
Mary and John Gray Library – Lamar University

From the Stacks

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New Electronic Resources Available

In its continuing effort to provide students, faculty, and staff with the finest electronic resources, the Gray Library has recently added five new resources designed to aid the educational and research interests of its patrons. These new resources can be found listed on our website with our other databases. To access, websurf to <http://library.lamar.edu>, click the link to “Electronic Indexes and Full-Text Databases,” then sign in with your Lamar I.D. barcode number. If you have any questions about these or any other of the Library’s electronic resources, please call the Reference Desk at 880-1898.

E*Subscribe

The E*Subscribe database allows users to access the full-text of ERIC documents. These documents are solicited, collected, and cataloged by the United States Department of Education’s Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC). ERIC documents include material such as research and technical reports, conference papers and speeches, project and program descriptions, opinion papers and essays, teaching guides, and abstracts of education books received from universities, research centers, state departments of education, professional associations, commercial publishers, and more than 25 federal departments and agencies. These documents, along with numerous articles from education journals, are searchable through the ERIC database, available through the Library’s database page.

E*Subscribe, a separate database from

ERIC, contains the full-text versions of ERIC documents usually available through ERIC for purchase. Funding for the Library’s subscription to this database is provided through a grant from Exxon/Mobil

Encyclopedia of Polymer Science & Technology

The *Encyclopedia of Polymer Science & Technology* is the preeminent reference work on polymer science and technology. The online version contains the complete text of all the encyclopedia’s articles and includes all diagrams, charts, and figures. Subject coverage includes articles relating to polymer science, nanotechnology, new imaging and analytical techniques, new methods of controlled polymer architecture, biomimetics, and more. Students, researchers, and faculty in chemistry, chemical engineering, physics, and related fields will find this a useful research aid. Funding for the Library’s subscription to this database is provided through a grant from Exxon/Mobil.

JSTOR

JSTOR is a multidisciplinary database of journal articles that will assist researchers in locating full-text and/or page images of articles in older journal issues that are not usually accessible in electronic format. Through JSTOR, students, faculty, and staff can search the contents of 133 journals in the following disciplines: African-American Studies, Anthropology, Asian Studies, Ecology, Economics, Education, Finance, History, Language, Literature, Mathematics, Philosophy, Political Science, Population Studies, Sociology, and Statistics. The

primary attraction of JSTOR is the ability to retrieve articles from as far back as the turn of the twentieth century. However, since JSTOR focuses on making back-issues available, journals in JSTOR often lack coverage for the most recent three to five years. However, the library has additional indexes that will cover the more current articles for many of the titles included in JSTOR.

Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology.

The *Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia* is the principal reference resource for chemical engineering students, faculty, and researchers. Articles are full-text and include all illustrations. The database is updated regularly. Funding for the Library's subscription to this database is provided through a grant from Exxon/Mobil.

STAT!REF

The Stat!Ref database is extremely useful to nursing students and health consumers. Stat!Ref is a full text electronic medical library that enables users to cross-search more than thirty-five medical resources such as *Current Medical Diagnosis & Treatment*, *Mosby's Drug Consult*®, the *Griffith 5 Minute Clinical Consult*, and other valuable resources.

Rick Dyson
Electronic Reference Services Librarian

Introduction to Library Research

Library faculty will teach four sections of LIBR 1101: Introduction to Library Research in the Fall of 2003. This is a one-hour credit course that acquaints students with the process of acquiring, evaluating, and assimilating information available through the library. This course goes beyond just "how to use the library" by

teaching the basics of information literacy and evaluation.

Since LIBR 1101 deals with research, it is significant and appropriate for students of all majors. LIBR 1101 especially complements the two-hour PSYC 2270: Learning and Study Skills, and is recommended for students taking that course. The content of LIBR 1101 will prove valuable to developmental studies students, and the one-hour credit can round off the odd schedule hours resulting from the two-hour study skills course. LIBR 1101 is also recommended for returning students, transfer students, and older students who may be unfamiliar with the recent advances in libraries and information retrieval technology.

Registering for LIBR 1101 is the same as other courses. See the upcoming Fall 2003 class schedule for details. If you have any questions regarding this course, please feel free to contact any of the following:

Karen Nichols	880-8131
Rick Dyson	880-8129
Theresa Storey	880-2135
Jeff Lacy	880-8120

Jeff Lacy
Reference Librarian

Government Documents News

New Classification

The designation "HS" was created recently for United States documents published under the Department of Homeland Security. Over the next few months the publications of various agencies will change to this class as the agencies are moved from their current departments to Homeland Security.

Update on Census 2000

We have started receiving the population

reports for 2000; however, we do not have the Texas volume. This information can be accessed via *American Factfinder* on the Web at <http://factfinder.census.gov/>. If you have questions about or need assistance with census information or *American Factfinder*, contact Theresa Storey at 880-2135 or the Reference Desk at 880-1898.

Documents Computer

The Documents Department has a public workstation for patrons wanting to locate government information. To use this computer please inquire in the Documents Department on the second floor of the Gray Library for assistance.

Theresa Storey
Government Documents Librarian

JAWS and MAGic Accessibility Programs Available in Reference

Computers located in Reference on the first floor of the Mary and John Gray Library have JAWS for Windows and MAGic programs installed for our visually challenged patrons.

JAWS for Windows is a screen reader program that works with the computer to provide access to the Internet Explorer browser. JAWS uses an enhanced multi-lingual software speech synthesizer to read aloud information displayed on the computer screen. JAWS supports Internet Explorer with special features for link lists, frames lists, forms mode, and reading HTML tables and graphic labels. A JAWS tutorial icon is displayed on the desktop of the Reference computers. Those using JAWS should provide their own headphones.

MAGic is a screen magnification program with four configurable magnification views that provide users with the flexibility to display screen information to fit their visual

needs. A comprehensive large-print tutorial manual is available at the Reference Desk. JAWS and MAGic can be used individually or simultaneously for maximum benefit. Please contact a Reference librarian for assistance with the programs.

Kim Wiley
Technical Support Analyst

Coming Soon: New Library System

Gray Library is in the beginning stages of migrating from our current integrated library automated system to the SIRSI Unicorn system. Patrons will see a new look that will provide easier searching from each page. Descriptions of materials will include whether the material is checked out or where it can be located. Patrons will have access to individual accounts that they will be able to check for the status of materials due and if they owe the Library any money. It will be possible for the Library staff to display subsets of the larger catalog, for example, new books, new magazines, and subject lists. Faster computer equipment and software will allow more robust searching across the Internet for remote commercial databases. Patrons will be able to select from their search results before printing to give them more meaningful bibliography. Anyone interested in how the new catalog will look and function is encouraged to look at other Unicorn libraries:

Rice University: <http://alexandria.rice.edu>

Texas State Library: <http://star.tsl.state.tx.us>

Virginia Allen
Systems Coordinator

New Web Portal Under Development

The Library is in the process of developing a new website design. The entire website is

due to be revamped: the front page at <http://library.lamar.edu>, the basic information pages, the Government Documents page, and the electronic indexes page. Our intention is to make the site more attractive, user-friendly, and self-explanatory.

The changes in the web portal will appear during the summer along with the new online catalog (see “Coming Soon: New Library System,” page 3) and possibly with changes in our subscription research databases (see “Hey, What Happened to...?” this page). Both the current site and the new site will be available simultaneously for a period of time to work out the usually inevitable glitches. When the new site becomes available, there will be an avenue for users to submit comments, suggestions, and opinions. Please give us your feedback!

As all of these changes occur, users will need to acquaint themselves with the new site. Remember that help is always available! For assistance, you can either visit the Library or call us at 880-1898.

Jeff Lacy
Reference Librarian

“Hey, What Happened To...”

After June 2003, this may become a familiar cry as students and faculty log-on to the Library’s Electronic Indexes web page and search for a particular database. The Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF) pays for over sixty of the databases currently accessible through the Library’s web page, but that funding may end on June 30. Through TIF funding, all academic, public, and school libraries have access to many more databases than they could otherwise afford. While the Texas State Library has asked for funding for the “core” databases, there is no guarantee that this funding will be granted. Library faculty are reviewing usage statistics and we hope to

have adequate funding in our budget to continue the most essential databases without having to drop any that are not funded by TIF. However, like everyone else, we will not know what our budget looks like until after the Legislature approves the budget for the 2003/04-2004/05 biennium.

The Texas Legislature created the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund in 1995 and charged it with allocating \$1.5 billion over ten years to promote an advanced, statewide telecommunications infrastructure through libraries, schools, higher education, and health care facilities. Lamar has benefited from this fund not just with access to electronic indexes and databases but also through the addition of a wireless network, smart classrooms, and much of the technology that is currently available in the Faculty Technology Lab and Classroom. TIF expires in 2005 and if the Legislature does not act to renew TIF, the funding that is adequate to meet the evolving telecommunications needs of the people of Texas will have to come from budgets that are already under attack.

It is not too late to contact your legislature and ask that TIF funding be continued for another ten years. If you need contact information, please call the Reference Desk at 880-1898.

Linda Dugger
Interim Director of Library Services

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Theresa Storey & Jeff Lacy, Editors
<http://library.lamar.edu>
