

# LINKS TO LAKES

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The Newsletter of the Arthur Lakes Library

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Colorado School of Mines

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### From the Director

*by Joanne Lerud*

The Arthur Lakes Library is the grateful recipient of a million dollar gift from Bob Davison, '43 GE and his wife, Stacia. These funds will be used to enhance the Arthur Lakes Library's serial collection, the backbone of any science and technical library. The Journal Browsing Room will be named for the Davisons in recognition of this generous gift; we hope a dedication and celebration will be forthcoming to honor Bob and Stacia.

I hope you all will notice the new public computers that are currently being placed in the Library. These replacement PCs were purchased using Technology Fee funds. Laura Guy, Computer Services Librarian, wrote the grant that was awarded by the Technology Fee Committee so students who use the Library would have better access to on line information.

It seems as though we have had many guests in the past weeks. The Library was interviewing candidates for two open reference positions. Also, as part of an exchange agreement with the Montanuniversitat University in Leoben, Austria, Frau Doktor Lieselotte Jontes (and her spouse Herr Doktor Guenther Jontes) visited with us and gave a presentation to those interested in visiting or attending school in Leoben.

Thank you to all the students who participated in the Library chair evaluation. The consensus is that the three position chairs with arms are preferred by students. Did you feel like Goldilocks and the Three Bears? Some of the three position chairs with arms will be ordered for the beginning of the next academic year.

### Slippery Ground: Evaluating and Citing Information on the Internet

*Lisa Dunn, Head of Reference*

The Internet is a wonderful environment for information researchers, as many people have discovered. E-mail allows rapid communication and makes transfer of text, electronic files, and graphics easy. Thousands of

## Evaluating and Citing Information on the Internet

(cont.)

by Lisa Dunn

pages on the WWW represent government, educational, and commercial agencies and provide information on their services and products. Thousands more pages are posted by individuals and groups. Although there are problems with the unregulated nature of the Web (e-mail spam, controversies on freedom of information, pornography, etc.), this self-publishing environment has created a diverse and valuable information resource.

As with all information resources, be prepared to evaluate your information and use it knowledgeably. People seeking information for scholarly purposes must be particularly careful. Evaluation criteria are very similar to those of print resources, including content, credibility of the author, accountability of the publisher, and the presence and quality of cited sources. Content must be evaluated by you according to your familiarity with the subject. But what if you aren't familiar with the subject? You must rely on other ways to help evaluate an electronic source.

The author's name and contact information rather than an alias or unidentified author should be present in a credible e-mail message or webpage. Many people belong to electronic listservs or read news groups, but a surprising number forget that some of the information posted has worth only according to the author's expertise. In the recent controversy over the accuracy of Patrick Tierney's book "Darkness in El Dorado: How scientists and journalists devastated the Amazon," e-mail communication played an important role; it was critical for participants to know the identities and credentials of those participating in the dialog. Authors for credible webpages should also be identified.

If you have an author's name you can often find additional information about them. The least time-consuming (although not the most comprehensive) way to do so is to use a Web search engine such as Google or Altavista to search for other occurrences of the author's name on the Web. A Web search works best on newsworthy people or people actively using the Internet as a communications medium, particularly scholars. In a web search you may find personal webpages, vitae, lists of publications authored, organizational affiliations, or related news releases. A quick search in a relevant library catalog or subject database may also retrieve a list of publications. From these results you can deduce research interests, career information, contact information, and other features to help put the author's work in perspective.

On the Internet the author is often the publisher as well. The websites of organization such as the US Geological Survey or the American Chemical Society have "corporate" authors/publishers, although separate webpages within the site may have individual authors. The key word in evaluating publishers is accountability. Look for publishers who have something to lose if their electronic information is inaccurate, dated or biased. That "something to lose" may be tax dollars, a scholarly reputation, customers. Is the publisher credible in the print world of publishing? Are they funded by

federal or state tax dollars? Are they a reputable educational institution? Does the publisher offer peer reviewed materials? Do they employ researchers and specialists that can speak authoritatively on the subject? These characteristics are shared by many government, professional society, and educational publishers.

Presence and quality of citations is a familiar means of evaluating the scholarly nature of a communication or publication and electronic format isn't much different. The main difference is one of mechanics. E-mail software allows users to forward and reply to messages with the original post in the body of the text. Although this can get out of hand, it does allow you to follow a discussion labeled with the participants' comments. Webpages, in addition to having citations, are capable of providing links to other webpages. When used effectively these links can act much like citations to enhance the information on the original webpage.

Once you've evaluated an Internet source and decided to incorporate it into your information research, cite it under the same rules you would cite a print source. Current style manuals have information on how to cite electronic sources. You can also get the guide "Citing Information Sources in Scientific and Technical Writing" from the Library. Copyright applies to the expression of ideas set down in a fixed medium, whether print or electronic. Although there are public domain materials on the Web, many other Internet sources are copyrighted even when not labeled as such. Because of the confusion and misconceptions over copyright, a good rule of thumb is to treat all sources as copyrighted unless you can specifically determine otherwise and apply fair use guidelines as you would to a print source. Issues of usage and duplication are particularly important with the growing amount of electronic text available and the increasing ease with which material can be pulled off others' webpages and transferred to your computer files.

In addition to the importance of evaluating Internet sources, there are other issues of which every scholar should be aware. Although there are many scholarly publications accessible via the Web, most webpages are probably not considered scholarly works. If you include Web sources as part of your information research, assess their impact on the appearance and character of your work and make sure that they are appropriate for your purposes. An issue becoming increasingly important to information research is the potentially transitory nature of information sources on the Web. Some are literally here today, gone tomorrow as providers change jobs, lose funding, cancel subscriptions. In a study on undergraduate paper citations in microeconomics (Davis and Cohen 2000) over a 4 year period, print citations decreased as Web citations increased over time, reflecting the obvious ease of use of the Web over print for students. However, only 55% of URLs cited in 1999 led to the correct webpage by 2000. Only 18% of URLs cited in 1996 remained by 2000. For those who depend on citations as a critical link in scholarly research over time, the cumulative effect of this process can be devastating.

## **Evaluating and Citing Information on the Internet**

(cont.)

*by Lisa Dunn*

## Evaluating and Citing Information

(cont.)

by Lisa Dunn

Given these characteristics, treat Web resources with some of the cautions you would use for personal communications. Archive e-mail in print or electronic format for later referral as needed. If you use an electronic source, do cite it rather than any print equivalent. However, if feasible cite preferentially those e-sources for which a print equivalent exists. For example, many e-journals have print equivalents; some federal e-documents have print versions distributed via the USGPO depository program to libraries. Print has a higher survival rate and your readers will be able to find the cited source in print if and when the electronic version disappears. If there are no print equivalents, try to discover if the publisher maintains electronic archives that are accessible to the public. If you are publishing electronically, check with the copyright holder of the cited e-reference to see if you can attach a copy of their work to yours to provide access for your readers.

Despite the Internet's great contributions to information searching this environment is still slippery ground, especially for those still learning the techniques of scholarly information research. Protect yourself and your audience by using the characteristics of the Internet to enhance your work rather than detract from it.

### *References*

Davis, Philip M.; Cohen, Suzanne A. 2000. The effect of the Web on undergraduate citation behavior 1996-1999. *J. Am. Soc. Information Science* (in press).

## Top 10

By Laura Guy

### **Top Ten List of why CATALYST is Great!**

By Laura Guy

#### **10. Call number, author and subject fields are hyperlinks!**

You've done your search on and have 100 records to review. You can click on the call number for one of them, and go directly to that area and see what else is there on the shelf. You can also link directly to all other books by the author to see what else he or she has written or go to the list of other books in the library using the subject headings that are displayed.

#### **9. Mark records you want and then print, save or email them directly from Catalyst!**

One of the major drawbacks of our old catalog is there was no way to mark selected records and then either print or email them. In Catalyst, you can mark records as you go and then easily print those out or email them to yourself for later viewing.

#### **8. Web-based course reserves!**

Course name, instructor and department are all in pull-down menus in the course reserve section of Catalyst. Students don't have to remember their syllabi or guess at abbreviations of course names to find their reserve readings.

## Top 10

(cont.)

By Laura Guy

### **7. Already checked out? No problem!**

Did your search turn up something that someone else has checked out already? You can place a hold or recall a book without trudging over to the Library!

### **6. Renew a book directly from the catalog!**

Not only can you use Catalyst to find materials, you can also use it to renew books or other items you already have checked out.

### **5. Link directly to online resources from the catalog!**

It's easier than ever to find online resources. A special "Catalyst Web Resource" icon that is displayed in the search results listing identifies them. Click on the title information to get fast access to the network resource!

### **4. Limit searches by language, date of publication, and more!**

You can limit your searches to English or German. Or search for works published by a certain publisher. Or limit the item type (book, serial, etc.).

### **3. Relevance ranked keyword searching!**

As with Web search engines such as AltaVista or Infoseek, your search results are ranked according to how relevant they are to your search terms. Relevancy is determined by a number of factors, including location and frequency of search terms.

### **2. Flexible search options!**

Are you a mouser or a typist? Either way, one of Catalyst's powerful search options will suit your needs. You can browse or search by author, title, call number, subject, or combinations thereof!

### **1. It's Web-based!**

Because it's on the Web, the new CSM Library Catalog has a great number of advantages over the old catalog-including the fact that you don't have to configure your browser to find and open the right application to use it, and, you can access it from anywhere that you have access to the Internet and a web browser!

There are many other reasons why we think Catalyst is great. And come this summer, there will be even more, when we upgrade to the latest version of the software. This new-and-improved Catalyst will include an easier and more user-friendly interface, loads of new functionality including a "Quick Limits" option, the ability to apply "post-search" limits, and a "Jump Button" that will let you navigate quickly through large result sets. Yes, Catalyst *is* great, but the best is yet to come!

## **Library's Wireless LAN**

*By Laura Guy*

### **The Library's New Wireless LAN: The Mountain Comes to Mohammad**

*By Laura Guy*

It is an amazing scenario. In the Library, you wander the floors with your notebook, always connected to the campus LAN. You can access the online catalog, journal and information databases, and other campus and Internet resources. More than a fantasy, this scenario is now a reality at Arthur Lakes Library, with the addition of a new wireless local-area network (WLAN), funded by campus Technology Fees.

The Library's new WLAN enables users to establish and maintain a wireless network connection throughout the Library, without the limitations of wires or cables. The WLAN combines the mobility and flexibility Library patrons want, with the throughput and security they need.

In comprehensible terms, a WLAN does exactly what the name implies: it provides all the features and benefits of traditional LAN technologies such as Ethernet and Token Ring, but without the wires: connectivity no longer requires attachment. WLANs use a transmission medium, just like wired LANs. Instead of using twisted-pair or fiber-optic cable, WLANs use either infrared light (IR) or radio frequencies (RF). Of the two, RF is far more popular for its longer-range, higher- bandwidth, and wider coverage, and this is the transmission medium utilized by the Library WLAN. The WLAN supports data rates up to 11 Mbps with a range of 400 feet (120m).

Multiple WLAN Base Stations have been placed throughout the Library to provide users equipped with laptop PC client adapter cards the ability to move freely throughout the building while maintaining uninterrupted access to all network resources. Coverage includes the first through fourth floors of the Library.

The client adapter ("wireless") cards can be booked in advance and checked out for 4-hour periods at the Circulation Desk. Your laptop must be equipped with a PCMCIA card Type II or Type III slot in order to accommodate the client adapter card. The PC Cards are very easy to install and set-up. The first time you charges a client adapter card from the Circulation Desk, you must go to the Computer Center to have Help Desk staff install and configure the software.

With WLAN technology, you can get a lot more done in the Library: the network now moves with you.

**Nacy, Michele J. *Members of the Regiment. Army Officers' Wives on the Western Frontier, 1865-1890.* Westport, Connecticut, 2000.**

**Call number: F594 .N283 2000**

The lives of eleven Army officers' wives on the frontier during the Indian Wars are profiled in **Members of the Regiment**. While these women experienced many of the challenges and hardships of other frontiers women, their experience was unique in the fact that their lives were carried out within the bounds, protocols and traditions of the military, making their private lives very public within the garrison setting. However, the wives did their best to maintain the ideal of "true womanhood" as seen by the norms of the time. A comfortable, nurturing, moral, civilizing home separate from the outside world was the goal. However, this goal was always subject to the constraints of life in the military and the threat of Indian attacks. Home could be a wagon, tent, adobe, or log cabin. Changes in orders required frequent, arduous travel, often with new orders issued upon arrival at the destination. Family issues of childbirth, child rearing and education were difficult. Home was further complicated by the Army practice of ranking out. Under this policy, an officer of higher rank could take any housing. A bachelor officer could displace a family upon request, regardless of the circumstances of the family. Francis Boyd, awaiting the birth of her third child, received messages from six officers to vacate her home. Only by the intervention of the post doctor, was the family allowed to stay. The family moved four weeks after the birth. This certainly wrecked havoc on the idea of home as a refuge! This blurring of private/public living did enhance the status of the women in the regiment. The wives were responsible for the official social functions of the garrison, hosting dignitaries and other visitors or officers. As officer's wives (often addressed by their husband's rank, i.e. Mrs. Major Smith) these women commanded enlisted men and expected to be obeyed. Enlisted men did jobs for the families and therefore followed the women's orders. Eveline Alexander commanded a group of twelve armed soldiers in order to move a group of wounded soldiers from one fort to another to receive proper medical attention. The wives often acted as intermediaries between the enlisted men and their husbands, soliciting improvements in conditions or resolution to disagreements. The officer's wives became adept at defining themselves in terms of their society. While maintaining their role as "true" women, they also viewed themselves as integral members of the regiment.

**Carlson, P.H., ed. *The Cowboy Way: An Exploration of History and Culture.* Lubbock, Texas: Texas Tech University Press. 2000. 236p.**

**Call number: F596 .C8773 2000**

Sixteen essays covering aspects of the cowboy myth and reality are presented in **The Cowboy Way**. Readable and informative, the book provides an entertaining insight into the American symbol of the cowboy. Various groups of cowhands are discussed including the vaqueros, blacks and Native Americans. One very successful government program after the establishment of the reservation system was that of open range cattle

## **Book Reviews**

*By Carol Simpson*

## Book Reviews

(cont.)

By Carol Simpson

ranching. The program was thriving, providing income, self-sufficiency and recognition for the tribe. Unfortunately, the government policy changed and the reservation was broken into individual allotments with tracts too small to sustain herds. In addition, the practice of leasing the lands to outside ranchers further destroyed the enterprise. Tensions between groups on the range are discussed. The conflict between cowboys and shearers is addressed in one essay. Employee/management tensions resulted in a cowboy strike in 1883 against a group of ranches in the Texas Panhandle. The complaints are familiar — feelings of alienation by the workers toward far-away owners, (many ranches were owned by Eastern or Scottish syndicates), low wages, seasonal employment, and poor working conditions. The strike failed. But, it is notable that a strike was organized in an attempt by cowboys to increase their economic status and opportunities amidst a booming cattle industry. Two essays address the growth of the rodeo cowboy star and the movie cowboy, the “reel” cowboy. Dime novels, Wild West shows, Buffalo Bill’s showmanship, cowboy contests between rival cattle operations that grew into rodeos, Hopalong Cassidy and Roy Rogers—all contributed to the growth of the American cowboy mystique. Cowboy attire, humor, and music are discussed. Get ready for the summer rodeo season with this review of cowboy history, myth and culture. (Stetson and Tony Lamas, optional)

## Library Notes

**Cathy Crane** has joined the staff on a temporary basis. Cathy is currently working on cataloging and classifying historical mining documents and photographs scanned as part of the Colorado Digitization Project. She has a background in archeology and grew up in Golden.

**Linda Maola** has joined the staff at the Circulation Desk. She recently received a Masters in gerontology. A native of Sweden, she recently moved to Colorado.

**Carol Simpson** has joined the Reference staff. Carol worked for many years in the Marathon Oil Company’s library. She has lived in the Denver area for ten years.

### Library Directory

Director	(303) 273-3690
Circulation	(303) 273-3698
Information Delivery/ILL	(303) 273-3699
Information Delivery/Photocopy	(303) 273-3899
Reference	(303) 273-3694
Government Publications	(303) 273-3695
Maps	(303) 273-3697
Acquisitions	(303) 273-3691
Cataloging	(303) 273-3692

### 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.....	1:00 PM to 10:00 PM