

A Note from the Interim Dean

"Seeing comes before words. The child looks and recognizes before it can speak" - John Berger

Recently, I was talking with a faculty member here at Kent State. He expressed concern about the quality of research projects that his students turned in the week before. "They went to the Web and apparently took the first information they found," he said. It seems to me that if we try to think with an eye to the future, we must admit that this is a question of literacy. But what kind of literacy? Some would say this experience proves the need for computer literacy. But what will the term "computer" mean in five to ten years? It could mean something significantly different from what we think of today. Rather, what the students in the professor's class needed were values and ways of "seeing" that would make them information literate. What students lack today when they try to do research on the Web is what their predecessors lacked when they came to the library. What they need are the enduring values and skills associated with how to seek out and locate information, how to become an independent and discriminating learner, and how to be responsible users of information found in both print and electronic resources. The issue is a way of "seeing" the world of electronic information. John Berger in his little book, *Ways of Seeing*, points out that "the way we see things is affected by what we know"¹ What students need to know in order to correctly "see" a research assignment would be such elements as a search strategy and a knowledge of appropriate information resources. These elements come from working with a professional librarian in or outside of the library. Information literacy has at its core, a conviction that there are certain enduring basic values and skills about gaining access to research information that transcend the prevailing forms of technology of this year or next. Teaching students a set of core skills and values seems to be, in part, what undergraduate education is all about.

Mark Weber
Interim Dean, Libraries & Media Services

¹ Berger, John (1972). *Ways of Seeing*, Penguin Books, 7-8.

Reflections on War Resistance

Libraries & Media Services will present a panel discussion on Friday, May 5, at 3 p.m. in the Special Collections Reading Room. The panel participants will be individuals who have played an active role in war resistance. They are:

Larry Gara: historian, activist, and war objector during World War II.

Jerry Gordon: attorney, trade unionist, and chair, National Peace Action Coalition during the Viet Nam War.

Carolyn Knox (Candy Erickson): scholar, researcher, founding member of KSU Students for a Democratic Society.

Staughton Lynd: historian, attorney, activist for civil rights, peace, and labor.

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Footnotes

News from the Kent State University Libraries & Media Services
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Database News

More to the *Citation Indexes*

1980-1989 Added

OhioLINK has purchased ten more years of retrospective data for the *ISI Citation Indexes* (<http://cite.ohiolink.edu/isi/CIW.cgi>), covering 1980 through 1989. This extends the searching for all three parts of the database: *Arts & Humanities Citation Index*, *Science Citation Index Expanded*, and *Social Sciences Citation Index*.

New Functionality

- It is now possible to e-mail marked records and to add a message of up to 250 characters.
- A search query can be saved to your hard drive for either a General Search or Cited Reference Search. This allows you to run a search strategy in other sessions against the same or different data. Saved queries are run against whatever database and time span selections have been established in the current session.



Changes in Coverage to **LEXIS/NEXIS Academic Universe**

LEXIS/NEXIS Academic Universe (L/N) is a major resource for full-text information from a variety of sources. The list of available titles changes as *L/N* gains and loses permissions from publishers. One recent loss is the *New England Journal of Medicine*. For a complete listing of available titles, go to: <http://cisweb.lexis-nexis.com/marketsource/reports.htm>. The page includes an EXCEL spreadsheet option which indicates whether a title includes full-text (e.g., *Harvard Business Review*), selected full-text (e.g., *Akron Beacon Journal*), or abstracts (e.g., *Datamation*).

"Time Incorporated Publications" appears as a new source category under "General News." The titles included are: *Time*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Fortune*, *In Style*, *Life*, *Money*, *People*, and *Sports Illustrated*. Due to license limitations, these will be available on a rolling two-year archive only.

The SIC Directory has been added to "Business, Directories, & Reference." It contains both the SIC and NAICS codes and categories. Codes are to 4 digits, similar to the detail provided at the official SIC and NAICS comparison Web site (<http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html>).

Two New Databases on the Web

The following two databases are expected to be live on OhioLINK in April. The OhioLINK access will replace that with our present vendors and will utilize the Dataware interface.

1. INSPEC (1969-present)

INSPEC provides comprehensive access to the world's scientific and technical literature in physics, electrical engineering, electronics, communications, control engineering, computers and computing, and information technology. It also has significant coverage in materials science, oceanography, nuclear engineering, geophysics, biomedical engineering, and biophysics.

2. Religion Index (1949-present)

Religion Index is the premier index to journal articles, book reviews, and collections of essays in all fields of religion. Selected records go back as far as 1818. Coverage includes the subdisciplines of theology and religion, plus religious research in related fields such as sociology, anthropology, psychology, history, medicine, law, and business.

Improving **MEDLINE** Response Time

The annual reload of *MEDLINE* was completed on March 6. This updates the database with changes in thesaurus subject terms. Additionally, a significant change was made to improve search efficiency:

- A new field was implemented to speed searches when both "English" and "human" are chosen as limits. This special limit shows in the search history as YES.SPLT. Testing shows that this can reduce response time for such a search by one-half or more.

OhioLINK Update

Copies of the latest issue of the *OhioLINK Update* are being distributed with this issue of *Footnotes*. Snapshots are given of 1999 activity. Information of interest includes: increased use of online borrowing of books by undergraduates; 56% of all items in the Central Catalog held by only one library; nearly 11 million searches were done on the research databases; and over 1.5 million scholarly articles were downloaded.

GUEST COLUMN: The Future is Electronic Publishing

Roger Fidler, Professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communication

Stephen King's latest novella, "Riding the Bullet," may not qualify as a scholarly publication, but it has provided the most dramatic evidence yet of the great changes being wrought in all forms of publishing by digital technologies. According to *The New York Times*, more than 400,000 orders were received in the first 24 hours after the novella became available March 15. Most were given away, but even the retailers who charged \$2.50 a copy claimed brisk sales.

What is significant is that the novella was made available only in electronic form and that its early sales and orders far outstripped those of any traditional printed book. While the novelty of a marquee author so boldly embracing electronic books was undoubtedly a major contributing factor in the surprising demand, we must take seriously the implications of this event for the future of publishing and libraries.

Just as the invention of the printing press led to the demise of the established European scriptoria and monastic libraries, e-books and digital publishing are certain to greatly transform contemporary publishing houses and libraries, both public and academic. Exactly how they will be transformed is not yet clear, but King's novella clearly demonstrates that the written word will continue to be in great demand in the digital age.

Here at Kent State, we have an opportunity to help shape the future by positioning the University as a leading institution for electronic publishing research and dialog. Two years ago, the Liquid Crystal Institute, which is developing paper-like display technologies for e-book reading devices, and the School of Journalism and Mass Communication launched an international "Future of Print Media" initiative. Some two dozen articles written by leading authorities on electronic publishing can be found at the Future of Print Media web site (<http://futureprint.kent.edu>). We are now broadening that initiative to include collaboration with other Kent State schools and entities, including Libraries and Media Services, and with publishers and technology companies. A Kent conference on the Future of Print Media and Scholarly Publishing is now being planned for spring or fall 2001.

E-Books and the Scholarly Monograph

Mark Weber, Interim Dean of Libraries & Media Services

The significant increases in the costs of science and technology journals over the 1990s have resulted in dramatic decreases in monographic purchases. Across North America, research libraries, facing huge serial cost increases, purchased fewer and fewer monographs. One result is that publishers, especially university presses, face a decline in orders and issue smaller runs of new titles, driving up the cost of each copy. Unless collections budgets of libraries keep pace with the inflationary cost of library materials, the number of monographs purchased by research libraries in North America will continue to decline.

Innovative solutions are critical, if we are to save the scholarly monograph. This is where electronic books can help. Recently, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded a \$3 million grant to the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) to develop an electronic publishing initiative for scholarly monographs in history: the History E-Book Project. Over the next five years, the ACLS will work with other societies and university presses to promote the electronic publishing of selected scholarly monographs in history. The goal of the Project is to help the monograph remain viable and to explore the long-term potential of new technology initiatives as a significant factor in scholarly publishing.

Because the ACLS is concerned about the future of the scholarly monograph, the History E-Book Project aims to convert to electronic format 500 essential back list history monographs that are no longer widely available and to publish 85 completely new electronic monographs. The electronic monographs will be published on the Web site of the ACLS History E-Book Project and will be available to students and scholars through their libraries.

What will be the impact be of this initiative and of electronic books in general on the world of scholarly publishing? While it may be too early to tell, it is clear that the future of the scholarly monograph may hang in the balance. I invite you to read Roger Fidler's book, *Mediamorphosis: Understanding New Media* (P91 .F467 1997) for an excellent overview of the future of print media and observations on Web publishing.

The Invisible Web: Hidden Internet Resources that Search Engines May Miss...

The larger, more popular search engines, such as AltaVista (<http://www.altavista.com/>), Northern Light (<http://www.northernlight.com>), InfoSeek (<http://infoseek.go.com/>), Excite (<http://www.excite.com/>), or Google (<http://www.google.com/>) are great resources to use when searching for information on the World Wide Web. They are typically best utilized when you are searching for information about a narrow topic, looking for a specific Web site or particular file type, need a large number of results, or want to use the latest retrieval technologies.

Unfortunately, recent research concerning search engine coverage of the World Wide Web has determined that: no search engine covers more than about 16% of publicly indexable Web pages; search engines tend to index the more "popular" Web sites (sites with many links to them); search engines tend to index U.S. sites more frequently than non-U.S. sites and commercial sites more often than educational sites. These and other related findings have significant implications for the content and quality of information that result from using one of these popular search engines.

The good news is that there are tools available for exploring these hidden or invisible web sites. The invisible Web is comprised of specialized search engines and databases, which cover a variety of topics but are not indexed by common search engines. Use these resources when you are looking for information whose content changes often or is likely to be stored in a database. You will find relevant Web sites in such areas as science, health, education, humanities, and the social sciences. You will also discover information that can add convenience to your life, such as the location of the nearest automated teller machine, the cheapest airline tickets, e-mail addresses, global weather information, travel tips and much, much more.

The following web sites provide good starting points for locating information on the invisible Web:

- The Invisible Web (<http://www.invisibleweb.com/>)
- The LibrarySpot (<http://www.libraryspot.com/>)
- Beaucoup (<http://www.beaucoup.com/>)
- Fossick.com (<http://fossick.com/>)

For more information about searching the World Wide Web, contact the Library Reference Center at 330-672-3150.

New in Government Documents



Healthy People 2010 is the third generation of a national initiative to prevent disease and promote the health of the American people. It is the prevention agenda for the nation that identifies the most significant and preventable threats to health and focuses public and private sector efforts to address those threats.

The *Healthy People 2010* Objectives were released at a joint conference sponsored by the Healthy People Consortium and the Partnerships for Networked Consumer Health Information. They are now available in the Government Documents department, HE 20.2:P 39/3/ VOL.1 and 2.

For more information on the conference, visit the Healthy People 2010 Web site (<http://health.gov/healthypeople>).

Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General, is the first Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health. A copy of the report is available in the Government Documents department, located on the 10th floor of the Main Library, HE 20.402:M 52/2.

The full report is also available on the Surgeon General's Web site (<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/mentalhealth/home.html>). Due to the anticipated high volume of users, the report Web site is also mirrored at two alternative server locations: the Center for Mental Health Services, Knowledge Exchange Network (<http://www.mentalhealth.org/specials/surgeongeneralreport/home.html>) or the National Institute of Mental Health (<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/mhsgrpt/home.html>).

