A Note from the Dean of Libraries & Media Services

The Libraries & Media Services' Web site has been revised to provide more direct pathways to information about our resources and services. As Web access becomes more prevalent on campus, we hope that you will bookmark this site and use it for ready access to KentLINK, OhioLINK resources, and the large array of other offerings represented. This issue of Footnotes announces the advent of our new "Ask a Librarian" service, which extends the ways that members of the University community can seek information assistance regardless of time or place. This is one more example of a service designed to meet the information needs of users who are not physically in one of the Libraries. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcomed.

Deo L. Tollever
Dean, Libraries & Media Services

The Libraries & Media Services Web Site

LOCATION: http://www.library.kent.edu/

KentLINK & OhioLINK
Central Catalog

- Interlibrary loan request form
- Ask a librarian

Online indexes

Electronic journals & literary fulltext

Web resources by subject
- Web search engines
- Dial access information

Footnotes

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Ask a Librarian: Reference Service on the Web

The Libraries have launched a new Web reference service (http://www.library.kent.edu/reference/askLibrarian.html). The objective of this service is to provide an additional means for users to interact with library staff at a time and from a place that is convenient for them. "Ask a Librarian" enables users to ask short, factual questions by filling out a Web form and receive a response by e-mail. Most responses will be sent within 2 working days.

- Who can use: This service is available to current students, faculty, and staff of Kent State University, plus University courtesy card holders. Questions from non-affiliated individuals are limited to those that pertain to materials unique to the University.
- What is not part of this service: This service does not offer in-depth research. Book renewals and document requests are provided through the OhioLINK services and through the Libraries' interlibrary services (http://www.library.kent.edu/access/dlaid.htm).
- Referral to another library or organization: Questions outside the scope of the Libraries' services may be forwarded to the appropriate library or organization.
- As with all inquiries, it is helpful if the user describes the context for the question and any other pertinent details. Examples of questions which would be appropriate for "Ask a Librarian" are:
  - What is the current cost of living index for Cleveland, Ohio?
  - When did Mount St. Helen's erupt? The year was 1980, but I need to know the exact date.
  - I have a citation to an article with the journal abbreviation of Cab. Psychol. Cogn. and need to know the full title.
- Other options: users are always welcome to come to the Reference Desk with questions. Contact us by phone (x3159), or by e-mail (library@kent.edu). We're here to serve as your information professionals.

Database Updates

- **ISI Citation Indexes:**
  http://cite.ohiolink.edu/svc/PCIW.cgi

  Two years of data have been added to increase coverage of this key resource to 1990 to present, updated weekly. Also, a new version of the search software was installed in December. It fixes some "bugs" and allows for marking of records directly from the summary list.
- **Encyclopedia of Associations:**
  http://gatenet.gale.com/web/imap/db/aumr/

  This standard source for information on 144,000 organizations worldwide has changed its name to Associations Unlimited.

Out-of-State Library Privileges for Traveling Faculty

In addition to having on-site borrowing privileges at more than 30 OhioLINK libraries, Kent faculty are also eligible for privileges at nearly 200 research libraries throughout the U.S. and Canada. Under the "Recreciprocal Faculty Borrowing Program" of OCLC, card-holding faculty from any participating institution are eligible for library borrowing and/or use privileges at all other participating libraries, from Alabama to Wyoming, British Columbia to Texas.

For more information, a list of participating libraries, or to obtain a reciprocal borrowing card, inquire at the Main Library Circulation Desk, call 672-7905, or send email to Bob Oppel, Manager of Lending and Collection Access Services (bopper@ins.kent.edu).

Elsevier Acquisitions

Reed Elsevier, a major publishing house, has made some extraordinary decisions over the past months which are expected to negatively impact library buying power. These include:

- mammot merger with Wolters Kluver to form an international publishing house worth more than $7 billion in annual sales.
- acquisition of Bellstein Information-Sciences GmbH, giving it exclusive license to the Bellstein Database and Handbook, a standard reference source covering the literature in organic chemistry since 1779.
- acquisition of Engineering Information Inc. ("Ei"), including Engineering Index and the Compendex database. Ei and its predecessors have been famous for over 100 years in identifying and organizing information about the published engineering literature. Its Compendex products are the most comprehensive interdisciplinary engineering databases in the world.
- acquisition of Congressional Information Services, whose key products to access government information included Congressional Masterfile and Statistical Masterfile.
- acquisition of LEXIS-NEXIS, leading database provider of indexes and full-text documents for legal, business, and general interest materials.

El Niño and Electronic Journals

The Academy Press (AP) site in San Diego to which OhioLINK had been directing requests for the AP electronic journals has been affected by weather resulting from El Niño. Therefore all OhioLINK traffic is now going to the mirror site in Great Britain. This may account for slowness in response times.
Changes in Audio Visual Services

Club Web is now a component of the "new" Student Multimedia Development Lab in room 331 of Audio Visual Services. While walk-in customers are welcome, appointments are preferred (x.3456, ext.44). Gary More is manager (x.3456, ext 22, gmore@kents.kent.edu).

Lab hours are:
Mon. - Thur. 9 am to 8 pm
Friday 9 am to 5 pm
Sat. by appointment (closed)
Sun. closed

The Mac computer lab, previously available for word processing and internet access, has been closed. Use of educational CD-ROMs and software that are part of the media collection is still available. Patrons should go to the Customer Service counter in Audio Visual Services for assistance.

InfoSource, Inc. PC Tutorials

As announced in the recent Dialogue, a CD-ROM copy of the 20+ computer tutorials for basic desktop applications (including PowerPoint Fundamentals and Intermediate) is available for faculty, staff, or students to order for $10 by calling Norma Sufocko (x.3456, ext.25). This price has been adjusted from the original offering of $5 to recover costs more fully.

Britannica

Britannica Online (http://www.eb.com) now offers a new Internet guide that allows users to search for quality Web sites selected, annotated, and rated by Britannica editors. This new feature is a welcome addition to the many search engines already available on the Internet.

Britannica editors have chosen approximately 65,000 sites from the Web, based on a variety of criteria, including accuracy of information, presentation quality, credentials of author or publisher, ease of navigation, and quality of graphics or multimedia. Like other Internet directories such as Yahoo and Magellan, Britannica's Internet guide allows searching by keywords or by subject categories. In addition, Britannica's guide offers the option of extending a search to include AltaVista results.

Britannica Online continues to offer Internet links for many of its encyclopedia entries. Users may access both Britannica's online encyclopedia and its Internet guide by connecting to the Library's home page (http://www.library.kent.edu) and clicking on "Article Indexes" Research Databases.

UMI Digital Dissertations

UMI has launched a digital dissertation project. Dissertation Abstracts has for decades served as the one central, authoritative source for information about doctoral dissertations. Dissertation listings go back to 1861, and master's theses have been included since 1988. To date, the database has more than 1.5 million entries.

Authors can submit their documents in digital format or in paper. Beginning with 1997 dissertations, UMI is digitizing all paper copies. These digital copies are available without charge at the author's home institution (if it is a participating UMI member) or can be ordered.

Access to the digital copies is through the Digital Dissertations database (http://www.umi.com/dissertations), which provides full searching capability of the complete Dissertation Abstracts. Citations and abstracts of titles are provided, along with an indication of the availability of full-text. Here is a sample record for a recent Kent State University dissertation:

MAJOR DETERMINANTS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND USE IN A SEMIARID REGION: CENTRAL THAMAH, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BY AHMED ABDULLAH MAMUN
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY 1997

AAT 9731552

To obtain the PDF file, you must first select the title and place it in the Shopping Cart. When you are ready to leave the database, UMI will assign a PIN number to your order. It may take up to five minutes to prepare your file for download. Once it is ready, an email message will be sent to you containing the download instructions, and you will be directed to an area where you will use the PIN number to begin downloading your selected PDF file.

This is the procedure to follow for those Kent dissertations which are available at no charge, as well as for those from other schools which you choose to order at the $19.50 Web download charge. PDF files require the Adobe Reader to view and print, which is available for free at http://www.adobe.com.

Keep in mind that it is also possible to submit an Interlibrary Loan Request to try to borrow a dissertation in print or microform from another library. Also, the Periodicals Information desk staff can order an unbound paper copy for you at $24.50.
NEW IN GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS:

U.S. Industrial and Trade Outlook '98
Docs/Ref C 61:18-998 (non-circulating)

Once a best-seller reference book, U.S. Industrial Outlook has been revived as the U.S. Industrial and Trade Outlook '98. This source offers profiles of 225 industries and provides a comprehensive understanding of the U.S. economy, its effects on worldwide trade, and forecasts for the next five years. The work is available for use as a non-circulating deposit item and only holds copyright claims on charts, graphs, and tables in which the sole source is other than the U.S. government. Table of contents information is available on the Web at http://www.itu.doc.outlook.

Attaining Excellence: A TIMSS Resource Kit
DOCS. ED 1302; M 42 16-Kit

The Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) has published a resource kit to aid schools, teachers, parents, and the community in thinking about improving mathematics and science education. The kit consists of four modules covering the examination of student achievement, teaching, U.S. education, and curricula. Multi-media resources consisting of videotapes, guides, overheads, and flyers are included in the kit and are in the public domain. Users may reproduce or adapt all materials contained in the kit. The price tag is $94.00, but since Kent State University is designated as a federal selective depository, this item was received at no charge. Information about this item is also available at the NCES web site: http://www.ed.gov/nces/timss.

New System for Classifying Industry

Since the 1930s, the Standard Industrial Code (SIC) has been used to classify U.S. industries. The system has been revised and updated throughout the years, but in 1992 it was decided that a new system was needed. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) will replace SIC beginning in 1999, with a full conversion after 2001. NAICS will identify new industries and reorganize the system according to types of production activities performed. NAICS will allow for better statistical data in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada and is designed to provide better analysis of long-term effects of NAFTA. Also, trade industries which were classified under the SIC system as: "businesses not elsewhere classified" will be better represented in NAICS.

The major concern of changing classification systems is the inability to create historical comparisons. While the data for more than 23 of all 4-digit SIC codes will be derivable from the 6-digit NAICS system, economic data comparisons over time will be interrupted because NAICS has redefined sectors.

Tax Season—Getting Forms

In the Library:

- Copies of commonly needed federal, state of Ohio, and City of Kent forms are available in the Main Library lobby.
- Other federal forms may be photocopied from the Reproducible Federal Tax Forms for Use in Libraries, available in the Reference Center. Also available is the Commerce Clearinghouse IRS Publications volume.

On the Web:

- Ohio: http://www.state.oh.us/taxforms_form.html

AlphaSearch

AlphaSearch is a new subject-based mesisite provided by the Hekman Digital Library at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. AlphaSearch is a gateway into the topics it covers. Users can browse by resource type, set of 25 subjects from archaeology to Spanish or by descriptor, which the Calvin selectors have applied to each resource. Each resource offers a short annotation and a link to a full description containing hypertexted title words and descriptors. At present, AlphaSearch contains some 700 meta-resources and shows great promise of becoming one of the premier educational subject meta-sites on the Internet. It is available at http://www.calvin.edu/Lib_Resources/alpha/.