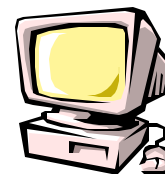




Porter Henderson Library Faculty Newsletter



Word From the Director

..... Dr. Maurice Fortin, Director

The end of the construction project for the Library’s new floor is very close. As many of you can see, the construction company is in the process of moving the fencing back. This will allow for easier access to the front of the Library. The outside portions of the new floor are being cleaned and the final touches are appearing. Much of the interior work is also nearing completion. Equipment, shelving, and new furniture will begin arriving later this month and over the course of the summer. The floor’s new tenants should also move in over the course of the summer months.

The central (old) elevator is back on-line for use by the public. When the floor opens, the recently installed west (new) elevator will be used exclusively for access to the Third Floor. The new Third Floor elevator will have a separate entrance on the Library’s front porch.

On March 22nd, Dr. Coer’s Office received the proposal for remodeling on the Library’s three existing floors. Hopefully in the September issue of the *Newsletter*, you will receive details on the proposal and the prospects/timeline for the work.

If you would like an alternative to San Angelo water, the Library now has an RO unit attached to the First Floor drinking fountain. An additional unit is located in the staff breakroom.

Please be aware there will be reduced services over the spring holiday weekend of April 9th to the 11th. The Library will close at 6:00 p.m. on April 8th

and reopen at 7:45 a.m. on April 12th. The Library will also close for two other days in May: the 19th (Staff Training Day) and the 31st (Memorial Day). The West Texas Collection will be closed May 22nd to the 31st. For a complete listing of the Library’s remaining schedule for the summer months, please go to <http://www.angelo.edu/services/library/libhours.htm> and view the Library’s calendar and hours of operation.

This issue of the *Newsletter* is about “changes,” in Library services and elsewhere. Library users need to activate their new ASU OneCards, the University’s new campus ID, in order to use Library services. RamCOPS has a new format change, with more frequent updates. RamCat is being redesigned and additional features will be available later this year. This summer, patrons using government documents will be able to check them out; the “Maps” web page has been revised and updated extensively. Janetta Paschal, Government Documents/Reference Librarian, looks at the upcoming changes in ERIC, the major education database. She also reports some of the concerns being voiced by educators, librarians, and researchers across the country. And for this election year, when citizens go to the polls and vote for change in government, there is information on voting and a web site now available on which people can register to vote.

May you all have an enjoyable summer.

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Reminder from Acquisitions

Please note that April 15th is the last day for academic departments to use unspent fund balances to order new books or other library materials. On April 16th the unused portion of the allocations will be transferred to the Excellence Fund for the purchase of more expensive resources that departments normally cannot afford to order with their regular allocations.

..... Thanks

Get Your ASU OneCard Soon!

Can one be alive at ASU and not have heard about the ASU OneCard? Unlikely! Yes, ASU is changing campus ID cards again. What you may not realize is that the time frame on this particular implementation is very compressed.

As Dr. Hindman informed the faculty and staff in his March 12th email: "Faculty and staff may elect to receive the new ASU OneCard or they may keep the current RamCard. However, **at the end of the 2004 spring semester [May 14th], the current RamCard will cease to function at all locations where a card swipe is required** and will be valid for photo identification only. **This means that faculty and staff who check out materials from the library or who use the pool and/or weight room must have the new OneCard.**" He also wrote, "**In order for your card to function on campus, you must activate it at the asuone.com website.**" *[emphasis added by Library]* Dr. Hindman's message was echoed on March 24th, in a follow-up email from Audrey Chaumont, ASU OneCard Director.

To avoid the inconvenience that may be caused by a lapse in access to Library check-out services, please get your ASU OneCard, and **don't forget that it will not work until you activate it.**

For more information, we refer you to www.asuone.com, or to Audrey Chaumont (942-2331).



Reference Services Checklist

- *Library Instruction Sessions* are now being scheduled for the Summer Sessions. Please request your preferred times early, as classes are scheduled first-come, first-served!
- Please return your *interlibrary loan* materials that are coming due before the summer months, if you will be out-of-town when the material is due. This will help ensure the Library's continued ability to procure items for all interlibrary loan users, as we keep our valued lenders happy!

Contact Mark Allan at Mark.Allan@angelo.edu if you have any questions about Library Instruction sessions or Interlibrary Loan materials.



Changes in RamCOPS

The old RamCOPS is dead. Hail the new RamCOPS!

The new e-journal portal made available by Serial Solutions displays the latest information about what full-text journals users can access online and/or in print. The information is updated on a daily basis. In order to improve access to this online serial information, members of the Library's professional staff decided to remove the alphabetical title listings under RamCOPS (which were only updated every 3 months) and keep a page from which users can directly access Serial Solutions' e-journal portal. The service will still be known as RamCOPS, but the upkeep of the information is completely in the hands of the folks at Serial Solutions.

Antonella Ward, Electronic Resources Librarian, invites comments on the amount and type of information that is now available on the RamCOPS page. Contact her at Antonella.Ward@angelo.edu.



RamCat's Improving

Coming this summer to a computer near you ...

A "new and improved" interface to RamCat, the Library's online catalog. Experience easier access to online services from the Library's web pages.



"Check Out" Documents & Maps – Maps Web Pages Revised

Changes are afoot in the Government Documents and Maps collections of the Library! The good news about these changes is that you do not need to worry about fumes or noise; no lacquering, jackhammering, or drilling of any kind is involved.

In the 40 years the Library has been a depository for state and federal publications, users could never check out the documents for use outside of the Library. Everything had to be used within the building. This long-standing policy will change beginning with the Summer I term. Documents and Circulation staff are busy preparing policies and procedures for the circulation of Texas and United States government

documents. Saying, “We will circulate documents beginning this summer” sounds easy to do, but we have to first make sure that our policies and procedures for doing this “simple” thing are in order before we jump in and “just do it” (to quote Nike).

ASU students, faculty, and staff will be able to check out documents for the same amount of time (probably 21 days), but some groups will be able to renew more times than others. Some types of items will not circulate at all, others will circulate for a shorter period of time (*e.g.*, CDs and maps). Once the new policies are completed and approved they will be posted on the Library’s web site where everyone will be able to read them. Watch for an “Everyone” message with more complete information.

Meanwhile, some 4,500 of those documents that will be allowed to circulate for a shorter period of time are the topographic maps. Only 170 or so of these maps are cataloged and appear in RamCat at this time, so if you need to find out if the Library has a particular map – and it’s not in RamCat – where do you go? The “Maps, Aerial Photographs & Satellite Images” web page at <http://www.angelo.edu/services/library/govdocs/maps.htm> has been revised

and updated extensively. What had been one long web page has been divided into 15 separate topical and subject-oriented pages. The “Topographic Maps and Resources” page (<http://www.angelo.edu/services/library/govdocs/mapstopo.htm>) also includes 24 additional pages, finding lists for the topographic maps in the Library’s map collection. All of the lists indicate the maps missing from the collection.

Contact Janetta Paschal at Janetta.Paschal@angelo.edu if you have any comments, suggestions, or questions about the circulation of documents or the new maps web pages.

Postal Covers Display at the West Texas Collection

The West Texas Collection has a new display going up for the months of April and May. The display will feature a collection of postal covers from a private collection in San Angelo. The covers tell the history of the Texas forts from the earliest times up into the 20th century.

Some Voice Concern as ERIC Changes

..... Janetta Paschal, Government Documents/Reference Librarian

On March 18, 2004, the Education Department awarded a five-year, \$34.6 million contract to Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) of Rockville, Md., along with its subcontractors (Research Triangle Institute (RTI) of Research Triangle Park, N.C., NATECH of Coos Bay, Ore., DB Consulting of Silver Spring, Md., and CurrenTech, Inc. of Columbia, Md.), to develop and operate a new database system for the Education Resources Information Center (ERIC). “The ERIC database will use the latest search and retrieval methods to cull education literature and give high-quality access to educators, researchers, and the general public.”¹

Secretary of Education Rod Paige called this “a major milestone in furthering the objectives of No Child Left Behind.” He said, “For the first time, educators and policy makers will have an easy to use resource for gaining quick access to comprehensive and up-to-date information and research about education.”²

Grover Whitehurst, the Education Department official overseeing the modification, said in May 2003, that plans for the overhaul began during the Clinton administration and were prompted by the expiration of the clearinghouse contracts at the end of 2003. He said the revised ERIC will continue to operate on a \$10.5 million budget.³

The database, composed of more than one million bibliographic records, is the world’s largest education database, and includes abstracts of journal articles, research reports and teaching guides, among other types of literature. It began in 1966 when articles and documents were submitted in paper and microfiche was a “new” technology. The goal of the new ERIC is to provide more education materials quicker, and more directly, to audiences through the Internet. The new ERIC database will include links to free full text documents, if available, or links to third-party commercial contractors where copies of the documents may be purchased. Libraries will also be

able to indicate their in-house holdings so that individuals do not purchase information that is already available to them.

According to the press release, development of the new ERIC database model will begin this month [March] under the following plan:

- A steering committee of technical experts will recommend operational guidelines for the database.
- Groups of content experts will recommend guidelines for identifying journal and non-journal materials for the database.
- Public forums will be organized to solicit ideas for making the database highly useful to educators, researchers, and the general public.
- Electronic systems for acquiring materials and authorizations for dissemination, managing content, and providing an efficient, searchable database will be implemented.

No new materials for 2004 will be received and accepted for the database until the new ERIC model for acquiring education literature is developed later in 2004. When the new model is ready, the Department will communicate with publishers, education organizations, and other database contributors to add publications and materials released from January 2004 forward. The ERIC database will continue to grow, as thousands of documents selected by the ERIC clearinghouses throughout 2003 will be added. Database vendors will receive updated database files containing the newly added records.

However, not everyone feels positive about these developments. Some observers feel this change in ERIC has implications for the content and accessibility of the database. Additionally, a focus on scientifically based research leads some to wonder whether qualitative research and the exchange of ideas will no longer be valued, and may no longer be seen as important information to be preserved and disseminated. Some education researchers said the proposed changes would hurt the Center, which is the world's largest and most frequently used collection of education-related literature and data.

Although they agree that the system needs to be updated, some educators fear that a wholesale consolidation will take away fundamental components of the network – like detailed indexing that provides researchers with better access to reports and studies.⁴

Specific areas of concern by some observers include the indexing of database submissions and who will compile the list of “approved” journals and formulate the screening criteria for conference papers, all with the aim of “decreasing the time required to produce each database record, while increasing the quality and comprehensiveness of database records.”⁵

As part of the Statement of Work (SOW), the contractor will assess the *ERIC Thesaurus* “to determine changes needed to maximize database searching and retrieval by both inexperienced and experienced database users.” Also, the contractor “shall use automated indexing insofar as feasible and shall use indexing services and methods as necessary to assure that all materials are accurately and reliably indexed.”⁶ The contractor is also to encourage “information sources” to submit abstracting and indexing information for their database material and “shall use publisher and author abstracts and indexing information to the maximum extent possible.”⁷

The SOW calls for the use of metadata in the records (metadata is data about data). It goes further to state that the contractor will refine and update as needed the metadata model and specifications used in the proposal. Metadata should document authenticity, provide descriptive information, and provide descriptive qualities (type of material, type of information, whether a journal is peer-reviewed, etc.), among other purposes. Such data should also clarify that database records indexed during 1966-2003 do not include qualitative descriptions or, in most cases, full text. There is to be an explanation on the website of the differences between records added during 1966-2003 and those entered beginning in 2004.

The sixteen ERIC Clearinghouses, the entities that constructed the ERIC database, and AskERIC were closed at the end of December. As part of a restructuring authorized by Public Law 107-279,⁸ the Department of Education decided not to renew the contracts with the Clearinghouses. The service component contracts also were not renewed. On September 30, 2004, the EDRS (ERIC Document Reproduction Service) will close. The ERIC microfiche production will cease before then, however, on July 30, as will ERIC on-demand document delivery and E*Subscribe services.

Over the past decade, experts at AskERIC responded to over 335,000 requests for education information, and the web site served 4.5 million visitors

a year. The site had been called one of the “greatest educator resources online.”⁹ However, this service no longer exists and the resources have moved to the Educator’s Reference Desk at <http://www.eduref.org/>. The new site includes the 2000 lesson plans, 3000 value-added pointers to education information and organizations, and 200 question archives users have been accessing at askeric.org for over ten years.¹⁰

The Clearinghouses have also made plans for life after the “new ERIC.” Some have archived their publications and collections of links at other institutional web sites, such as Texas A&M University and Ohio State University. Others have migrated some resources to other sites (*e.g.*, Practical Assessment Research and Evaluation, Test Locator, and Measurement Decision Theory) while eliminating other resources altogether. Still other clearinghouses are carrying on even after their contracts ended; some have taken on new identities while deleting all mention of ERIC from their web sites and publications. The web page “ERIC Clearinghouses Make Plans for the Future” (at <http://www.lib.msu.edu/corby/education/eric/clearinghouseplans.htm>) provides details of these various plans, with links to additional resources and “sample resources potentially to be lost.”

Kate Corby, Education and Psychology Bibliographer at the Michigan State University Libraries, has compiled an Internet web site with additional information concerning the changes in ERIC. “ERIC Reauthorization News” can be found at <http://www.lib.msu.edu/corby/education/doe.htm>. She includes an analysis of the SOW document (<http://www.lib.msu.edu/corby/education/eric/sowanalysis.htm>) and a page covering practical implications of the changes in ERIC (<http://www.lib.msu.edu/corby/education/eric/practical.htm>). Visitors to her site will also find a page on possible alternatives to the current ERIC system (<http://www.lib.msu.edu/corby/education/eric/alternatives.htm#alternatives>), including the new “What Works Clearinghouse,”¹¹ “Federal Resources for Educational Excellence” (FREE), and “Gateway to Educational Materials.”

Endnotes

1. Press release. (March 18, 2004) Department Awards \$34.6 Million Contract to Develop and Operate World's Largest Education Database.

Retrieved March 18, 2004, from <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2004/03/03182004.html>. (The *Draft Statement of Work*, which the contractors must follow, is available online in FedBizOpps at <http://www.eps.gov/spg/ED/OCFO/CPO/Reference-Number-ERIC2003/Attachments.html>.)

2. *Ibid.*

3. Giegerich, Steve. (May 28, 2003) Plan to Alter Research Database Protested. *Burlington County Times*. Retrieved March 29, 2004, from <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/1-05282003-97191.html>.

4. *Ibid.*

5. *Draft Statement of Work, Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)*. p. 12. Retrieved on March 29, 2004, from <http://216.35.173.248/EPSTData/ED/Synopses/3286/Reference-Number-ERIC2003/ERICDraftSOW.doc>

6. *Ibid.*, p. 13.

7. *Ibid.*

8. Public law 107-279, Education sciences reform. (Nov. 5, 2002) 116 Stat. 240. Retrieved March 30, 2004, from GPO Access at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ279.pdf.

9. Site review of AskERIC (December 2002), from Education World. Retrieved March 29, 2004, from <http://www.educationworld.com/awards/2002/r1202-10.shtml>

10. Retrieved March 29, 2004, from <http://askeric.org/>.

11. Although a contract for development of the “What Works Clearinghouse” was awarded in August 2002, as of March 2004, many of the “What Works Clearinghouse” web pages are out of date. There is no news on the news page beyond June 2003, and the update newsletter has been suspended. Still, they are scheduling presentations and seem to be a continuing project.

“My guess is about 300 years until computers are as good as, say, your local reference library in doing [a search,” says Craig Silverstein (Google’s director of technology). “But we can make slow and steady progress, and maybe one day we’ll get there.”

(“Inside the Wide World of Google,” (March 28, 2004) *CBS News Sunday Morning*. Retrieved on March 31, 2004, from <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/03/25/Sunday/main608672.shtml>.)

Register to Vote @ Your Library

“The American Library Association invites you to register to vote at your library.



Over the past several decades, there has been a decline in voter turnout, smaller attendance at political rallies, fewer people engaged in politics and a reduced involvement in civic

organizations. So how can we meet the challenge of strengthening and maintaining a vibrant democracy? A good part of the answer lies in your own backyard – it's @ your library.

The library provides a place where the public can find all sort of voting information, speak freely, and share interests and concerns. In fact, the library is the one institution whose sole function is to provide for the free exchange of ideas and information. As such, the library is truly the cornerstone of our democracy and the perfect place for citizenship to come to life.

Top 10 Reasons To Visit Your Library This Election Season:

1. Complete your online voter registration or pick up voter registration materials.
2. Obtain absentee ballot information.
3. Find out what precinct you live in and your polling location.
4. Get informed about electoral issues ranging from campaign finance reform to healthcare funding to national security.
5. Learn about the electoral process.
6. Get the latest updates on candidates from president to local school board members and where they stand – in print and online.
7. Learn about local ballot measures and upcoming referenda.
8. Find out about your elected officials' voting records and how you can contact them.
9. Attend a debate or community forum on local, state and/or national issues.
10. Connect with national and local civic organizations like the League of Women Voters or Project Vote Smart and learn how you can volunteer or get more involved.”*

There is a link available on the Library's web site where you can register to vote online. After you click “Register to Vote @ Your Library” on the Library's home page, click the “Are You a Registered Voter?” graphic on the next page. On the “Your Vote Counts” web site you can register to vote, update your address, or change your party registration in a few easy steps.

Read More About It

- See Jamieson, Amie, Shin, Hyon B., & Day, Jennifer. (2002) *Voting and registration in the election of November 2000: population characteristics*. (P20-542) Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Bureau of the Census. Retrieved on March 30, 2004, from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p20-542.pdf>. Earlier publications covering the November 1996 and 1998 elections can be found in the U.S. Documents Collection at C 3.186/3-2:996 and C 3.186/3-2:998/REV., respectively.
- Additional publications, information, and statistics on voting available online from the Census Bureau's “Voting and Registration” page at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting.html>.
- The Federal Election Commission has also prepared a table, “Voting Registration and Turnout 2000,” presenting data, by state, showing the voting age population, the number of registered voters, the voter turnout, and various percentages. It is available online at <http://www.fec.gov/pages/2000turnout/reg&to00.htm> (last viewed March 30, 2004).
- Wattenberg, Martin P. (2002) *Where have all the voters gone?* Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. (Second Floor: JK1976 .W38 2002)
- The right to vote: how federal law protects you. (2000) Washington: U.S. Dept. of Justice, Civil Rights Division. (U.S. Documents: J 1.2:V 94)

* The information above can be found at https://www.workingforchange.com/vote/vote_center.cfm?itemid=16651, last viewed March 31, 2004.