

CPSU Library Newsletter

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Bulletin of the Elihu Burritt Library, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT

The Departure of the Card Catalog

(and Other Related Developments) by Jeanne Sohn, Director of Library Services

The last sections of the card catalog were removed from Burritt Library in August. To some, it was a relief - to others, a non-event - to still others, a catastrophe. But to anyone who noticed it, the event could not pass without an acknowledgment of what the library of today has become and the direction it is heading.

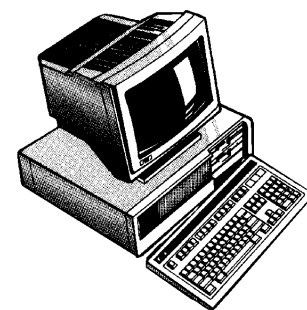
Academic libraries are currently caught between the old and the new, between the traditional and the innovative. The focus is shifting from former habits of collecting or buying materials "just-in case" someone might need them to a philosophy of "just-in-time", i.e., access to information which is available electronically when the researcher needs it.

Burritt Library is no different. Although we have continued to purchase books and journals, more and more of our resources are being focussed on electronic information. Abstracting and indexing services comprise the majority of the electronic materials that are available in Burritt, many of which are available on **CD-ROM** in the Reference Department or online through **FirstSearch**. **We also have several databases to which we subscribe jointly with the other CSU libraries and make available through the CONSULS system.** Although the CD-ROMs require a visit to the library, FirstSearch and the shared databases can be accessed from one's home or office PC. (see information in the right column on this page)

Interlibrary cooperation has made it possible for Burritt to provide several full-text databases. This past spring we were able to participate with other academic libraries in Connecticut in subscribing to **Project Muse**. This is an effort by Johns Hopkins University Press to put all of the journals which they publish online, following the format of the 'virtual' electronic journal. Another cooperative full-text effort is being sponsored by the Connecticut State Library for the academic libraries in the state. **The Encyclopedia Britannica Online will be available this fall to faculty and students alike.**

For interesting information that addresses the more traditional aspects of collection development, please see Lynn Johnson-Corcoran's article "How Our Library Builds Its Collections" (page two). It is important to remember that academic libraries will continue to provide all types of material for years to come. As we attempt to integrate electronic information into our library services, we will have significant challenges. There is no road map that can show us where we should be going; however, as we progress toward the 21st century, we will work diligently to ensure that Burritt Library remains responsive not only to traditional needs but also supports investment in innovative information resources.

Computer Access to the Elihu Burritt Library



1) If you have a VAX account: After connecting to the VAX, at the \$ prompt type **CONSULS**. Select Option "D" to search FirstSearch or other bibliographic databases including PsycInfo, ABI Inform, ERIC or Periodicals Abstracts.

2) If you have access to the World Wide Web point your browser at

<http://neal.ctstateu.edu:2001/htdocs>

from the Library home page you may click on the **FirstSearch** logo or click on 'telnet to CONSULS'. **EXPLORE!**

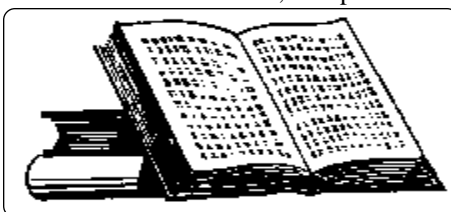
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--Lynn Johnson-Corcoran,
Collection Development Librarian

The selection of books and other materials for the library is accomplished through the joint efforts of both faculty and librarians. Each teaching department designates a member of the faculty to serve as the department liaison, who solicits general or specific purchase requests from members of the department and sends them to their library liaison. In turn, the librarians have responsibility for selecting materials in particular subject areas. The faculty liaisons and librarians work together to choose materials that are needed to support the needs of the faculty and students, and to provide a balanced collection in each subject area.

The library works with a major book vendor, Blackwell North America, that provides us with slips containing bibliographic information on newly published materials. of the kind of materials that the library collects the types of publishers (scholarly rather than subject specialty required in each discipline. week and provide an excellent means of material of interest to our library patrons.



The library has designed a profile -- the profile includes selecting mass market) and the depth of New batches of slips arrive each alerting book selectors to new

In addition, book reviews in professional journals and publishers' catalogs are important sources for book selection. The librarians often use the journal *Choice* which reviews books targeted for academic libraries and is arranged by subject disciplines.

We encourage faculty to contact librarians about collection development in the following subject areas (CCSU telephone extensions follow librarians' names):

Accounting
Faith Merriman x22074

Biology
Joan Packer x22061

Computer Science
John Rutherford x22082

English
Joan Packer x22061

Health & Human Services
Lynn Johnson-Corcoran x22059

International Business
Faith Merriman x22074

Marketing
Faith Merriman x22074

Music
Shelley Osterreich x22098

Physics/Earth Science
Joan Packer x22061

Reading/Language Arts
Frances Nadeau x22071

Teacher Education
Frances Nadeau x22071

Anthropology
Lynn Johnson-Corcoran x22059

Chemistry
Shelley Osterreich x22058

Economics
Jackie Schenck x22080

Finance & Law
Jackie Schenck x22080

History
Frank Gagliardi x22098

Management and Organization
Faith Merriman x22074

Mathematics
John Rutherford x22082

Philosophy
Marie Kascus x22073

Political Science
Barbara Meagher x22062

Sociology
Priya Rai x22056

Technology Education
Frances Nadeau x22071

Art
Shelley Osterreich x22058

Communication
Jackie Schenck x22080

Educational Leadership
Frances Nadeau x22071

Geography
Rick Churchill x22066

Industrial Technology
Nicholas G. Tomaiuolo x22068

Management Information Systems
Nicholas G. Tomaiuolo x22068

Modern Languages
Jeanne Sohn x22097

Physical Education
Joan Packer x22061

Psychology
Emily Chasse x22063

Special Education
Emily Chasse x22063

Theatre
Eve Karabanow x22060

Had Enough Electronic Stuff? They're Still Publishing Books...

The following are some new reference sources of interest:

First, U.S. News' *The Best Hospitals in America* for those considering the golden parachute. Rankings are provided in 16 specialties from geriatrics to pediatrics, from cancer to cardiology.

Some of our ailments come from diet and addictions. *Statistics on Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Use* explains trends in this area. Data is provided in table and graphic formats.

Crime can also result in a visit to a hospital. *Crime in America's Top-Rated Cities: a Statistical Profile, 1995-96* can help you avoid the wrong locations. This source includes statistics for the past 20 years in all major crime categories. In addition, *Violent Children, a Reference Handbook* provides a survey of the available literature and references for further research. Causes, treatment and prevention as well as statistics are covered.

On a related topic, war, *The Oxford Companion to World War II* is a comprehensive one-volume guide to a subject of continuing interest and relevance. A wide diversity of views are reflected in the entries. New information that has recently become available from long closed archives such as those in the former Soviet Union, is incorporated. It is now over 50 years since the end of the War, and historians view some issues from a different perspective.

On, hopefully, a brighter note is the *Encyclopedia of Climate and Weather*, although the weather can certainly be calamitous enough, as we saw this past winter. This two volume set demon-

strates that the weather is no longer simply about clouds and rain, but also concerns biomes, fuels, oceans, exotic species and new energy systems. The editor believes the articles will be of use to a broad spectrum of readers.

Some researchers may prefer a more esoteric and cerebral resource, such as *James Joyce A to Z, the Essential Reference to the Life and Work*. This volume will help the reader to decipher the abstruse expressions, references and terms found in Joyce's works. Others may prefer to escape to the world of making money. For them, Gale Research's new *Encyclopedia of Business* defines concepts, issues and terms at some length covering both the practical and theoretical. Many entries include references for further research.

--Joan Packer,
Head of Reference Department

Find the Right Database AND Keep Up-To-Date!

Mediated database searches (those performed by a person who is experienced at online computer database searching) are still available at the CCSU Library in addition to increased database access points for faculty, staff and students. The reasons vary: some may need specialized databases; others feel they lack needed expertise: some simply can't find the time to complete searches.

Also, there are specialized services offered only through online vendors. The DIALOG service offers us the ability to search through 450+ databases to locate the ones containing

citations/abstracts that fit a particular search statement. This saves time as well as preventing a client from missing an important citation from a database we might not normally choose. Another feature of DIALOG involves the ability to search many databases at the same time, which allows broadening the field of databases searched while preventing unneeded duplication of results.

Some faculty have taken advantage of another feature from DIALOG which allows entering a search statement to be updated each time a new citation appears in the literature that matches that statement. This is especially helpful to faculty attempting to keep abreast of new developments in their field. The search can be run either weekly or monthly, and the results are mailed immediately.

The ability to E-mail search results began this year from DIALOG and FirstSearch. This allows the citations/abstracts to be sent electronically to anyone with an Internet address.

--Emily Chasse
Online Services Librarian

What's Polish in the Elihu Burritt Library?

Any patron that ventures to stack 2 level might notice the sign for the **Polish Heritage Collection**. It consists of five rows of shelves full of books in English and Polish and covers all topics related to the history and culture of Poland. There is also a substantial number of books about the history of Polonia, as the Polish American community is customarily called. One can ask why such concentration of books in this particular area? Why in our library? And finally, why

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What's Polish...? (con't)

a separate collection? The answer to the first question is obvious to anyone who ever browsed the New Britain phone directory, or the directory of any other Connecticut town. Even the untrained eye will spot an unusual number of names ending with -ski, -cki or -icz. Our city itself is often jokingly referred to as "New Britski". People of Polish descent constitute about 30 percent of its population, and for the whole state the number is close to 10 percent. Poles started settling in Connecticut in the 1870s and by the 1890s had established several vibrant communities. The first Polish parish, St. Stanislaus, was built in Meriden in 1891. As did other ethnic groups, Polish Americans created many organizations, societies and clubs that served as a self-help structures as well as a way to cultivate ethnic heritage. That leads us to the answer to our second question. In 1974 the Polish American community used the occasion of the 500 anniversary of Copernicus' birth to celebrate its ethnic pride and to show its community's accomplishments. A group of activists from the Connecticut Division of the Polish American Congress - an umbrella organization for many Polish American groups - decided to donate a small collection of books about Poland to CCSU Library to mark the Polish American presence in the state. This was soon followed by an ambitious plan to create a Polish Studies Program at what was then Central Connecticut State College. Prof. Stanislaus A. Blejwas was hired as the program coordinator. Since 1975 courses in Polish history and culture, as well as Polish American studies have been continuously offered at our university. They have been supplemented by hundreds of lectures, concerts, and cultural events organized for CCSU students and the general public. Through all those years the Polish American community generously supported the Polish Heritage collection by numerous gifts and donations. Elihu Burritt did its share in the collection's development, buying new academic titles available on the American market. Currently the

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Polish Heritage Collection holds close to 13 thousand monographs. The history of Poland is still its strongest suit, but Polish literature, including English translations of it, it is also well represented. The changes that have taken place in Poland have had an enormous impact on publishing in that country. With the creation of political opposition in 1970s, followed by the Solidarity movement in 1980s, the gag of official censorship has been broken and many subjects considered "taboo" or too sensitive were included in open national debate. Our library used the opportunity to fill gaps in the collection. One example of a "newly" discovered area of research is ethnic relations in Poland, Polish-Jewish relations in particular.

The collection is still a separate entity in the Library, mostly by tradition, but it is a regular circulating collection, uses the same classification system (call numbers) as the rest of the library and is fully searchable in CONSULS.

So, at least at the conceptual level, it is fully integrated with our general collection. What makes it distinct is

not only it's large number of books in Polish, but also a significant number of titles that would have been considered more appropriate in large research library - older titles, ephemera, pamphlets, monographs on very specialized narrow topics, collections of source materials, special editions, etc. Such in-depth collecting is in part a function of a large ratio of gifts - the library gratefully accepts practically all donations that are relevant, and it is also a conscious choice. In some areas we are one of the few libraries in the country interested in acquiring materials. For instance, our Library actively collects all Polish American imprints - books, serials published by presses and publishing houses owned by Polish Americans. Our collection has an additional role as reference source for another "Polish" institution located in our library: Connecticut Polish American Archive and Manuscript Collection. More about this archival collection in the next issue of this newsletter.

--Ewa Wolynska,
Archivist
and

Special Collections Librarian

What is Oblomovism?

According to the *OED* "Oblomov is the name of a character in Ivan Goncharov's novel *Oblomov* (1855) represented as inactive, weak-willed, and procrastinating." In this novel Goncharov portrays a lazy absentee landlord, the enervated representative of a Russian aristocracy too debilitated to act. Although he created one of the great comic figures of world literature, Goncharov was himself somewhat paranoid (he was violently jealous of Turgenev) and had become a complete recluse by the time he died in 1891. Parts of his life resembled that of his most famous character. Unfortunately, his other works enjoyed little success outside Russia.

After the publication of *Oblomov*, *Oblomovism* entered the Russian language as a synonym for the inertia of the landed gentry, according to Harry T. Moore, who wrote a foreword to the 1963 New American Library edition of the novel. The word survived into the Communist regime: Bukharin commented at his trial that *Oblomovism* was one of the afflictions of the upper orders of Soviet bureaucracy. In 1957 A. G. Meyer used it in his book *Leninism* to refer to "the behavior of Oblomov, pathetic hero of Goncharov's novel of the same name, who prefers to contemplate and discuss the universe, including his own predicament, instead of taking an active part in solving his problems and participating in life." Oblomovism has come to mean a universal, not just Russian, condition.

--Joan Packer, Head of Reference Department



Check Out the State's
Home Page



<http://www.state.ct.us>

The State of Connecticut Home Page is a pilot project to access information about Connecticut. The server is jointly maintained by the CSU System, University of Connecticut and The State Library. Currently, the site is divided into ten files with additional links to each of the contributing institutions. The following highlights a few of the more interesting or significant sites.



This site contains links to the University of Connecticut Homer Babbidge Library Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC), the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, the Land Surveyors Reference Page, U.S. Department of the Interior and other environmental webpages.

UConn Homer Babbidge Library Map and Geographic Information Center: An online library of digital geo-spacial data relating to Connecticut from USGS, Bureau of Census, Department of Environmental Protection etc. All data is in the public domain and can be combined and manipulated but requires computer mapping or GIS programs to download or perform analyses.



HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

The Health and Social Services Page provides links to State, Federal and community based health and social service agencies.

State of Connecticut Department of Social Services: This link furnishes descriptions of available programs, eligibility requirements, available resources, and expected and anticipated expenditures. It is a good source for information outlining the current status and changes in Connecticut welfare programs.

Other Services & LIBRARIES



The Libraries Page gives access to links for Connecticut Libraries, Federal Depository Libraries in Connecticut, Connecticut State Documents, Virtual Library, and other library information resources.

Connecticut Information Servers: Provides links to all Connecticut WWW sites and USA Citylink web server.

Connecticut State Documents and Municipalities: This site duplicates much of the what is in other locations on the homepage. However, it has a few good sites such as Documents of the General Assembly, which includes the text of public and special acts, and citations to current legislative research reports with index.

ReQuest Main Catalog: Provides online access to a union catalog of all Connecticut libraries.

News of Connecticut: The most current version of *The Hartford Courant*.

CONNECTICUT ECONOMY

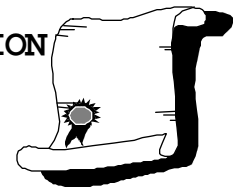


The economy page provides users with information and resources for analyzing Connecticut's economy.

Connecticut Market Data: Available in both text and table format. This link contains some dated information but is still a good source. Files include: how Connecticut ranks in relation to other states, consumer and industrial markets, government financial data; demographics; economic profiles, and a business assistance directory.

Connecticut Economic Information System: This is a database of economic and demographic information gathered from participating state agencies in Connecticut. It includes employment, demographic, and social statistics from the 1990 census, industry and export statistics, economic indicators for state's production, construction, consumption and revenue collection.

EDUCATION



The Education Page provides resources and information about primary and secondary education in Connecticut. Also included are special projects and national education initiatives.

K-12 In Connecticut: This is a link to all school servers in Connecticut, kindergarten through grade 12, with access to K-12 servers nationwide.

Strategic School Profiles: This database gives access to strategic school profile reports which measure student needs, school resources, and student and school performance.

--Eve Karabanow, Reference Dept.

Full Text and Current Events Sources on the World Wide Web

This is just a sampling of the many sites available on the Web. Within each site are links to MANY different sources. Some sources will provide you with the full text for free, others require you to register, and still others to pay a subscription fee. While features and costs, if any, vary from site to site, these addresses are worthwhile locations to explore for finding news and much more.

AJR Newslink

<http://www.newslink.org>

A very comprehensive, up-to-date news resource that provides links to newspapers from all over the world. Choose from U.S., Asian, African, European, North and Central America, South American and Oceanian newspapers. There are also links to magazines in a wide variety of subject areas such as, news/opinion, business/professional, computing, and entertainment/lifestyle. Broadcast media may also be accessed including U.S. and non-U.S. broadcast networks, U.S. radio and TV stations, news services, journalism organizations, news-media newsletters, web search tools, and online resources for journalists.

Newspage

<http://www.newspage.com>

A good source for daily business news with thousands of categorized news stories updated daily from over 600 information sources. Among the topics covered are computer hardware and software, semiconductors, aerospace and defense, banking, management, communications and many others. Most of the links provide an abstract of the article. You must be a

registered Newspaper user to read full-text stories and use the search facility. Basic service is free, premium service is \$3.95 per month and newspaper direct is \$6.95 per month. Prices are subject to change at any time.

U.K. Current Events

<http://www.uky.edu/Subject/current.html>

This site from the University of Kentucky provides links to news sources from around the world. It offers access to major newspapers, wire services, networks, worldwide news (updated throughout the day) and national news resources on topics of current interest. Some current interest topics include the Oklahoma bombing, the Telecommunications Act



of 1996, airline crashes, church burnings, and July's explosion in Saudi Arabia.

United States Information Agency - Daily Washington File

<http://www.USIA.gov/products/washfile.htm>

The Washington File includes the full text of U.S. government official documents, policy statements and interpretive material, features and byline articles prepared daily by the USIA. Topic headings include diplomatic and security issues, economic issues, democracy and human rights, U.S. society, global issues, communications and 1996 U.S. elections. Links are also provided to the Voice of America news reports and

selected news services.

Infosurf Digital Reading Room

<http://www.library.ucsb.edu/fulltext.html>

This web page from the University of California, Santa Barbara provides links to electronic journals, newspapers and books. Journals may be accessed by title or subject and cover a wide variety of subject areas. There are also links to electronic journals from Project Muse and other electronic journal collections. The electronic books section features links to the Complete Works of Shakespeare, Alex-A Catalog of Electronic Texts on the Internet, the Online Books Page and others.

Full Text and Ready Reference Resources

<http://www.clark.net/pub/lschank/web/mu-ref.html>

This site lists resources from business databases to zoological dictionaries arranged by subject. Choose from business and economics, geography, international studies, legal, literature, music, social sciences, news and current events, etc. There is also a handy ready reference section that accesses 800 numbers, includes an American Psychological Association crib sheet, AskERIC Virtual Library (from Syracuse University -- one of the best ERIC sites on the web), documentation on how to cite electronic information, data on currency conversion and more. There are also **links to Purdue University's Virtual Reference Desk** (another great source) and to the Reference Collections Page, a compilation of all the best virtual reference desks.

--Barbara Meagher,
Reference Librarian

Earn a Credit for Learning about the CCSU Library

Central Connecticut State University recently joined many other undergraduate programs around the country in adding a library skills course to its elective curriculum. "Library Resources and Skills" is a one credit PASS/FAIL course designed to assist all students who are unfamiliar with library tools become adept in their usage.

The following is a description of the class that will appear in the next course catalog: Through discussion, lecture, and hands-on assignments, students will learn how to choose and use the correct information sources to meet the challenges of academic, professional, and personal life. Focuses on print as well as electronic resources including CD-ROM and the Internet.

The course has been taught twice: once in Wintersession 1995 and once in the Spring Semester 1996. It will be offered in both the Spring and Fall semesters in the future. Eighteen students have passed the course, and students' comments about the course have been constructive and complimentary. Students are encouraged to register for the course, and should keep the following in mind:

Most people who begin the course are intimidated by computers, but most students get over this hurdle. These students are appreciative of the non-threatening exposure and practice that the course affords them.

Executing research does not provide immediate gratification. Students who take this course become familiar with the library and learn different approaches to getting their research done. Just as importantly, they come to appreciate the "research process."

Library Resources and Skills does include out-of-class homework assignments that requires the students to use the library's online catalog, the World Wide Web, CD-ROM, and online databases, as well as printed resources. A broad range of library resources are introduced.

LSC 150 meets once each week that classes are in session. Class size is limited to twenty students. The class meets each Friday from noon to 12:50. The classroom is the Curriculum Lab Classroom on the third floor of the Elihu Burritt Library.

Here is a condensed syllabus to illustrate the coverage of "Library Resources and Skills" (LSC 150):

Class Meeting 1: Introduction, objectives of the course, discussion of the term project: producing a "Pathfinder" for a topic of the student's choice.

If you are a student who can benefit from an overview of the Library, register for this course

Class Meeting 2: Submit "Pathfinder" topic. Library Tour. Highlight of special resources: example: microforms (how to use microfilm and microfiche machines). How the library is organized.

Class Meeting 3: Types of information found in the library. Books, journals, magazines, newspapers, and databases. Introduction to the Library of Congress Subject Headings.

Class Meeting 4: Library of Congress Subject Classification and its practical meaning for students.

Class Meeting 5: Demonstration of CONSULS to locate both books and journal or magazine articles.

Class Meeting 6: Bibliographic citations and their practical meaning for students.

Class Meeting 7: Introduction to specific databases (both online and CD-ROM)

Class Meeting 8: Developing search strategies (including using thesauri)

Class Meeting 9: Introduction to important, frequently used Reference books in this Library's (and most libraries') Reference Collection.

Class Meeting 10: Reference works--continued.

Class Meeting 11: Introduction to major printed indexes.

Class Meeting 12: Demonstration of the World Wide Web and search engines

Class Meeting 13: Working on the "pathfinder" -- "Putting it all together"

Class Meeting 14: Working on the "pathfinder" -- "Putting it all together"

Class Meeting 15: Final examination

Library Resources and Skills is challenging; it's also excellent preparation for doing a paper or becoming comfortable with the library. There is usually an assignment each week. For example, after meeting 5 (demonstration of CONSULS), students are asked to look for several specific materials by using CONSULS. Similarly, after the demonstration of the World Wide Web, students are asked to use search engines to find materials on the Internet.

If you are a student who can benefit from an overview of the library's resources or, if you are a faculty member who knows students who could benefit from this course, consider Library Resources and Skills!

--Nick Tomaiuolo
Bibliographic Instruction Librarian
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Library Electronic Workshops -- Fall 1996

This semester two of our workshops will take place in the new MicroLab PC Classroom. This will allow for **“hands on”** instruction as the classroom is equipped with a number of pc's. These workshops are denoted with an *. The others will take place in the library's classroom on the 3rd floor.

Searching the Journal Databases on CONSULS---ABI-INFORM, ERIC, Periodical Abstracts, and PsychInfo have been added in the past year. Find out what they offer and how to use them.--September 18 at 2pm.

***Using Search Engines via Netscape**---There are more and more of them all the time. Which ones are the best and how you can employ them most effectively--October 31 at 1pm. **HANDS-ON**

***What's on the State of Connecticut Homepage?**---This is a great source for all kinds of information about our state, some of which is not available in print at all, but you can click on it from the CCSU Homepage--November 19 at 10am. **HANDS-ON**

Electronic Access to Government Information---The federal government is going more electronic all the time, and our Government Documents librarian Rick Churchill discusses it--December 5 at 10am.