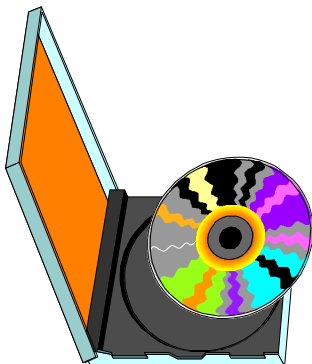


Electronic resources in transition,

or

<http://www.lawrence.edu/library/research/elecres.htmlx>



Back in the distant past of the late 1980's, Lawrence faculty and students had fairly simple choices in their quests for information: use the card catalog or sit down at an index table and dig through the indexes that covered their fields. If the catalog and indexes proved to be inadequate, they could request that a librarian conduct an online search in a remote database. When the library catalog went online in the early 1990's, we subscribed to the IAC Expanded Academic Index, which is a general academic database, and added it to the online catalog. A few years later, FirstSearch was added. By last year, the options available for database access began to explode.

The recent past

Until a few years ago, the only option for a small college library to gain access to a specialized database such as *PsycLit* or *Books in Print* was to subscribe to the database on CD-ROM. For the library this generally meant an additional investment in a computer and CD-ROM drive on which to run the database, plus maintenance of the machine for reliability, upgrading software, and providing security of the system. The cost of networking most CD-ROM's was, and still often is, prohibitive for a library like ours, so the database was set up to run on a specific workstation in the library. CD-ROM's provided a little more flexibility than the old printed indexes, but they were not much more than computerized versions of printed indexes.

The environment for producing databases has changed very quickly. As publishers make content available to vendors for indexing, they consider which vendors to use, and often whether to sell the service themselves. A vendor's ability to include a significant back run or to provide up-to-date currency, its indexing thoroughness and accuracy, its searching sophistication, reputation for quality of service, and the ability to print, e-mail, or save simple citations, abstracts or the full text of articles are just a few of the factors that may go into a publisher's choice of vendor.

(continued on page 2)

Conservatory Corner

What's the Scoop on Music Indexes?

The library currently subscribes to over eighty music periodicals. You can now access information from these and hundreds of other music magazines and journals using three different indexes: the *Music Index*, the *International Index to Music Periodicals (IIMP)*, and *RILM Abstracts of Music Literature (RILM)*.

IIMP is available on CD-ROM and also via the Web on one of the PCs in the reference area. At present, *IIMP* indexes 379 periodicals from 1996 to 1998, covering about 90 percent of the library's currently received music titles. Of the 379, nearly half are also retrospectively indexed back to 1990, and another 29 are indexed back through their entire run. Among the fully indexed titles are the *Musical Quarterly* back to 1915 (Lawrence has the entire run) and the *Journal of the American Musicological Society* back to 1948 (Lawrence's holdings go back to 1957).

The *Music Index* is available in its traditional paper form and Lawrence has the full run, from 1949 through 1997, but no longer receives current issues since current indexing is provided by *IIMP*. By 1996, the *Music Index* covered about 350 periodicals, including (like *IIMP*) about 90 percent of those received at Lawrence.

(continued on page 2)

Electronic Resources (continued)

The library staff considers many of these factors in making a decision to subscribe to a vendor's database services, but we also look for relevance to the curriculum, cost in terms of the likely number of users for the database, the ability to network access to the campus at large, ease of use, and stability of service.

At least two developments have contributed to the recent increase in access to databases through the library's web page. First, improvements in the reliability of Internet access to databases, and second, group purchase agreements for licensing access to databases negotiated through library service organizations or state agencies.

The current result is that we have access to a wide range of databases and a certain amount of overlap between them. On the Electronic Resources page you will find a link to the local version of the IAC Expanded Academic Index as well as to a remote, web-based version which also offers the ability to e-mail or print full text of some of its contents. The coverage of specific publications varies from one vendor to another as well. For example the *New York Times* is indexed for major articles on the library's version of *Expanded Academic Index*. It is also included in the *Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe* newspaper index from 1980 on, and the most recent 90 days is included in the *UMI Newspaper Index* which is available through *BadgerLink*. Last, the library has CD-ROM disks for the full text of the past eight years of the paper. This variety of sources for any one publication can be quite confusing and frustrating, but it is likely to be a continuing condition for the near future. What's more, it is not unheard of for a publisher to withdraw from a vendor's database without notice to the subscribers who contracted with the vendor specifically to gain availability to that particular resource!

We may be in a state of transition, in which case our database options may settle down into a predictable and dependable menu of choices, but this is the market we will be working with for the next several years.

In the near future, we hope to be able to provide access to databases for Lawrence library users from off campus, and software developments will make it possible to search more than one database at a time.

For the time being, please explore the range of resources available starting at the electronic resources page. Help files are there to explain some of the peculiarities of searching in different databases. In those cases where a database needed for your research is not available there, please contact a reference librarian to find out whether a search can be done using a remote service such as Dialog. We are engaged in an ongoing assessment of the quality and value of the databases available as we plan ahead. It is important to hear from those who use these services.

Conservatory Corner (continued)

You do not have to come to the library to use *RILM* (*Répertoire Internationale de Littérature Musicale*). It is one of the FirstSearch databases, which you can access on the Web over the campus network. Unlike *IIMP* and the *Music Index*, *RILM* indexes not only periodical literature but also books, essays in collections, conference proceedings, dissertations, theses, festschrifts—any and every type of musicological literature. More exclusively scholarly in focus than the other two indexes, *RILM* is also much more international in scope. Coverage is now from 1969 to 1998, although at present only citations up through 1995 include abstracts and subject headings.

If you have any questions about these databases, please do not hesitate to contact Eunice Schroeder (x6995 or eunice.m.schroeder@lawrence.edu). (Note: The Conservatory Corner column is also available on the Web from the library's music pages: from the library's opening Web page, select Library Departments, then Music.)

Congratulations
to Pete Gilbert,
Reference Librarian, who has
accepted the position of Director of
Instructional Technology here at
Lawrence starting January 1, 1999.

A search is under way to find a new
reference librarian.

Citing Electronic Documents

Electronic documents, whether from an e-mail list, an FTP site or a Web page, are an increasingly valuable resource for researchers. There is some uncertainty however, about how to cite these documents in a footnote or bibliography. The citation format you choose will vary depending on the discipline in which you are working. One possible (relatively generic) format is:

Author. Title. Magazine or complete work title
[medium (i.e. online or CD-ROM)]. Available: URL. (Date of visit or message).

For example:

Pereira, Edimilson de Almeida. "Survey of African-Brazilian Literature." Callaloo [online]. Available:
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/callaloo/v018/18.4de_almeida_pereira9.html (21 March 1996).

The URL and date of visit are important because, as we know, the Internet is a moving target. Pages change from day to day and from visit to visit.

Helpful Hints

- Always make note of the Uniform Resource Locator (URL).
- Netscape displays the URL of the current document in the Location: bar at the top of the screen.
- Consider printing a copy of the document. Make sure the copy has the date printed on it.

Style Guides on the Internet

Check the Web site of your favorite professional organization for citation guidelines. The MLA Web site (<http://www.mla.org>) and the American Anthropological Association (<http://www.ameranthassn.org>) both give good examples of how to cite electronic documents.

Electronic References & Scholarly Citations of Internet Sources
<http://www.gu.edu.au/gint/WWWVL/OnlineRefs.html>

Bibliographic formats for citing electronic information, based on Li and Crane's book, *Electronic Styles*. (see above).
<http://www.uvm.edu/~ncrane/estyles/>

MLA-Style Citations of Electronic Sources, by Janice R. Walker at the University of South Florida. This page, endorsed by the Alliance for Computers and Writing, offers very detailed descriptions of electronic citations. The style sheet includes information on FTP sites, WWW sites, telnet sites, Gophers, MOOs, MUDs, and listservs.
<http://www.cas.usf.edu/english/walker/mla.html>

Web Extension to American Psychological Association Style (WEAPAS)
<http://www.beadsland.com/weapas/>

Williams College Library guide to citing electronic resources -- nice and brief, with an excellent section on citing from the Times Warner Pathfinder web site.
<http://www.williams.edu:803/library/library.www/cite.html>

Style guides in the library's reference collection:

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 4th edition
Ref. LB 2369 .G53 1995

Electronic Styles: A Handbook for Citing Electronic Information by Xia Li and Nancy B. Crane
Ref. PN 171 .F56 L5 1996

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES - A PARTIAL LIST

The Lawrence Library subscribes to the following online databases and reference sources. You may use these resources from any web-capable computer (in labs, offices, residence halls, the library, etc.) on campus. Most are indexes which lead you to books and journal articles. Some also offer the full text of the original items. Mediated searches are also available through a librarian using DIALOG or STN.

Connect to these at <http://www.lawrence.edu/library/research/elecres.htmlx>

FirstSearch includes such databases as:

Arts & Humanities Search
AGRICOLA
AIDS & Cancer Research
Applied Science & Technology Literature
Art Abstracts
ArticleFirst
BasicBIOSIS
Biology Digest
Biography Index
Biological & Agricultural Index
Book Review Digest
Books in Print
Business Dateline
Consumers Index
Contemporary Women's Issues
ContentsFirst
Disclosure Corporate Snapshots
Dissertation Abstracts Online
EconLit
Education Abstracts
Environment
ERIC
FactSearch
FastDoc
General Science Abstracts
GEOBASE
GeoRef
Health Reference Center
Humanities Abstracts
Index to Legal Periodicals & Books
Library Literature
MEDLINE
Microcomputer Abstracts
MLA Bibliography
Nestor
NetFirst
Newspaper Abstracts
PAIS International
PapersFirst
Periodical Abstracts
Pro CD Biz
Pro CD Home
ProceedingsFirst
Readers' Guide Abstracts
RILM Abstracts of Music Literature

Sociological Abstracts
Social Sciences Abstracts
Wilson Business Abstracts
WilsonSelect
WorldCat
Worldscope GLOBAL

BadgerLink (EbscoHost)

Periodical and newspaper indexes, some of which include full text.

Information Access Company

Expanded Academic ASAP (including some full-text periodicals)
Expanded Academic Index Back File
Expanded Academic Index Current File

LEXIS-NEXIS UNIVERse

General News Topics
Company News
Biographical Information
Reference & Directories
General Medical & Health Topics
Medical Abstracts
Government and Political News
Accounting, Auditing, & Tax
Legal News
Law Reviews
Company Financial Information
Industry & Market News
Federal Case Law
Profiles U.S. Code, Constitution, & Court Rules
State Profiles
State Legal Research

Other Individual Subscriptions

Britannica Online
CollegeSource Online (college catalogs)
Handbook of Latin American Studies
eHRAF Collection of Ethnography
Marcive WebDOCS
MathSciNet
Perseus Project
PsycInfo
Uncover
WiscNet