PERIODICAL INDEXES: James White Library Moves Toward Electronic Access

The term "paradigm shift" may have become a cliche, but it truly describes what is happening in libraries as we become increasingly dependent upon electronic information sources. The pace of change in libraries, including the James White Library, has moved so fast that it is difficult for staff or users to be able to keep up with available resources in their field of interest. It is our hope that this article will bring the readers of Unclassified up-to-date in this important area of library research.

This summer the library did a thorough review of its periodical indexes with a view to making available the maximum number of electronic indexes at no direct cost to the Andrews University community and to make as many available on the campus network as is possible. The review was necessitated by a number of factors, including the greatly increased efficiency of retrieving information in electronic bibliographic indexes, the desire of library users to use such resources (sometimes using a less desirable electronic index rather than a more appropriate print one), and the need to economize.

Even though most electronic resources are more expensive than their print counterparts, many of the library's most expensive print indexes were seldom used. Some of these could be cancelled, to be replaced by other indexes (mostly electronic) or the library paying per search for remote access to their electronic equivalent. The library also consolidated index purchasing into two accounts--one for indexes (print and electronic) "owned" by the library, and the other for access to electronic indexes and tape leases of bibliographic indexes to be mounted on JeWeL. The library also cancelled print indexes where we owned both the print index and its electronic equivalent.

Following is a list of currently available James White Library periodical indexing services (this does not include other bibliographic and reference electronic resources, which will be featured in a future column). These indexes fall into the following categories:

Print

Some indexes are either not available in electronic form or do not have a reasonable price for a small university library. Formerly housed in the Periodical Department, these will be moved in the near future to the Information Services (Reference) Department.

Tape Lease in JeWeL

These indexes are foundational in this library. They are important enough so that we lease the tapes, including regular updates. The Expanded Academic Index indexes over 1600 magazines and journals in a wide variety of disciplines and is the beginning point for most periodical searches. The Religion Index (American Theological Library Association) is still loaded experimentally, and only contains Religion Index One, but the library should soon be able to load the remainder of the database. This index, along with the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index, are foundational in the Seminary. EAI is updated weekly, SDAPI is created in the library in real time. These indexes can be accessed through the second JeWeL menu.

Available through the Internet

These indexes can be accessed through the JeWeL opening screen. At present they include those from OCLC FirstSearch (listed below), CARL UnCover, and the Avery Index to Architecture periodicals.

CD-ROM

Most of these indexes are available at the reference desk. A few of them are housed in the Seminary Library.

Dialog and Dialog Classroom

Arrangements for searching the databases of the Dialog Information Company can be made at the reference desk. The classroom account, which is available to teachers and students in classes where the students learn to do the searching themselves, is made available to the library at very attractive rates. Instruction sessions can be arranged by calling Cynthia Helms (6260). Members of the university community are not charged for these searches.

And now the list. The only sure thing about this list is that it is likely to continue to change on a regular basis. Electronic indexes are listed in bold face.
LIBRARY SKILLS OFFERED

Each quarter, the library offers Library Skills Workshops for international students, transfer students, and all others who want to keep up with the rapid changes in information retrieval. The Basic Library Skills Workshop met in early October and the Advanced Library Skills Workshop is scheduled for Monday evening, October 17, from 7:00-9:00 pm. Please encourage your students to attend this workshop before they get buried in their assignments.

If you teach an introductory class at freshman level, you can do something for your students by requesting a library orientation for your class by contacting Cynthia Helms at 6260. The general library orientation consists of a self-guided tour with a quiz at the end. Arrangements should be made a week in advance so that librarians can be available at the terminals for computer assistance. You can also contact Cynthia for upper level classes that require subject-specific orientation. She will contact other librarians as needed or requested. The library orientation becomes more meaningful if tied with a class assignment.

BRING YOUR OWN DISC

In these days of technology advances, we are encouraging people to bring their own floppy disks for downloading from the CD-ROM's. Records stored on disks can be taken home and read in WordPerfect, organized for bibliographies, etc. Laser printouts cost five cents a page.

READ ME!

One of the useful features of most conferences and conventions is the display of new books in one's field or discipline. Sometimes these books are on sale at bargain prices. However, before you are tempted to load up with literary goodies intended for the James White Library back home, please read these words of "small print" from the library's
Technical Services Department:

The Acquisitions Unit of Technical Services requests that faculty members please not purchase items for the library collection and expect the library to reimburse them for such items. Several times each month we receive calls from someone who has done this, or the books, videos, etc. mysteriously appear (with or without and invoice) and we are expected to add these to the collection. If you do purchase items at conferences or at video stores and want them added to the collection--you are doing this at your own risk! We will evaluate them using standard collection development policies. If the item or items are appropriate, the cost is not prohibitive, and the library does not have them in the collection, they may be added and you can request reimbursement. If the library already owns the items or they are not deemed useful--then you cannot expect us to pay for or return them. At this point you are the proud owner! Thanks for your cooperation.

NEW CODES FOR LIBRARY ORDERS

Effective immediately, the library is using the following codes for priority in ordering:

- **RUSH** - Needed immediately for class. (Use this code sparingly)
- **A** - First priority for order
- **B** - Second priority
- **C** - Order only if funds remain

Please use these codes on all requests for library purchases. Requests coming without a priority code will be assigned to code C. For more information see the Memo sent to all faculty from Sally Alger and Harvey Brenneise, or contact either of those people.

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