

# LINKS TO LAKES

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## The Newsletter of the Arthur Lakes Library

No. 7, Spring 1995

Colorado School of Mines

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### From the Director

*by Joanne Lerud*

If you haven't been to the Library lately, it is time to visit! Expanded access to CARL including output capabilities (this means printers!), document delivery enhancements, expanded OCLC access, renovation of the Reference Room, and creation of a Local Area Network to enable library users and staff to locate and efficiently use a wide range of information resources were accomplished with funds from the Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation. Come and explore!

On April 21, the dedication of the Russell L. and Lyn Wood Mining History Archive will be celebrated. Through their generous gift, the Library will be able to collect, house and preserve rare monographs, manuscripts, photographs, documents, correspondence, oral histories and memorabilia of the mining industry.

More changes are just around the corner. We hope to be able to introduce a new Map Librarian very soon. The Natural Gas Supply Information Center will be moving to a new downtown location and will certainly be missed. A new security system will be installed and then we paint! By this time it will be summer-- that's when we do our big projects.



### LEARNING ABOUT YOUR LIBRARY: LC CLASSIFICATION

*by Janice Christopher*

As a cataloger for the Library, I want to issue a denial up front: I do not toss darts at a dartboard when creating call numbers for books. Library users often express surprise that books on the 4th and 5th levels are deliberately arranged, but **classification** (the system of call numbers that organizes books by subject) isn't anything that librarians expect users to memorize. That's why we have catalogs like CARL, so users can find a specific item without being librarians. Our classification system is interesting, though, and understanding something of how it works can be useful when doing library research.

Arthur Lakes Library uses LC, the Library of Congress classification system, when assigning call numbers to the book collection. Unlike the Dewey decimal system (which you may have encountered in other libraries), which claims to organize the entire "universe of knowledge," LC was developed to provide classification for the Library of Congress's own collection.

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## Learning About Your Library: LC Classification, cont.

Over the past century, as this collection has acquired new works in all areas of knowledge, LC classification has likewise expanded to include new subjects and developing research areas. The goal of LC, however, is still to class all books in a subject together. Class numbers (which are also call numbers) in LC are alphanumeric, and each part is significant. The first part of a call number, the alphabetic part, describes the item's general class: QA is Mathematics, QB is Astronomy, QC is Physics, QD is Chemistry, and so forth. Each class contains a number of smaller numerical subclasses: the subclasses QD 146 through QD197 cover Inorganic Chemistry, for example. Each subclass can be further subdivided as necessary for more specificity, by using decimals (QD 155.5 is the subclass for handbooks, tables, and formulas of inorganic chemistry) or by adding an alphanumeric subclass designation (QD 172 .R2 is the subclass for works on the inorganic chemistry of the rare earth metals).

The classification system provides locations in each subject to class items by the type of publication, such as periodicals, congresses, collected works, dictionaries, and encyclopedias--so that if you're looking for a dictionary of mining terms, you can find all of them in the same place on the shelf. Gaps also exist in the numbering to allow for future subject expansion within subclasses, so if a new technique or method is developed, or if a new discovery is made, it can be included in the classification system.

Resilient as LC has been for nearly 100 years, it does have some limitations. It doesn't handle interdisciplinary works particularly well; a cataloger must make a choice about where an item will be classed. Also, as our knowledge or use of a subject changes, the way we think about that subject might change as well--but books nearly always remain classed in their first location. For example, computer science appears in LC as a subclass of mathematics, reflecting computers' early role as computation tools. No one anticipated the widespread roles that computers would eventually fill in our culture, or the varied functions and applications to which computing power would be turned. Some catalogers would argue that computers deserve their own distinct subclass.

Except for the occasional historical quirk, LC remains a powerful and useful library tool. Anyone interested in further details of their own subject area can contact me by phone (x3692) or email (jchristo@mines), or come visit us in Technical Services.



## Publishing Guidelines for the Internet

by Lisa Dunn

As an Internet publisher, what can you do to help your information-overloaded audience? **Add to the environment but don't clutter it up.** While it is true that there may be few practical limits on the subject matter that can be posted on the Internet, it is equally true that Internet users do have limits to their time and resources. Critically evaluate the purpose and value of your contribution. ("For fun" is a valid purpose under certain circumstances.) Remember, you're making the publishing decisions here.

**Inform your audience about practicalities.** Tell people up front in non-jargon terms what you are providing and what hardware and software is required. Don't rely on the clues provided in file names--not everyone can decipher them. List file sizes. Very few of us want to sit around waiting while our struggling equipment tries to load marginal but massive files. Is your resource an index, a catalog of publications, a directory? Does it let people order materials online or download files? Do users have to subscribe, and if so, is there a fee? (Yes, the Internet does have fee-based services.)

**Take your publishing seriously.** Include information such as posting date or last update; author and/or "editor" (the person responsible for posting and maintaining the material) and contact information; originating agency and place of publication; archive locations if any. Put this information at the beginning of your material. It helps people assess the value of your resource and, incidentally, allows them to more accurately cite your work. It also gives people

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a “real” trail to follow as an alternative if there is a problem. Don’t assume that people are familiar with your resource. Many people “surfing” the ‘net get confused and have no idea how they got where they did.

**Consider your choice of words carefully.** At present the words used in posting resources (menus, file names, etc.) play a large role in determining accessibility. Character-string search software or menu browsing are often used to identify Internet resources. Use descriptive keywords that define your resource, the fewer the better. Avoid null descriptive words such as “information.” By definition much of what is on the Internet *is* information. Besides, you don’t usually see books titled “Information on Hydrologic Modeling.” Avoid local jargon. Reconsider using words with ambiguous meanings. Technical terms work best (the sciences luck out). Be consistent.

Given the fluid and often confusing nature of the Internet, the fewer barriers you create for your audience, the better. Given the vast quantity of information already available on the Internet, the more you help your audience critically evaluate those resources, the better. After all, since you invested your own efforts into publishing, you do want them to pay off. For more on public access to information (in whatever format), contact Reference at x3694.



**The Hot Zone.** Preston, Robert. NY: Random House. 1994; **The Coming Plague.** Garrett, Laurie. NY: Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 1994. H. Bucholz, reviewer.

“The Hot Zone” and “The Coming Plague,” although written in dramatically different styles and tones, both point to the same conclusion: the human race is particularly vulnerable to new and fast-acting viruses that we are woefully unprepared to challenge. “The Hot Zone” is a fast-paced chronicle of the emergency of the Ebola virus which originated near the Ebola River in Zaire in 1976. It caused a military panic 13 years later in Reston, Virginia (5 miles from our nation’s capital) when a facility containing crab-eating monkeys used for medical research was infected. The virus had already proven to be airborne with a 90% kill rate. All of the monkeys had to be destroyed and the facility decontaminated by space-suited marines. The accounts of human victims hemorrhaging from skin pores and all body orifices, including eyes, and the virus attacking internal organs resulting in the victims’ vomiting up the remains of their stomach linings, are both graphic and fascinating. The entire book reads more like a horror novel than a non-fiction account of a real event. It is great reading and you won’t be able to put it down.

“The Coming Plague,” at 750 pages (more than twice the length of “The Hot Zone”), is a clinical and statistical account of a number of “new” viruses (including Ebola) that have emerged within the last century. Some 12 or so viruses ranging from Machupo, discovered in Bolivia in 1961, to AIDS are covered, detailing their discovery and the subsequent scientific endeavor to isolate and identify the agent as a truly new disease, develop treatment(s), and educate the public about the new threat. The book is very detailed, devoting the last 128 pages to footnotes, and does not refrain from making social commentary on the causes and effects of these new diseases. “The Coming Plague” is an informative, more scholarly work than “The Hot Zone” and isn’t thrilling, but still worth the time. It has been suggested that the theme of the book is that Earth may be trying to rid itself of the human parasite to save itself from man’s decimation of its natural resources. Pretty scary.



As a federal depository, Arthur Lakes Library receives information directly from the US government. Many government agencies are issuing publications electronically. The Government Publications Section receives many of these publications on CD-ROM. The following are examples of some of the most popular CD-ROM titles with short descriptions

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## Book Reviews

## News From Government Publications

*by Lisa Stomberg*

## News From Government Publications, cont.

NTDB (National Trade Data Bank) - NTDB is a collection of international trade and export statistics, country and industry profiles, how-to-do-it guides, and directory information from selected US government agencies. Also included is the Foreign Traders Index (FTI), a list of contacts in trading countries. The CD-ROM is updated monthly. (C 1.88:(nos.))

TRI (Toxic Release Inventory) - TRI contains data on routine and accidental emissions nationwide. In addition to toxic release data, the file contains Health and Ecological Fact Sheets for most of the substances in the "313 Chemical List." The coverage is 1987-1992. (EP 5.22/2:987-92)

State Water-Data Reports - This CD-ROM contains USGS hydrologic records for each US state, Puerto Rico, and the Trust Territories. The coverage is from 1990 to 1993. (I 19.76:94-467/CD)

For more information about government information please stop by the Government Publications Section located on the lower level of the Library or contact Lisa Stomberg at x3695.

Next Issue: Government Publications and Electronic Resources, cont.

## Library Notes

Course notes packets on Reserve for selected classes can now be purchased at the Library Circulation Desk. This service eliminates the inconvenience of copier lines, wasted time and change-handling for students making their own copies. Faculty who would like to participate in this service should call **Jeff Custard at x3681**.

FirstSearch access has been expanded by a Colorado Statewide Pilot project. We now have access to a wider variety of technical databases through June 30, 1995. TAKE ADVANTAGE of this opportunity. For details contact **Reference at x3694**.

New CARL terminals have been acquired. CARL is now available to the public on all 5 levels of the Library, with additional terminals in Reference and Government Publications. New printers have also been added to provide hardcopy of searches.

The GRI Natural Gas Supply Information Center is relocating to downtown Denver, after 8 years at the Arthur Lakes Library. Its new location: The Denver Club Building, 518 17th St., Ste. 610, Denver CO 80202, ph. 575-9030. For details, contact **Linda Sole at x3707**.

The Russell L. and Lyn Wood Mining History Archive is being dedicated April 21 at the Library. The Archive will house the Library's existing collection of rare monographs, mining photographs, correspondence and memorabilia of the mining industry (including CSM's history), and provide a suitable environment for later acquisitions. For more information or questions about donations, contact **Bob Sorgenfrei at x3691**.

### Library Directory

Director.....	x3690
Circulation.....	x3698
Document Delivery/ILL.....	x3699
Document Delivery/Photocopy.....	x3899
Reference.....	x3694
Government Publications.....	x3695
Maps.....	x3697
Acquisitions.....	x3691
Cataloging.....	x3692
NGSIC.....	x3707

### Library Hours (School 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