Interlibrary Loan Made Simple(r)

Perhaps you are familiar with Interlibrary Loan (ILL). This is a free service that virtually all libraries offer, and which Ellender Library offers to currently enrolled students, faculty and staff. If you are not familiar with the ILL Department, it is located on the first floor of the Library, back by the pirogues, and the service it performs can be summed up in one word: access. To perhaps oversimplify its function a bit, it is the department of the library that can get you any book or article you need when our library does not own a copy.

Interlibrary Loan was always simple from the patron’s point of view. You simply needed to know that a book existed, or that an article had been published in a journal or magazine, and fill out a form with your contact information, along with the information you knew about the item you wanted and turn it in. Then ILL got simpler. You could click on the department website (http://www.nicholls.edu/library/illdept.htm), look for the ILLiad link, and both set up your account if you were a first time user and request your book or article online if you had an account. Of course, the problem was always that you had to know that an item existed, which means that you had found it in either WorldCat (our database that searches all library catalogs for books) or in one of our article databases. Then you would have to toggle back and forth between your ILL form and the web page that had your item information, copying and pasting line by line.

Well now, you no longer have to do even that much work! ILL has been simplified to the point where all you have to do is click a mouse button, and the publication information of the item you desire through Interlibrary Loan will be **magically** transferred from the database where you found the information to the proper blanks in your loan form. In other words, say that you figure out that Nicholls does not have any copies of books by photographer Garry Winogrand. You search WorldCat and find that there is a book entitled *Figments from the Real World*. You want that book. All you need do is click on the WorldCat link that says “see more details for locating this item,” and then look for a link on the new page that says “Place ILLiad Request.” When you click there, a window asking for your ILL user information will pop up. If you have an account, you enter your account information; if not, you start an account. Once you have done either, you will get a window with an ILL form where, lo and behold, the information from your book is already entered in the correct blanks. Then you simply click “submit.”

The process for articles is similar, except you wouldn’t be searching in a database like WorldCat. But suppose you were in CINAHL, the nursing database, and you saw an article you wanted on hypertension in *Diet-Heart Newsletter*. You notice that there are no full text links to the article, and when you click the link that says “search iLink” to search our catalog, you get no hits for the journal that has the article in it, so you know we do not have it in print on the 3rd Floor. So what’s next? Well, if you have about a week before you need the article (which is how long ILL usually takes), you can click the “ILLiad Request” link, and as with a book, you will get the ILL user webpage. There, you can follow the same steps as with a book. Eventually you will be taken to the ILL form, which will have your article information in it. Clicking “submit” will place that request.
Looking for a Hypodermic in a Haystack? Spotlight on Library Nursing Databases

In our last issue, we made the statement that “the old days of using print indexes (bibliographies) such as The Reader’s Guide to Periodical Literature and the MLA are behind us, as these print versions have been replaced by web based online databases.” Just how true is that claim? Well the most recent Fiscal Year End statistics for our main database provider, EBSCO, points to the popularity of the library’s databases among students and other researchers.

EBSCO reports that over 111,000 searches were performed in their databases by Nicholls students and faculty in Fiscal Year 2003-04. Researchers logged on for over 29,000 sessions in these databases, and used the Full-Text option to directly obtain copies of their articles some 77,000 times. The most popular database, by far, is Academic Search Premier, on which NSU students cut their scholarly research teeth. ASP accounted for over 14,000 of the total EBSCO sessions, and for over 46,000 searches.

Of the program-specific databases, the 4th and 5th most popular were both Nursing databases: Health Source Academic and CINAHL. Combined, however, these two databases made Nursing students the most prolific users of our EBSCO databases, as they accounted for over 2700 total sessions, over 13,000 total searches, and over 6500 instances of Full-Text usage.

If you are unfamiliar with these indispensable research tools and are wondering what makes them so popular in academic research, the answer is easy. These databases make it possible for you to run keyword searches on any nursing related term or medical procedure, and instantly deliver to you not only a results list of all articles published on those subjects in major professional journals and some popular magazines, but in some cases will also deliver to your desktop a photocopy of the actual article. You then simply have to print the article from your workstation. And—you can do these searches from any location, including from home.

So, for example, if you wanted to research the literature on palliative care, you could search CINAHL and Health Source simultaneously (ask your librarian how), and within seconds, will be presented with a list of over 8000 articles from journals such as Palliative Medicine, The British Medical Journal, and JAMA. Of these 8000, some 2700 are available Full-Text from peer-reviewed (scholarly) journals, and these can be isolated with just two clicks (again, ask your friendly librarian how). And suppose you needed articles of this nature that concentrated on ethnicity? Have any idea how long it would take to do this search in print bibliographies. Well, in these databases, it took less than 2 seconds to find 15 articles of that level of specificity.

Without a doubt, electronic databases are not only here to stay, but they are the standard in research. Not being familiar with them would be tantamount to committing professional suicide. For Nursing students especially, these tools are the best inoculation against an ever-changing, constantly updating field of research.

Books in Brief, by Francine K. Middleton

The revelation of Deep Throat’s identity thirty one years after Nixon’s resignation has rekindled in me an interest in Watergate. Then I realized that even if I were so disposed to read the articles in the Washington Post from the time of the break-in in June 1972 through Nixon’s resignation in August 1974, I could not do so because the Library’s online holdings begin in 1974. Then again, it is much easier and more fun to read the book accounts on Watergate and its aftermath.

Woodward and Bernstein’s two books on the scandal are All the President’s Men and The Final Days. The former title begins with the hotel break-in in June 1972 and climaxes with Alexander Butterfield’s revelation of Nixon’s White House taping center. It is in All the President’s Men that Deep Throat, one of many sources, establishes his presence, which is almost as mythic as that of the Oracle at Delphi—albeit it in a parking garage. No other source has so captured the public’s imagination.

The Final Days centers on the legal investigations by the courts, the House, and the Senate and their efforts to gain access to the White House Tapes, particularly that of June 23, 1972, a week after the attempted “robbery.” This second book vividly depicts a White House staff in turmoil because Richard Nixon is not being open with his staff or his lawyers. Time and again supporters leap to defend the president only to be disappointed and duped. Many of these people, particularly those who were younger, suffered career damage which took years to overcome. Some fared better. Among them was David Gergen, who found work in the Ford and Clinton White Houses and has written a book entitled Eyewitness to Power in which he gives a fascinating assessment of Nixon as a person, politician, and statesman. Here Gergen embues the former president with the virtues and vices of a mythic or tragic figure who is not unlike Deep Throat.

In addition to authors already mentioned, an online guided catalog search revealed our Library had even more books on the subject. You may want to check for titles by Charles W. Colson, Leon Jaworski, John Sirica, and Richard Nixon himself.

Library Tip # 2
Want to read your hometown newspaper, no matter where you are from: http://www.nicholls.edu/library/newspapers.htm
Two Librarians Receive Prestigious Awards

Two of Ellender Memorial’s librarians were honored recently in separate awards ceremonies. Library Director Carol Mathias received the Society of Southwest Archivists 2005 Distinguished Service Award at a conference the organization recently held in Baton Rouge.

SSA is a six-state regional archival association. As SSA’s most prestigious award, each year the DSA honors someone who has made outstanding contributions to the Society of Southwest Archivists and the archival profession as a whole. Mathias served as President of SSA in 2001, Vice President in 2000, and was a member of the Executive Board in 1994-1996 and a member of the local arrangements committee in 1998 and 2003.

She is also a past president of Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association. She has served on the Steering Committee for the College and University Archivists Section of the Society of American Archivists and chaired the national nominating committee for the Academy of Certified Archivists.

Clifton Theriot, Ellender’s Interim Archivist, recently received the Edward and Anna Himel Memorial Award for Distinguished Service from the Lafourche Heritage Society. The award is given annually to a member of the society in recognition of outstanding service in the preservation of the history and culture of the Bayou Lafourche region.

New Printing Policy at Ellender

Those of us that have discovered the Full Text option of many of the library’s databases love the fact that we can simply click a mouse button, and voila, we have an instant print-out of any article, sometimes in a format that looks as though we photocopied the article ourselves. Others who have yet to find this access to the full text of articles may have found themselves in the library, diligently printing out the Power Point slides that their professors placed in Blackboard, as a supplement to class lectures.

This printing has traditionally been free, and on a limited basis, should remain free. But few stop to think about the costs incurred when someone accidentally prints duplicate copies (or sometimes triplicate copies), or the waste involved when a student attempts to print a Power Point slide show without first setting the option to print it as handouts, with at least four slides per page. Soaring costs and financial strain has forced the library staff to address this issue. However, we did not want to take away the privilege of free printing from those students who acted responsibly and conscientiously, avoiding wasteful printing.

As of Summer 2005, the Library has instituted a new printing policy, created not to take away a reasonable right to expect free printing for stu-

help eliminate printing abuse. By setting reasonable limitations on the amount of paper (and toner) that NSU students use, we will be able to ensure that most printing remains free-of-charge. Copies of this policy can be found throughout the library, and we encourage everyone to pick one up to prevent any misunderstandings.

In general, what the new policy does is limit free printing for currently enrolled NSU students to 30 pages per day. We felt that this was a reasonable number of pages, given that most assignments will fall into this category. After the 30 page per day limit is reached, a student will be charged ten cents per page for each additional page. Non-NSU students who use the library, unfortunately, will have to pay for all print jobs at the ten cents per page rate. While we would like to offer free printing to everyone who uses the library, we realize that it is simply not feasible to do so.

If you are a currently enrolled NSU student, there are things you can do to minimize your chances of ever having to pay a cent to print in the library: For starters, never click the icon several times when it looks like a print job is not responding. Some large files take a few minutes to get to the printer, so keep this in mind. If you click print and nothing happens, ask a librarian to help you. Secondly, do not print extra copies for “everyone in class.” Each student can print for free, so let your classmates come in and do their printing themselves. Third, if you are printing a Power Point slide show, first right click on the file name and save it. That way, when you open it, it will open in Power Point and you will have the option to print handouts, of up to six slides per page. Again, ask a librarian if you need help.

Of course, we want to remain flexible, so if you feel that you have a compelling argument for going a few pages over the limit, talk to the librarian. You may be right. We in no way intend to punish students with this policy by making them shell out their hard earned cash for school related print jobs—especially when those students have gone out of their way to send a job to the printer correctly.

Library Tip #3

If you’re looking for a topic for Speech or Freshman English classes, search our online catalog for books that have the phrase opposing viewpoints in the title. You will pull up a list of books in a series that gives the pro and con sides of various hot topics, and gives sources for each.
April Not So Cruel During Poetry Month

For the first time in its history, the Library celebrated National Poetry Month this past April. Faculty, students, published and unpublished poets gathered in the Library Archives and read poems from the April issue of Poetry magazine. Many read original works. Featured poets included John Doucet, Al Davis, Blue Heron Press editor Carolyn Gorman, Daryl Holmes, Jackie Jackson, and David Middleton, NSU’s Poet-In-Residence. There was also plenty of food to be enjoyed, as well as libations and musical impromptus by Mat Sylvain’s Jazz Trio.

Student turnout was excellent, as many from Middleton’s English classes dropped in to read their poetry and the works of some of their favorite poets. “This first Poetry Month turned out to be a truly encouraging event and showed that poetry at Nicholls is alive and well, practiced with craft and wit through a variety of voices,” said event organizer, Collection Development Librarian and published poet Jean-Mark Sens.

Middleton was also pleased with the attendance and quality of readers, and expressed a desire to see the event become a tradition at NSU: “Our hope is that this program will become an annual event and an official part of Jubilee. Poetry should be part of the lives of all human beings. This event allowed poets and lovers of poetry to come together in community to celebrate this ancient yet also contemporary art form.”

According to Sens, Ellender Memorial Library hopes to continue hosting such events. He expressed some interest in having a literary soiree in the Fall 2005 semester to showcase and celebrate creative talents in different art forms. He is also looking forward to the 2006 Poetry Month celebration next April, where he hopes to create a program that will integrate voices from different countries, through poetry in translation—along with renditions of the poems in the authors’ native languages.

Library News and Upcoming Events

Tony Fonseca published reviews in Necropsy: The Review of Horror Fiction (www.lsu.edu/necrofile), and was elected as a Faculty Officer (Secretary) of Phi Kappa Phi.

Jeremy Landry and Tony Fonseca attended the Louisiana Library Association Annual Conference in Alexandria, and will both be attending the LOUIS Conference in July, along with Daisy Guidroz.

Jeremy Landry, Carol Mathias, Jean-Mark Sens, and Anke Tonn will be attending the American Libraries Association Conference in Chicago in late June.

Alice Saltzman’s article, “Elizabeth I, Mother Goose, and History” will appear in the next issue of Louisiana Libraries. An abbreviated form of Saltzman’s article appears in Archives as a small display.

Clifton Theriot recently attended the Society of Southwest Archivists Meeting in Baton Rouge.

Library Tip #5

Remember that just because you used a web browser to find information, this does not necessarily mean that you got that information “off the internet.” It is particularly important to make this distinction when you search the Library’s databases (www.nicholls.edu/library/database.htm). The articles you retrieve when you search a database are not off the internet. They come from an actual remote database for which libraries pay top dollar. A print out of a full-text article in Adobe Acrobat Reader (pdf) format is exactly the same as a photocopy of that article, no ifs, ands, or buts.

The Louisiana Dance Hall Series, a pictorial exhibit that pays homage to dance spots across South Louisiana, is currently traveling across South Louisiana. Created by Interlibrary Loan Librarian Anke Tonn, the exhibit focuses on how dance halls were once the center of social activity for Cajun and Creole families, and illustrates their impact on musical styles such as Cajun, Zydeco, Swamp Pop, and Rhythm and Blues.

The Photos are taken from the collection of Dennis Sipiorski, a former fine arts professor at NSU and current Chair of Southeastern’s Department of Visual Arts, and were originally shown at NSU’s Zydeco Festival. From there, they traveled to the Terrebonne Parish Main Library in February, and then to the Jean Lafitte Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center in May. On July 15, they will be showcased at the Bayou Lafourche Folklife and Heritage Museum in Lockport, and they can be seen at this year’s Downtown on the Bayou Festival in Houma on Oct. 22 and 23.