Fall 2003

Information Please, 2003-Fall

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A Message from the Interim Director
By Claire Delee Casey

Balmy days. Cool evenings. Fall is around the corner. Another academic year begins with new courses, professors, classmates and challenges. The University Library staff welcome you and encourage you to allow us to assist you with your information needs.

Library IDs
In order to check out books, request books from other libraries and access our databases on the Internet, you will need a valid student identification card. GSU is providing new ID cards which contain your library ID number embedded in the barcode and written beneath. Library ID numbers are 14 digits which include the prefix 21611000 followed by your unique number. If you're a returning student, you may obtain a new student ID at no expense or you may continue to use your old ID. But, you will need to come to the library for a special card containing your library ID, if you have not done so previously.

Laptop Loan Program
Beginning with the Fall Trimester 2003, the library will loan laptop computers for use within the University Library.

The laptops can be used as wireless units or connected directly to the Internet at one of our laptop tables. Laptops circulate for three hours and are available on a first come, first served basis. One three-hour renewal is available if other users are not waiting for a laptop. Laptops may not be "reserved" or "held" for any user. Check at the Circulation Desk for laptop availability.

What's New in the Library
The Library Web Site will soon have a fresh look as it migrates to the new GSU web site. In anticipation of our move, we've added to the library's initial page a new feature -- News & Events. When you click on this link, you will find time-sensitive information under Alert, such as library closings, university construction notices, tax forms and FAFSA forms. In addition, there will be sections on new information resources, training opportunities, library events and the library's newsletter, Information Please. Visit News & Events often to learn about what's new in the University Library.

Library Staff
At its June meeting the GSU Board of Trustees appointed retired librarian Ann Glascoff as Emeritus Professor. She is the library's first emeritus professor. Over the course of thirty years she served in a number of capacities -- Documents Librarian, Head of Technical Services, Social Sciences liaison and Interim Library Director, to name a few.

Recently Faculty Excellence awards were announced. Among the recipients were Professors Mari Ellen Leverence and Linda Geller from the library faculty. They will formally receive their awards at the Fall Convocation.

Two of our long-term civil service staff in the Circulation Department received upgrades in their positions. Linda Ayala was promoted from Chief Library Clerk to Library Technical Assistant III, while LaShaunda Williams was advanced from Library Clerk III to Chief Library Clerk.

Congratulations to Susan Bell, Cataloging Manager, who received the Employee of the Month award for June.
As Grants Information Coordinator in the library, Mari Ellen Leverence wants to inform you of two new online databases available now. Both can be accessed at www.govst.edu/library on the Journals/Databases A-Z page.

Illinois Funding Source
The Illinois Funding Source database is provided by the Donors Forum of Chicago. It has two parts—Foundation Source and Grant Source. This offers a wealth of information such as a listing of all foundations and grants that are available to Illinois applicants, many specifically for our Chicagoland region. It gives names of directors, trustees, and staff. It tells you whether they accept unsolicited applications or not. By profiling the proposals which they have funded since 1994 by foundation, by interest or subject area, by financial data, geographic area, etc., it becomes an excellent tool for matching your ideas to the foundation or grant most likely to accept and fund your next grant application!

GrantSelect
The GrantSelect database is broader in focus. This contains more than 10,000 funding opportunities from over 4,000 organizations in the U.S. and Canada. It also gives contact information, deadlines, any restrictions, amounts of grants, RFA and PA numbers for NIH grants and program numbers for NSF grants. The sponsoring organizations range from federal government agencies like NIH and NSF, Centers for Disease Control to research institutes, corporate foundations and universities. There are valuable links to websites for application forms for NSF, NIH, NIH CRISP, NEA, NEH, and U.S. Federal Government Agencies. For assistance, contact Mari Ellen at Ext. 4139 or m-leverence@govst.edu.

Library Retirements
By Diane Davis-Carey

On August 31, 2003, Jean Cox and Barbara Herrera retired from the University Library. The library and the university celebrated and recognized their many contributions on August 26. Many wished them rest, relaxation and joy.

Jean Cox started her tenure at GSU in the Circulation Department, but was a part of the Cataloging Department for many years. Most recently she served as a Library Technical Assistant III performing original and copy cataloging, processing library materials, and supervising the department's student workers. Her specialties were government documents and maps. Jean was the department's benchmark for cataloging productivity and accuracy. She set the standard for the rest. Jean is greatly missed.

Barbara Herrera began in the Acquisitions Department, moved to Reference and completed her GSU career in the Circulation Department where she was a Library Technical Assistant III. In that capacity she served as Interlibrary Loan Coordinator. Barb was responsible for managing and implementing the resource sharing activities for the library. She supervised and trained Interlibrary Loan staff and kept the library director and other library staff informed of resource sharing issues and problems. Her keen intelligence, eye for detail, management ability and bibliographic expertise resulted in superb service to our students, faculty and staff. Barb is sorely missed by all.

MyWebLibrarian
By Paul Robbijn

The University Library has joined a consortium of academic and public libraries in Illinois to provide innovative online reference service to library users 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The consortium's online reference help initiative is called MyWebLibrarian, and is a cooperative venture of 35 libraries in the northern part of the state.

Students and faculty may access the online help from the Library's "Ask A Librarian" page, or directly from the MyWebLibrarian web site at http://www.myweblibrarian.com. Questions are answered by academic librarians from various universities, at various times of the week. Governors State University librarians and reference staff are contributing to the consortium by answering questions during assigned shift times this fall.

MyWebLibrarian is the only multi-type library virtual reference consortium known in the United States at this time.
In July the library changed its PsycInfo subscription from the IBIS/Ovid vendor to EBSCOHost and included an additional subscription to PsycArticles, partially in response to student demand for more full-text online articles. Both of these databases are products of the American Psychological Association.

PsycInfo is the primary database for literature in psychology and related fields, and includes more than 1.8 million citations and abstracts of journal articles, books, chapters in books, dissertations, and technical reports. Journal coverage dates back to 1887 and includes material selected from over 1,700 periodicals.

PsycArticles provides full text coverage from 1988 to the present and includes more than 25,000 articles from 42 journals published by the APA and allied organizations. Although PsycInfo is not a full text database, when searching through EBSCOHost, the vendor provides links to any full text articles that may be found in other EBSCOHost databases, such as Academic Search Elite, Business Source Elite, Health Source, or PsycArticles.

EBSCOHost also provides access to databases from the Cochrane Library, considered to be the best single source of reliable evidence about the effects of healthcare. The Cochrane databases include the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR), Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE), and Cochrane Controlled Trials Register. CDSR provides full text articles, as well as protocols, which focus on the effects of healthcare with data from evidence-based medicine. DARE includes abstracts of published systematic reviews on the effects of health care and includes quality reviews in subjects for which a Cochrane review may not yet exist.

The Cochrane Controlled Trials Register is a bibliography of controlled trials identified by contributors to the Cochrane Collaboration and others, as part of an international effort to hand search the world’s journals and create an unbiased source of data for systematic reviews.

The University Library is expanding its instructional offerings through the new Academic Information and Technology Training (AITT) service. This service provides free, hands-on workshops for GSU faculty, staff, and students in basic computer applications and information retrieval. Workshops cover Microsoft Office, Microsoft Outlook, Windows XP, keyboarding, web page creation, and online resources. Registration information and course schedule are posted on the News & Events link on the library’s web site at www.govst.edu/library/news_events.html. Direct workshop questions to Linda Geller, AITT Coordinator, at Ext. 4136 or l-geller@govst.edu.

AITT also includes the library’s class-related instructional services. Class-related instruction, also known as “library instruction” or “bibliographic instruction,” is available for courses in all academic programs. This instruction provides customized demonstrations or hands-on sessions that teach search strategies and online research skills for specialized databases and subject area resources. Liaison librarians also support class instruction by developing WebCT modules, course assignments, and web resource pages.

Faculty interested in arranging class-related instruction should contact the liaison librarian for their program. Contact information for each librarian can be found on the library’s web site on the Ask a Librarian page at www.govst.edu/library/asksubject.htm.

We want to hear how the electronic resource, NetLibrary (a collection of over 1,500 electronic books), has helped our users. Have you had a great experience that you are willing to share with us? We are soliciting testimonials for our library newsletter and welcome your comments.

If your testimonial is used in our newsletter, you will receive a gift. Please send your story to: Lydia Morrow Ruetten in the University Library or e-mail it to: L-Morrow@govst.edu.
http://www.ftc.gov/donotcall/ Everyone's favorite right now is the new "National Do Not Call Registry." Consumers register online to make it easier and more efficient to stop those telemarketing sales calls you do not want. The Federal Communications Commission FCC will begin enforcing this on October 1, 2003.

http://www.exweddingplanner.com/ This will help you or your friends and relatives plan the wedding. Tracks necessary scheduling, budgeting, venues, events, coordination, vendors, food, music, photography and gift registry. One stop organization! Used by more than 53,000 brides.

http://Ebay.com You all know this one. People who used to have hobbies collecting things, now shop eBay! Try buying stuff at garage sales and sell it worldwide on Ebay. A popular website for everyone to try. Has many loyal enthusiasts!

http://www.cinescape.com/ This site offers info on movies, television, videos and DVDs, comics, books, toys, and more. For all buffs of entertainment in any venue, this one offers exclusives on upcoming releases and coming attractions. Includes reviews of games, toys, soundtracks, etc.

http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/foodcomp/Data/Flav/flav.html The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has posted this definitive source listing the flavonoid content of foods ranging from beer to blueberries. Nutritionists say flavonoids act as antioxidants and are beneficial to overall health. Eating fruits and vegetables can reduce risk of heart disease and cancer. Food for thought— "beer contains no flavonoids, while red wine does."

http://www.pbgc.gov/search/default.htm This is a pension benefit search directory site. If a company that you or a family member worked for has gone out of business, or ended its defined benefit pension plan, you may be entitled to pension money. Check for yourself or a relative—claim these benefits!

http://rxlist.com A well-respected website created by a hospital pharmacist. It lists drug data from Mosby's GenRX—the therapeutic information. This also includes the annual cost of taking a drug and brand names under which a drug may be sold. This information can be accessed in both English and Spanish at this site.

http://www.cars.com/ An in-depth website for searching cars, cars, and more cars! Offers a feature called "Most Stolen Vehicles" by city. Includes insurance quotes per make and model. Contains buying guides and reviews for 2003 & 2004 models. Check prices and specs, estimated gas mileage and pricing before you go out to buy a car!

http://www.safetyalerts.com This is a recall list with sixteen categories for safety recalls including things like toys, appliances and drugs. "Play it safe" and check these alerts. This is updated regularly to include all safety alerts for all products.

We have recently changed our "comment box" to "What can we do to better serve your needs" box. We are asking this of everyone as they enter or leave the library. In response to one comment received which suggests that we park our noisy, squeaky carts and use the other ones that they are sure that we have, we have taken a cart inventory and have either oiled or "parked" the carts that are noisy. Please let us know what else we can do to make your library better.

The University Library has reviewed and updated its copyright policies recently. Changes in the copyright law with the TEACH Act, signed into law in November 2002, have specified the responsibilities institutions have to comply with the law in distance education instruction settings. The Library has also implemented a Copyright Permissions Service. The Library will request permission to use material which goes outside of "fair use" provisions of the law, and will pay up to $25 in royalties per course per trimester for material on Reserve and E-Reserve.

Information about the revised Reserve, E-Reserve, and Fair Use policies, as well as information about the copyright law in educational settings can be found on the Library Copyright Information page at http://www.govst.edu/library/copyright.htm.