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## Welcome to the New Year and Our New Dean!

On January 1, Mark Weber became the new Dean of Libraries & Media Services and only the fifth head of the library in the history of Kent State University. Mark served as Interim Dean since January 1999 and prior to that was Associate Dean and Director of Staff Services. Before coming to Kent State in 1991, he was the Assistant Dean for Personnel Services at the University of Cincinnati Libraries. He brings significant experience in human resource management, strategic planning, and staff development. The staff of Libraries & Media Services looks forward to working with him and to his tenure as Dean of Libraries & Media Services.

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### Time for 60-Minute+ Seminars

The spring series of seminars has been planned to offer sessions of general interest and others of use to specific groups.

For students: We have expanded the number of sections offered of the ever popular and always sold-out *Create Your Own Web Page* seminar. Other Web-related seminars include: *Jazzing Up Your Web Page* and *Resumes on the Web*.

Sessions focused on the basics of library research include: *Got Books? Using KentLINK & OhioLINK* and *Help! I Need 3 Articles*. Students benefit from these extra learning experiences, so recommend one to a student this semester.

The *Grad Student Starter Kit* is designed to give graduate students a fast start on specialized resources and library services that can make their program less stressful.

For faculty, staff and graduate students: Special offerings to support teaching and research include: *Electronic Course Reserves*, *Help! The Library Does Not Have What I Need*, and *EndNote: Reference Database & Citation Management*.

Of general interest: Learn how to create more effective presentations at the *Presentation Design Guide: 5 Methods to Better Design*. *Every Day Living on the World Wide Web* will highlight useful Web sites for many different kinds of activities. *Getting Organized with Netscape Bookmarks* will help you keep track of Web favorites.

For more information and to register: Go to <http://seminars.lms.kent.edu/>

### Black History Month Program

On Tuesday, February 27, at 4 p.m. in Library Room 1212, Libraries & Media Services will honor Black History Month with a program featuring Staughton Lynd, attorney, author, and social activist. Mr. Lynd's commitments to civil rights and the anti-Vietnam War movement brought him to national prominence through the 1960s and 70s. He will reflect on the Civil Rights Movement and its lessons for today. A reception will follow. Contact Cindy Rasmussen for further information (330-672-4483 or [crasmuss@kent.edu](mailto:crasmuss@kent.edu)).



### A Note from the Dean

In the enclosed flier in this issue of *Footnotes*, Dean Weber provides an update on proposed legislation that could adversely affect the use of software within higher education and by libraries. Additionally, information is given on a forthcoming Legislative Advocacy Workshop.

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### Inside this Issue

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# Footnotes

News from the Kent State University Libraries & Media Services  
<http://www.library.kent.edu/footnotes/>

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## Footnotes Readership Survey

Our thanks to the 70 readers who responded to the survey. From them we learned:

- Most (82%) scan each issue.
- Only 61% found the appearance to be “good” or “excellent”.
- The topics scoring the highest for “great” interest were:
  - \* Database search tips (58%)
  - \* New services (56%)
  - \* New databases (54%)
- Print distribution was “very acceptable” to 56%, compared to 22% for Web copy with mass mail notification or 26% for Web copy with individual e-mail notification.

Comments included:

### Physical appearance

- It’s easy to scan to find items of interest and provides Web addresses and contact information.
- ...the “entertainment” generation may require more visual stimulation than I do.

### Other topics that might be covered

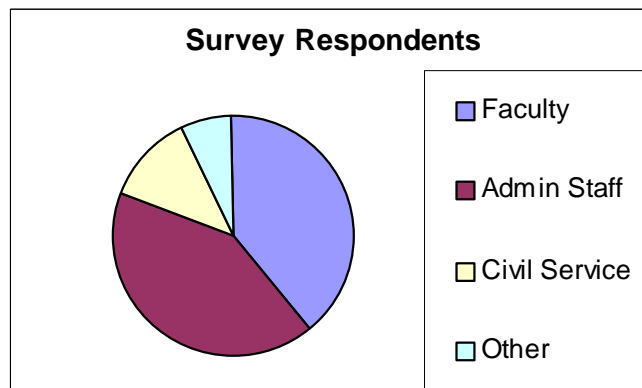
- Privacy & confidentiality, student services in Library, and resources on the Internet.
- Relations with other information sources at KSU. A lot of confusion about who does what in electronic information zone.

### Preferred distribution format

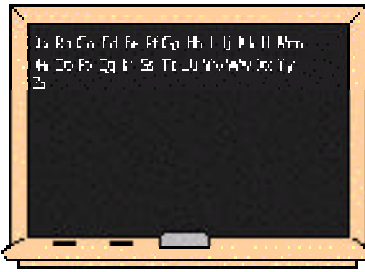
- I prefer the print version. I always carry things to read wherever I go....
- Print copy is very acceptable—I can read it during meetings!
- Print copy with factoids pointing to Web site with detailed articles
- When I prioritize, e-mail is at the bottom of the list.

### Suggestions on improving *Footnotes*

- I have shared information with students—may want to consider a version tailored to students.
- A few more graphics may generate more interest, but don’t cross the line to “cute.”
- Newsletter needs a stronger masthead and a little more design to guide the reader through it.
- Please don’t discontinue this publication—I find it to be informative, practical, and useful.
- One of the best publications I read on a regular basis. Very informative. I look at each issue.



## Library Support for Web-Based Courses



The Libraries want to insure that students in Web-based courses receive the library support they need. One way to direct them to that support is to have links from your course Web site to library resources. These may already be in place. However, if they are not, consider adding them if you feel they would be useful.

### **Libraries & Media Services homepage**

<http://www.library.kent.edu/>

This homepage for the Libraries provides access to all the resources and services offered, including KentLINK and the research databases.

### **Electronic Reserves** <http://reserves.library.kent.edu/>

Materials placed on electronic reserve for a specific course can be accessed here. If you are interested in placing materials on electronic reserve, information is available at <http://www.library.kent.edu/services/eres/index.html>. The contact is Judy Salvador (330-672-7906 or [jsalvado@lms.kent.edu](mailto:jsalvado@lms.kent.edu)).

### **Ask a Librarian** <http://www.library.kent.edu/reference/equest.html>

This Web form enables a student on any of the University's campuses to ask for assistance in finding information.

### **Library Services for Students** <http://www.library.kent.edu/students/>

The page provides a sampler of key links for student access to library resources and services, including library hours and the how-to of borrowing books.

### **Remote Access** <http://www.library.kent.edu/internet/onlineac.html>

Information and choices on how to get connected from off-campus to otherwise restricted resources is given here. Included is information on how to reach human help.

**Special Needs:** Also, if you are making assignments that require the use of specific library materials other than those you have placed on reserve, we encourage you to contact the library on your home campus to insure the availability of those resources at the various sites for the course. For the Kent campus, contact the librarian with subject responsibility in that area (<http://www.library.kent.edu/reference/subjects.html>). Also, feel free to contact the librarian in your area with any special needs you may have for your course.

## Other Instructional Aids



**Website Evaluation Criteria:** To aid students in evaluating Web sites, you may wish to direct them to "Criteria for Evaluating Web Resources" on the Libraries' Website (<http://www.library.kent.edu/internet/criteria.html>). Included there is a link to an evaluation form (in PDF, Microsoft Word, or WordPerfect formats) that students can use in doing their Web evaluation in conjunction with this criteria.



**Subject Resource Pages:** Librarians have created a number of subject-specific guides covering many disciplines, including print, electronic and web resources. These can serve as useful starting points for students embarking on research projects. The listing is at <http://www.library.kent.edu/subjects/subject.html>. Your comments and suggestions welcome.



**The Library Tutor:** 4 Web tutorials are available (<http://www.library.kent.edu/tutorials/>). These cover searching *PsycINFO*, *CINAHL*, the *Citation Indexes*, and the *World Wide Web*.

## New on the Reference Shelf

Rose, Richard, ed. in chief. (2000).  
*International Encyclopedia of Elections*.  
Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. Ref JF1001.  
I57 2000

A timely, new addition to the Reference Collection, this encyclopedia covers a wide variety of topics germane to the modern electoral process, including post-communist elections, premature closure of democracy, voting behavior, third world elections, administration of elections, and papal elections. Arranged alphabetically by topic, each entry has been written by an expert from a variety of academic institutions throughout the world.

Each entry includes a brief bibliography at the end for further information. Some tables and maps are included, as is an index. The tables in the appendix provide an interesting comparison of parliamentary and presidential elections in a number of countries with information as to the degree to which the election is free, the voting age, whether voting is compulsory, the method by which seats in the legislature are allocated, voter turnout, the classification of the electoral system, and the form of candidacy.



## New in Government Documents

### StreetCD 98

(HA 201 1998 )

GeoLytics adds *StreetCD 98* to its line of user-friendly demographics products. *StreetCD 98* is a collection of six CD-ROM's based on the *TIGER 98* street and boundary data from the Department of the Census. The United States is divided into six regions, each covered by one CD-ROM.

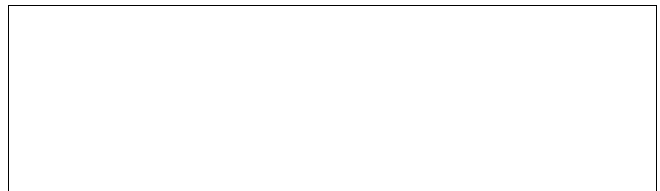
Like other GeoLytics products, *StreetCD 98* uses compression technology and a good user interface to make the data usable. Data can be used in *StreetCD 98*, or extracted for use in other Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications. *StreetCD 98* joins *CensusCD 1980*, *CensusCD + Map*, and *Census Blocks* in Government Documents' collection of GeoLytics products.

All titles circulate and are available weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Government Documents office, Main Library.

### Best 100 Government Documents of the Century, 1900-1999

What do the documents *Soils and Men* (A 1.10:938) and *Report of the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident* (PR 40.8:SP 1/R 29/) have in common? Both are part of the *Best 100 Government Documents of the Century, 1900-1999*. The list was compiled as part of the Five State Depository Library Meeting.

Beginning in January, Government Documents will display some of the documents on this list in the first floor, display cases. The list is available on the Web at <http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~rse/y2kdocs.htm>. Most of these titles are available in the Government Documents Collection on the tenth floor, Main Library.





## A Note from the Dean

Mark Weber  
Dean, Libraries & Media Services

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### THE UNIFORM COMPUTER INFORMATION TRANSACTIONS ACT (UCITA)

“Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, this is the captain speaking. I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that we are lost. The good news is that we are making excellent time.”

When it comes to the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act, it is clear that we are indeed making excellent time . . . but toward a very uncertain future.

The Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA) is a draft state law that was originally intended to be a revision to the Uniform Commercial Code. The Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) is a body of law that has been adopted in almost all of the states and territories of the US. The object of the code is to ensure consistent rules governing contract law from state-to-state.

In general, the UCC was developed to regulate business-to-business transactions in tangible goods. However, contract law increasingly impacts the everyday consumer as well as the business user. Producers of intangible goods (such as computer software, online databases, and other information products in digital form) seek to use “licenses” or licensing agreements when they sell their products. Licenses are contracts governing the “use” of a product while sales of goods tend to deal with ownership of the product. For example, a small business owner, a librarian, and an individual consumer all using the same software may be subject to the same license restrictions, even though the ways they are using the software may be very different.

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) and the American Law Institute (ALI) have joint responsibility for the UCC. NCCUSL is an organization is comprised of commissioners appointed by the states as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. Its mission is to draft uniform and model laws and work toward their enactment in state legislatures. States fund NCCUSL's efforts through financial contributions.

NCCUSL and ALI have spent the last several years attempting to amend it to provide uniform rules for intangible products involved in computer information transactions on the Internet and elsewhere. The process of drafting UCITA has been unusual and controversial. Most of the time, the two organizations work together to make changes to the UCC. In this case, however, ALI withdrew its consideration of the UCC2B language after it failed to find consensus among its own membership of law professors, lawyers, and judges. NCCUSL decided independently to ratify the proposals and send them to the state legislatures for adoption. The amendments that were drafted are now known as the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act or UCITA and would become the new UCC section 2B.

UCITA is now being sent to all 50 state legislatures for introduction, and (its supporters hope) passage. Supporters include large publishers and software companies. Opponents include the Federal Trade Commission, the Attorneys General from more than half of the states, labor and consumer groups, libraries, large software consumers, insurance companies, and magazine and newspaper publishers.

If passed in unamended form, for higher education in general and for libraries in particular, UCITA

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would:

- Validate “shrink-wrapped,” standard, take-it-or-leave-it licenses.
- Introduce new uncertainty regarding the duration of the acquirer’s right to use the software.
- Allow software vendors to:
  - shut down software, even mission critical software, remotely without going to court first and without court approval.
  - prohibit the transfer of software from one company to another, even in the course of a merger or acquisition, or from one person to another, even as a gift.
  - avoid liability for damage caused by defects, even if the software vendor knew about the defects and did not disclose them at the time the software was acquired.
  - prohibit public criticism of their product.
  - impede the development of innovative products.
  - collect confidential information about business and consumer licensees.
  - disclose contract terms only after the acquirer has paid for the software, bind the acquirer to those terms, and allow the vendor to change the terms of the contract unilaterally by e-mail.
  - exercise rights over products developed with their software.
- Bind companies to license terms in software acquired by employees without authorization.
- Permit click-through terms and conditions in the software to supercede those of a fully negotiated contract between the acquirer and the software vendor.

**Sometime this spring, UCITA will very likely be introduced in Columbus. In January, pro-UCITA lobbyists will almost certainly begin contacting the 66 new legislators who will be taking office because of term limits. The UCITA forces know exactly where they are going, and they are also making excellent time. What about us?**



## **Legislative Advocacy Workshop**



**Sponsored by: Libraries & Media Services**

**Thursday, February 1, 2001**

**3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Room 316, Kent Student Center**

Universities have unique needs and interests when dealing with Congress. This workshop provides insights for the academic community into working effectively with elected officials and their staff.

Participants will gain an understanding of the elements of effective communication, including knowing what you want, whom to ask, how to ask, and how to follow-up. In addition, this workshop will cover how to understand and use the legislative process to meet important policy goals. The session emphasizes the importance of ongoing advocacy and building long-term relationships, and is tailored for the advocacy efforts of the academic community. The presenter will be Stephanie Vance, a former lobbyist and Congressional staff liaison.

PLEASE RSVP TO: Cindy Rasmussen at 330-672-4483 or [crasmuss@kent.edu](mailto:crasmuss@kent.edu)