

Fall 1997

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### Recommended Citation

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# LIBRARY FOCUS

Volume 3, Issue 1, Fall 1997

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Revised: March 3, 1998

URL: <http://www.lib.usm.edu/libraryfocus/fall97/>

# University Libraries Benefit From Resource Sharing

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## Electronic Reference Library (ERL) Databases:

ERIC  
PsycLit  
Medline  
CINAHL  
MLA  
GPO  
Agricola  
GeoRef  
Sociofile  
Social Work  
Abstracts  
Criminal Justice  
Abstracts  
Books in Print  
Political Science  
Abstracts  
Sport Discus  
Library Literature  
Microcomputer  
Abstracts  
Ulrich's  
International  
Periodicals  
Directory  
Applied Science  
and  
Technology  
Abstracts

Resource sharing is often mentioned as an effective way for libraries to meet the information needs of patrons in today's increasingly technical world. All too often, talk about cooperation does not lead to action. However, in 1997, resource sharing among libraries in Mississippi has become a reality, and participation in the cooperative efforts has been beneficial for library users at The University of Southern Mississippi.

During the 1997 legislative session, the Mississippi State Legislature appropriated \$568,030 to "provide online access to periodicals and other databases to public libraries, K-12 schools, community and junior colleges, and universities of the state." This appropriation led to the formation of MAGNOLIA (Mississippi Alliance for Gaining New Opportunities through Library Information Access). Librarians from various Mississippi libraries, including USM's University Libraries, were selected to lead the project, and August 15, 1997, was set as the target date for the purchase and implementation of databases.

Librarians representing all types of libraries in Mississippi worked diligently throughout the summer to select databases and to deal with related details such as training, evaluation, and publicity. After viewing presentations by various vendors, librarians selected EBSCOHost, the Mississippi Code, and Facts on File for every publicly funded library in the state, as well as an online readers' advisory tool, as an additional resource for public libraries. The goal of having MAGNOLIA up and running by August 15 was met. More information on MAGNOLIA is available through the project web site at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~magnolia/magnolia.html>

Librarians at USM are particularly excited about the full text capabilities of various MAGNOLIA databases. USM has gained access to the following resources as the result of MAGNOLIA:

*EBSCOHost* is a powerful online reference system that contains indexing, abstracting, and selective full text coverage of scholarly and popular journals covering all academic disciplines. Indexing and abstracting of newspapers such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, and the *Washington Post* are available, along with full text coverage of the *Christian Science Monitor*.

*Mississippi Code* is accessible in full text and can be easily searched.

*Facts on File* contains news events and public affairs information.

Because of the initial success of MAGNOLIA, librarians in Mississippi are hopeful that the project will receive additional funding in the future. According to Dr. James R. Martin, USM's University Librarian, The MAGNOLIA project has gotten off to a fantastic start due to strong leadership and a cooperative spirit among librarians. The provision of electronic library information to all facets of the learning community on a statewide contractual basis is an idea that levels the playing field for all of us. Now students at the K-12 levels, community colleges, universities, and users of public libraries and other participating organizations will have ready access to a baseline of knowledge resources. With continued and expanded funding, MAGNOLIA promises to be the online information source for all citizens of the state of Mississippi.

Another resource sharing arrangement between the University Libraries and other Mississippi libraries involves a series of databases known as the Electronic Reference Library (ERL). ERL is made up of various databases covering disciplines such as education, political science, criminal justice, psychology, and health. The ERL databases are housed on servers at Mississippi State University and USM. Access to the databases is provided through both Windows and web client software.

Most of the resources are indexes and contain bibliographic citations to articles. The databases all use the same software and have similar searching capabilities and commands. Abstracts are included for some databases. An electronic version of Books in Print, which lists books available for purchase in the United

States, is also accessible through ERL. Please see the accompanying table for a listing of the databases available through ERL.

Selected computers in the Information Services area of Cook Library are labeled with signs indicating that they contain EBSCOHost and the ERL databases. Another way to access these resources in Cook Library is through computers labeled "Information Online." Information Online is a World Wide Web based interface developed by librarians in the Information Services Department in an effort to streamline access to the wealth of electronic resources now available. From a single PC, patrons can access the library's electronic indexes and databases, as well as OSCAR, the library's online catalog.

The support that the Mississippi Legislature gave to education by appropriating the funds for MAGNOLIA is encouraging for the citizens of Mississippi. The fact that libraries in Mississippi have successfully worked together to implement both MAGNOLIA and the ERL databases is exciting. Participation in the projects means that the University Libraries can make an increased number of electronic resources available for USM faculty, staff, and students. It is hoped that these projects are only the beginning of resource sharing among all types of libraries in the state of Mississippi.

*Sarah Armstrong,  
Information Services Librarian*

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*URL: <http://www.lib.usm.edu/libraryfocus/fall97/fall971.html>*

## *Holiday Book Fair*

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**T**he de Grummond Collection is pleased to announce the 11th Annual Holiday Book Fair to be held on Sunday and Monday, November 16-17, 1997. We've assembled the best new books from publishers throughout the United States that are sure to appeal to children of all ages. Join us in McCain Library and Archives, Room 405, Sunday 1 - 4 p.m., and Monday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., to browse through a collection of more than 200 new and exciting children's books. Although books are not available for sale, you'll be given all of the information you need to place an order with your favorite book store.

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URL: <http://www.lib.usm.edu/libraryfocus/fall97/fall972.html>

## *de Grummond Collection Receives Grant*

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**F**or the second time since 1991, the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection has received a substantial grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dee Jones, project director, submitted the proposal for the grant in July 1996 and was informed of the award in April 1997. The \$206,352 grant will allow for the sorting, arrangement, and description of the original manuscripts and illustrations of 150 women authors and illustrators who have had a significant impact on the changing nature of children's literature.

The arrangement and description of original materials, as well as the cataloging of historical and rare books, is a time-consuming and exacting undertaking. Funds received through this grant will provide salaries for three staff members for a period of 18 months. Grant staff who began work on September 2 include Chris Peters, Billie Hackney, and Laura Stroud. Chris Peters, manuscript processor, recently received an M.S. in information, specializing in archives and records management, from the University of Michigan. Billie Hackney, cataloger, recently received a masters in library and information science from the University of Texas at Austin. Laura Stroud, manuscript processor assistant, received a B.S. in elementary education from Ball State University and is currently a graduate student in The University of Southern Mississippi's School of Library and Information Science. In addition, current McCain Library personnel Dee Jones, Mary Hamilton, and Bobs Tusa will be spending a portion of their time on grant activities.

The collections that will be processed include personal papers, correspondence, drafts, galleys, illustrations, and other related materials. A descriptive register giving a biographical sketch, a description of the materials held in the de Grummond Collection, and a folder-by-folder listing of all holdings will be created for each of the 150 collections. These registers will be available through the de Grummond Collection web page (<http://www.lib.usm.edu/~degrum>) making the full text accessible to researchers throughout the world. In addition to the original materials, more than 3000 books written by these women will be cataloged, and thus made more accessible. This descriptive cataloging data will be available through a number of internationally accessible databases such as World Cat, OCLC, and RLIN.

The most historic collection to be processed is that of Victorian British illustrator Kate Greenaway. The de Grummond Collection holds more than 300 original illustrations created by this distinguished artist, as well as 150 books bearing her illustrations. The largest collection comprises the papers of Adele and Cateau de Leeuw, authors whose children's fiction was first published in the 1920s and was still being reprinted in the 1980s. Their papers and other memorabilia fill 115 boxes, nearly 35 cubic feet. The papers of other prominent award-winning authors and illustrators that will be processed include those of Marie Hall Ets, Emily Arnold McCully, Tasha Tudor, and Eleanor Estes. Mississippi women include Joan Balfour Payne, Emilie and Marie Stapp, and de Grummond Collection founder Lena Y. de Grummond.

There are innumerable positive effects of having detailed descriptive registers, cataloged books, and accessible documents for a research collection, as was realized after our first NEH funded grant was completed in 1993. With improved methods of information dissemination and technology now available, we foresee even greater benefits to the research community of children's literature as a result of this grant.

*Dee Jones, Curator  
de Grummond Collection*

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## *Book Sales Raise Funds for Library materials*

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**H**ave you heard? The library is selling books. That's right. Since the spring of 1992 Cook Library has had a book sale every year. But now it's being done every day. Beginning on April 10 of this year, Cook Library has hosted a Perpetual Book Sale in the lobby area just in front of Interlibrary Loan and alongside Circulation. These books cost just 50¢ each, paperback or hardback, and can be paid for at the cash register at the Circulation Desk. They're changed every Monday morning between eight and nine o'clock, and you may find any number of different subjects represented every week.

You ask, "Where do they come from?" These are gift books donated to the University Libraries. While all gifts are gratefully appreciated, these materials must undergo the same collection development procedures as do the books that are purchased with library funds. Many of these books are sold because they duplicate materials already in the collection. Some of them do not support any of the academic programs of the University, and still others are in no physical condition to stand up to the demands made on library materials. Gift materials do benefit the collection, however, even when they are not added, as the money collected from this sale is used to purchase other materials that are needed.

If you would like to find out more about the Perpetual Book Sale or if you would like to make a donation to the University Libraries, contact Terry Lajaunie at 266-4247 any time during regular business hours.

*Terry LaJunie,  
Gifts & Exchange Specialist*

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*URL: <http://www.lib.usm.edu/libraryfocus/fall97/fall974.html>*

# Information Online Introduced

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**I**nformation Online is a new World Wide Web gateway developed by USM librarians to provide information about, and access to, over 100 databases offered by University Libraries. In addition, the gateway provides links to selected subject classified Internet resources. Accessible from networked computers in Cook Library and remotely through the libraries' web site at [www.lib.usm.edu](http://www.lib.usm.edu), the gateway describes the databases, tells how they can be accessed, and provides direct links to many of the resources.

Features of the Information Online gateway include a Databases by Subject button that broadly classifies the libraries' electronic offerings by subject. A mouse click or a quick scan indicates the databases available in such areas as education, social sciences, or business. The Databases by Title button quickly tells about a specific database such as ERIC, CINAHL, or Historical Abstracts. The gateway also includes links to other valuable resources, including OSCAR, the University Libraries' database. Links to the Library Basics tutorial and the Instructional Services Schedule provide information on opportunities for learning to use the vast array of information resources available to the University community. Still another link to Library Users' Guides provides a collection of tip sheets and instruction guides that will answer many frequently asked questions about services and resources offered by the University Libraries.

Many of the resources available through Information Online can be accessed from locations outside the library buildings: OSCAR, the Library Basics tutorial, Library Users' Guides, the Instructional Services Schedule, and Internet Resources are all easily accessed from homes, offices, and computer labs by opening the library's web site. EBSCOHost and the FirstSearch databases can be reached from these locations as well. EBSCOHost requires a password, which USM students, faculty, and staff can request from the Cook Library Information Desk (266-4249), and the FirstSearch databases require a library barcode, available at the Circulation Desk.

Databases available through EBSCOHost provide a new feature for the USM Libraries. Many of the journals indexed in EBSCOHost are also available in full text, meaning that the entire article, sometimes with graphics, can be accessed directly from the database. In fact, subscriptions to over 1100 new journal titles have been added to the University Libraries collection through the purchase of EBSCOHost, which was funded by the Mississippi Legislature through the MAGNOLIA library consortium.

Many of the databases described in Information Online have vendor-imposed restrictions or technical considerations that prevent their use outside the library buildings. University Libraries and the Office of Technology Resources are working together to facilitate remote access to additional databases. As these become available, they will be announced on Information Online.

To visit Information Online, point your web browser to the University Libraries' homepage at <http://www.lib.usm.edu> and select Search our Databases and the Internet. For more information about the gateway or about other library resources, contact the Information Desk at 266-4249.

*Sherry Laughlin, Head  
Information Services*

## University Libraries Websites

University Libraries Homepage:  
[http://www.lib.usm.edu/](http://www.lib.usm.edu)

Library Hours:  
<http://www.lib.usm.edu/hours.html>

Information Online:  
<http://www.lib.usm.edu/~libinfo/>

Gunn Education Materials Center:  
<http://www.lib.usm.edu/gunn/gunn.html>

Archives:  
<http://www.lib.usm.edu/archives/>

de Grummond:  
<http://www.lib.usm.edu/~degrum/>

Media Resources/TLRC:  
<http://www.lib.usm.edu/media/>

Music Resource Center:  
<http://www.lib.usm.edu/mrc.html>



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Revised: June 1, 1998

URL: <http://www.lib.usm.edu/libraryfocus/fall97/fall975.html>



## *Hidden Treasures: Microform Collections in Cook Library*

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There are things quietly lurking on the second floor of Cook Library. They wait patiently in the dark, ready to surprise someone at any moment. Relatively few people have seen them, but those who have seen them can tell stories. They are fascinating stories, of world travel in an age where sailors were unsure if they would ever find land, for example. There are stories concerning America's birth and the people who have lived and traveled here. Presidents and peasants are represented, as are soldiers and civilians, Indians and immigrants, and all other groups that form the fabric of American history. These under appreciated resources are in collections of microform materials in Cook Library's second floor Reading Room.

### LIBRARY OF AMERICAN CIVILIZATION

The Library of American Civilization, commonly referred to as the "LAC," is a collection of thousands of primary sources that cover American history and life, from the era of world exploration to World War I. Reproductions of rare books, as well as periodicals, diaries, poetry, government documents, and pamphlets are provided. Access to the LAC collection is made especially convenient through a multi-volume index (Micro Z 1236 L5 1971), which is located in the Reading Room. One may look for materials by subject, title, or author.

### HAKLUYT SOCIETY TEXTS

The publications of the Hakluyt Society also provide access to rare texts, but the focus is on accounts of travels by Europeans during the Age of Exploration, including travels to America. The society, founded in 1846, was named for English geographer and historian Richard Hakluyt, who was also an editor of travel writings. USM has entries from "Series II" of works published by the Hakluyt Society, and they are available on microcard. Microcards are like microfiche, except that they are printed on opaque paper rather than transparent film. Because they are printed on opaque cards, both sides of the card are used.

### EARLY AMERICAN IMPRINTS

Early American Imprints are referred to by Charles Evans' American Bibliography, located at Ref Z 1215 E92. This multi-volume index attempts to chronicle all publications in the United States from 1639-1820. The numbers that are assigned to these publications equate to the numbers printed on the Early American Imprints microcards (Micro Z 1215 E38x) in the Reading Room. The American Bibliography conveniently includes both author and subject indexes in the back of each volume. Thousands of these items are also included in USM's online library catalog.

### THE SABIN COLLECTION

The Reading Room also houses an ambitious collection of Americana often referred to as "Sabin materials." This is a wide-ranging collection of microfiche that contains reproductions of books concerning America, dating back to the 1600s. The scope is enormous, and the effort to cumulate a list of such works was advanced tremendously by nineteenth-century bookseller Joseph Sabin. Personal accounts of the Revolutionary War and the Civil War may be found there, along with many sermons, diaries, travel writings, and much political discourse. The call number is Micro E 18 .S46x.

*Barton Spencer,  
Information Services Librarian*

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## *TLRC Reorganizes*

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**A**s emerging technologies continue to change the face of teaching and learning, so too has the structure of the former Teaching Learning Resource Center changed. In July of 1997, several components of the TLRC were transferred to the newly created Office of Technology Resources. Equipment Services, Graphics Services, and the Interactive Video Network/Open Learning now are part of Instructional Resources, one unit of the Office of Technology Resources. The employees of these units still are in their same locations in McCain Library and Archives, although the administrative structure has changed.

Dr. Savan Wilson has taken a leave of absence from the University to work for the Department of Defense Schools in Sardinia, Italy, as a media technology specialist. Dr. Lin Harper, coordinator of the Interactive Video Network, is the acting director of Instructional Resources.

The Media Resources Center/TLRC, located in McCain Library and Archives, Room 106, and the Music Resources Center, located in the Mannoni Performing Arts Center, Room 109, remain with the University Libraries. The Media Resources Center offers services such as off-satellite taping, film previews and loans, and an extensive collection of videocassettes, laser discs, and other media formats. The Music Resources Center collection includes sound recordings and scores. Both centers provide the University community with media materials for teaching and learning.

*Pollyanne S. Frantz,  
Media Services Librarian*

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# *Library Basics Interactive Tutorial*

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**I**nformation Services Librarians at Cook Library have developed Library Basics, an interactive library tutorial designed to provide users with a brief orientation to conducting research in the University Libraries. The project came about as a result of the increased need for library instruction among our student population. The tutorial is accessible through a graphical World Wide Web browser such as Netscape or Internet Explorer, and the url is <http://www.lib.usm.edu/tutorial/>

Almost anyone can learn from Library Basics! It will be especially helpful to students who are new to USM, faculty and staff who are not sure how to get the most out of library resources, and visitors to the University Libraries who want a quick lesson in finding materials.

The tutorial has the following three sections: (1) How to devise an effective research strategy; (2) How to search for books; and (3) How to search for magazines and journals. The sections lead participants through the process of locating information resources. Each section covers a basic concept, provides details related to the concept, and asks questions so that participants can assess their understanding of library research. For further assistance or information about the tutorial, call Cook Library's Information Desk at 266-4249.

*Shirlene Stogner,  
Instructional Services Librarian*

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