Interlibrary Loan Enhancements & Information

We are pleased to announce that we will be implementing two new software applications to enhance Interlibrary Loan (ILL) services—ILLiad and Ariel. These new tools will integrate seamlessly into our existing electronic databases and substantially expedite the handling of the thousands of ILL requests that we get each year. For those who may be unfamiliar with this term, ILL is the process by which materials are requested by our library from another library's collection, regardless of whether that library is across the street or on the other side of the world. This sharing of resources allows users access to a vast pool of knowledge that would otherwise be unavailable at the local level. As such, Interlibrary Loan services are an indispensable part of our scholarly pursuits and academic achievements.

The first of these new ILL tools, ILLiad, is a request management tool. Registered borrowers will now have the ability to generate, monitor and receive information about their ILL requests through their own unique password protected accounts. Once contact information is registered with ILLiad subsequent requests are automatically linked to the record, eliminating the need for repetitive data input. ILLiad will also streamline contact and distribution as it will alert users via their Cobleskill email address when material has arrived and is available for pickup or viewing. This system will make ILL faster, more transparent, and easier to use than in the past.

Our other exciting enhancement is the incorporation of the Ariel electronic document delivery system. Through this application, we can receive many article requests electronically, as PDF files, and alert users via their Cobleskill email address when they are available for viewing. Under our proposed configuration, users will receive an email containing logon information and a link to our server, and then, from there, access the requested documents for up to 14 days, or 5 viewings.

In order to receive the benefits of global borrowing through ILL services a great deal of responsibility is placed on the borrower to use the system in a mature and respectful manner. Although users may not see it, there are costs involved with ILL transactions! To help minimize needless waste of limited funds, please consider requests carefully and submit only what you think you'll actually use. Items that are awaiting pickup at the Library will be held for up to 7 days, after which time they will be returned to the lending library. Also, it is important to remember that Interlibrary Loan items *do not belong to us* and are subject to the various policies and restrictions set forth by the lending libraries. If items are not returned on time, or other policies are not respected, our borrowing status is placed in jeopardy and may severely limit our ability to obtain future items. Remember that ILL items are subject to the same sort of penalties as those of our own materials such as late fines, replacement costs, academic holds, and suspension of borrowing privileges (see related item: ILL Overdues, p.2). Loan extensions for ILL materials are sometimes possible and should be requested well in advance of the due date.

Keeping mindful of these common sense practices and policies will help ensure that Interlibrary Loan services at the Van Wagenen Library will continue to thrive and expand. As we move forward into a new era of academic and professional growth, the need for ILL services will only increase. We are confident that you will be as pleased as we are with these new enhancements. From both the faculty and student perspective, Ariel and ILLiad represent the state-of-the-art in Interlibrary Loan academic services—helping us to raise the bar for academic expectations.

New Catalog Update

The process of migrating to the new Aleph 500 library management system is progressing nicely. Primarily, we've been going to training sessions in Albany and checking test databases here at home. As we are scheduled to switch over to the new system on March 10th, the staff will be doing even more training and testing in the next couple of months. We will do our best to minimize any impact on our services but some problems may occur. Please plan ahead to give yourself the best chance of getting what you want when you want it.

Once the new system is up and running, librarians will be offering special training sessions to help everyone learn how to get the most out of it, as well as incorporating it into normal instruction sessions. Users will have 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!

If you'd like a preview of how the new system might look and function, take a look at the catalogs of some of the libraries that have already migrated. For example: Cortland (http://niagara.sunyconnect.suny.edu:4390/F); Binghamton (http://catalog.binghamton.edu:4505/F); Morrisville (http://niagara.sunyconnect.suny.edu:4600/F). Three different looks for three different libraries. The screen layouts, which fields are searched, which fields are indexed (and how), even the way results are displayed can be changed to suit the individual library and its community.

This brings up an issue with a higher fun quotient—naming the new catalog. We'd like to call it something more interesting than "Library Catalog" this time around and we'd like the campus to have a say in what we choose. We will put out a list of possible names in February for everyone to vote on. In the meantime, if anyone has any suggestions for that list please us know (5841 or Library@cobleskill.edu).

Plagiarism Detection And Prevention

We can all agree that plagiarism is a problem in the academic community. The good news is that the Library can offer some assistance in this area.

The key to really fighting plagiarism is, of course, education. Cheating is nothing new; modern technologies just make it easier. Classroom faculty must continue to make this an issue with their students. Define common forms of plagiarism, make sure they know how to avoid it, and make doubly sure that they know the penalties for it. Instruction Librarian Fran Apollo (5858 or apollof@cobleskill.edu) is a great source of help for such efforts. She is available to help create customized assignments for different subject areas and skill levels that are designed to inhibit plagiarism. In addition, the Library provides several tools to students to guide them through the research process. We have also assembled several quality plagiarism sites on the faculty resource area of our website (www.cobleskill.edu/library/guides/faculty/ toc.htm).

In addition to continued emphasis in the classroom, faculty need to be able to easily detect plagiarism. Simply entering suspect passages (in quotation marks) into a good web search engine such as Google can often find the source of web plagiarism. Unfortunately, this isn't practical on a large scale. Many campuses have invested in plagiarism detection services. Services such as Turnitin compare student papers to large numbers of Internet documents as well as to their own databases of previously submitted papers. This option has been discussed in the past here at Cobleskill but funding has not been available. Perhaps it is time to reopen the discussion—campus-wide.

As always, the librarians are available to assist with investigating cases of suspected plagiarism. Just stop by the Reference Desk, give us a call (5841), or send us a note (LibraryReference@cobleskill.edu); we'll be happy to help.

Recommended Reading

The devil in the white city : murder, magic, and madness...
by Erik Larson

Don't let the pigeon drive the bus
by Mo Willems

Copyright's highway : from Gutenberg to the celestial jukebox   by Paul Goldstein

Redemolished
by Alfred Bester

Ojibwa warrior : Dennis Banks and the rise of the American Indian Movement
by Dennis Banks, Richard Erdoes

Seabiscuit : an American legend
by Laura Hillenbrand

ILL Overdues

Effective immediately, all overdue Interlibrary Loan materials will accrue late charges regardless of faculty or student status. This policy has become necessary due to an increasingly high number of late returns that negatively impact our borrowing status with other libraries. In addition, these fines will be placed on your circulation record and carry the same consequences associated with regular Library materials such as borrowing restrictions and academic holds. A renewal can be requested if you need to use material for a longer period of time. Such requests need to be submitted well in advance of the due date to allow us time to contact the other library.

NetLibrary Update

The Library recently added more titles to our NetLibrary collection. Through NetLibrary, we can provide 24/7 access to thousands of books, whether you're on campus or off. This includes classic fiction, reference works, and books on most any topic—from philosophy to cyber-terrorism to art history. To investigate NetLibrary for yourself simply go to the Library's website (www.cobleskill.edu/library). Choose Research a Subject/Find Books/Net Library and take it from there. You can also find NetLibrary books when searching in WorldCat.

Staff News

Gregg Kiehl joined the staff in September 2004 as Circulation and Interlibrary Loan Librarian. Under the auspices of the SUNY Research Foundation, Gregg managed the library at IBM's Poughkeepsie facility for several years before coming to Cobleskill. He is also serving as the Library's liaison to the Business and Computer Technologies Division.

New Online Resource: ARTstor

The Library has acquired a new online resource: ARTstor. ARTstor, according to their own documentation, "provides curated collections of art images and associated data for noncommercial and scholarly, non-profit educational use." The collections are very good; they are also searchable and the images can be downloaded. All of which makes ARTstor a valuable educational resource. A photograph of the columns inside the cathedral in Chartres, France? It's there. An image of a Mary Cassatt painting? Over 100 of them are there. An agriculturally themed painting from an ancient Egyptian tomb? Also there.

As good as ARTstor is, it does have a couple of quirks. First, images are displayed in pop-up windows. You'll need to allow pop-ups from this site in order to get at them. Second, the search interface is slow to load. Just give it a minute and all will be well.

This database, and many others, can be accessed on or off campus, 24/7 from our website (www.cobleskill.edu/ library/research/main.htm). Check out ARTstor for yourself and you'll agree that it's money well spent.

Website Changes

We are in the process of revising the Library's website (www.cobleskill.edu/library). The new and improved site will be in place by the start of classes, or shortly thereafter. Look for enhanced navigation and organization, as well as a fresh appearance.

With tigers at their behest, no library budget would be cut again; a simple appearance by a librarian with a tiger would encourage the most ferocious finance committee to temper their zeal for cutting funds.   —Paul Ford, in essay "Librarians and Tigers"