Texas State University-San Marcos

NEW LIBRARY NEWS

New Library Catalog Launched

The Alkek Library’s new online catalog went “live” on August 15, 2006. The catalog is the primary point of access to the holdings of the library collection which consists of over 1.4 million printed volumes, 200+ databases, 68,300+ electronic journals, 28,000 e-books, and a half-million microform and audio-visual materials. The catalog also provides access to holdings of the Southwestern Writers Collection and the Wittliff Gallery. To connect, go to the Catalog link on the library web page http://www.library.txstate.edu.

New Library Catalog Launched

Since selecting Innovative Interfaces’ Millennium integrated library system last winter, plans to migrate to the new system have been in the works. Besides moving bibliographic records, circulation and course reserve records have been seamlessly migrated so that faculty and students will experience no change in their library accounts. My account features in the new catalog will be available this fall and allow you to:

- View a list of items you have checked out
- Renew materials
- View hold requests and see your position in the hold queue
- Save preferred searches and set them up as alerts when new titles matching the search are added to the collection
- View fines
- View or change your email address

Other improvements to the catalog include:

- Easier searching for date ranges and specific formats such as e-books, e-journals, DVD’s, video-cassettes, audio-books, archival materials, theses or dissertations
- Persistent search box that displays on hit-list and record screens so you can continue searching from the hit-list or record screen without having to start over
- New search types: Journal Title, and reserve searches by course name, course number or professor’s name
- More intuitive exporting of records to RefWorks, a web-based, bibliographic management tool, to create and store citations, references, or abstracts
- Search history dropdown menu to allow you to return to previous searches
- Command line searching
- Persistent links to records, so you can e-mail a link of a particular record
- Better, clearer display
  - Icons for material types, for example, you can distinguish a music audiocassette and a non-music audiocassette by looking at the icon
  - You can see if the book is available from the first hit-list (in keyword searches)
  - More visible and easier-to-use Save, Mark, and Request buttons
  - Links to online content in journals
  - Information for items On Order easily visible
  - More information on status of serial issues: arrived, late, bindery, or expected

Although the search interface for the catalog is intuitive and user friendly, the library is scheduling one-hour workshops throughout the semester to orient faculty and students to the catalog and to demonstrate advanced search features. Go to the Workshops link on the library web page or http://www.library.txstate.edu/ref/bi/workshops.htm for the workshop schedule.

Joan L. Heath
AVP, University Library
The Common Experience reading for the 2007 academic year is Zoot Suit by Luis Valdez. The play is based on the 1942 Sleepy Lagoon Murder case in which twenty-four young Chicano men were arrested for the murder of a boy in Los Angeles. The newspapers characterized the murder as gang related. Seventeen of the young men arrested for the crime were convicted and sent to San Quentin. However, the District Court of Appeals later reversed the conviction, and the case was dismissed for lack of evidence. The underlying racial tensions of the city also sparked the “Zoot Suit” riots of 1943. The riots began when servicemen on leave attacked young Mexican-American men in East Los Angeles. The servicemen had charged that they had been assaulted by young men wearing “zoot suits.” Several incidents across the country brought notoriety to the style of clothing that was popular with Mexican-American and African-American youths of the late 1930s and 1940s. The New York Times (June 13, 1943, pg E2) described the suits as “a flat hat with a very wide brim, a jacket that swept low, pants that started under the armpits, bagged out at the knees and tied in at the ankles, a watch chain that threatened to trip its wearer, and shoes sharply pointed and with thick soles.” The attire was made popular by jazz and swing musicians of the era, such as Cab Callaway and Duke Ellington.

The War Production Board banned the manufacture of the suit in 1942, calling it a waste of material. “We have no desire to restrict styles or types of garments so long as there is no waste of fabrics,” stated the deputy chief of the WPB. “In a war, we cannot afford the luxury of wasteful garments.” (New York Times, Sept 12, 1942, pg 8). The riots were indicative of the injustices of racial stereotyping and prejudices. They were a precursor to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. But the perception of many Americans was that the “zoot suit” riots were to be blamed only on youthful gangs in the Mexican-American and African-American communities. That perception would soon be revealed as simplistic. After a summer of riots in several American cities, Turner Catledge wrote an article for the New York Times titled “Behind Our Menacing Race Problem” (Aug. 8, 1943, pg. SM7). He stated, “The race problem in the United States tempts one ever to oversimplification, as this correspondent has learned during an investigation made recently in several cities with large Negro communities. Yet the problem is so ramified and runs so deep into the mores of the people as to lead one who attempts simplification into one blind alley after another.”

The Alkek Library has acquired six additional copies of Zoot Suit and Other Plays and has placed them at the Reserve Desk on the fourth floor. We also have one copy of the play on DVD and one copy of the PBS documentary of the murder at Sleepy Lagoon. They are both also at the Reserve Desk. They may be checked out for one week. The library also has one copy of the book Murder at the Sleepy Lagoon: Zoot Suits, Race, and Riot in Wartime L.A. by Eduardo Obrecón Pagán. A resource list of web sites, journal and newspaper articles, books, and other material is available from the Alkek Library. For more information, contact Jan Tidwell at jant@txstate.edu.

Jan Tidwell
Reference and Instruction Librarian

Call for Proposals: Library Research Grants

Often faculty members need materials not in the library collection to support their research. Each year the Alkek Library provides funds to acquire non-curricular materials for this purpose. All faculty members are invited to submit a proposal for a Library Research Grant. Although a competitive process, the majority of professionally written proposals have been funded in recent years.

- $20,000 in funding is available. Proposals over $3,000 are unlikely to receive full funding.
- Materials requested may include books, back issues of journals, electronic resources, AV materials, computer software
- Requests should not include current subscriptions, journal articles or multiple copies of materials
- Applicants are asked to provide a brief description of the project, a list of needed materials, and the estimated cost.
- To submit a proposal use the form at www.library.txstate.edu/grant/index.htm
- All materials purchased with grant funds will become part of the library collection
- View an example of a past application which received funding at www.library.txstate.edu/grant/app-example.pdf

Proposal Deadline: 5:00 p.m. November 3, 2006. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Questions, contact: Joan Heath, Assistant Vice President, University Library
Jh06@txstate.edu; (512) 245-2133

Members of the Research Grant Subcommittee will recommend funding recipients to the Library Committee.
Many library databases and publishers offer automated ways to keep current with new literature. Researchers may set up search alerts, or searches that run automatically as the database is updated. The new results are sent via email or increasingly as RSS feeds. Another common alert is a Table of Contents (TOC) alert that sends you the table of contents of the newly published issue for the journals in your profile. You may also set up citation alerts to receive notification when your chosen articles are cited by newer articles. These are very useful for tracking the direction the research is taking in a given area. Free registration is required for all types of alerts.

RSS, or news feeds, have been around for keeping up with news and blogs for some time. RSS stands for “rich site summary” or “really simple syndication.” Many news sources such as the New York Times or the Washington Post offer RSS feeds. Once you “subscribe” to the RSS feed, headlines and summaries from news sites are directed to you. More recently, library databases and publishers have started providing research alerts and TOC services as RSS feeds.

In order to receive RSS feeds, you will need a reader. Many readers are available at http://www.2rss.com/readers.php, including both desktop readers and web-based readers like Bloglines or My Yahoo. If you use the FireFox or Safari browser, the RSS reading capability is built into the browser. Typically, all you need to do is click on the orange RSS button and copy the feed’s URL from the displayed page, then paste it into the reader. Some databases and publishers promote document delivery services in their alerts that provide you with articles for a fee. However, the article(s) sought may be available to you for free through the library’s subscription to the journal. If you do not have full-text access via the alert or feed, it is a good idea to check full-text availability at the library’s Periodical List http://atoz.ebsco.com/Search.asp?id=tsusm.

If the article is not available at Texas State, you may obtain a copy of the article very quickly and at no cost through interlibrary loan.

**Selected alert services:**

- EbSCO Research alerts
- Web of Science Citation Alerts
  [http://thomsonscientific.com/support/faq/wos7/#alert](http://thomsonscientific.com/support/faq/wos7/#alert)
- ScienceDirect Email TOC Alerts
- Wiley InterScience Email TOC Alerts
  [http://www.interscience.wiley.com/](http://www.interscience.wiley.com/) (register on top right corner)
- The Chronicle of Higher Education RSS Feed
- Science
  [http://www.sciencemag.org/rss/index.dtl](http://www.sciencemag.org/rss/index.dtl)
- Wall Street Journal
- PubMed

If you would like to know more or would like to find out whether your favorite journal has RSS feeds or TOC alerts, please contact Paivi Rentz at pr11@txstate.edu or (512) 245-8613

Paivi Rentz
Electronic Resources Librarian

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**RefWorks Training: Fall Semester Schedule**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 11 (Monday)</td>
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<td>October 24 (Tuesday)</td>
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<td>September 20 (Wednesday)</td>
<td>5:00 - 6:00 pm</td>
<td>November 9 (Thursday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>1:00 - 2:00 pm</td>
<td>November 21 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>5:00 - 6:00 pm</td>
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RefWorks training is held in room 101 of the Alkek Library
For more information visit [http://www.library.txstate.edu/ref/refworks.htm](http://www.library.txstate.edu/ref/refworks.htm)

RefWorks is an online research and citation management tool that simplifies the process of documenting sources in a research paper, dissertation, or any project requiring references. It is a web-based alternative to EndNote. It allows you to import references directly from a number of databases or indirectly from saved files, to enter references manually from an online worksheet, and to format bibliography (works cited pages) that can be inserted into word processing documents, in a variety of styles including MLA, Turabian and Chicago.

In order to use RefWorks, users must first create an individual account.
The Other Google

When most people think of Google, they think “search engine.” If there was ever any doubt about the success of Google, it is now official. In July 2006 the verb ‘google’ was added to the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary and Oxford English Dictionary. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_(verb)

Google has now entered the software field like a tsunami and doesn’t seem to be slowing down. Every time you turn around Google is coming up with something new. Here is a list of some of the more popular software:

**Google Earth** (3-D satellite imagery) [http://earth.google.com/](http://earth.google.com/)

**Picasa** (image manipulation) [http://picasa.google.com/](http://picasa.google.com/)

**Google Desktop** (various functions, allows searching one’s hard drive for various files and formats) [http://desktop.google.com/](http://desktop.google.com/)

**Google Toolbar** (shortcuts to various applications and functions) [http://toolbar.google.com/index_xp.html](http://toolbar.google.com/index_xp.html)


Google’s latest debut is Google **Spreadsheets** (GSS). Google Spreadsheets Beta made its debut in June. Unlike Excel, the Beta version is a totally web-based application. The software accepts various files and formats, such as .xls and HTML files. It also allows multiple users to edit the same document, useful for students, school projects, and team group assignments. You also have the option of allowing others to view but not edit your work. And although there are no print functions, you can export your documents as HTML files. [http://www.google.com/googlespreadsheets/try_out.html](http://www.google.com/googlespreadsheets/try_out.html)

At present, the Beta version has no chart capability for tables and graphs. The outstanding feature is its user-friendly graphical user interface (GUI) design that allows formatting on the toolbar.

The general consensus is that while it is free and web-based, GSS is primarily oriented toward the casual user. Likewise, the functions are limited to the basics. Security, which would be of concern to the corporate community, is somewhat questionable. Nevertheless, GSS data is stored online, giving the user mobility.

The following links contain reviews of GSS:
- **Unofficial Google** - [http://google.weblogsinc.com/2006/06/06/a-look-at-googles-spreadsheets](http://google.weblogsinc.com/2006/06/06/a-look-at-googles-spreadsheets)
- **OpenSource** – [http://searchopensource.techtarget.com/tip/1,289483,sid39_gci1193521,00.html](http://searchopensource.techtarget.com/tip/1,289483,sid39_gci1193521,00.html)

Other similar services include:
- **iRows** - [http://www.irows.com/](http://www.irows.com/)
- **Editgrid** - [http://www.editgrid.com/home](http://www.editgrid.com/home)

Frank Fox
Reference Librarian
Anniversary Celebrations Continue with Fall Exhibits

INSTRUCTING • ILLUMINATING • INSPIRING

Don’t miss the exciting new exhibits on the seventh floor, as the Southwestern Writers Collection and the Wittliff Gallery continue to celebrate their 20-year and 10-year anniversaries, respectively, and Texas State honors 100 years of Latinos on campus. Admission is FREE.
Open Monday, Tuesday & Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm; Wednesday & Thursday 8:00 am – 7:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; Sunday 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

SOUTHWESTERN WRITERS COLLECTION

September 1 – December 15, 2006:
TREASURES OF THE SOUTHWESTERN WRITERS COLLECTION: A 20th Anniversary Celebration
The “greatest hits” of the permanent archives, including the 1555 edition of Cabeza de Vaca’s La relación y comentarios, a songbook made by an eleven-year-old Willie Nelson, costumes and props from Lonesome Dove, and much, much more from the literary, film, and music holdings. Nov. 9: Reception and program with Sarah Bird, Elizabeth Crook, and Stephen Harrigan, 6:30 pm

WITTLIFF GALLERY OF SOUTHWESTERN & MEXICAN PHOTOGRAPHY

September 15 – October 14, 2006:
THE LATINO PRESENCE AT TEXAS STATE: Celebrating 100 Years
This Hispanic Heritage Month exhibition created and presented by the Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies looks back through the years to 1906 when the first Latinos joined the student body. http://www.txstate.edu/mcgs/latino_presence/
Sept 15: Public reception from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

October 21, 2006 – March 18, 2007:
OJOS PARA VOLAR / EYES TO FLY WITH: Photographs by Graciela Iturbide
Self portraits, famous works, and never-before-exhibited images by one of Mexico’s greatest photographers. This show coincides with the ninth volume in the Wittliff Gallery Book Series, from the University of Texas Press. Oct 28: Meet the photographer at the artist reception, program, and book signing, 7:00 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

For famous-author readings and other special events, see the full Special Collections Calendar online, http://www.library.txstate.edu/spec-coll, or call for more information: (512) 245-2313.

Research Topics

A comprehensive subject guide to the literary collections is available, providing topics of interest for students and researchers. Links are provided to processed (cataloged) collections. However, please be aware that additional archives (not yet processed) are often available. In all cases, it is wise to contact the archivist, Katharine A. Salzmann, ks31@txstate.edu, for complete information about the specific holdings identified in this guide. http://www.library.txstate.edu/swwc/archives/writers/topics.html
Welcome New Employees

Kristine Toma joins the Alkek Library in the newly created position of University Archivist and Records Manager. In this capacity, she oversees the university-wide records management program, providing leadership for departments across campus in managing institutional records. Kris also manages the university archives. In addition to providing access to the resources, she works with departments, faculty, and alumni to identify additional records of enduring historical value for inclusion in the archives.

A graduate of The University of Texas library and information school, Kris has over ten years of archives and records management experience, most recently as Archivist and Records Manager at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Previous to that, she was Records and Archives Manager at International SEMATECH, Inc. in Austin.

We are delighted to welcome Kris to the staff of the Alkek Library, and to the Texas State University community.

Terrence Edwards is the newest Instruction Librarian in the Reference Department. He joins Texas State after working as the Head of Reference for small, liberal arts institutions in Iowa and Maine. Originally from Minnesota, Terrence earned his M.S. from the University of Illinois in 1997. He has also studied opera and still enjoys singing when the opportunity arises. Terrence is excited to have so many talented and dedicated colleagues to work with.

Steven Realing is the new systems support specialist. He maintains the library’s PCs and printers, making sure all are running properly. In addition, he installs and troubleshoots all hardware/software on staff and public PCs and printers, and makes service calls for warranty work. We are pleased to welcome Steven to the Alkek Library.

Kristine Toma
University Archivist/Records Manager

Terrence Edwards
Reference & Instruction Librarian

Steven Realing
Systems Support Specialist
Welcome New Employees

Josie Castillo made the transition from the Technology Resources Department to Administrative Services. She is responsible for procuring supplies and equipment, monitoring budgets, performing gift receipting, as well as processing invoices, credits memos, payment vouchers and resolving related problems. Josie maintains various logs and spreadsheets for Special Collections, and she is enjoying her new home and friends and looking forward to learning new tasks, ideas and growing. We welcome Josie to the Alkek Library.

Josie Castillo
Procurement Specialist

Johnny Scott, a former Reserve Desk student worker, is now a Circulation Assistant. His new job duties include circulating library materials (books, audiovisual materials, etc.), answering general questions about the library and the campus, directing patrons to appropriate library departments as needed, issuing TexShare cards and Nonstudent library cards, checking out laptop computers, clearing library holds to allow students to register for classes, and searching for missing library materials. Johnny is a native of Galveston, Texas. He is a Senior Art major who has aspirations of writing and illustrating children’s books. We welcome Johnny to the Alkek Library.

Johnny Scott
Circulation Assistant

Misty Hopper was the Non-Books Cataloging Librarian seven years ago and resigned to raise two boys. Now that they are older, she has returned to Cataloging and is currently working on the backlog of Non-Book materials, such as videos, kits, models, etc. Misty earned her MLIS from the University of Texas at Austin and has many years of library experience working at University of Illinois, University of Texas, and Texas State University. She is delighted to return to the Texas State Cataloging Department and hopes to successfully reduce the backlog!

Misty Hopper
Non-book Cataloger, Project Staff
Library staff members volunteered to help at the “Spirit of Place” Gala fundraiser for the Southwestern Writers Collection and Wittliff Gallery on May 27, 2006. Shown here at the Four Seasons in Austin with special guest Sam Shepard are (left to right): Diana Corker, Lisa Frances, Karen Sigler, Cynthia Wissmann, Carolyn Jones, Terry Hernandez, Tiffany Falany, and Kathy Whetstone. The Gala raised almost $300,000 to help grow the collections.

Hours For Fall Semester 2006

Regular Library Hours
Monday – Wednesday
7:30 am – 1:00 am
Thursday
7:30 am – Midnight
Friday
7:30 am – 10:00 pm
Saturday
9:00 am – 6:00 pm
Sunday
1:00 pm – 1:00 am

Special Collections hours, including the Southwestern Writers Collection and the Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern & Mexican Photography, are:

Exhibits:
Mon, Tues, Fri: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Wed, Thurs: 8:00 am – 7:00 pm
Sat: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sun: 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Archives including Wittliff Gallery:
Mon, Tues, Fri: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Wed, Thurs: 8:00 am – 7:00 pm
Other times by appointment
(512) 245-2313

For additional information on library hours, visit our website:
http://www.library.txstate.edu/scripts/perl/lib-hours.pl

We’re on the web at
www.library.txstate.edu/

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