

Links to Lakes

The Newsletter of the Arthur Lakes Library

No. ⁴5, Fall 1993

Colorado School of Mines

From the Director

by Joanne Lerud

Welcome back for the academic year 1993-1994. The Library continues to make small changes to meet the challenging information needs of our clientele.

The Library Advisory Committee will meet every other month beginning in September and the meetings will deal with a specified topic. The Library Faculty will attend these meetings so that liaisons and department representatives may have time together. This Committee will be vital for guiding some of our new directions. The first meeting is on Circulation changes and challenges. New personnel will also join us.

Jeff Custard joined our staff on October 4, 1993 as Reference Librarian. He received his undergraduate degree from Colorado State University and his M.L.S. from University of Texas at Austin. We are so pleased to add his chemistry background and his business expertise from an internship at IBM.

We will miss **Ann Lerew** who retired at the end of August after 11 years of service. Lisa Dunn has assumed Ann's administrative responsibilities while Jeff will assume her subject-speciality responsibilities.

Dudley Emmert has joined the Circulation staff. He is from the Peter Arnold Library in Deer Valley, Utah and we hope to use his talents in several areas of the Library.

We still have 3 open positions which I hope to announce by the next newsletter.



The Journals Pricing Crisis

by Bob Sorgenfrei

The Arthur Lakes Library, like other scientific-technical libraries, has been trying to cope with the unrelenting growth in both the numbers and prices of journals of interest to our library users. In some cases, in four year's time we have seen a number of journals published by a few for-profit publishers based primarily in Europe go from a few hundred dollars a year to in some cases several thousand dollars or more. It is unfortunate that a few publishers which produce a great many of the scientific journals see the process of scholarly communication as a cash cow to be milked for all it is worth. As a result, we are paying more each year for fewer journal titles, and in the past have diverted money away from book purchases to support journals.

cont. on next page.

Inside this Issue:

- *From the Director
- *Journals Pricing Crisis
- *Copyright & Info. on the Internet
- *Recreational Reading
- *Book Reviews
- *CARL Tips
- *Library Notes

The Journals Pricing Crisis, cont....

Essentially the problem lies in the fact that researchers and at least some of the major scientific publishers operate with fundamentally different assumptions and goals. Academic researchers are driven to publish significantly to fulfill promotion and tenure requirements of their institutions. Published scholarly research is not produced for a profit per se and is generally turned over to publishers gratis or for a modest royalty fee. Researchers usually sign over copyright, giving the publisher total control over how the information is disseminated.

Some publishers court researchers for new journal titles they plan to offer, providing generous royalties and promising that manuscripts will be accepted with little review. The quantity of manuscripts submitted stays high while quality is downplayed. The differential in subscription rates between individuals and institutions is another way of attracting scholarly interest in journals which libraries are obliged to add at a considerably higher subscription rate. The purpose of this publisher-researcher courtship is usually unknown to the researcher being courted.

Ironically, publishers sell back in printed form the research to the same institutions that sponsored and generated it in the first place. While there is nothing wrong with making a profit on disseminating scholarly communications, some publishers can demand and get a profit far beyond the actual value of the product because they have an effective monopoly- there are relatively few scientific publishers and their market is almost exclusively academic libraries. Most of these libraries have a mission to provide free or low cost access to published research. This puts libraries under great pressure not to cancel journals. These factors have traditionally made academic libraries a captive market. The ultimate consumers (researchers and students) do not generally bear the direct costs involved in obtaining and making accessible the journals they demand, and have little knowledge of their true cost.

Academic libraries now find themselves caught in the middle between fulfilling their mission and the need to send a message to for-profit publishers that are charging more than the market will bear by cancelling overpriced journals. Last year, the Library cancelled over \$90,000 in journal subscriptions. This cancellation project was based upon evaluations received from the CSM faculty and in some cases on the pricing history of journal titles. Some journals with exorbitant price increases (100% to 500%) were cancelled. (Most of the cancelled journals were published by either Elsevier or Pergamon.) In the next year we may have to look at additional cancellations. If so, price history will again be a major factor. Access to cancelled journals through document delivery services such as CARL UnCover may become more important as we look towards access rather than ownership.

To control our serials budget, the new policy will be: *If a journal is added, a journal of equal or greater price must first be cancelled.* A complete list of all journal titles will soon be distributed to academic departments. Journal titles on this list will be assigned departmental codes so that departments can tell exactly how much is being spent on journals in their subject areas and can use the list in deciding what titles may be cancelled in order to add new ones.

Next Issue: Some possible solutions to the journals pricing crisis.



**Copyright &
Information
Resources on
the Internet**
by Lisa Dunn

The Internet and the proliferation of publications in electronic format offer wonderful opportunities to communicate information widely and get it to the user quickly. Computer databases and online public access catalogs like CARL have been accessible from remote sites for a number of years through telecommunications lines, and the Internet has provided yet another gateway for access. Accessible files with full-text or graphics information are becoming more common as demand for them balances computer resources. Scanning technology is bypassing the need to key in "pre-electronic" documents manually.

So why isn't more information available on the Internet? The Library already gets materials published in electronic format and databases on CD-ROM. Why not put these materials on CSM Gopher through the campus network? Available computing resources and staff time are factors, but a major consideration is copyright. As tempting as it may sometimes be, institutions and individuals cannot ignore the idea of intellectual property. Permission and/or payment for use must be received from the copyright holder. This means that the Library can't just load commercial indexes on the network (GeoRef at home, anyone?) or provide users with automatic electronic access to full text (download your Reserve reading from the Computer Lab?). Inappropriate copying or use is still inappropriate in electronic format.

This factor governs much of what is available on the Internet. Three groups of materials dominate the free-access networks:

1. U.S. government depository publications. Because of our government's mandates to disseminate information, these materials can not be copyrighted and can be made electronically accessible by anyone with the resources.
2. Materials not covered by copyright. Examples are the Bible or "Alice in Wonderland," which are made available electronically by Project Guggenheim. (And no, just because a book is out of print doesn't mean it isn't still covered by copyright.)
3. Author's choice. Many authors, database builders and software designers make their materials accessible to the public in the spirit of information dissemination or to establish standardization of a marketplace.

Of course, some resources are inappropriate for the Internet (so far). But there are others that would benefit the public greatly by being available there. What can individuals do right now to increase the quality and quantity of resources on the Internet? They can consider it an alternative to copyrighted publishing for their own works. (Think of the exposure. "Zen & the Art of the Internet" was first published on the Internet and was in such demand that it was successfully published as copyrighted hardcopy in addition to the free electronic version.) As members of professional organizations, they can lobby to have society publications made accessible on the Internet where cost permits. (Some professional societies operate for non-profit and cost-recovery, with a mission to disseminate information as widely as possible.) They can request to suppliers that materials be made available for economical Internet access or delivery (the higher the demand, the more resources will be developed). These activities will help build the information network while copyright issues are in flux.



Recreational Reading

by Buddie Rooney

Even at a school with a science-engineering curriculum, once in a while everyone needs to do a little recreational reading. To meet this demand, the Library began leasing current fiction and non-fiction. We now have a rented rotating collection of popular books on sports, self-improvement, biography, science fiction, mysteries, best sellers, nutrition and general literature. This collection is located across from the Circulation Desk for convenient browsing. The borrowing period is limited to 3 weeks so that these books will be available for as many readers as possible during the school year. Suggestions for new book titles are welcome- they can be left at Circulation, Reference, or Acquisitions.

Samples: Coyote Waits, by Tony Hillerman
Devices and Desires, by P.D. James
Gettysburg, by James McPherson
The Kitchen God's Wife, by Amy Tan
O'Keefe: The Life of an American Legend, by Jeffrey Hogrefe
Gerald's Game, by Stephen King
The 100 Best Companies to Work for in America



Book Reviews

The Idea Factory: Learning to Think at MIT. Pepper White. New York: Dutton. 1991. L. Dunn, reviewer.

This book is a "mostly" non-fictional account of the author's experiences as a graduate student at MIT. White describes the process of "learning to think like an engineer," his forays into problem solving and academic learning, and the socialization process that went hand-in-hand with his development- interactions with professors and fellow students, moral and ethical dilemmas, and observations on the responses of himself and those around him to MIT. White was not a stereotypical "model" graduate student, and he provides interesting insights from his perspective into MIT's culture. He paints an offbeat and sometimes grim picture of a high-pressure high-demand environment (if you can't produce, you're history) that has trained some of the world's best engineers at the expense of exposing unprepared students to a sometimes dehumanizing system. Included are anecdotes on the emotional rush felt by students solving real-world problems, the suicide of a fellow student, MIT "hacks," engineering competitions, and a comment by a fellow graduate who said that his active army duty helped prepare him for the stress (although there was more stress at MIT). White also spent time as an undergraduate dorm TA whose major responsibilities included maintaining contact with brilliant undergraduates, some of whom ran consulting companies from their dorm rooms. Certainly White's experiences and views are not shared by everyone, but this is recommended reading for those who want an entertaining and different perspective on a graduate engineering education. Available at the Library.



CARL Tips

Browsing journal articles can provide serendipitous discoveries and current awareness of research and trends in your field. The Library has a current journal Browsing Area to encourage browsing. However, people cannot always make effective use of the Browsing Area. As journal prices rise and patron needs diversify in response to interdisciplinary study, it will also become increasingly likely that the Library will not own a needed journal. If the journal isn't here you can't browse through it.

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CARL allows you to do preliminary browsing by displaying the table of contents from a targeted journal. Articles of interest can then be identified for library use or document delivery. Tables of contents can be browsed on CARL in 2 ways:

1) **For CSM journals-** In the CSM database #7, find the journal record using a word or title search. At the end of the record, enter E to examine current issue information. A list of issues will be displayed, allowing you to see if they've been received, sent to the Bindery, etc. Enter the number of the selected issue and a modified table of contents will be displayed for you to browse. If you enter the number of a selected article, its full citation will be displayed.

2) **For journals in other CARL libraries-** In the UnCover database #50, find the journal title record (not the article title record) by a word or title search. (A title search is more efficient, but if you do use a word search remember not to use the word "journal" in UnCover.) At the end of the record, enter E to display an issue list and follow the steps outlined in 1) to get a table of contents.

Since CARL is accessible with the proper hardware/software from the home, office or computer lab as well as the Library, you can browse through current journals from a remote site and without being restricted to journals that are actually on the Library's shelves at that instant.



Joanne Lerud presented a talk entitled "Cultural Heritage Collected at the Arthur Lakes Library, Colorado School of Mines, Golden Colorado" at an international conference in October at the Berg Akademie, Freiberg Germany.

Joanne Lerud and Lisa Dunn presented papers at the Annual Meeting of the Geoscience Information Society held in conjunction with the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in October/November. Joanne's technical session paper was entitled "Visiting Committee Implementation, Arthur Lakes Library, Colorado School of Mines." Lisa's symposium paper was entitled "The Internet, Electronic Media and Changes in Geoscience Information Provision."

Summer Projects: During the summer Circulation staff worked to improve access to the journal collection. Journals are arranged in alphabetical order and new lists have been placed on the ends of the stacks to identify the titles contained. Also during the summer the Library staff completed an inventory of the book collection, tagged missing items and put all shelves in order for the 93/94 academic year. Reference staff completed a notebook of reference aids that is available at the Reference Desk and includes lists showing:

- Journals that have job ads.
- Journals that include indexes of their contents.
- A subject index to CSM literature indexes.
- A subject index to selected reference books.
- Placement Office company information binders.

CSM ID Cards: Students, faculty and staff who want to use the CSM Library must present a CSM identification card with a current valid sticker attached. A

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**CARL
Tips,
cont....**

**Library
Notes**

**Library
Notes,
cont....**

currently validated CSM ID card may also be used to borrow materials from other CARL libraries such as Auraria, CU-Boulder, CSU or DU. Be sure to get a validation sticker or your card will not be honored at another library. Identification cards and validation stickers are obtained at the Student Center.

Circulation Policy Changes- This fall the Library implemented some changes in the check-out period for library materials. Graduate students, faculty and staff are now limited to a 60-day check-out period for materials, with one renewal possible. Undergraduates will continue to have a 21-day check-out period with one renewal possible. All items will be stamped with the due date and library users are responsible for returning materials by that date. This change was made in an effort to make library materials more readily available, and is in response to comments from students and concerns expressed by the Library Visiting Committee.

Electronic Interlibrary loan forms- Want to use the Library's ILL services to order materials from your home or office without picking up a form? Now there's a way for CSM students, faculty and staff to order materials through the campus network. ILL forms are posted on Gopher under the CSM menu and the Library. Once you select the form you want, you will be prompted for the necessary information and it will be sent directly to the Library's Document Delivery Department. For information on using CSM Gopher, see Bob Ware (Computing Center); Judy Larson (x3601 Library); Lisa Dunn (x3687 Library). For questions about the ILL form, see Meg Clark (x3699 Library).



Library Directory

Director.....	x3690
Circulation.....	x3698
Document Delivery/Interlibrary loan.....	x3699
Document Delivery/Photocopy.....	x3899
Reference.....	x3694
Government Publications.....	x3695
Map Room.....	x3697
Acquisitions.....	x3691
Cataloging.....	x3692
Natural Gas Supply Info. Center.....	x3707

Library Hours (Academic Term)

Monday- Thursday.....	7:30 AM to 12 Midnight
Friday.....	7:30 AM to 6:00 PM
Saturday.....	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Sunday.....	3:00 PM to 12 Midnight