A New Service: Online Document Delivery

The Interlibrary Loan office now provides online document delivery for articles and book chapters. UMSL faculty, staff, and students have access to this new service and we hope to add access for distance education students and traveling faculty.

The ILL Electronic Request Form has an option that allows patrons to request that these materials be delivered online. This option is “Email Electronic Delivery.” After clicking on it, patrons will receive an email notice with instructions on how to access the materials online.

Passwords are patron specific, so the password should be the same for every request. Patrons may view an article five times during the seven days it is available on the web. If you have any questions please contact Mary Zettwoch at 516-5082, or zettwoch@umsl.edu.

Ward E. Barnes Library Adds a Research Commons

The Ward E. Barnes Library and Information Technology Services (ITS) have teamed up to provide a new Library Research Commons (LRC) on the South Campus. This LRC will open at the beginning of the Fall semester, 2004. Located in the wireless environment of the Barnes Library, the LRC will have 57 workstations, featuring new Dell computers, as well as new scanners and laser printers (color included). In September, a new lounge seating area will replace the former electronic resources area at Barnes.

New Look for Library Web Pages

The Libraries web pages have been remodeled for the start of the Fall 2004 semester. This redesign allows quicker access to the library resources by presenting more direct links to material from the home page. Patrons can select links that will take them directly to the library catalog, list of databases, subject guides and more. For individuals who need help navigating the pages, a Libraries home page tutorial will be available to take them through the main features of the libraries’ web pages.

--Chris Dames, cdames@umsl.edu
Last fiscal year, the MERLIN Libraries were asked to make major cuts to the database budget because of reductions in state funding. It became apparent that in order to meet this latest round of cuts the Merlin Reference Services Committee (MRSC) would need to consider cutting core subject databases. In order to save subject databases we tried to find options. The option that we decided upon, and which was unanimously endorsed by all Libraries, was to replace Expanded Academic ASAP with Academic Search Premier, an EBSCOhost database.

Academic Search Premier is an expanded version of Academic Search Elite, a database we have had for some years. MRSC compared Premier and Expanded Academic (see box), and were convinced that although all Libraries would regret loss of the Expanded Academic interface, the patrons who use our services would be better served by the Academic Search Premier product.

Our decision to drop Expanded Academic and upgrade to Academic Search Premier will save us $10,000.00 per year.

Pick-Up-Anywhere is now available

Pick-Up-Anywhere (PUA) is an added feature to the MOBIUS system beginning with the Fall 2004 semester. With PUA, patrons may now pick up their books in any listed library, in any cluster within MOBIUS. For a full list of MOBIUS clusters & the libraries within those clusters, go to: http://mobius.missouri.edu/screens/libinfo.html Call Dave Snead if you have questions, at 314-516-5056, or dave_snead@umsl.edu.

BOOK COSTS GO UP

Within the statewide MOBIUS consortium the replacement cost for a billed book is $120. The UM-St. Louis Libraries have increased the amount charged for replacement copies of books from $55 to $120. This increase reflects the rising cost of books and the time spent in replacing those which are lost or damaged, as well as an effort to maintain consistency among all of the libraries.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Hufker at 314-516-5399, or sbjhufk@umsl.edu.

This means we will have to cut fewer, or hopefully, no other databases this year to comply with the latest reduction in state funding. In addition, we gain access to the much enhanced collections that Premier offers.

Academic Search Premier is an easy database to use, and the EBSCOhost interface has the added advantage of being familiar to Missouri high school students. EBSCOhost databases have been available to Missouri schools and public libraries for several years through State funding.

--Clinton Berry, clinton@umsl.edu

Wireless in the Libraries

Wireless access to the Internet is now available throughout the campus libraries. All you need is a computer with a wireless capability and a single sign on ID and password. Once inside the library, go to http://www.umsl.edu. You should get a screen with directions for installing the necessary “Cisco VPN Client” software.

--Raleigh Muns, muns@umsl.edu

Come see our Trophies!

When contacted by the Barnes Library, Harcourt School Publishers said they would be willing to donate samples of K-5th grade Basal Readers.

That “sample” turned out to be 12 boxes of material from its Trophies series.

A Basal Reader series includes the student reader for a grade level plus accompanying materials: Teacher’s guides, workbooks, copy masters, etc.

The Basal Reading collection is used by Education students to compare trends in reading instruction from different eras.

It was especially important for the Barnes Library to update its collection: Its most recent series was from 1997, which meant the library had no series that addressed the 1999 International Reading Association position statement: “no single method or single combination of methods … can successfully teach all children to read.”

The Trophies series embraces an eclectic approach to teaching beginning reading, including a return to teaching phonics. In addition, Trophies has supplemental materials for English Language Learners and below-level, on-level, advanced-level readers.

--Helen Shaw, hshaw@umsl.edu

Photo by Ficklen

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