February 2005: ARTstor Adds to Panoply of Databases

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ARTstor adds to panoply of databases

Eye- and mind-candy. If you had to sum up in one phrase, this
one being a bit more shirt-sleeve English than one might like, this phrase
just about does it. ARTstor, the newest
addition to the Ida Jane Dacus Library’s
panoply of databases (over 80 now), is a
tour de force of eye- and mind-candy.

Drawing from curated collections from around the world, ARTstor
contains more than 300,000 images of art
and architecture from every nook and
cranny possessing same. It’s hard to
think of a more comprehensive, more
exhaustive collection in any one subject
than this one. A sister corporation to
another massive database to which
Dacus subscribes, JSTOR, this art
compendium not only provides images,
but also state-of-the-art software and
viewing tools to make the experience
second only to standing in front of your
favorite van Gogh, or your beloved
Rembrandt.

ARTstor isn’t merely about images
of art work either. In addition to the
Image Gallery, a cornucopia of images of
prized art from around the world,
ARTstor also provides images from the
Art History Survey collection, the
Carnegie Arts of the United States
collection, the Hartill Archive of
Architecture and Allied Arts, the
Huntington Archive of Asian Art, the
Illustrated Bartsch, the Mellon Interna-
tional Dunhuang Archive (MIDA), the
Museum of Modern Art, Architecture
and Design collection and Native
American Art and Culture from the
Smithsonian Institution.

But, still, that’s not all. Coming soon
will be images from the Arthur and
Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the
history of women in America, the
Prussian Cultural Properties Foundation
(Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz), the
Jonathan Bloom, Sheila Blair and Walter
B. Denny collections on the art and
architecture of Islam, the National
Gallery of Art, the W. E. B. Du Bois
Institute for African and African-
American Research, and the National
Anthropological Archive. By 2006, the
collection will have surpassed 500,000
images from these and other collections.

Not only are students, faculty, staff
and patrons able to search these
collections by artist, period or style of
school of art, but ARTstor’s built-in
folder feature allows users to build
various kinds of collections of their
choosing:

- These can be viewed in a
classroom setting using either
ARTstor’s PowerPoint-like feature, or
downloaded to a CD for discussion and
exhibit.
- Other powerful features in
ARTstor’s arsenal allow users to
discover various aspects of the painting
and museum-like details about the
pieces and the artwork’s current
location (whether publicly or privately
owned).

Finally, the zoom feature allows
users to examine the painting from
across the room, or, as it were, with
one’s nose pressed against the canvas.
The details allowed by this feature are
incredibly amazing.

Of course, to really understand what
ARTstor is all about, you have to use it.
And we cannot imagine a course that
would not want to. The obvious rises
to mind first: all art classes. But the less
obvious—history, sociology, all general
education classes, political science and
more—will find equal satisfaction,
peppered with lectures with the works of art
ARTstor offers.

“...ARTstor is a testament
to this administration’s
seriousness, not only
about supplying
resources, but providing
them in areas that benefit
students and the wider
Rock Hill community.”

This is truly one of the most
amazing databases available to
libraries, and Winthrop is indeed
fortunate to own it. Winthrop, USC
and Clemson are the only libraries in
South Carolina which offer ARTstor at
present, and only one of 380 nation-
wide. The purchase of ARTstor is a
testament to this administration’s
seriousness, not only about supplying
resources, but providing them in areas
that benefit students and the wider
Rock Hill community.

ARTstor is accessible from every
campus computer. Surf over to our
site, click on “databases” and then
look under the As for ARTstor. If
you’d rather visit the Musée D’Orsay
in your pajamas one Saturday morning
over coffee, then call Larry Mitlin at
323-2280 and he’ll tell you how to get
to ARTstor from home.

We offer one warning, however:
ARTstor is not conducive to getting
any work done wherever you are.
Once you are there, you will find a
devil of a time pulling yourself away.

Mark Y. Herring
Dean of Library Services
Focus

Pascal boosts electronic resources

For the state’s public and private academic librarians, Christmas left them smiling from ear to ear. But it wasn’t Santa Claus who left them bundles of treats, but the state’s legislators. Six months ago state legislators funded PASCAL, the state’s initiative for academic libraries. Over the holidays, PASCAL’s membership, consisting of all 54 of the state’s public and private academic libraries, finalized plans that will soon have all those libraries’ patrons smiling too.

EBSCO, a vendor for academic libraries, won the initial contract and soon patrons at any of the state’s academic libraries will enjoy searching EBSCO’s Academic Search Premier (a general database covering numerous multidisciplinary subjects), Business Source Premier, MLA (for research in every aspect of literature and linguistics) and CINAHL (for research in nursing, medicine and health services). EBSCO resources were ranked first in all four content-area evaluations (business, literature, science and nursing) by Dacus’s consortial purchasing committee teams. For Dacus alone, our full-text access to articles skyrocketed from 7,000 to about 20,000 in a matter of weeks!

But this is only the beginning of the bounty. In all, PASCAL will receive 12 databases with additional electronic resources to be added in the spring. South Carolina’s higher education students will now have at their fingertips resources unmatched anywhere else in the country. No longer is South Carolina the “also-ran” in the race against brain-drain. Whether students attend public or private colleges or universities in South Carolina, those libraries will have as much in PASCAL as in any of the neighboring states in the Southeast. It is estimated that, by funding PASCAL, the state legislators have helped those libraries avoid millions in membership fees if purchased separately by all 54 institutions of higher learning. For a fraction of the cost, the state’s academic libraries will enjoy $2 million worth of new resources.

PASCAL has selected Innovative Interfaces’ INN-Reach system to provide universal borrowing for all PASCAL members. In order to ensure universal access, the PASCAL board has approved funding both the system and delivery costs through state lottery funds. This statewide system has grown out of the cooperative efforts of 16 PASCAL libraries at eight institutions to replace local integrated library systems. Innovative Interfaces will also implement its Millennium integrated library system in the libraries of the USC system, Clemson, the College of Charleston, South Carolina State University, Francis Marion University, The Citadel, Florence-Darlington Technical College and Aiken Technical College.

South Carolina has never been able to boast much about its higher education offerings, but that’s about to change. With the advent of PASCAL, South Carolina can not only hold its head high, but it also can boast a little about its new status. And we owe a huge debt of thanks to South Carolina’s forward-thinking legislators. Without the legislature’s approval, none of this would have been possible. Christmas decorations are doubtless gone and the mistletoe no longer guards archways. Even so, you may want to take the time to thank your legislator when you see him or her again. In fact, you may even want to give him or her a hug, the missing ingredient notwithstanding.

Mark S. Herring
Dean of Libray Services

Carolina Consortium provides new serial titles

Over the past 10 years, the Ida Jane Dacus Library has benefited from participation in consortium deals with other institutions, sometimes with as few as two other libraries and, as in the case of the Carolina Consortium group, as many as 38 other institutions.

Tim Buchnall from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro has spearheaded the Carolina Consortium buyers group. This group, which consists of North and South Carolina libraries, began in 2004. Its principal purchasing focus is scientific, technical and medical publications (STM). The STM publishers approached included Wiley, Kluwer, Springer, Brill and Blackwell. While the contracts and details vary slightly, the overall result is that Winthrop students and faculty now have electronic access to more than 2,000 new STM serial publications.

Dacus Library’s serial collection includes the same STM serial titles from Wiley, Kluwer, Springer, Brill and Blackwell that are available to students at Clemson University, the University of South Carolina and Wake Forest University. The library is maintaining its current subscription list with the publishers; but all of the titles have changed from print to electronic access, for example Journal of Morphology.

Access is available through the Library’s Web site and the Dacus Online Catalog. Search for the Journal of Morphology, and click on View full text issues. Click on Wiley Interscience Journals: 1997 to present. The link goes directly to the issues and articles of the journal; the user avoids a search of the shelves or microfilm cabinets.

The titles acquired encompass a wide range of disciplines and include titles such as: Journal of Business Ethics, Child and Adolescent Social
Focus

WebBridge guides users through electronic resource jungle

There’s no doubt about it. The explosion of information in electronic form has made a researcher’s life easier in many ways. A search in a database often results in immediate access to a full-text copy of the “perfect” journal article. Sometimes you find the perfect citation, but, ^@&%#, there’s no full-text. How do you track down a copy of the article, preferably a full-text copy?

Ida Jane Dacus Library can now help with its new WebBridge service. As the name implies, WebBridge can connect resources previously separated in the digital jungle. With WebBridge, Dacus offers a “smart linking” capability, which enables users to link together information resources. This may include many types of resources, but it also includes links to the most appropriate copy of full-text journal articles or e-books. Each resource is offered only if specific criteria are met based on elements from the citation or the user’s search. WebBridge can create lists of related resources from any electronic resource in the library’s collection that supports a WebBridge link.

WebBridge uses a new Internet standard called “OpenURL.” This allows most of Dacus’ electronic resources to automatically check to see if relevant resources are available in other databases or Web sites. WebBridge uses “contextual linking.” This means that links are provided only if relevant to the user.

For instance, a WebBridge link can be used to take a user from a citation database to a full-text copy in another database or to the library’s paper copy of that article. For example, a user starts a search in Social Work Abstracts, finds a citation that is relevant and clicks on the WebBridge link. Based on an analysis of the information from the citation, WebBridge offers a number of related links. One is a direct link to Ebscohost’s full-text version of the article, and another is a link to Dacus Online Catalog (DOC) indicating the availability of the print version of the journal.

In order for linking to work across resources, there must be agreement between the various vendors on how this information should be transferred. Initiatives such as the OpenURL, the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) and CrossRef help to define how and what information should be transferred from resource to resource. The following is a brief explanation of how WebBridge relates to these linking initiatives. (The following was provided by Innovative Interfaces, Inc., which provides the WebBridge product to Dacus. If you don’t like technical explanations, stop reading here.)

OpenURL is an emerging standard for transporting information within a URL to a “resolution server” that can accept the URL syntax and provide context-sensitive services based on the information in the URL. The metadata in the URL describes the resource that is being requested. OpenURL is a standardized way to pass information in the URL between these different resources. Some common elements that are passed are ISSN/ISBN, title, volume/issue number, author and date. When this OpenURL is passed to the resource, the resource can deliver the appropriate information—e.g., a link from Journal of Clinical Psychology in DOC will deliver information pointing to the full text of this journal in one of the library’s licensed full-text collections. The OpenURL is currently under consideration by NISO (National Information Standards Organization) as a new standard.

Other standards that are often mentioned in relation to linking functionality are the DOI and CrossRef. The DOI is a persistent identifier of intellectual property and grew out of the content/publisher arena so that publishers and content owners could have control over the digital content. DOI does not define how the linking is done, but the DOI is an identifier for the object that is being accessed. DOI can work in conjunction with the OpenURL so that a DOI can be passed in an OpenURL. CrossRef is a collaborative reference linking service that uses the DOI as the primary identifier for linking between citation and full-text article at the appropriate publisher site. CrossRef allows a researcher to click on a reference citation in a journal and immediately access the cited article.

WebBridge can work with the OpenURL, DOI and CrossRef. It can pass OpenURLs to any resource and, if that resource is OpenURL-aware, that resource can provide context-sensitive information appropriate to the user. WebBridge can also pass a DOI to any resource when appropriate, whether it is transported in an OpenURL or by some other transport mechanism such as CrossRef. WebBridge’s strength is that it works with any resource that has a predictable URL formation. This provides maximum flexibility as these new standards and initiatives are being developed.

Laurance R. Mitlin
Associate Dean of Library Services

Serials Solutions links access to e-journals

The Ida Jane Dacus Library has purchased Serials Solutions, a product that enables libraries to deliver seamless, integrated access to the library’s e-journal collections. This product helps patrons to view approximately 20,672

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The 2,175 titles which Winthrop University receives electronically would cost approximately $2,345,921 if the institution paid for the titles separately. The Carolina Consortium buyers group is providing Winthrop University maximum access for minimum investment.

Gale Testar
Head of Serials Acquisitions & Cataloging

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unique e-journals from 25 different databases or publishers.

The management of e-journals is a challenge for libraries. The increasing number of electronic titles, the array of systems hosting e-journals and the demands of patrons are the major obstacles challenging libraries today. Serials Solutions has become Dacus’ tool for managing e-journals. As a result of this product, all of Dacus Library’s e-journals are searchable and accessible in the online catalog.

In October 2004, Dacus Library began loading full, machine readable cataloging records (MARC) into the online catalog for journals, periodicals, magazines and serials. Adding these MARC records has allowed the catalog to become the central access point for all library collections. All of Dacus’ serials holdings – print, electronic, microform – can be found in one place, allowing patrons to know what is in the collection and where to find it.

Gloria Kelley
Head of Technical Services

Archives receives preservation grants

Archives received a $5,000 Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This grant will be used to purchase archival shelving to replace some old World War II surplus shelving that has been in use for the past 25 years.

While we will not be able to replace all of the old shelving, we will be able to replace a significant amount with this grant. We hope to have the shelving ordered by the end of January and begin the installation sometime in March or April.

The challenge lies in having to move the entire collection currently housed on sub-standard shelving to another location in the library until the new shelving is installed. Unfortunately, this may close certain portions of the manuscript collection for several weeks. We recommend that researchers call ahead to make sure the collection they wish to use is available.

We also received a $4,000 grant from the SC State Historical Records Advisory Board. This grant will be used to help organize and properly house a wonderful collection of over 270 South Carolina architectural drawings by Rock Hill-based architect Alfred Gilchrist.

The collection includes drawings and plans of historically significant public and industrial buildings as well as private residences from the 1910s to the early 1940s, including plans for public schools, textile mills, churches, colleges, barns, courthouses, libraries, stores, service stations, office buildings, movie theaters, restaurants and other types of structures. Since it has the potential to become a heavily used collection, we would like to make it available as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about the Gilchrist collection or any of our collections or projects, please contact us at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.

Gina Price White
Director of Archives and Special Collections

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