



ALS Collections: A Newsletter

Spring 2009 Issue 4

Hello everyone, and welcome (back) to ALS Collections: A Newsletter of Collection Development, highlighting resources available to ECU and issues related to developing and managing Academic Library Services' collections. This fourth issue welcomes the start of the spring semester classes. Look for News in Brief and feature articles in each issue; this issue has three feature articles: 2009 Journal Subscription Changes Afoot, Weeding the Green Way, and Medical Database Access across Campus. Feel free to suggest future features, or to send comment to thomasw@ecu.edu. Thank you, Joseph Thomas

News in Brief:

NCLIVE Changes:

NCLIVE has made changes to its subscriptions, including exchanging some newspaper databases for others and cancelling Encyclopedia Britannica. New subscriptions include SimplyMaps, Literary Reference Center, and Career Library. In response to the decision by NCLIVE to discontinue a subscription to Newsbank's America's Newspapers, ECU has negotiated its own subscription. Nearly 1100 newspapers are now available through the library's subscription. For more details, see

http://www.nclive.org/resource_selection/collection_updates.phtml.

Welcome Cindy Shirkey: February 2 was Cindy Shirkey's first day at Joyner Library; she joins our faculty as a Collection Development Librarian, with experience from Dartmouth College, the University of Arizona, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and most recently St. Edwards University in Austin, TX. Cindy will work with several departments in the humanities. You may contact her at shirkeyc@ecu.edu, 737-2724, or in her office at Rm. 1212 Joyner Library.

Success for Sabin Americana, 1500-1926: Usage remains high for this archival database, containing more than 6 million pages of content from over 29,000 original source, detailing original accounts of exploration, trade, colonialism, slavery and abolition, the western movement, Native Americans, military actions and other topics. Try out other archival databases by connecting from the library's database listing.

New Online Form to Request Database Trials: Now available is a form for ECU faculty, students, and staff to request trials to electronic resources. See <http://media.lib.ecu.edu/techsrv/request.cfm>, which is linked from Joyner Library's main database page.

2009 Journal Subscription Changes Afoot

To ring in 2009, ECU Libraries have made significant changes to our journal subscriptions. These changes aim to enhance the Library's ability to support the learning, teaching, and research of the ECU community. Leading the way are more than 80 new journal subscriptions.



Notable additions include the following:

- *Nature Chemistry*, a new journal by the Nature Publishing Group;
- a package from the American Chemical Society which expands access from 16 titles to nearly 40 titles published by the Society;
- and a subscription to all seven sections of the American Geophysical Union's Journal of Geophysical Research.

Also added were Blackwell's *Literature Compass* and *Geography Compass*, as well as several journals on literature of the fantastic, and a package of five journals from the American Economic Association. ECU has also changed from Emerald Management Xtra 95 to Emerald Management Xtra 120, to upgrade its package subscription to the publisher's business and management journals.



More than 70 titles will change from print to online subscriptions, and nearly 40, including ECU's subscriptions to titles published by the Institute of Physics, will change from print plus online to online only. Many of these journals have made the transition to Project Muse, the highly respected online journals platform published by Johns Hopkins University Press. Around 60 low use or otherwise available titles were cancelled.



Changes in subscriptions target areas of growth for the university, and expanding access especially for distance education programs. These subscription changes reflect journals only, and do not include the nearly 1100 newspapers now available through the new Newsbank America's Newspapers subscription (Joyner added this subscription in place of the Newsbank subscription cancelled by NCLIVE at the end of 2008).



For more information on subscription changes, contact your liaison librarian or Joseph Thomas, Head of Collection Development.

Weeding the Green Way

Eleanor Cook, Assistant Director for Collections & Technical Services

One of the first projects I assisted with after arriving at Joyner Library in August 2008 was the weeding of bound journals that are now owned electronically. On my first day on the job, I found dozens of book trucks lined up in front of my office. "What's all this?" I asked. They were titles held by JSTOR. "JSTOR is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping the scholarly community discover, use, and build upon a wide range of intellectual content in a trusted digital archive." (1) Many academic libraries purchase journal archives from JSTOR. Because of JSTOR's commitment to maintaining a "dark archive" of permanent back runs, many libraries are disposing of printed volumes in order to free up space for new materials or programmatic purposes.

But how do we do this responsibly? Some find the practice of de-selection alarming, either due to the natural human urge to keep everything or because of a misconception that all materials surely have value to someone and that we should try to sell or give them away. Then too, there is concern about the environment.

Libraries are finite physical spaces. It is not possible, nor is it our mission, to keep everything forever. Of course we have many materials that would never be candidates for withdrawal. But in order to be good stewards of our collections and to provide the best use of our space and acquisitions dollars, we have to clean house now and then.



Offering these volumes to other libraries within the state was permitted; unfortunately they all were planning to withdraw these same materials, or did not have room to accept them. What about giving or selling them to a needy university in a third world country? There were possibilities there, but it was complicated and expensive (so we thought). How about a book sale? That suggestion resulted in groans all around – book sales are labor-intensive, with little monetary gain, and the paper trail required for managing the collected profits wasn't pretty. I set about trying to find out exactly what were the best options. I knew that the state had certain rules to which we had to adhere, and I wanted to make sure we were following them.



The good news, after working with the State Surplus Office in Raleigh, ECU's Central Stores, and the ECU Recycling Center, was that we were able to set up a recycling procedure for volumes that we could not sell or give away. This was a far cry better than putting them in the dumpster and filling up the landfill.

A second option gives members of the public an opportunity to buy withdrawn volumes through the weekly campus surplus sale. A successful example: Dr. Seodial Deena, from ECU's English Department, was able to buy at a reasonable price more than 30 boxes of bound journals in order to help a South American university desperate for scholarly materials. He arranged for shipping to be paid by a non-profit charity.

We hope to be able to replicate these kinds of arrangement in the future, and find homes for withdrawn materials when appropriate. In the meantime, we can sleep better knowing that when we do discard, that we are, at the very least, recycling.

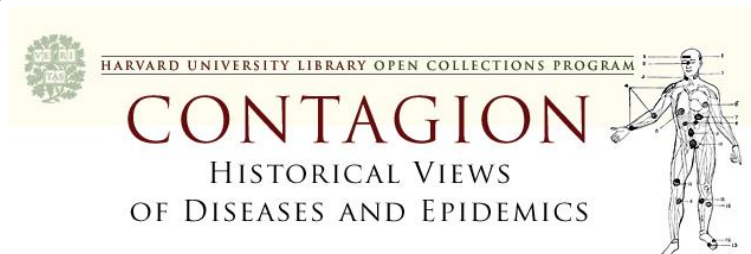
(1) JSTOR web page: <http://www.jstor.org/>



Medical Database Access across Campus

Jean Hiebert, Reference Librarian

Last fall, Joyner Library added a number of medical- and health-related databases from Laupus Library to its Electronic Resources Page. Traditional thinking has held that the geography that separates east and west campus also meant a divide of interests, but increasing collaboration across campuses has put that to rest. Health and Human Performance, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering all have ties with medicine and health and the libraries are responding by trying to make database access across campus seamless.



Databases with a medical slant include *Access Medicine* which is an online resource providing instant answers to clinical questions. *Access Medicine* also works in connection with desktops, PDAs, iPods, and MP3 players. *Contagion: Historical Views of Disease and Epidemics* provides general background information on diseases and epidemics worldwide and is organized around significant episodes of such diseases. *EBM Reviews* compiles four separate databases into one, allowing access to evidence based medicine journal articles, trials, systematic reviews and abstracts of reviews. *EMBASE* contains over 18 million records on pharmacological and biomedical topics from 1974 to the present. *Henry Stewart Talks* provides research scientists, graduate students and upper level senior undergraduates with a series of audiovisual presentations online, focusing on the fundamentals and latest advances in the biomedical sciences.



For the health education population, there is *Natural Standard* which is an international research collaboration that aggregates and synthesizes data on complementary and alternative therapies. *OregonPDF in Health & Performance* cooperates with colleges and universities throughout the world to make available graduate dissertations and theses related to health and human performance. Subjects include biochemistry, biomechanics, dance, exercise physiology, history or philosophy of physical education, kinesiology, motor control, recreation, sports marketing, sports medicine, sports pedagogy, sports psychology, and tests and measurements. *HEAL – Health Education Assets Library* is a multimedia collection of more than 2,000 images, audio clips and video clips covering clinical sciences.



Health consumers may be interested in *Merck Manual – Home Edition*. It explains disorders and who is likely to get them, the symptoms and how they are diagnosed, prevented, and treated, as well as information on prognosis. *Household Products Database* gives health and safety information on different products found in the average household.

Please visit the Health and Medicine section of the Electronic Resources page to see more medical and health databases.

