

Library News

Niagara University
Library

Volume 5, Issue 1
Spring Semester 2005

Library Catalog Enhancements & Improvements!

Over the past several months, most of the Library's behind-the-scenes activity has focused on upgrading our automation system.

HORIZON
Information Portal

Now that our digital dust has cleared, it is a good time to tell you about improvements in the Library Catalog.

***Searching is faster** - in most cases a lot faster. Searches that used to time out now take only a couple of seconds to complete.

***Exact phrase keyword searching** is possible in the **Advanced Search** mode. In the old system, if you did a keyword search of **civil war**, you would actually be looking for books with both the words **civil** and **war** in the title, but they would not have to be adjacent. This resulted in a lot of false hits. But now you can do an exact search of the phrase **civil war** if you wish.

***Enhanced content** has been added, allowing you to view book covers, view tables of contents and read book reviews.

Try it for yourself at www.niagara.edu/library/catalog.html.

Wireless Connections Being Tested in the Library



During the Spring semester, the Library is testing **wireless connections**. You can "wirelessly" access the Internet with your laptop from the first and second floors.

Have Questions? Get Answers 24/7!

The Library continues to participate in a pilot project for a nationwide program that provides "**chat**" **information and reference services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**. You can obtain research assistance from academic reference librarians of participating libraries across the country - all you need is access to a computer with an Internet connection! Just visit www.niagara.edu/library/virtref.html and click the **Chat Live** link. If you have any questions or comments, please contact **Jonathan Coe**, Coordinator of Public Services, at jcoe@niagara.edu or **716-286-8005**.



Staff News

- Welcome to new Library employees **Michael Lavin**, **Shirley Melvin** and **Tom Stieve**. Michael and Tom are new part-time Reference Librarians, and Shirley is the new Assistant Circulation Dept. Coordinator.
- Reference/ILL Librarian **Samantha Gust** became the fifth recipient of the Library's Excellence in Customer Service Award in October 2004.



Did You Know?

Did you know that your public library may provide access to databases that NU doesn't? For example, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (www.buffalolib.org) lets you search many of its databases from your home just by entering the barcode number located on the back of your card.

Niagara University Library
Lewiston Road
Niagara University, NY 14109

Library Hours
716-286-8000

Circulation and Reserve
716-286-8020

Reference Assistance
716-286-8022

Book/Periodicals Purchasing
716-286-8007

Cataloging
716-286-8015

Director's Office
716-286-8001

Interlibrary Loan
716-286-8013

Fax
716-286-8030

Web Site
www.niagara.edu/library

Email
reflib@niagara.edu

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Electronic Reserve System Upgraded

Electronic Reserve is the digitization of course readings so that they may be viewed anytime via the World Wide Web. The Library provides access to more than 2,000 course readings through a system called **ERes**, which recently underwent a facelift. The system is now easier to read and navigate. For more information about **ERes**, please contact **Jonathan Coe**, Coordinator of Public Services, at jcoe@niagara.edu or **716-286-8005**.



NIAGARA
electronic reserves

TV & DVD/VCR Player Now Available in Library



The Group Study Room located on the basement level to the left now has a TV you may use to watch DVDs or videos.

Need a Business Phone Number or Address Fast?

Add **ReferenceUSA** to your Internet Favorites list! Brought to you by the Office of Career Development and the Library, ReferenceUSA can be searched from anywhere on campus. It contains contact information for more than 12 million U.S. and 1.3 million Canadian businesses. You can find phone numbers for businesses as small as your local corner store or as large as a Fortune 500 company.



If you are job hunting, you can take advantage of the advanced search capabilities to identify companies in your field. For example, you could ask the database for a list of accounting firms in Miami, Florida. Try it for yourself at:

www.niagara.edu/library/refusa.html

Google to Digitize Library Books: Does This Mean You'll Never Pay Another Overdue Fine?

Well, yes and no. Google is working with major research libraries like Oxford and Harvard to digitize their book collections. But there is a catch - Google can only freely make available books that are no longer copyrighted, which means books written before 1923. Our guess is that most of your research is going to require more current materials. But even so, this is a remarkable initiative on Google's part! In any case, Niagara University Library will continue buying books.

But if you are interested in doing book research via the World Wide Web, why don't you try **ebrary**, the Library's electronic book database?

www.niagara.edu/library/ebrary.html



ebrary contains more than 15,000 books on a variety of subjects. The collection consists of books published by many of the major academic publishers and is very current. Plus, you can search for keywords inside these books, so you can more easily pinpoint hard to find information. ebrary is available for searching anywhere on campus and also from off campus with a password you can obtain from the Reference Desk.



Database News

The Library continues trial subscriptions to the following two databases through the end of the Spring 2005 semester: **Academic Search Premier via EBSCOhost** (multi-disciplinary) and **Westlaw Campus** (legal topics). Both of these databases are accessible from on and off campus.

Available at: www.niagara.edu/library/ebSCO.html and www.niagara.edu/library/westlaw.html

Thanks to the NU Office of Sponsored Programs and Research, the Library is able to provide on campus access to **COS Funding**, the most comprehensive source of funding information available on the Web.

Available (**from on campus only**) at: www.niagara.edu/library/cosfund.html

Current NU students and employees may search most Library databases off campus by obtaining a user ID and password. There are several ways to do this. Choose the method that works best for you:

- If you are a student, **log into your myNU account**. The *Trouble logging in* link will tell you how to determine your first-time user name and password. After you login, click the *Resources* tab at the top of the page. Then look for the *Library* category. There you will see a link to *Passwords For Off-Campus Access to Library Databases*.
- Or **stop by the Reference Desk** and ask for a password sheet.
- Or call the Reference Desk at **716-286-8022**.
- Or send an email request to reflib@niagara.edu. Please remember to include your name and student ID number in your message. You should receive a reply within 24 hours.
- Or use the online form located at www.niagara.edu/library/reqpass.html. You should receive a reply within 24 hours.

Tooting Our Own Horn!

Edward Ayers, Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia, recently wrote:

Very real technological accomplishments have tended to become invisible because they have been so successful. If you had told people a decade ago that card catalogs would virtually disappear within ten years and would be replaced by our current information-management systems, they would not have believed you. Librarians have been the real heroes of the digital revolution in higher education. They are the ones who have seen the farthest, done the most, accepted the hardest challenges, and demonstrated most clearly the benefits of digital information. In the process, they have turned their own field upside down and have revolutionized their professional training. It is testimony to their success that we take their achievement—and their information-management systems—for granted.

Ayers, Edward L. "Academic Culture and the IT Culture: Their Effect on Teaching and Scholarship." *EDUCAUSE Review*, vol. 39, no. 6 (2004): 48-62.



Book News

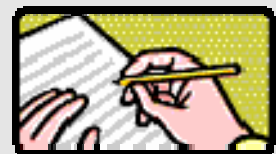
The Library recently added the following reference books to its collection: **Consumer Reports Buying Guide 2005** (Ref TX 335 .A1 C6 2005) and **Encyclopedia of World Pop Music 1980-2001** (Ref ML 102 .P66 J44 2003). These books are shelved in the Reference Collection on the first floor of the Library but do not circulate.

Each month the Library publishes a list of new books added to the collection during the previous month. If you would like to be notified when the list is released each month, please enter your email address at www.niagara.edu/library/newbk.html.

There is an ongoing **Used Book Sale** in the Library. About 20 books are on sale at a time and are displayed on a table near the front entrance. Be sure to check it regularly!

Do you know of a book that you think the Library should acquire? Please tell us about it! If it is suitable for the collection, we will order it. Just complete the online form located at www.niagara.edu/library/bksugg.html. Thank you!

Comments?



If you have a comment about the Library, please write it in the **Comment Book**, located on the first floor near the Circulation Desk. You may also contact Library Director **David Schoen** at **716-286-8001** or schoen@niagara.edu.

Library Services

Hours of Operation

School Year

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Monday-Thursday | 8 am to Midnight |
| Friday | 8 am to 8 pm |
| Saturday | 10 am to 5 pm |
| Sunday | Noon to Midnight |

Summer

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Monday-Thursday | 8 am to 9 pm |
| Friday | 8 am to 4 pm |
| Saturday | 10 am to 4 pm |
| Sunday | Closed |

Visit the Library web site (www.niagara.edu/library) or call **716-286-8000** for exceptions to these hours during exam week, breaks, and holidays.

Reference Assistance

Reference Librarians are on duty during all the hours the Library is open to help you find information. The Reference Department also offers a **Reference Assistance by Appointment** program, which is designed to provide you with the undivided attention and assistance of a Reference Librarian. You may also ask questions via email at reflib@niagara.edu or by phone at **716-286-8022**.

Circulation Services

By presenting a valid Niagara University ID card, students of the University may **borrow and keep out up to 25 Library books**. The loan period is 28 days, and books may be **renewed one time** either in person, or by phoning the Circulation Desk at **716-286-8020**, or electronically via the **"My Account" module** of the Library Catalog. Overdue fines are **20 cents per book, per day**. The fee for a lost book is a **minimum of \$50.00** (expensive books can be more).

Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery

If the Library **does not own an item you need**, we can almost always obtain it for you from another Library. This is called **Interlibrary Loan**. Please remember to start your research early enough so that you can take advantage of this service. If you wish to **obtain an article from a journal, magazine, or newspaper that the Library owns**, we will photocopy the article for you and send it to you. This is called **Document Delivery**. You can submit your request for materials electronically on the Library web site: www.niagara.edu/library/docdel.html

Borrowing Books From Other Libraries

There are two ways to obtain a book that Niagara University Library does not own. You can use the Library's Interlibrary Loan System, or you can make use of the **Library Access Project**, which will allow you to go to and check out books from other college libraries in Western New York. You can get a special card to do this at Niagara University Library's Reference Desk. It is called a **LAP** or **INFOPASS** card and will allow you to check out books from most of the college libraries in Western New York.

Study Rooms and Vending Machines

There is a **silent study room** located on the second floor of the Library to the right with tables, comfortable chairs and study carrels. There are **two group study rooms**. One is the **Study Abroad Room**, located on the second floor to the right. This room features a collection of materials on studying, living and traveling abroad as well as comfortable seating. The other **group study room** is located on the basement level of the Library to the left. **Vending machines** are located on the second floor to the left.

Fax Service

The Library can send or receive your **personal faxes up to 10 pages** in length. Please go to the Reference Desk and talk to a Reference Librarian to initiate this process.

Computer Training Lab

The Library maintains a **Computer Training Lab** on the basement level of the building to the right. It is used to **train students how to use Library databases to do research**. But when it is not being used for training purposes, the room is available for **students to work individually** using Library databases, the Internet, or Microsoft Office. The Lab is equipped with a networked printer.

Access to Databases From Outside the Library

In an attempt to make your research easier and more convenient, the Library provides **remote access** through the World Wide Web to most of its database subscriptions. Please see www.niagara.edu/library/onlres.html. Most of the databases do not require a password if you are connecting from anywhere on campus. If you are **connecting from home** via your own Internet Service Provider, you will need to obtain **passwords** from a Reference Librarian.

Contact Us

Mail: Niagara University Library
Lewiston Road
Niagara University, NY 14109

Web: www.niagara.edu/library
Email: reflib@niagara.edu
Phone: 716-286-8000