

C CSU Library Newsletter



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Library Budget Cuts- Finding the Silver Lining

--Charles Marlor, Acquisitions Librarian

A budget cut is every librarian's worst nightmare. After all, a library is judged by the number of books and subscriptions it has and whether they adequately support the curriculum and faculty research. When the library director told us, at the end of fiscal year 2002-2002, that we should expect a reduction in the library materials budget in fiscal year 2002-2003, we cringed. When the final numbers came down, and we realized that we would have to cut over \$70,000.00 in serial and periodical subscriptions, we went into shock. What do we cut without compromising the integrity of the collection, we asked? How do we tell academic departments that they may have to live without some of the periodicals they had come to know and love? We had endless questions and no answers on day one.

The library director decided to create an ad hoc committee to address the budget cuts. Representatives from Reference, Collection Development and Acquisitions/Serials were asked to sit on the Committee. Our goal was to look at all the possible permutations and combinations, and to come up with a plan to slash serials expenditures without diminishing the quality of the collection and jeopardizing accreditation standards. We had to do it fast because we had to realize the cost savings in the current fiscal year.

Fortunately for us, our Current Periodicals department had been keeping comprehensive periodical use statistics over the past eighteen months. These statistics proved to be invaluable when looking at some of our expensive subscriptions. We discovered, for example, that one particular print periodical cost the library a staggering \$3,500.00 per use! A significant number of our subscriptions appeared to be little used although annual costs were very high. After developing an extensive list of expensive but apparently little used titles, it was time to contact the Academic Departments to see if they could really live without some or all of them. It would make it so much easier if they could.

The library director then began to contact department deans and liaisons to advise them of our plight and of the need to make some changes. Meeting after meeting ensued with the library's having to produce countless title lists by department that included current and projected costs. Department liaisons went back to their colleagues with these lists, working tirelessly to help the library reach its goal to minimize the effects of the budget cuts on teaching and research at the University. After several weeks of hard work, librarians and academic departments had developed a viable plan to address the budget reduction. Very simply put, the plan looked like this: *please see "Budget" on page 2*

Visit the Elihu Burritt Library's website at
<http://library.ccsu.edu/>
for

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BILT -- a web based library tutorial
Access to electronic databases
Access to electronic journals
Electronic interlibrary loan requests
Login to your library record
Check library hours
Search Connecticut's statewide library catalog "ReQuest"

Budget (continued from page 1)

1. Cut subscriptions that were little used and which did not have an effect on departmental accreditation. This included cutting a few titles that no one could quite remember why we were getting in the first place and subscriptions that had been ordered to support research no longer being done.
2. Change some subscriptions to online only when online access was less expensive than the print and when back issue access was not at risk.
3. Cut some of the “package” subscriptions and subscribe directly to selected titles that had come as part of the package.

Once consensus was reached, the Library’s Serials Librarian began to work with our periodicals distributor to cancel or change those subscriptions identified under the plan. Although a Herculean undertaking, she managed to get everything done on time and the projected cost savings were indeed realized by January 31, 2003.

One might ask how there could possibly be a silver lining to this experience?

Budget cuts, after all, indicate that times aren’t as good as they could be. No Library or University wants to reduce its resources. In addition, budget cuts mean we have to experience the horror of actually changing something! For this librarian, one who is not an eternal optimist I might add, some good came out of this unfortunate situation. A careful review of how one spends one’s money is never a bad thing to do and our review resulted in the cancellation of a combination of expensive and inexpensive subscriptions that were simply no longer needed (or perhaps never were). We discovered that the conversion of some titles from traditional print to online only in order to save money actually better served the research needs of our faculty. In a few cases, we were able to replace some of the cancelled titles with titles that faculty really wanted. We had the opportunity to work with each other in ways which our daily routine does not normally provide. For me, a behind the scenes librarian who doesn’t get out much, it was particularly rewarding to meet and work with some of my faculty colleagues outside of the library. CCSU is a smart place with smart people.

By no means do I mean to imply that real sacrifices were not made as a result of this process. However, we know now that, when the cycle turns upward and we’re in a position to add subscriptions, CCSU has the human resources to do it with the same intelligence, cooperation, and care.

New Chemistry Database Added to the Library’s Holdings

--Charles Marlor, Acquisitions Librarian

In the fall of 2002, the Chemistry Department was asked to review its current periodical subscriptions in order to address a reduction in the library’s serials budget. As a result, several periodical subscriptions were cancelled and some, including those American Chemical Society (ACS) journals to which the library subscribed, were converted to online only. Print copies of ACS journals will no longer be received. As a result the savings realized by these changes, the Library was able to subscribe to the American Chemical Society Archives database and still meet its cost reduction goals.

The ACS Journal Archives was awarded the 2002 “Best Internet-Based Electronic Product in Mathematics/Science” from the Association of American Publishers Professional/Scholarly Publishing Division. With ACS Journal Archives, the researcher has access to 120 years of the most cited chemistry research. One can search full text of all titles published by ACS from 1879 to the current ACS online subscription. Delivery of articles is in PDF format which provides readability and clarity that are virtually the same as the original. This is an online database that is rolling in nature. In other words, a new year’s worth of content will be added each year. Links to journals accessible via the ACS Archives database can be found on the Burritt Library’s homepage by clicking on Digital Library Resources.

Database Update

--Joan Packer, Reference Librarian

On April 1, 2003 the library acquired access to Academic Search Premier. This database replaces Academic Search Elite, and is the world’s largest scholarly, multi-disciplinary, full-text database designed for academic institutions. Academic Search Premier indexes more journals and provided more full-text than the Elite version. The Premier edition abstracts and indexes 7695 journals, and provides full-text articles for 3834 of these journals, including 2788 peer-reviewed titles. A majority of the full-text articles are in pdf format with images. This scholarly collection covers nearly all subject areas, including the social sciences, humanities, arts & literature, sciences, language and linguistics. Navigate to this updated resource by beginning at the Library’s home page and clicking “Digital Library Resources.”

Making the Most of Your Web Sessions: Toolbar Round-up

—Nicholas Tomaiuolo, Reference Department

Faculty and students who are interested in not only making their web searching more efficient, but also getting an edge on whether a website's content is valid, may want to check out adding toolbars to their Internet Explorer browser software. Toolbars facilitate searching and can provide important information about websites.

The Alexa Toolbar

Although many toolbars are available for free download, the toolbars offered by Alexa and Google are the most versatile and efficient. The Alexa toolbar at www.alexa.com provides the end-user with convenient access to several interesting and useful options. Alexa gives "Site Info." Site info refers who is responsible for the web page and often includes telephone and e-mail contact data when available. This can help users get in touch with the individuals who actually author or sponsor the pages. "Online Since" provides the user with an indication of site durability, and durability can be an indicator of not only site longevity but also site validity.

Users may also make meaningful inferences from Alexa's "Traffic Rank" information including determining site popularity and relative importance. But the Alexa toolbar's most useful item arguably is its ability to access old "snapshots" of web pages. For example, if an end-user is interested in what the *New York Times* ran on its home page on September 12, 2001, you can use Alexa's "**Wayback Machine**" to see an archived copy. Similarly, one can check the Sports Illustrated site during past world series back to 1996. This is particularly useful if a site is inaccessible or if information has "disappeared." (Note: In deference to the originating site's freshness of content, Alexa doesn't post any archived "snapshots" until six months have elapsed.) Alexa recently donated this archive to the Library of Congress. "LC" called the contribution its first large scale donation of digital materials and a major step toward preservation of the Web.

While the Alexa toolbar only runs with Internet Explorer, Netscape users may want to download the "Alexa Snapshot" (http://pages.alexa.com/prod_serv/snapshot.html). It provides a critical mass of the same information for Netscape.

Google Toolbar

Google's popular engine is in constant use at the Elihu Burritt Library, by both the reference staff and students doing research. If you use it frequently, why not build Google right into your Internet Explorer browser? By downloading the Google toolbar, you'll be able to check news, search Google, search Google's "Groups" (threaded discussions), and use Google's image search utility with one click without ever having to go to Google's home page again. (download this utility at toolbar.google.com)

Privacy concerns

In order for the Alexa and Google toolbars to fully function (that is, provide information on a page's traffic rank, etc.), the user's surfing habits are analyzed. Both companies claim, however, that no personal information is collected or distributed.

The Google and Alexa toolbars may be download in seconds. Here's what they look like including some of their most useful functions.



More toolbar choices

Ultrabar (www.ultrabar.com) puts your favorite search engines on your browser to eliminate accessing the engine's homepage or clicking your bookmarks. (Internet Explorer only.)

Yahoo Companion (companion.yahoo.com) allows the user to customize its features by choosing from numerous options including access to free reference sites, weather, news, financial information and, on the whimsical side, local movie times. (compatible with Internet Explorer and Netscape.)

Digital Archive of CCSU Theses

--John Rutherford, Systems Librarian

Last year the Graduate School committee altered theses submission requirements to include a digital copy of a student's thesis. Along with print copies, the library received copies of the original thesis in word processing formats. These were converted to HTML and Adobe Acrobat Portal Document format (PDF). If the student gave permission to display the thesis on the Internet, they were mounted on library servers.

Soon after the theses were available, we installed the Eprints Digital Archive software (<http://eprints.org>) from the University of Southampton, UK. This software was developed as part of the Open Citation Project, and supports the Open Archives Initiative (OAI) (<http://www.openarchives.org/>).

OAI compliant software is built in to several packages, including the MIT Dspace digital archive, and several others. It provides a mechanism for other OAI servers to harvest data describing the documents stored in the digital archive, effectively adding documents to a global, scholarly information network.

The address of the archive is: <http://fred.ccsu.edu:8000>, clicking this link will display the archive home page:



CCSU Digital Archive

[Home](#) || [About](#) || [Browse](#) || [Search](#) || [Register](#) || [User Area](#) || [Help](#)

Welcome to the CCSU Digital Archive

Welcome to this generic eprint server, running the default configuration for [GNU Eprints archive software](#).

[More information](#) is available about the archive.

<p>Search the Titles, Abstracts and Keywords</p> <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/>	<p>Browse</p> <p>Browse the archive by Subject or Year.</p> <p>Latest Additions</p>
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Figure 1. Screen shot of digital archive web page. (<http://fred.ccsu.edu:8000>)

From the archive main page you can search or browse through the documents deposited in the archive, and open the full-text of the thesis. Records in the archive use a uniform format and are coded with Library of Congress Subject headings.

The system also supports the deposit of documents by other authorized users on the Internet, and will provide email updates of new documents as they are added to registered users. Currently we are only adding CCSU theses, but the system could be used to archive other scholarly documents.