CAUGHT IN THE WEB

Institute of Scientific Information products
To many users of academic libraries, online access to the Institute of Scientific Information’s (ISI) products is the *sine qua non* by which they measure their library’s quality and performance. However, the intricacies of how these products are packaged and marketed can be perplexing.

ISI products in Pietermaritzburg
This campus Library has a long history of providing access to the ISI citation indexes for its users. Subscriptions to the printed format lasted from 1977 to 1996 for *Science Citation Index (SCI)*, 1980 to 1992 for *Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)* and 1981 to 1996 for *Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)*. Since 1997, the University of Natal campuses have shared a subscription to all three indexes in CD-ROM format. The most recent annual subscription cost the Durban and Pietermaritzburg Libraries $11 877 each. Coverage in each index went back to 1992; it was possible to search all years simultaneously and up to five users could access the databases at any one time. The indexes were updated monthly - not as often as some researchers would have liked. As far as other ISI products are concerned, the Research Office had purchased for the University, the CD-ROM version of *Journal Citation Reports* for 2000 but a problem for keen researchers on the Pietermaritzburg campus in recent years, was that the Library no longer subscribed to *Current Contents* in any format.

The free trials of the ISI Web of Knowledge offered to the University in 2002 and Web of Science last year were extremely popular with those who took advantage of them because, not only were the search facilities of the online version so much more flexible than the print or CD-ROM formats, but additional products were included. What was not made clear at the time was that they were at the top end of the differentially-priced packages to which a library could subscribe.

Enter the South African Site Licensing Initiative (SASLI)
Imagine the Library’s excitement when we were told earlier this year that SASLI had negotiated access to the Web of Science for South African universities. Alarmingly, the annual subscription of $4 588 for the new institution was nearly double what the University of Natal had paid in 2003 but more seriously, the package that was being offered for that price was disappointing to say the least. It consisted of online access to the three citation indexes only, commencing with January 2004. In other words, the subscription would cover records added to the three citation indexes in 2004 only. While it is true that there are many advantages to web access such as that updates are weekly rather than monthly and accessible immediately and that the database can be used from off-campus sites (to mention just two advantages), the fact that the ten-year back file would cost an additional $42 950, *Current Contents* sub-files would cost $9 360 and that databases were available to only five simultaneous users across all campuses of the UKZN were major disadvantages to the offer.

Untangling the Web
Further negotiations by the UKZN Acting Campus Librarians have resulted in a more satisfactory package. Unfortunately we will not be able to subscribe to *Current Contents* this year, but we will be getting the ten-year back file for all three citation indexes with updates through 2004, as well as access to the latest online version of *Journal Citation Reports* for up to eight simultaneous users across the institution’s campuses until the end of 2004 - all this for a total of $84 900. Subtracted from this will be the $23 754 subscription paid by the University of Natal for the 2004 CD-ROM version (a saving that won’t be possible next year). Altogether the UKZN Library will pay $61 146. And yes, those are US dollars.
NEW APPOINTMENTS

At the beginning of February the Library welcomed two new Subject Librarians:

**Anita Kromberg** is based in the Main Library with responsibility for:
- Ethics
- Religious Studies
- Philosophy
- Theological Studies

Telephone: (260) 5060  E-mail: kromberga@nu.ac.za

At Life Sciences Library, **Tina Zondi** takes responsibility for:
- Agricultural Economics
- Animal and Poultry Science
- Crop Science
- Food Security
- Horticultural Science
- Rural Development Systems
- Agricultural Production
- Community Resources
- Dietetics & Human Nutrition
- Forestry & Community Forestry
- Plant Breeding

Telephone: (260) 5162  E-mail: tina@nu.ac.za

Tina’s subjects were formerly handled by Sara Mitha who now takes on the subjects that Vivien Langley used to be responsible for!

We also welcome **Margie Gray** who has been appointed as Acquisitions Librarian with effect from 1 March.

Telephone: (260) 5065  E-mail: grayma@nu.ac.za

ALAN PATON CENTRE AND STRUGGLE ARCHIVES

Archives instruction for students

The Librarian offers instruction to post-graduate students (particularly those in the Schools of Human and Social Studies; Language, Culture and Communication, and Theology) needing to use archives for their research projects. A shorter or longer introduction to archives can be given depending on the students’ needs.

Topics which can be covered are:
- differences between libraries and archives
- different kinds of archives and records management centres
- a manuscript numbering system
- principles of archival arrangement
- use of the National Archives of South Africa database (NAREM).

A video on archives is available for viewing.

Help with research topics requiring use of archives is offered, as is help with locating useful collections in other archives.

DEO (OMRAJ) DEOPERSAD

Deo photographed at his retirement party

In December last year, Library staff (present and past) officially said farewell to Deo at a party held in honour of his early retirement on grounds of chronic illness. It is with great sadness that we report that he died on 4 February after being hospitalized for a short time.

For Rosemary Metcalf’s tribute to Deo, please see Library Bulletin No. 358 (November 2003).

NEW E-RESOURCES

Since the end of 2003, the Library has subscribed to the following additional online resources:

- African Studies
- Global Books in Print
- Oxford English Dictionary
- ProQuest Digital Dissertations
- SA ePublications
- South African Studies
- Westlaw

For more information about the new databases and to access them from the workstations on the campus LAN, visit

www.library.unp.ac.za/id100htm
EXTENDED OPENING HOURS

On Saturdays during academic terms the Main Library will be open from 08h30 to 17h00

One Subject Librarian will be on duty from 08h30 to 12h00 each Saturday.

LIBRARY WEBSITE

A new home page replaced the earlier one in December. It includes links to all the major sections and pages of the site thus clarifying its structure and making it easier for users to locate information. The new arrangement has proved popular with Library staff and it is hoped that other staff and students will find it useful too. We welcome feedback and constructive criticism is always given careful consideration. You can find the website at www.library.unp.ac.za

ILL HITS THE HEADLINES

Rosemary Metcalf of our Inter-Library Loans department submitted the 1 500 000 request in the national interlending system on 17 February 2004 at 10h18. She requested an article from Biological Chemistry from Rhodes University on behalf for one of our students.

Coincidentally, Gani, another ILL staff member, submitted the 1 000 000 request on 28 November 2002!

GROWTH AND EXPANSION AT PIETERMARITZBURG CAMPUS LIBRARY

Main Library

Short Loan
- The former entrance to Short Loan has been closed to make room in the old foyer for five carrels fitted with DVD players and television monitors. Students will be able to book sessions at which they can use Library material.
- Three photocopying machines are being moved into Short Loan.
- A detector gate has been installed in the new entrance and there will no longer be access via the fire escape stairwell.
- Three rooms for group study have been built in the Group Discussion Room (formerly the Late Night Reading Room). Bookings for their use during Library hours can be made in Short Loan.

Ground Floor
- Two new shelves have been added to the beginning of the Reference Collection to accommodate growth and Library staff have begun rearranging the books.
- This week’s and last week’s new books can now be found on shelves opposite the Issue Desk.
- The shelf that used to accommodate the new books, is now being used for the superseded editions of Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Multimedia Classroom (MMC)
- New workstations have been purchased as part of Phase Two of the development of the facility. When installed, they will bring the total in the MMC to 31 workstations, one of which can be used by Library staff members demonstrating different online information resources.

Life Sciences Library
- New shelves have been built to accommodate expansion in the Reference Collection.

Law Library
- New shelves have been erected to alleviate crowding of book stock.
- The photocopy area has been partitioned off in an attempt to reduce noise.
- The Library has recently subscribed to a number of online full-text legal databases such as Westlaw and LexisNexis, as a result of which, a bank of workstations at which they can be accessed is being installed.
The three most recently acquired encyclopaedias at the Life Sciences Library are:


Human genome research is a field that is expanding rapidly and has a high tendency to be interdisciplinary in nature. This remarkably comprehensive set of five volumes covers a wealth of information. It has over 1000 peer-reviewed articles covering a wide subject field. They are organised into 12 subject areas, which include structural and functional genomics, evolution and comparative genomics, genome mapping and sequencing, behavioural and psychiatric genetics, biographies and bioinformatics. The articles are 300 to 6000 words in length and longer articles include a list of contents, definitions or abstracts, a reference list and suggested reading list. Some articles also include URLs of relevant websites. The majority of articles are appropriate for advanced undergraduate and graduate students. The encyclopedia has an extensive glossary and a very detailed index. This impressive text is an excellent addition to the Library collection.


A four-volume work of approximately 2800 pages, the encyclopaedia is said to be an indispensable resource for students, researchers and practitioners in the field of dairy and food sciences. It contains 427 articles each of approximately 3000 to 4000 words with a few short articles not exceeding 2000 words. Each article is followed by a further readings list. The topics of milk production and dairy technology as well as nutritional and public health issues are all covered and dairy industry economics and aspects of the milk and dairy products trade are also dealt with. The index at the end of the work is extensive and there is a complete list of the contents of the encyclopedia at the front of each volume. Coverage is comprehensive and it is a worthwhile addition to the collection at the Life Sciences Library.


This ten-volume encyclopaedia is an extensively revised and expanded version of the first edition which was called *Encyclopedia of food science, food technology and nutrition* published in 1993. The second edition builds on and updates several areas of the first edition, providing comprehensive coverage in the field of food science, food technology and nutrition in approximately 1000 entries. A number of articles have been revised and new articles have been added. The latter cover new developments and technologies in food science and current issues in nutrition. A list of further readings is provided at the end of each article. The encyclopaedia will be an invaluable and essential resource for scientists and health professionals and students researching the fields of food and nutrition.

Sara Mitha