

CHECK IT OUT

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

In our electronic world, the amount of information available is increasing rapidly. The library's home page now offers users access to more than 80 databases. It is often difficult to know where to begin an efficient search for information. Consequently, librarians have been seeking ways to assist users more effectively. Now, thanks to a grant from the Davis Educational Foundation*, the library will be conducting a two-year pilot program testing the feasibility of real-time interactive reference services. With live chat and the ability to

push Web pages between two computers, users will be able to obtain the live assistance of a reference librarian via the Internet. As we move forward with the pilot program, reference librarians will be available to assist users whenever needed. If there is enough demand, the service will be available around the clock, seven days a week.

A less visible, yet important project underway right now is a major upgrade of Olin Library's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. During the

summer, the noisy demolition phase of the project was in full swing. Work is now being completed. The new HVAC system provides the humidity control required to preserve library collections and to stop recurrent mold problems.

We hope your year is off to a good start. The library staff is eager to provide the services and resources you need. Please let us know how we can be of assistance.

Robert Adams,
University Librarian

Libraries to Launch Real-time Online Collaborative Reference Services

The libraries of Wesleyan University and Connecticut College will launch real-time online collaborative reference and research services this fall. Plans call for the new service to be up and running by October 15, in time for the busy research season that generally begins in the latter half of the fall term. This new real-time electronic reference service on the Internet will allow us to offer you a full range of informational services during extended hours well past midnight, wherever you may be located.

Background

The librarians at Wesleyan have spent considerable effort during the last few years to collect, compile, and interpret statistical data that enable us to understand how library usage patterns have changed as a result of the technological revolution. Our findings strongly confirm our contention that library users increasingly conduct their research from locations other than the library itself. Students, for example, work in their networked dormitory rooms, while faculty members are likely to work from their offices or their homes. They also work at

times of the day when the reference and research services of a professional librarian are not usually available.

Davis Educational Grant*

To begin to address the issue of the changing work habits of library users, we applied for, and received in April 2001, a grant from the Davis Educational Foundation for a two-year pilot program to offer Internet-based reference services beyond the traditional 10 p.m. Reference Desk coverage during week nights, and limited weekend services. The grant provides full financial support both for new computer hardware and software as well as for the additional professional staff that enable us to expand the reference hours. We are busy configuring the system and training the new reference librarians to help them familiarize themselves with the scope of our online and print collections and the various library services offered by Wesleyan and Connecticut College.

What is Real-time Online Collaborative Reference?

The primary means for online communication between a remote library user and the

Reference Librarian will be through real-time chat or phone. By clicking on a link from the library home page, users will be able to initiate a reference service where they will interact with a live reference librarian. You will see a split screen with a dialog box for chat on the side. We will be able to "talk" to you to find out what your needs are while sending the search results or Web pages to appear on the main screen. The screens are live, so that when you find a resource that meets your need, you can simply click on that screen and retrieve the information directly. The reference librarian will be able to remotely "walk" the user through a complex instructional explanation, as well as be able to demonstrate the efficient use of our Web resources, just as though the user were physically sitting next to the librarian. The service, then, will enable us to assist you with your research questions during hours of the day and night when service has never been available before, regardless of where you might be located.

At first the collaborative reference program will be

available to faculty, students, and staff of Wesleyan University and Connecticut College. We are strongly committed to the idea that it is our responsibility and challenge as librarians to offer seamless, remote reference and research services at the time of day or night that our users need them, and this is the first major step we are taking in that direction. As we experiment with the best and most efficient ways to deliver these services during this academic year, we believe that other college libraries will be interested in joining us to offer such services at their institutions as well. The fact that the CTW libraries have

continued on next page

Feature Articles

Libraries to Launch Real-time Online Collaborative Reference Services

Teaching with Special Collections & Archives

* The grant was received from the Davis Educational Foundation, which was established by Stanton and Elisabeth Davis after his retirement as chairman of Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc.

Not all new teaching methods involve technology. A popular concept in librarianship today is “information literacy,” which we often think of as teaching students how to evaluate materials found on the World Wide Web. Important as this aspect is, it’s just one small piece of the whole. Another approach to information literacy focuses on teaching students to use rare books and primary sources. This approach incorporates the methodology of a relatively new, interdisciplinary avenue of inquiry, book history, and seeks to understand books as cultural phenomena, as products of their own time, as both object and text. Many electronic texts (or paper reprints, for that matter) share a flat, ahistorical quality that encourages the reader to consider them as timeless entities. The history of the book, on the other hand, seeks to put the book in its historical context.

Teaching the history of the book is alive and well in Special Collections & Archives (SC&A) at Wesleyan. Each semester, faculty are invited to bring their classes to SC&A as well as to incorporate the use of rare books and primary sources into class assignments. In the past two years, 40 to 50 class sessions have been taught in SC&A each academic year. The mission of Wesleyan’s Special Collections is to encourage the Wesleyan community to make use of the rich resources we hold. For students, SC&A can be intimidating, with the need for heightened security and careful handling to protect scarce, valuable, and fragile materials. There are also the necessary restrictions on circulation outside of the department, the prohibition against pens, the sign-in sheet, the required stowing away of personal possessions before entering the reading room. Our goal is to demystify and revitalize Special Collections, so that students will understand why it takes a little extra effort to use these materials, and that the effort is well worth it.

The obvious strengths of SC&A focus on English and American history and literature and on the specific history of Wesleyan University. But the collection, which is more than 25,000 volumes and 3500 cubic feet of archival materials strong, supports classes in an amazing variety of disciplines. Here are a few examples from spring 2001. Students in Karin Thomas’s “Racial Meaning in American Literature” analyzed the presentation of the text—and its effect on the reader—in plain and lavishly illustrated editions of the poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar. Susan Berry’s GLS students in “Florilegia and Herbals: Artists’ Books” came to SC&A to learn about historical examples of flower books before making their own. In

“Science in Western Culture” Since 1700, taught by Jennifer Tucker, students practiced techniques for quickly evaluating unfamiliar 18th- and 19th-century scientific works and how they could be used to enrich the study of the history of science. Renee Romano’s “America at War: The U.S. and WWII” students looked at archival materials that document what Wesleyan was like during that era. Students in Jelle de Boer’s “Cultural Aspects of Volcanoes and Earthquakes” studied contemporary accounts of historical geological events.

To introduce book history to some classes, students are shown first and early editions of the works being read, and are told briefly about the history of each book. Each book is a jumping-off point for a discussion of a topic such as advertising and marketing, authorship, binding, papermaking, provenance, or readership, to name a few. At the end of the class, students have time to look more closely at the books on their own and to ask additional questions.

Another useful method is the “mystery book exercise” during which each student is assigned an unfamiliar book that relates somehow to the subject of the class. They then spend about 10 minutes learning everything they can about the history of that particular book from the book itself, working with a set of questions designed to help them think about the book as more than a text. Students are encouraged to work quickly through the simple—or usually simple—questions about authorship and publisher, while saving enough time for those that require more thought, such as questions about the research value of the book. When time is called, each student reports in turn to the rest of the class about what he or she discovered about the book, how it could be used in research, and what else he or she would try to find out given more time and resources. For many students, this exercise is not only fun, but is one of their first exposures to working with contemporary historical accounts or primary sources.

Each of these methods, and others, can be used to help students discover book history and build their information literacy skills through using and evaluating rare books and primary sources. Intrigued? Call us to schedule a class visit, to discuss ideas for assignments using our holdings, or to learn about rare books and archives in your own area of scholarship.

Suzy Taraba
Head of Special Collections and University Archivist

iConn—The Connecticut Digital Library

Last year the Connecticut General Assembly voted to provide public funds for the purchase of licensed information databases to be made available at no cost to Connecticut public libraries, schools, and institutions of higher learning. iConn was originally recommended by Lieutenant Governor M. Jodi Rell in the fall of 1999 to “bring a core level of information resources including access to licensed databases to every citizen in Connecticut. In addition, specialized research information is available to college students and faculty.” The goals of iConn are as follows:

- ◆ To ensure universal access to a core level of library and information resources for every resident of Connecticut through their public library, school, college, and from home.
- ◆ To help provide necessary information resources to every school in Connecticut so that all students are prepared to function in an information society.
- ◆ To provide information resources to the increasing number of students taking advantage of online courses at Connecticut’s colleges and universities.
- ◆ To enhance the quality of teaching, research and education at Connecticut’s

colleges and universities by supporting online information resources.

- ◆ To support the information needs of all Connecticut citizens.

The iConn project will provide a total of 14 electronic databases to Wesleyan University of which 10 will be new additions to our collection. The remaining four databases are ones to which we already maintain subscriptions from our own funds. The State of Connecticut has asked that we use the savings to purchase other material that will enhance our subject collections in subject areas of our choice. The funds that Wesleyan saves on the four databases represent a substantial savings to the library acquisitions budget. The four databases listed below will now be fully available to us at no cost:

ATLA Religion—American Theological Association database covering research literature in religion.

Lexis Nexis Academic Universe—In-depth full-text news, business, legal, medical and other reference information.

Lexis Nexis Statistical Universe Basic Power Tables—Statistical data from the U.S. government, international organizations,

continued from previous page

a long tradition of close collaboration in other library services certainly bodes well for a successful cooperative electronic reference service.

The library will publicize detailed information about extended hours for the electronic reference services early in the fall term. Please watch the library home page for announcements and detailed information about the specifics of how the service will work. We would also like to invite you to participate in a campus-wide contest to find an appropriate name for the new service. We are all looking forward to the introduction of this new and innovative program!

Alan J. Nathanson,
Bibliographer/Reference
Librarian

professional and trade organizations.
PsychINFO—Coverage of psychology and the psychological aspects of related disciplines.

The following electronic indexes and databases are all new to Wesleyan University, and they will greatly expand and enrich the range of our collections:

ABI/Inform Global—Worldwide business and management articles, full-text with images.

Business & Company Resource Center—Comprehensive company and industry data.

CINAHL—Nursing and allied health database.

Expanded Academic ASAP—Indexing with some full-text covering all academic disciplines.

General Reference Center Gold—A multi-source general interest reference tool.

Health & Wellness Resource Center—General medical information for health professionals as well as general readers.

!Informe! (Revistas en Español)—Full-text Spanish-language and bilingual periodicals.

InfoTrac OneFile—Index with full-text to general interest periodicals; this database compliments *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* to which we already subscribe.

Professional Collection—Full-text periodicals for teachers and school administrators.

What do I read next?—A reader's advisory tool for all age groups.

All of the resources discussed in this article have been integrated into our list of

Indexes and Databases available at the Wesleyan University Library home page. All databases being made available to us by the State of Connecticut display an iConn image next to the title.

Please see a Reference Librarian or make an appointment for a Personal Research session at <http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/assist.htm> for assistance in using any of our extensive library resources.

New and Improved Databases

Anthropological Literature

The Tozzer Library at Harvard University produces this index, covering sources in biological, physical, cultural, and social anthropology, as well as in archaeology and related fields published in English and other European languages since 1890. With over a century of publications, *Anthropological Literature* is particularly valuable for historical research concerning changes and developments in world cultures.

Art Full Text

Art Abstracts (formerly *Art Index*) is now *Art Full Text*. Indexing is retrospective to 1984. Abstracts of individual articles begin in 1994, while full-text coverage begins only in 1997. Only a small portion of the database, therefore, is available in full-text at this time. *Art Full Text* indexes a total of 378 journals with full-text coverage of 98 of these titles. To see a list of the full-text journals, connect to *Art Full Text* from the Library's Indexes and Databases page. On the *Art Full Text* search page select "Databases," then click on "J" for journals following the *Art Full Text* entry.

BioOne

BioOne is a unique collection of high impact bioscience research journals. The journals come from a variety of publishers and academic societies. Currently there are 40 titles available in *BioOne* with most beginning with the year 2000 issues. Some examples of journal titles included are: *American Zoologist*, *Evolution*, and *Journal of Paleontology*. We are adding the *BioOne* titles to the CTW Catalog and the Journal Locator function on our home page.

BIOSIS Previews

BIOSIS Previews is the premier database for current life science information. It combines the journal reference content from *Biological Abstracts* with references to meetings, reviews, books, and monographs from *Biological Abstracts/RRM (Reports, Reviews, Meetings)*. In the year 2000, *BIOSIS Previews* indexed nearly 540,000 records from 5,200 sources. One of the best features of *BIOSIS Previews* is its relational indexing that allows for more precision in the recall of references. Examples include descriptive subject headings

and the ability to search by taxonomic name (e.g., *Equus equus*, Equidae, Animalia), which enable users to expand a search from a specific organism to higher taxonomic levels or to search by common name (e.g., horse) for those users unfamiliar with taxonomic nomenclature. *BIOSIS Previews* uses MEDLINE disease terminology and Chemical Abstracts Registry Numbers, which facilitates cross database searching. Wesleyan University's subscription covers 1985 to the present, and the database is updated monthly.

Citation Indexes from the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI)

Fans of the ISI Citation Indexes will be pleased to learn that Wesleyan University has purchased extended coverage to these databases as follows:

Science Citation Index Expanded—1945–present

Social Sciences Citation Index—1956–present

Arts & Humanities Citation Index—1975–present

Columbia Earthscape

Columbia Earthscape is a new and innovative Web portal that seeks to connect a wide variety of resources in earth system sciences.

Earthscape has four main sections: research, education, links and resources, as well as a new online magazine *Earth Affairs*. Under research you will find papers and conference proceedings from over 60 organizations; full-text books from publishers, including the Cambridge, Chicago, Columbia, MIT, Oxford, and Princeton university presses; journal abstracts/table of contents from over 30 journals; and links to a wide variety of databases and datasets from around the world. Under "Education" are resources about teaching issues, sample syllabi and classroom models. "Links and Resources" is a carefully selected, well-organized, and annotated listing of Internet resources on everything from astronomy to ecology to paleontology. *Earth Affairs* has interesting articles that look at important issues in earth and environmental sciences. In addition, there is a *Today's Earth News* section (updated daily) that discusses current news relating to earth and environmental sciences, complete with links to wire services, *The New York Times*, NASA, EPA, and others. *Earthscape* is a new and unique combination of news, Web portal, educational resources, and bibliographic databases for earth and environmental sciences.

Ethnic NewsWatch

Ethnic NewsWatch offers full-text online access to a large collection of newspapers, magazines, journals, and other publications from ethnic and minority presses in the United States and Canada. Searchable in English and Spanish, it includes over 600,000 articles, editorials, columns, reviews, etc., including more than 150,000 in Spanish, published since 1991.

FIAF International Film Archives

FIAF International Film Archives is now available in Web format, which includes six separate databases, and they may be searched individually or in combination.

The main database, *International Index to Film Periodicals*, contains almost 230,000 article references from more than 300 periodicals published worldwide. It offers in-depth coverage of academic and popular film journals from 1972 to the present, and more than 12,000 new bibliographic records are added each year.

The *International Index to Television Periodicals* includes almost 50,000 article references from 1979 to the present. From 2000 forward, the database includes only television related references from film journals with no indexing of specific television periodicals.

Treasures from the Film Archives contains unique information about silent film holdings located in film archives all over the world. It was conceived as a tool to aid in the work of preservation, research, and film exchange between archives, and it provides brief identification information on more than 21,000 works.

The *Bibliography of FIAF Members Publications* offers an overview of all the publications of the members of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) since 1966; it is updated annually.

The *International Directory of Film and TV Documentation Collections* contains detailed entries on over 145 institutions worldwide. The entries indicate contact and access information, as well as thorough descriptions and enumerations of materials collected. Of particular note is the index to manuscript and special collections. The database is updated biannually. A List of Periodicals Indexed

provides addresses and other information (including ISSN) about the journals indexed in the two main databases: *International Index to Film/Television Periodicals*.

International Index to Music Periodicals

The *International Index to Music Periodicals*, which has served as one of our two online indexes to articles in music, has been cancelled in favor of the *Music Index*. The *Music Index* has existed as a printed index since 1949, but its online version was slow to appear. The *International Index* began online in 1996 with abstracts, but with very limited subject searching capabilities for articles appearing before that time. The recent appearance of the *Music Index* as an online database with subject searching back to 1979 has made the changeover desirable for us. The new index is much improved and has several new searching capabilities. The *Music Index* has the ability to search for articles with special features, such as a discography, and it has much greater flexibility in sorting search results.

New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians

The online version of the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* has added to its full-text the companion database, the *New Grove Dictionary of Opera*. In the past, the printed edition of the opera dictionary was culled from entries on opera in the larger music encyclopedia, which were enhanced and joined by new entries. In some cases entries may have been shorter—Mozart, for example, for whom opera was only part of a much larger output of compositions. With the merging of the two online dictionaries, the articles originally appearing in the opera dictionary are highlighted so as to distinguish them from the main *Grove Music* articles. So you will now find two entries under Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, one marked with a small “OPERA” icon indicating that it was specifically written to focus on his opera compositions.

Oxford English Dictionary (OED) Online

Wesleyan has had access to an electronic version of the *Oxford English Dictionary* for several years. This summer we changed our subscription from a locally developed interface to the version offered by Oxford University Press. Access to the *OED* is still available on the library home page both from the “Reference Tools” and the “Indexes and Databases” sections. It can also be accessed directly at: <http://dictionary.oed.com/entrance.dtl>.

The *OED* second edition is currently in the midst of a 10-year revision that will update entries and add a significant number of new words. The completed third edition is scheduled for completion in 2010. The electronic *OED*, in the meantime, offers two choices: the complete second edition, and the revised edition to date. When searching for a word you automatically search both versions of the dictionary. The results screen will inform you about how many entries exist, and in which editions they are found. The new interface is somewhat more complex than the old one, but it allows for more sophisticated use such as browsing between entries, browsing words added by date (a feature that offers benefits for scholarly research), and for the e-mail of search results.

Another interesting feature of the new interface is that Oxford University Press posts quarterly lists of new words added—an interesting feature for some of our users. The list of newly added words is located on the lower half of the *OED* homepage under “What’s New.” Some of the most recent additions include acid jazz, Bollywood, gangsta, megacorporation, and road rage. And, for library users who prefer print, the 20-volume second edition *OED* remains in Olin Reference—PE1625 .O87 1989.

PsycINFO: Same Database, New Look

The look and feel of the *PsycINFO* database has changed. The State of Connecticut has purchased access to *PsycINFO* as part of the iConn program

(see article above) for all colleges and universities in Connecticut, but the State has selected a different vendor than the one we had previously been using. The complete file is still available (1887–present). The thesaurus and the use of *PsycINFO* specific limiters are still available along with a variety of new searching styles. Search histories and the ability to combine searches are still available, but only through use of the “expert search” option.

ScienceDirect with Expanded Coverage

ScienceDirect is expanding its back files to journals in specific disciplines. The first field for expansion is organic chemistry, and *ScienceDirect* will include eight organic chemistry journals. Wesleyan University has purchased access to this cluster of journals:

- *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry*, Volume 1, Issue 1 (1993–present)
- *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters*, Volume 1, Issue 1 (1991–present)
- *Carbohydrate Research*, Volume 1, Issue 1 (1965–present)
- *Journal of Fluorine Chemistry*, Volume 1, Issue 1 (1971–present)
- *Phytochemistry*, Volume 1, Issue 1 (1961–present)
- *Tetrahedron*, Volume 1, Issue 3 (1957–present)
- *Tetrahedron Letters*, Volume 1, Issue 1 (1959–present)
- *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry*, Volume 1, Issue 1 (1990–present)

Social Science Electronic Data Library

SSEDL is a data archive which includes data sets from over 200 studies on a variety of social science topics, including the American family, aging, disability, and AIDS, along with contextual data describing the population, social, and economic characteristics of geographic areas. Use *SSEDL*'s MIDAS (Multivariate Interactive Data Analysis System) for online data analyses, or download original study questionnaires, data dictionaries with variable frequencies, SPSS data extract program files, and user guides for more extensive analysis.

Statistical Universe

One of the most common questions library users have is, “Where can I find statistics on my topic?” Depending on the type of statistics you are looking for, there are numerous sources to consult. To help your search for statistics, librarians have developed a brief guide to Finding Sources of Statistics <http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/pathfind/stats.htm>, available at the library’s main page under “Subject Guides,” then “General Guides.”

Usually the first place to look for statistical information is the *Statistical Universe* database (<http://web.lexis-nexis.com/statuniv>), available at the Wesleyan University Library home page under “Indexes & Databases.” In addition to charts, graphs, and lists of statistical information on a wide variety of topics, *Statistical Universe* includes references to paper sources and links to online sources for other statistics not included in its database. Even if what you are looking for is not in *Statistical Universe*, it may be able to tell you where to look for other data.

Use the Power Tables option to search for specific statistics published by various government agencies, including U.S., federal, state, and international sources. If you do not find the specific statistics you are looking for, search the Abstracts using general terms to describe your topic in order to find publications that might contain the specific information you need. The Links option provides an annotated list of links to a variety of other online statistical sources.



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Olin Memorial Library: (860) 685-2660
Reference and Research: (860) 685-3873
Circulation Office: (860) 685-3877
Reserve Office: (860) 685-3852
Interlibrary Loan Office: (860) 685-3876
Library Office: (860) 685-3844
Acquisition Office: (860) 685-3834
Cataloging Office: (860) 685-3476
Serials Office: (860) 685-3888
Art Library: (860) 685-3327
Psychology Library: (860) 685-2770
Science Library: (860) 685-2860
Scores and Recordings: (860) 685-3898
Special Collections and Archives: (860) 685-3864
World Music Archives: (860) 685-3826



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