

C CSU Library Newsletter



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Library Database Page has a New Look, More Databases

contributed by Joan Packer

The Elihu Burritt Library is the beneficiary of free databases funded by the Connecticut Digital Library, or **iConn**. This project was authorized in 2000 by the Connecticut General Assembly to provide free access to a core level of information resources for students, teachers and public library cardholders. Librarians across the state evaluated a number of possible databases and selected 31 for use by K-12 schools, colleges and public libraries. The finalists include the *Hartford Courant* full-text from 1992, the *New York Times* full-text in a 12 month rolling archive, biographical, literary and historical databases such as *Discovering Authors*, *Discovering U.S. History*, and the *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Nations*. Included in these databases is **Expanded Academic Index**, which offers a large selection of full-text journals and magazines some of which are new additions to the Elihu Burritt Library. Another new and very useful database is **Business and Company Resource Center**, which provides financial data, histories, investment company reports and magazines articles on corporations.

Recently, additional resources for academic libraries were selected. These are: *Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe*, *Lexis-Nexis Statistical Universe*, *ATLA Religion Database*, *CINAHL*, *ABI-Inform Global* and *PsycINFO*. CCSU already has subscriptions to all of these except *ATLA* and *ABI-Inform*; therefore, money will be available for acquisition of new electronic resources. Faculty are always welcome to make recommendations.

reQuest, Connecticut's statewide library catalog is part of the iConn project, but has been available for some time. Users can holdings in over 300 library collections in the state by author, title or keyword. All of these databases are available on the CCSU library homepage at <http://library.ctstateu.edu/lib>.

New databases recently added to the library homepage at <http://library.ctstateu.edu/lib> include the **Encyclopedia of Astronomy and Astrophysics**, which is described as "the most comprehensive reference" on the subject ever published. It provides 2,500 commissioned peer-reviewed, continually updated articles (approximately 20% of the content every year). News updates are also part of this service, and related links to other websites. The library also owns the *Encyclopedia* in print format.

Another new source is the **Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy**. This is the online version of the same title previously issued in print in 1998, also owned by the CCSU Elihu Burritt Library, and was the first multi-volume encyclopedia released in the discipline for over 30 years. The **Encyclopedia** features over 2,000 original articles written by over 1,200 international experts covering Anglo-American, ethical and political, cross-cultural, interdisciplinary, continental and contemporary philosophy. The online version will be updated continually with revised bibliographies, review, research news, links to other philosophy web sources and new articles.

Stat-USA, a government database developed by the United States Department of Commerce is now available through the our "Databases & Full Text Resources" page. Having two parts, **Stat-USA** includes the "State of the Nation" which provides current and historical financial and economic data for the United States (coverage for items such as the Consumer Price Index, Gross Domestic Product, housing starts, unemployment claims, retail sales, and interest rates). The second part, called "Globus and NTDB", has trade leads and daily procurement activity from the Defense Logistics Agency, the United Nations, and the *Commerce Business Daily*. The NTDB, (acronym for the National Trade Data Bank) is a gold mine of information for entrepreneurs planning to market overseas. All types of economic, social and statistical data important to planning a market venture abroad are available here. Particularly useful are the Country Commercial Guides, Market Research reports, and Best Market reports.

Another useful database recently added to the Library's collection is **Poole's Plus: the Digital Index of the Nineteenth Century**. **Poole's** has several parts, but our library is currently subscribing to its index to periodical literature covering the years 1802-1906. **Poole's** indexes many magazines and journals published during that time period, a good number of which are available in hardcopy full-text in the Burritt Library's periodical collection on the 4th floor. For more information on new database additions see page 5.

Access the Library's home page at
<http://library.ctstateu.edu/lib>

Access the electronic Databases & Full Text Resources from
a link on the home page (above) or at
<http://library.ctstateu.edu/lib/db2>

Please Read This

contributed by Nick Tomaiuolo

How many books do you read? As faculty, students or staff at a university, chances are you're part of the demographic that reads more than ten titles each year. Not everyone reads so often, however, as recent polls have discovered. A Gallup poll from 1999, in a survey that queried 1,698 respondents, showed that while at least 84% of Americans had read "all or part of one book in the previous year," 30% of the public had only read between 1 and 5 books. 7% had read over 50 books in the past year. More recent figures from the Maritz Marketing Research firm in Fenton, Missouri (January 2001) reported 45.5% of the men and women it surveyed read 10 or more books per year.

In a separate 1999 Gallup poll, reading placed third in the list of ways that Americans spend their leisure time. Watching television was first and spending time with family was second. The sample size was 1,015 adults over eighteen years of age.

This harkens to Ray Bradbury's prescience in 1951 when he depicted a civilization replete with television screens that cover entire walls (Cf., the commercial for the Philips flat television, see graphic below at left), and although people continue to appreciate the printed word, banned books are still a reality. Although books aren't banned in the sense that they are outlawed per se, many titles are "challenged" by people who exert significant pressure to keep what they consider objectionable material out of their communities.

(Please see the adjacent page for some examples.)

Thankfully, we are still allowed to read what we want, though it is ironic that James Joyce's *Ulysses* (a book that was banned in the United States from 1920 to 1923) recently headed the Modern Library's list of 100 best novels of the twentieth century. [You can view two Modern Library Top 100 lists, one voted on by "the people" (which is headed by Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*), and the one voted on by an editorial board including Daniel Boorstin, Gore Vidal, and William Styron at <http://www.randomhouse.com/modernlibrary/100best/novels.html>.]

For those who quibbled about the titles on the Modern Library's list, Paul Theroux (author of *The Mosquito Coast*, *The Happy Isles Of Oceania : Paddling The Pacific*, *Sir Vidia's Shadow : A Friendship Across Five Continents*, and others, countered, "There is a lot of talk about books. This is often a silly and philistine activity. Much better to read the books - not the 'Top 100' as listed by a lot of old buffers, but the top 10,000."

Other URLs mentioned in this article:

Gallup Poll:

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr991004b.asp>
<http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr990301a.asp>

Maritz Research:

<http://www.maritzresearch.com/index.html>

URL for ALA Banned Books Week

<http://www.ala.org/bbooks/>

getting better all the time?

Incidentally, the American Library Association has designated September 22–29, 2001 “Banned Books Week.” It suggests: “Develop Yourself: Expose Your Mind to a Banned Book.” Here’s a selection of titles that it lists as “challenged books.”

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

This Newberry Award-winning book has been challenged and removed from classrooms and school libraries due to “profanity, disrespect of adults, and an elaborate fantasy world that might lead to confusion.”

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

This classic has been the subject of debate since its publication in 1885. Upon publication, the book was banned and condemned across the country. It was called “rough, coarse and inelegant,” unsuitable for “intelligent, respectable people.” The irony is that the book that today is challenged as racist was originally attacked for being too anti-racist! There were complaints that the character of Jim was too heroic for a slave.

My Brother Sam is Dead

by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier

This award winner, which tells the story of a family torn apart by the American Revolution, is the focus of complaints over violence and profanity.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

“for containing racist slurs...”

Harry Potter (Series) by J.K. Rowling

The popular Harry Potter books have been challenged in California, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, South Carolina and Washington for its focus on wizardry, magic, and “sheer evil.”

Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut

has been challenged three times in last three school years. In two cases, it remained on school reading lists, but in Littlefork, Minnesota last year, it was removed from a 12th-grade curriculum.

The Odyssey by Homer

Plato suggested expurgating Homer for immature readers (387 BC) and Caligula tried to suppress it because it expressed Greek ideals of Freedom.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury.

This book was handed out at an Irvine, California, middle school in 1992 with profane words such as “damn” and “hell” blocked out. Students wrote to Bradbury describing the situation and pointing out the irony that a book about the evils of censorship had to be censored before they could read it.

For a virtual exhibit of banned books

goto:

www.randomhouse.com/books/bannedbooks/

Removed from a senior college preparatory literature course at the Eureka, IL High School (1995)

because some parents thought the sexual content of some of the tales was not appropriate for the students.

Step Into Our Parlour

contributed by June Welwood

Starting February 20, 2001, the Elihu Burritt Library added yet another user-friendly feature. The New Books Section, located to the right of the Circulation Desk on the Main Floor, has been expanded.

The area now features more “just arrived” books than ever, and they are now shelved by subject -- making browsing even easier.

All books are available for the same time period as the books in the stacks.

COME SEE! RELAX! ENJOY!

Will a United States Supreme Court Decision Affect Your Research?

contributed by Nick Tomaiuolo

Over the summer the Supreme Court decided that database vendors and publishers had violated the rights of freelance authors by loading the full text of magazine and newspaper articles on electronic databases. The specific publishers question were The New York Times, Newsday, and Sports Illustrated, and the errant databases were Lexis-Nexis and University Microfilms International (now called Proquest Information & Learning).

On June 25, 2001 the court, by a vote of 7 to 2, sided with Jonathan Tasini, president of the National Writers Union, and several other freelance authors by stating in an opinion written by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg that it had “conclude[d] that the databases do not reproduce and distribute the Articles as part of a collective work privileged by section 201(c).” [This section of the U.S. Code permits publishers, without consent of or compensation to the holders of the copyright in individual articles (e.g., chapters, or pieces of a whole work or issue) to revise the whole issue, book, etc. Under Section 201, the publisher can also reproduce and distribute the author’s contribution to the whole (an article, etc.) for a later collective work in the same series.] She also wrote: “freelance authors have experienced significant economic loss” [due to a] “digital revolution that has given publishers [new] opportunities to exploit authors’ works.” The court went on to note that the “Databases’ reproduction and distribution of individual Articles—simply as individual articles—would invade the core of the Authors’ exclusive rights....”

The majority opinion declined to engage in speculation about future harms, and refused to shrink authors’ rights out of fear of what might happen after listening to publishers’ warnings of damage to full-text collections. A dissenting opinion of the remaining two justices did refer to such issues.

Because academic research now relies so heavily on full text databases for individual articles, this matter should be of great interest to faculty and students. The Burritt Library offers access to Lexis-Nexis and Proquest, both mentioned above.

After the ruling was issued Arthur Sulzberger Jr., chairman of the New York Times Co. and publisher of *The New York Times*, said: “The *Times* has lost this case and will now undertake the difficult and sad process of removing significant portions from its electronic historical archive. That is a loss for freelance writers because their articles will be removed from the historical record. Historians, scholars, and the public lose...” If database producers are to be believed, a critical mass of newspaper and journal articles may disappear from cyberspace. Catherine Mathis, spokeswoman for The New York Times Company, said about 115,000 articles by 27,000 writers would be affected. All appeared in the paper from about 1980 to about 1995. The Times will begin removing any affected articles as soon as possible from Lexis-Nexis and other database services, to minimize its potential liability

Allen Paschal, the CEO of the Gale Group (another publisher and database producer) speculated, “A couple of things could happen: 1) the publishers and freelance writers could come to some sort of back-payment agreement and then track material going forward—that would mean working with us to get it done—or 2) some have already threatened to expunge the unauthorized articles.... I can’t comment on the legal rights or wrongs of the situation.... I’m just worried about the cost and effort of cleaning the files up if Tasini leads publishers to pull articles out. I’d rather see publishers and authors reach an agreement, a financial settlement. Whichever side of the fence you fall on, that solution would be more practical.”

Tasini assailed the *Times* calling the newspaper “greedy” and “hypocritical” for taking the high moral ground on the Napster issue while reselling freelanced articles without compensating authors.

Database producers seemed to put the blame on publishers indicating that before they put articles online they are assured that the necessary legal formalities have been executed. Apparently this wasn’t the case.

For more perspective on the case, see the court’s opinion at <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/00slipopinion.html>.

Find Full Text of Journals Quickly with the Library's *JOURNAL LOCATOR*

Regular users of the Elihu Burritt Library's website have probably noticed enhancements our Systems Librarian has been busy making over this spring and summer. Besides creating a new "Databases & Full Text Resources" page with an A to Z arrangement that also offers links to broad subject areas and databases by academic department (available at <http://library.ctstateu.edu/lib/db2/>), John Rutherford has added a major enhancement called "Journal Locator" which is available as a link from the Library's home page. **Journal Locator** not only saves the researcher time by identifying whether the a specific journal is held at the Connecticut State University libraries in printed hardcopy, but will also identify which Elihu Burritt Library database the researcher may use to find the journal electronically and in full text. This means that a student could execute a search or refer to a bibliographic citation, and then access Journal Locator to determine whether she must pull the journal from the stacks, click on a link to access the journal full text from one of the Library's subscription databases, or if unable to find the title, seek another means, such as Interlibrary Loan, to secure the article.

The Journal Locator will accept searches on exact titles of journals or keywords within journal titles. In the screenshot below, for example, the searcher entered *American Journal of Sociology* and retrieved four matches. A search on keywords for "journal of sociology" retrieved fourteen matches including the *American Journal of Sociology*, *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, etc.

According to the Journal Locator results shown here the searcher could locate the full text of articles from the *American Journal of Sociology* by either consulting: 1) Ebsco Academic Search Elite, 2) Expanded Academic Index from November 1992 to the present, 3) JSTOR for articles published in that journal from 1895 until 2000, or 4) the Library's periodical collection to view the hardcopy.

Journal Locator promises to be a time saver as well as a frequently used feature of the Library's website. Try it soon.

Engineering Village 2 : A New Database for Technology Research

An important new database added recently to our online collection is *Engineering Village 2*. This is the electronic version of *Engineering Index*, and provides access to the latest engineering research, including such topics as computer aided design and computer programming. *Compendex* is the main database in the *Village*; it indexes and abstracts 2600 journals, as well as conference proceedings and reports. This site also indexes and evaluates websites and allows the user to search U.S. patent information in the selected subject or keyword area. Technology faculty and students will welcome this new addition. Find it on the Library's A - Z database page at: <http://wilson.ctstateu.edu/lib/db2/>.