From the Director by Joanne Lerud

All libraries, including the Arthur Lakes Library, have a growing population of users that library staff may never see. I am not referring to ghosts or extraterrestrial aliens; I am referring to the remote user. Many are working almost exclusively from their desktop—choosing not to visit the Library, choosing not to use resources or services unless they are electronic. It is the subject of another column to list the reasons why this may adversely affect the final product the user is seeking; instead, I would like to indicate how the Library is incorporating the needs of these users.

In the spring, the Arthur Lakes Library will become a part of Prospector—the union catalog of the research libraries of Colorado and Wyoming. Certain benefits will be derived from this collaboration. Individuals using Prospector will have Lakes Library material appearing as part of their search results. Users can place holds on materials at this Library or at other libraries from their desktop. Interlibrary loan requests will be generated by the user without filling in paper or electronic forms.

The Library will continue to acquire more and more electronic resources. We currently provide access to over 200 databases and 500 electronic journals. Bibliographic records are being added to Catalyst, but at this time it is best to see our directories on our web site: http://www.mines.edu/library/Database/index.html. These lists are being regularly updated. In order for patrons to hone their searching skills using both paper and electronic resources, the reference librarians are available to teach people in a one-on-one or group settings. Contact the Reference Desk for more information (libref@mines.edu or 303-273-3694).

The Library, with the permission of the Administration of the Colorado School of Mines, is seeking a Public Services Librarian. This position will be responsible for the management and supervision of Circulation and Information Delivery Services—critical public functions. Over the past 10 years, the supervision of these sections has floated; as a result, long-term goals and planning have been limited. Also, the person in this position will be able to give more attention to expanding services, such as public relations.

Even if you really like that desk top, please visit the Library. You may find out even more!
Improving Access to Technical Reports

When people are performing an in-depth study of a scientific topic, they will almost invariably come across a citation that resembles this:


Often these citations have unusual acronyms and multiple sets of numbers and/or letters (see above). Frequently one cannot use these citations to locate the material in a library's online catalog. Why is material like this so difficult to decipher and find? One of the most common answers to this question is because the material is a technical report. Technical reports, the results of research and development, are detailed studies on a specific topic and are usually disseminated "early in the information flow process" and are therefore very important to the scientific community. (McClure, Charles R. "The Federal Technical Report Literature: Research Needs and Issues," *in Government Information Quarterly* 5:1, p. 28.)

Because the U.S. Government supports a large amount of research and development, many technical reports are federal in nature. While many libraries collect these federally funded technical reports, the reports are generally placed in a separate special collection, organized by technical report numbers or some other system different from the main collections within the library, and are often not found in the library's online database. These practices have made it difficult for researchers to identify and locate technical reports.

The federally funded technical report literature is vast. The majority of this literature was written after World War II as the U.S. Government started performing a great deal of scientific and technical research and development. In order to gather all of the information coming from this massive effort, the U.S. government created an agency whose mission was to collect, disseminate, and preserve the resulting literature of all federally funded scientific and technical (STI) research. The current agency is the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). NTIS has a large collection of STI publications, over 3 million, from the 1950s to the present. Some of the larger contributors to this literature are the Department of Energy (DOE) and its predecessors, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The NTIS mission is crucial to the scientific community as a repository for this initial research. However, access to the NTIS collection has always been challenging. Often researchers have to look at several sources to identify and locate a technical report. Free access to a database of their entire collection (1964- ) has never been available, but many libraries pay for and offer access to this database that provides bibliographic citation information only. Locating technical reports in a library is difficult because very few libraries have large NTIS collections. NTIS does offer free access to the last 10 years of this database on their website and the agency does disseminate their information for a fee if one requests a specific technical report. One of the main reasons for this limited service is that since the 1980s, NTIS has not been given Congressional appropriations to perform its mission. Acting as a self-sufficient agency since
that time, NTIS has not been able to fully perform its mission: to collect, disseminate, and preserve federally funded technical reports.

As Internet technology changed in the 1990s, many have looked at this as the answer for access. While some of the federally funded technical reports have become available via the Internet, some full-text recently, this has not proved to be an answer to the large NTIS collection without a significant financial increase. The lack of Congressional funding has made it very difficult for NTIS to take advantage of new technologies and therefore NTIS could not participate of Federal Depository Libraries throughout the United States to offer full-text access to selected reports from 1997 to the present within those libraries only (the CSM Library is a participant). This NTIS Pilot Project is a beginning, but without significant funding, it cannot be the answer for electronically accessible technical reports and dramatically improved access to the collection. For more information about the Pilot Project, please contact Lisa Nickum, Government Publications Librarian: lnickum@mines.edu (303) 273-3697.

Over the past few years, the electronic access to federally funded technical reports has improved, despite NTIS. Scientific government agencies started providing free access to some of their STI literature—initially only citation and abstract form, but more recently in full-text. However, many of these technical reports are located deep within the hierarchy of an agency's website and do not appear in results when standard Internet search engines are used. As most agencies do not think of themselves as preservers of information, reports are often replaced with other, and sometimes newer information. Also if someone needs to obtain technical reports from various government agencies, they have to locate a website for each agency to see what kind of access, if any, is offered.

Over the past two years, one agency has really taken the lead in providing access to STI literature from their agency and have promised permanent public (free) access. The Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) from the Department of Energy (DOE), initially began providing citation access to recent DOE's technical reports before creating the DOE Information Bridge, which provides full-text access to DOE's technical reports from 1995 to the present (currently over 72,000). However, OSTI was not done when the Information Bridge was completed. OSTI's mission states a desire to create a virtual library of energy science and technology. In these efforts, EnergyFiles, connecting to over 500 online resources pertaining to energy science and technology, was created by OSTI. Another OSTI creation, Energy Portal Search, is a distributed search of energy-related collections including collections mainly from U.S. government agencies (NASA, EPA, Department of Defense, and the National Institutes of Health). OSTI's newest effort is the Energy Citations Database containing bibliographic and full-text information (when available) of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), and the Department of Energy (DOE) reports from 1948 to the present. All of these services are available from one location, the main OSTI website (http://www.osti.gov).

These tremendous efforts by OSTI have greatly improved access to federally funded energy-related technical reports and have also provided a model to greatly increase access to federally funded technical reports in general. NTIS, having the largest collection of these reports, should get the appropriated funds needed to successfully carry out their collection, dissemination, and preservation.
Improving Access to Technical Reports (cont.)

INSPEC

in the Internet revolution in the same way as other government agencies did. Although NTIS created a website, it has not used that space to offer public access to their entire collection like a few other government agencies have done. Starting in 1999, NTIS began working with the Government Printing Office and a small number mission. It should also coordinate with OSTI and other agencies producing electronic access to technical reports in order to create a state-of-the-art, one stop shopping electronic collection and dissemination system.

INSPEC® Database is Here!

Arthur Lakes Library has added web access to the INSPEC® database, produced by the Institution of Electrical Engineers. INSPEC® is the leading English-language bibliographic information service providing access to the world's scientific and technical literature in physics, electrical engineering, electronics, communications, control engineering, computers and computing, and information technology. It also has significant coverage in areas such as materials science, oceanography, nuclear engineering, geophysics, biomedical engineering and biophysics.

The database, covering 1969 to present, contains over 7 million records and is growing at the rate of 350,000 records each year. Over 3500 scientific and technical journals and some 1500 conference proceedings, as well as numerous books, reports and dissertations are scanned each year by the INSPEC® staff. The INSPEC® database is the online equivalent of printed Physics Abstracts (Science Abstracts Part A), Electrical and Electronic Abstracts (Science Abstracts Part B), Computer and Control Abstracts, and Information Technology Abstracts.

Some things to note:

- British spellings are commonly used
- Use * for truncation (laser* finds laser, lasers, laserbeam, etc.)
- Use # for an internal wildcard (colo#r finds both color and colour)
- Use the online Help feature for context specific assistance

Specialized INSPEC® Search Fields:

- Classification Codes: These allow you to search a specific topic area. For example, Classification Code A65 is Condensed Matter - Thermal properties of condensed matter; Classification Code C51 is Computer Hardware - Circuits and Devices. For an outline of the Classification System, go to: <http://www.iee.org/publish/support/inspec/document/class/>

- Treatment Codes: These allow you to search for particular types of research, e.g., Experimental, Theoretical, Practical, General Review, etc.

- Numerical Data: This specialized field allows you to search by numerical values with parameters such as Temperature, Density, Pressure, and Radiation Exposure.
The most recent complete INSPEC® Classification, INSPEC® Thesaurus, and INSPEC® List of Journals and Other Serial Sources have been ordered for the Arthur Lakes Library Reference collection.

Connect to INSPEC® from the Databases and E-Pubs category on the library home page. To learn more about using INSPEC®, contact the Reference Desk at 303-273-3694, or send e-mail to libref@mines.edu.

Your own Virtual Private Network (VPN)

Off-campus access to the Library's indexing, abstracting, and full-text journal and information databases has just been made easier by the CSM Virtual Private Network (VPN).

The VPN software creates a secure encrypted connection between your computer and the CSM campus, and also allows your computer to be a member of the network that you are connecting to (CSM in this case). The connection lets you access anything you would be able to do if you were physically at a machine on the campus, including the Library's indexing, abstracting, and full-text journal and information databases. The CSM Computing Center provides detailed instructions and assistance for accessing the VPN at http://www.mines.edu/Academic/computer/networking/services/vpn.shtml.

For information about this and other ways to access the Library's licensed online resources from off-campus, see http://www.mines.edu/library/Databases/connecting.html.

Book Review

Call number: TP248.65.F66 L35 2001

Since 1996, the acreage of genetically altered crops has increased from 0 to over 70 million. As much as 70% of processed food in American grocery stores contain genetically modified organisms (GMO's). In the U.S. there is no way to tell which food products contain GMO's; in other places, such as Europe, Japan, & Australia, labels must be put on foods stating that GMO's are part of the product. While part of the book discusses the label debate, Dinner at the New Gene Cafe follows both sides of a much larger debate-- pro- and anti-genetically altered food. Lambrecht investigates this by interviewing people on both sides. He begins with a molecular biologist from Monsato, the world leader in the genetic engineering of food; this chapter provides a good history of GMO's. Among the other people interviewed is a farmer, who says that genetically altered seeds make farmers better, and an environmentalist, who says genetically altered crops that produce their own insecticide will hasten the evolutionary cycle of pests.
Book Review

The focus of this book is not limited to the United States; it also discusses the international impact that companies, such as Monsanto, have. For example, Europe approved new and tightened rules for genetically modified food. An Indian organization is strongly against GMO’s because it views them as an imperialist weapons, while GMO companies say they are trying to help countries like India. A leader of a pro-GMO organization in Africa argues that genetically altered crops will help feed the hungry in Africa.

This book is very informative and very easy to read—you do not need a biology degree to understand and learn from it. It is geared toward a general reader.

Library Notes

Deanna Caporicci has joined the staff as a Reference Librarian. A native of Pueblo, Deanna received a BS in Chemistry from the Colorado School of Mines and a MLS from Indiana University. She previously worked in Philadelphia for Rohm and Haas.

Cheryl Livingston has joined the staff as the Library Technician II in the Government Publications and Map Room sections. A long time resident of Golden, Cheryl worked previously worked for the Jeffco school system.

April Perry has joined the staff as a Library Technician II in the Information Delivery Services department. A native of Denver, April received her BS in biology from CU.

Heather Whitehead has joined the staff as a Reference Librarian. Heather is a native of New Brunswick and received her BSC in geology at the University of Alberta, and her MLIS at University of Western Ontario. She previously worked at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI).

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