the Instructional Media Center (IMC) has found a new home on the lower level of McIntyre Library. The new space, which incorporates an exciting design with colorful furniture, was designed specifically for the IMC's unique collections and its users. It includes general study space, a comfortable lounge area, computer workstations, and multimedia study rooms and carrels, as well as the IMC's collections of children's books, textbooks, videos, multimedia, audiotapes, pictures, teacher journals, and professional materials. Although the finishing touches are still being completed, the IMC opened for business just in time for the fall semester.

The project began in the fall of 2003. Back then, the lower level of McIntyre Library was a little-used study space and home to the library's map collection, compact shelving storage, and general storage. At the same time, a space crunch in Schofield Hall made for crowded conditions there. As a possible solution to this problem, the idea of moving the IMC from the second floor of Old Li-

brary to the lower level of McIntyre Library evolved. The freed-up space in Old Library could then be used for Learning and Technology Services (LTS) units, which would give Schofield some relief.

As planning began and a program statement was created, the move was also looked on as an opportunity to update and design a space specifically for the IMC's clientele and collections' needs. A document was created that outlined how the IMC was used and what types of furniture, shelving, and workstations would be ideal. The document also specified the less obvious needs, too, like lighting, plumbing, HVAC, telecommunication, and electrical needs.

One of the items addressed in the planning document was the need to examine the collections themselves. Before moving all the IMC materials down two floors and over one building, goals were set to remove books and materials from the collection that were little used, in poor repair, or simply outdated. This was no small project, since approximately 15,000 items were identified as possibilities for deletion. With the arriv-

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McIntyre Library's one stop SearchSpot™

by Chris Cox, coxcn@uwec.edu

Unfamiliar with many of the periodical databases to which the library subscribes? Unsure which database or library collection might yield the most relevant results for your research topic? McIntyre Library has the answer: SearchSpot, a new product which allows you to search selected subscription databases, print, and journal collections simultaneously from one Google-like interface. You can access SearchSpot from the library home page by clicking the SearchSpot button in the upper right-hand corner.

SearchSpot, run by ExLibris' Metablib software and funded by the UW System, has two main search components: QuickSearch and CustomSearch. QuickSearch lets you choose from nine librarian-selected search sets, grouped under broad subject areas. The default is "Quick Multisearch," a category that includes the library catalog and more general magazine and scholarly journal databases which should prove to be a good starting point for basic research. CustomSearch offers much more flexibility, allowing you to choose up to eight databases or library collections to search simultaneously. The lists of resources are organized by discipline categories and then broken down into subcategories. Librarians used the current "Core and More" structure as the template for the resource list.

Along with its cross-searching capabilities, SearchSpot is also an excellent resource organization tool. You'll find complete lists of the library's databases ("Find Resource") and electronic jour-

nals ("Find e-journal") linked across the top of the page. With their greater search capabilities and categorization options, these lists will eventually replace the current database and periodicals lists available from our Web page.

SearchSpot can be personally customized. By logging into My Space using your UW-Eau Claire username and password, you can create personalized lists of databases and e-journals and also save citations. In addition, you can save searches and create alerts so that, at whatever interval you choose, your search will be re-run and the results e-mailed to you.

Using SearchSpot has many benefits for your students. It's quick and easy to search. SearchSpot's search box resembles Google, and offers students a familiar interface and scholarly alternative to the popular search engine. For students unfamiliar with the library's collections, SearchSpot offers an easily accessible entry point. Students may find articles from databases they otherwise may not have searched.

SearchSpot's flexibility also has future applications for the classroom. Imagine creating customized database and e-journal lists for your class that students could search simultaneously to get valid, scholarly resources to complete research assignments. These lists could be linked from a Web page or from within D2L.

In terms of time and resources, SearchSpot can improve your research as well. Conducting interdisciplinary

research has never been as easy as it is with SearchSpot. The options in My Space for saving citations and creating search alerts will also save you time.

There are a few drawbacks to using SearchSpot that you and your students should be aware of. First of all, not all of the library's resources are cross-searchable. For example, the Lexis-Nexis Academic database is listed within SearchSpot categories, but cannot yet be searched using SearchSpot; students may not realize that they must search this database separately. SearchSpot also does not offer the sophisticated searching and limiting capabilities that an individual database interface, like EBSCO's Psyc-INFO, can offer. Upper division students with more complex research questions may find SearchSpot helpful as a database discovery tool, noting which databases offer the most relevant hits on their topics. They could then perform more sophisticated searches in that database's native interface.

We hope you enjoy the new service. If anything, it should offer you and your students an easier, less time-consuming research experience. It will also allow for greater usage of the library's electronic collections. SearchSpot is still evolving, and we'd love to know what you think of it. Please scroll down to the bottom of any SearchSpot page and fill out the Usability Survey Form or send an e-mail to library.reference@uwec.edu.

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al of Becky Wojahn, the new education librarian, in July of 2004, the weeding began. It continued throughout the academic year, averaging approximately four book carts of materials a week.

Meanwhile, funding was secured in summer of 2004 and the architects began sketches that December. While most of the shelving would be reused from the old IMC space, new furniture and carpeting was selected that made the space a warm and inviting place to study. Construction commenced in the summer of 2005 with the demolition of the old reserves desk. As summer progressed, so did construction. As soon as carpeting and shelving were installed, student workers began the elevator-intensive task of moving the collections. A blog (<http://libconstruct.blogspot.com>) was created and updated to keep library guests apprised of where materials were on a day-to-day basis.

The upholstered furniture and additional lighting were installed in October, creating a colorful and comfortable space in which to study. As the finishing touches continue to fall into place this fall semester, plans are underway for a grand opening sometime in the winter, where the new IMC can be celebrated and shown off to all.

If you have questions or comments about the new IMC, please contact **Becky Wojahn** at 836-4522 or wojahnrh@uwec.edu.

Important Database Changes

by Janice Bogstad, bogstajm@uwec.edu

Mclntyre Library has made some changes in our database configuration due to faculty requests for cancellations, new databases and changes in our state-supplied contracts.

- The accountancy program faculty have decided to change our tax database from the **CCH (Commerce Clearing House)** online service to the **RIA Checkpoint** online service. RIA, which covers federal tax services, provides general accessibility through the library's Web pages. Passwords are not needed to access the database, only to perform certain report functions needed by accountancy students.
- The UW System is no longer providing access to **PAIS (Public Affairs Information Service)** so our subscription was cancelled as of July 1, and the link was removed from our Web pages.
- **Social Work Abstracts (SWAB)** has been cancelled, with departmental approval. The service was duplicated by **Social Services Abstracts** which is a privilege of our subscription to Sociological Abstracts. The SWAB cancellation took effect as of October 1, and the database has been removed from our Web pages.
- The library was able to become part of a multi-campus, group contract for **ComDis DOME** which provides information relevant to special education, nursing and communication services and disorders. The service was implemented on July 1. Look for it on our Web pages.
- **Micromedex** has been added to our database lists on Core and More and the A-Z Index. Micromedex is an online database of medical information that includes materials such as the Physician's Desk Reference, listings of drug interactions, and clinical best practices. It is used in hospitals and clinics across the country and is provided free to our campus because of our nursing and related programs.
- **Gale Literary Resource** will be added to our database list by mid-November. This database of popular Gale reference publications is updated monthly and will replace such paper subscriptions as Shakespeare Criticism, Literature Criticism 400-1500 and 19th Century Literary Criticism. It also provides an alternative search method for Contemporary Authors. Look for it in Core and More and our A-Z Index in the near future.



Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes

by Bob Rose,
roserrf@uwec.edu

It's become a cliché to say that when it comes to libraries and library services the only constant is change. When we say that, we typically refer to the incredible impact that computerization and the Web have had on the library. There's no doubt whatsoever of the enormous impact the implementation of new electronic resources and services has had on McIntyre Library. What we sometimes fail to recognize, however, is the continued importance of "library as place" and the great changes that have taken place within the McIntyre Library building to reinforce its role as a place to study, to do research, and to learn about the greater world in ways related or unrelated to the curriculum. I'd like to highlight the many changes that have taken or are taking place within the building and to alert you to others that are on the way.

They include – in no particular order:

- Installing more than 70 additional pieces of artwork in the library, thanks to the generosity of the Foster Gallery and facilities management
- New and re-upholstered seating throughout the library
- Replacing and adding computer furniture and expansion of the computer area on the main floor of the library. Expanding public access computers to all floors of the library
- Replacing all government documents shelving on the main floor with compact shelving to free up much-needed study and research space on that floor
- Creating a Library Information Literacy Lab (LILL)
- Replacing the reference desk "fortress" with more user-friendly desks
- Combining the circulation and reserve desks into one central location, making it more convenient for users to circulate materials. Expanding those desk services to include student equipment check-out (laptops, digital cameras and videocams)
- Converting nine group studies into computer group studies to enable students to work collaboratively on computer group projects. Two other, larger rooms were converted so groups of up to ten can meet and work in that manner.
- Placing an additional general access lab on the second floor of the library
- Replacing much of the compact storage in the lower level with a more reliable and easier to use manual compact storage system.
- Creating better viewing and listening environments for users of our music and video collections
- Creating a family friendly study that allows parents of young children to do library research while keeping close watch over their children
- Improving lighting in the general stacks, thanks to the efforts of Terry Classen and facilities management
- Wiring the graduate student study and placing computers and a printer in that location
- Providing more accessible handicapped restrooms as well as changing tables for the use of students and faculty with small children, with the assistance of facilities management
- Renovating the grand corridor into a 24-hour study – under the leadership of Andy Phillips
- Moving the IMC into a totally remodeled space in the lower level with new seating and study spaces
- Adding an outside book drop at the north river entrance
- Installing safety strips on the steps in the main stairwell

The move of the IMC and the next planned move of special collections to the fifth floor of the library will free up considerable space in the Old Library for other campus units. In effect, these moves will make well over 13,000 square feet available for other uses – and that's a huge gain for a campus as pressed for space as ours. In addition, we will be creating a new, larger instruction lab for Information Literacy sessions. That lab will be constructed where the government publications offices and workroom are currently located, providing much-needed proximity to the reference and government publications collections.

The move of special collections will have a major impact on the library, in addition to that fact that it will be in a new location. To create sufficient space for that area on the fifth floor will mean the eventual move and/or relocation of most of our general stacks and will have a major impact on our study areas and other space configurations. Before that reconfiguration occurs, the entire fire sprinkler system will be replaced. In other words, "you ain't seen nothing yet" and the library is likely to be a beehive of construction activity of one type or another for much of the next year or more.

Much of the above delineated change has been incremental, due to funding and other constraints. For instance, it took three years to replace the computer furniture on the main floor as we could only buy a bit each year. Funding for these improvements has in fact come from a variety of sources – including special state funding, salary savings from the library and former ITM budgets, fines and fees, and gifts. These changes may have been incremental but they've resulted in a dramatically improved appearance within the library and a more functional use of existing space. Check us out in another year and we'll look different yet.

SEE CONSTRUCTION
NEWS UPDATES AT:
libconstruct.blogspot.com

ISI Web of Science Introduces External Database Cross Searching

by Mimi King, kingm@uwec.edu

ISI Web of Knowledge products are now cross-searchable with a variety of external collections: digital libraries and government publications. Here is a list of those available to UW-Eau Claire researchers.

Agricola

AGRICOLA (AGRICultural OnLine Access) is a bibliographic database of citations to the agricultural literature created by the National Agricultural Library (NAL) and its cooperators. Production of these records in electronic form began in 1970, but the database covers materials in all formats, including printed works from the 15th century. The records describe publications and resources encompassing all aspects of agriculture and allied disciplines, including animal and veterinary sciences, entomology, plant sciences, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, farming and farming systems, agricultural economics, extension and education, food and human nutrition, and earth and environmental sciences. Although the AGRICOLA database does not contain the materials, thousands of AGRICOLA records are linked to full-text documents online, with new links added daily.

POPLINE Reproductive Health Literature

POPLINE(r) (POPulation information onLINE), the world's largest database on reproductive health, provides more than 300,000 citations with abstracts to scientific articles, reports, books, and unpublished reports in the field of population, family planning, and related health issues. POPLINE is maintained by the POPLINE staff of the INFO Project at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs and is funded primarily by the United States Agency for International Development.

The Educator's Reference Desk ERIC Database

AskERIC question/answer service has been replaced by The Educator's Reference Desk: an archive of more than 200 questions and responses, over 2,000 lesson plans, and more than 3,000 links to online education information.

NTIS Library Documents

The National Technical Information Service is the largest central resource for government-funded scientific, technical, engineering, and business related information. It includes over 3 million publications that were published since 1990, and they cover over 350 subject areas. NTIS supports the nation's economic growth by providing access to information that stimulates innovation and discovery.

AIAA Meeting Papers (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics)

The AIAA Electronic Library contains more than four decades of aerospace technology, engineering, and science technical information and documents.

NASA Astrophysics Data System

The Astrophysics Data System (ADS) is a NASA-funded project which maintains three bibliographic databases containing more than 4.4 million records: Astronomy and Astrophysics, Physics, and arXiv e-prints (described below). The main body of data in the ADS consists of bibliographic records and full-text scans of much of the astronomical literature.

arXiv is an e-print service in the fields of physics, mathematics, non-linear science, computer science, and quantitative biology. arXiv is owned, operated and funded by Cornell University, with additional funding by the National Science Foundation.

Available files are:

All arXiv ePrint Archives

arXiv Computer Science

arXiv Mathematics

arXiv Nonlinear Sciences

arXiv Physics

arXiv Quantitative Biology

When performing an *ISI Web of Knowledge* cross-search, at least one ISI Citation Index must be searched, but you can select any or several of the above databases to be searched at the same time. The first three search results found in the external databases selected are listed with a link to the database and the opportunity to view additional results. Contact Mimi King (kingm@uwec.edu) for an orientation/training session.



Tracking the Herd:

Observations of an Information Age Hunter-gatherer

by Mimi King, kingm@uwec.edu

During the past fourteen years I have spent as head of reference here at UW-Eau Claire, I have hunted down the best databases for the research needs of our faculty and students. To ensure that we continue to provide the most suitable resources available, I have gathered use data and tracked the patterns of use for those databases. Apparently, according to librarianship literature, this has not been the common practice.

Most papers published in library journals compare databases' coverage of periodical titles, discuss the difficulties of developing standard data elements, or note the apparent triumph of "the Internet" over traditional library use. My goal has been to glean significant information to assess not only an individual database's usefulness but also the library's continuing role in the research life of our main user populations, students and faculty. For most students, anything they find using a browser "is" the Internet, including the library's databases. In fact, library databases are a large part of the Internet that our students routinely use.

Continued and increasing use of particular databases indicates user satisfaction with previous search results in that database. Librarians need to determine whether Google really is better for our students and faculty or if what they are really using is our subscription databases. And the university community needs to know that, even when they do not enter the building, they may still be heavily relying on library resources!

Here is the story.

Since 1998 I have gathered usage data reports provided by the vendors of the databases we use at UW-Eau Claire. The number of vendors providing data has increased from six in 1998 to thirty-one in 2004-05. The information vendors report has allowed an evolution in the way we look at their data. Originally, they only told us how many times the database was searched and the number of "hits" that were returned. They did not say how many of those hits were just what the searcher wanted. "Hit counts" are not as useful as "retrievals" (items emailed, downloaded, saved, or printed) in showing user satisfaction with results. Now that many vendors also include how many of those "hits" were chosen (by being "retrieved") we can begin to form an idea of how happy searchers are with the results they got. Continued and increasing use of particular databases indicates user satisfaction with previous search results in that database.

Databases range from dictionaries to indexes for literary sets available only in paper. They may include current articles or full text of older journals. Therefore, it is not possible to make direct database to database comparisons. COUNTER is a movement that tries to force some measure of comparability: number of sessions and number of searches. COUNTER compliance only provides superficial comparability; as you see, it actually moves us back to earlier use-count models.

There are additional bits of information some vendors can tell us: where a searcher is physically located and the network path being used to reach the database. When we have an IP number or server domain name, we know whether the searcher is on-campus or off-campus and which database is being used. When we have the linking URL, we know whether the searcher is starting from the library website, using Find It!, or has set the site as a favorite bookmark.

Don't worry — your privacy is not in danger!

We do not know who is searching, what they're looking for, or what they find. Electronic ecology and IP recycling at UW-Eau Claire and many other institutions (the practice of assigning "floating IP's") eliminates any hope of tracking particular users. Basic IP information simply lists number of accessions from any given IP. While some databases are able additionally to list the number of searches and retrievals from a given IP, there is never any link to data sought or received.

How it works —

The level of location tracking, which varies from vendor to vendor, can be by server name or IP number. IP gives the most specific information about where on (or off-) campus a search originated. It appears that more searches were launched in the library this past year than were here two years ago, 77,600 in 2004-05 and 44,285 in 2002-03. Now, with open URL searches (e.g., Find It!), Internet location information is available. This is what shows whether the searcher linked to the database from the library homepage, from a favorite or bookmark, from another database, or from an Internet search engine such as Google.

Where do we go from here?

We have already used search patterns to determine the cost effectiveness of databases and justified dropping pricey resources when the vendor would not provide usage

data. One example is AccessScience, an online equivalent of McGraw-Hill's Encyclopedia of Science & Technology. We began with a UW System jointly funded subscription to this database with the understanding that we would be able to monitor use. After a couple of years with very little use and little meaningful data supplied, the vendor stopped providing any use data at all. Canceling this database freed up \$2,351 to support more important databases. On the other hand, when System funds were withdrawn from Science Online (and which also may be withdrawn from the ISI Web of Science Citation databases), our local use justified the need for local support for these databases to our campus administrators.

Usage data may help in assessing the effectiveness of our information literacy training. High use statistic "hit counts" may be revealing either searchers demonstrating

very poor search skills in the traditional sense, or artifacts of keyword searching. This aspect will require further study.

Database selection has been problematic for students. Our latest service enhancement, SearchSpot (see article page 2), allows us to provide simultaneous searching of clusters of related databases. Our hope is that it may guide students to better databases for particular topics. SearchSpot by itself won't improve their search skills, but may enable us to highlight the features of a variety of databases in each discipline. We are seeing fewer searches and more retrievals, which may show that the articles are being successfully located by using Find It! Many vendors already have added "linking URLs" as data elements, which will soon show the effect of both Find It! and SearchSpot.

Comparative Use Data

Year	Vendors	Databases	Searches	Retrievals	Logins:	% in Library
2002-2003	28	110	1,275,045	2,346,829	349,617	12%
2004-2005	31	819	884,899	1,270,699	468,052	18%

My Private ID

Why do I need it?

The Private ID serves as your "library card" in the online environment. This ID will allow you to renew materials online, borrow books through Universal Borrowing, order articles through ILLiad, and more.

How do I get it?

Click the yellow login button in the online catalog. At the login page, click the BLUGOLD link, enter your username and password and you will see your 8-digit Private ID. Record that number and keep it handy. ■

In Brief

Course Reserve Tips and Help

Visit the Course Reserve Web site: www.uwec.edu/Library/reserve where you will find:

- printable e-reserve or print reserve forms
- access guides
- tips and guidelines for placing materials on reserve

The forms are interactive. You may type in the information rather than handwriting the forms. Then print (and sign the e-reserve form) and drop the form with any associated materials at the library circulation desk or they may be sent through campus mail to Janet Patterson, McIntyre Library.

Other suggestions:

- If you wish to use something you previously had on e-reserve, call or email before completing a new form.
- If you already have a list of reserve titles that includes citations and there is some space between each title, we can use that list along with a Reserve form. You don't need to list the titles separately on the form.
- If you need a copy of an article or a chapter from a book, we will be happy to make the copy for scanning to e-reserve.

Do you need help? Have questions?

Please contact Janet Patterson, patterjl@uwec.edu or 715.836.4362.

McIntyre Library began the Fall 2005 school year without the services of Head of Special Collections and University Archivist **Heather Muir**. Heather resigned to return to school to pursue a master's degree in Sports Management at Minnesota State University-Mankato — a career path that ties in very neatly with a number of her interests and avocations. Heather began work at UW-Eau Claire in July 2001. Her accomplishments here include her faculty-student research collaboration on Viking ships, presentations on immigration, her work on National History Day, several excellent exhibits on university history and other subjects, and many articles published in *Off the Shelf*. Her expertise will be missed not only by us in the library but particularly by members of the history faculty and the students on campus.

While the search for a new archivist is in progress, **Jennifer Franks** has been hired as an LTE library assistant in the department. Jennifer is currently enrolled as a graduate student in the Library and Information Science Masters program at UW-Milwaukee, where she is building an emphasis in archival studies. Jennifer earned her BA in classical civilization from the University of Minnesota. She has worked as a book conservator and was most recently employed at the Altoona Public Library.



Jennifer Franks

Julie Westphal, office associate in records management, has agreed to work additional hours as an LTE in special collections until an archivist is hired.

The search continues for a new reference librarian to replace **Kate Hinnant**, who resigned last spring. Periodicals Librarian **Roni Carey** will work additional hours at the reference desk until the position is filled. ■

Special Collections Extended Hours Fall 2005

Monday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tuesday 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Wednesday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Funding for evening hours is provided by the History Department

Off the Shelf

A newsletter from McIntyre Library
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004
(715) 836-3715

Mary Hayden, Editor
haydenm@uwec.edu

Bob Rose, Director
roserf@uwec.edu

Sheila Pederson, Graphic Designer
Publications Office



Comments and suggestions about Off the Shelf are appreciated. Print copies are distributed mid-way through each semester to faculty and academic staff, with online copies available to all at <http://www.uwec.edu/Library/ots/otshmpg.html>.

Mary Hayden, editor