



Spring 2004

Library Link

Van Wagenen Library, State University of New York at Cobleskill

Using Electronic Resources Effectively & Legally

The Library has many electronic database subscriptions that can be used to support teaching and learning. In many cases, a persistent or permanent link can be used to allow users to link directly to full-text journal articles in a database. Using these links, faculty can conveniently create reading lists and assignments in Blackboard, course syllabi, email, and Microsoft Office applications.

See page 2 for related item: Copyright Quiz

The University must always abide by the database license agreement as well as copyright guidelines; however, if the end-users (students and faculty) fall under our license agreement, article level linking is an acceptable and efficient use of the Library's electronic

resources. Most commercial databases will provide a "terms of use" link at the bottom of their main page and it is advised that you take a minute to read these statements. Copyright laws and guidelines can be found on the U.S. Copyright Office's website at <http://www.copyright.gov>.

The method for utilizing article URL's is slightly different depending on which electronic database you are accessing. Unfortunately, there are some databases that do not support article level linking. Full documentation is currently being developed and will be available on the Library's website (<http://www.cobleskill.edu/library>). In the short term, anyone wishing to learn more about direct linking should contact the Serials Librarian at 5841.

Aleph 500 Is Coming

In 1990, we were the first SUNY library to implement the (then state-of-the-art) MultiLIS system. Much has changed in libraries since then and we have long outgrown the old text-based system. Our migration to the SUNYConnect Aleph 500 automated library system starts in Fall 2004. Preparation for this move is already underway.

The Aleph system, when fully implemented, will be in use in nearly all of the 64 SUNY libraries, creating an environment of sharing scarcely envisioned in the MultiLIS days (which only made it into 41 SUNY libraries). Built on the Oracle database management system, Aleph 500 uses a Windows interface and fully integrates core library functions such as circulation, serials, acquisitions, authority control, interlibrary loan, and cataloging into a single package.

Aleph has many patron empowerment features such as the ability to check their own borrowing records, renew materials, place holds on items currently checked-out and, eventually, borrow directly from any other SUNY library—all online! From the Library's side of things, we will be able to send overdue notices via email, display "on order" materials in the catalog, customize public interfaces, and much more.

To see some of the different ways the Aleph system can look and function, take a look at the catalogs of some of the libraries that have already migrated. For example, the

Fredonia (<http://westaleph.sunyconnect.suny.edu:4410/F>), Delhi (<http://westaleph.sunyconnect.suny.edu:4590>), and Morrisville (<http://oswlib.library.oswego.edu:4600/F>) libraries offer three different manifestations of the same system. Screen layouts, searchable fields, indexes, even the way results are displayed can be changed to suit the individual library and its community.

As you can imagine, a change this large will require a lot of work by all Library staff members, as well as computing and networking staff. The SUNY Office of Library and Information Services (and other libraries which have finished the migration process) indicate that at least 1 FTE staff member is required to set up all the hundreds of tables, import and check bibliographic records, convert text data to the new format, etc. Since Aleph is a fully integrated system, all Library staff members will be involved in the process and everyone's work will change. We will need to evaluate all current workflows and create new patterns that work in the new system. While we are all looking forward to Aleph 500 and the capability to better serve our users' needs, we do expect a bit of stress during the process. Please be patient with us as we move forward in this exciting venture.

There will be new things for everyone on campus to learn as we move Van Wagenen Library into the 21st century. You'll be hearing from us.

Visible Changes: New Carpet, New Gate

In addition to the renovation of a former meeting room into a café area (see item on page 2), the front entrance to the Library has undergone two significant physical changes recently. At the end of December, the old, rather worn-out orange carpet was removed from this front area and replaced. There's no denying that the new gray carpet is much more pleasing to the eyes and the feet. We can only hope that funds will become available to continue this

transformation throughout the building.

Although not as immediately noticeable as new carpeting, the installation of a new security gate in early January was just as important. The existing gate had far exceeded its normal lifespan and was being adversely effected by the building's high-energy fluorescent lights. The new equipment should prove to be more reliable and efficient, reducing false and missed alarms.

Copyright Quiz

Are the following statements true or false? "It's ok:

1. for me to make copies of that *New York Times* article I saw yesterday for tomorrow's class."
2. for me to copy this VHS tape of 'The Color Purple' onto a DVD."
3. for me to use a picture I found on the web for my department or personal homepage."
4. for me to put direct links to articles in the Library's databases into my Blackboard assignments."

The answers: true, false, false, true.

Copyright, especially in this digital age, can be a complicated issue. For example, the false statements above *could* be true *if* you got permission from the copyright holder first or *if* the material in question included a statement expressly allowing

copying or *if* you only used a small portion of the film for viewing in the classroom or... are you confused yet?

We've all seen the stories about music sharing, peer-to-peer, and other such activities and how they can infringe on copyright (in addition to clogging up campus networks). What we often forget is that other activities can be just as much of a violation, and "kids" aren't the only offenders.

Federal law does make what are called *fair use* exemptions to copyright for educational and personal uses but they only go so far. If you want to be absolutely sure—get permission. In the meantime, the Library's website offers several good resources to help you get a handle on things (<http://www.cobleskill.edu/library/guides/faculty/toc.htm>).

The Library Café Opens Jan. 19th

No longer under construction, the Library Café will open for business on January 19th. This new vending area provides a designated food and beverage space for the Library as well as a comfortable place to study. For the convenience of laptop users, several network ports have been installed. A number of different vending products will be available—soda, coffee, juice, sandwiches, candy, and other snack items. Café hours will mirror those of the Library itself.

To celebrate the completion of this project, we'll be doing prize giveaways for students during the opening week (Jan. 19-23). To enter, all you need to do is stop by the Café, fill out a quick form, and drop it in the box. A new winner will be drawn from all entries each day at noon. Winners will be notified by phone and/or email.

The Library will also host a gathering for faculty and staff at the end of the 2nd week. We'll be serving up treats from our new cookbook (see item at right) and awarding door prizes so mark your calendars now—Jan. 30th, 5pm.

Community Connections

In September, Fran Apollo and Anne Myers hosted a presentation and dinner designed to foster collaboration between public librarians, librarians and English teachers from regional high schools, and the campus community. The gathering was very productive and the group unanimously asked for a follow-up meeting in the Spring of 2004.

Library Hours for Spring 2004

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| Monday-Thursday | 8:00 am-10:00 pm |
| Friday | 8:00 am-5:00 pm |
| Saturday | 11:00 am-3:00 pm |
| Sunday | 2:00 pm-10:00 pm |

Recommended Reading

Dutch: a Memoir of Ronald Reagan

by Edmund Morris

Keeping Faith: Memoirs of a President

by Jimmy Carter

Breach of Faith: the Fall of Richard Nixon

by Theodore White

The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt

by Edmund Morris

Lincoln in American Memory

by Merrill D. Peterson

John Adams and the American Revolution

by Catherine Drinker Bowen

The First of Men: a Life of George Washington

by John E. Ferling

Library Cookbook

A new edition of the Library cookbook (*The New Biddie Krikker Cookbook*) has been published and is selling well. It was 1983 when the original *Biddie Krikker* came out and we're sure you'll agree that 20 years is more than enough time between editions!

This collection of recipes from the Library Staff (and some friends) features many favorites from the first edition such as Grammy Pollard's Chocolate Jumbles and Rolene Mau's Chinese Roast Pork. Newer recipes include Cider Glazed Roast Vegetables from Anne Donnelly, Kathy Johnson's Blueberry Coffee Cake, and Barbara Ruland's Peanut Butter Squares.

Copies are available at the Library for just \$7.50 each. Give us a call (5841) and we'll even deliver!

Enhancing Journal Access

Thanks to classroom faculty letting us know that such access is useful to them and their students, and the hard work of our Serials Librarian, the Library has recently added electronic access to many top journals in the areas of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Crop Science, Agronomy Journal, North American Journal of Fisheries Management, Journal of Aquatic Animal Health, and several others are now available 24/7 via the Library's website (<http://www.cobleskill.edu/library>), whether you're on-campus or off. Just go to Research a Subject/Web Subject Guide and click on the appropriate subject area to access these journals and other quality online resources.

To those with ears to hear, libraries are really very noisy places. On their shelves we hear the captured voices of the centuries-old conversation that makes up our civilization.

—Timothy Healy