Central Search - Federated Database Searching

Central Search is a search engine that lets users search multiple databases simultaneously from a single interface, commonly known as federated searching. Central Search is a product from the same company that produces Serials Solutions, can scan over 30 Milne Library databases including Academic Search Elite and JSTOR, as well as the library catalog and WorldCat. Also included are ERIC for educational materials, and the New York Times Archive dating back to 1851. You can search all the databases at once, or select specific databases from the list. The results list links you directly to the article citation in the respective database.

This is an good way to conduct a broad search on a topic. And because the results are listed alphabetical by database, it’s easy to spot which databases have the most resources on your topic, leading you to the most appropriate databases to do an in-depth search on that topic. Serious research should not end with Central Search, since its search abilities are fairly simplistic and won’t allow the kind sophisticated searching you can do within a specific database. Due to technical restrictions, not every database the library subscribes to can be included in the Central Search list. Lexis-Nexis is a noteworthy example. Consequently, it’s important to continue to refer to the Alphabetical List of Databases and the Subject List of Databases from the library’s home page. Central Search can be found on the top of the Alphabetical List of Databases or at http://ma2pk9goz.cs.serialssolutions.com/.

WorldCat.org

“Over 1 billion items in more than 10,000 libraries worldwide.” This is the catch phrase of WorldCat, a tool that searches the catalogs of both local area libraries and libraries around the globe in one simple interface. Milne Library has long maintained a subscription to WorldCat, but last year WorldCat came out with a free, web-based version at worldcat.org. There are several major uses for this powerful tool. If you’re trying to locate a music cd, a book, or a video, and you don’t want to buy it, WorldCat can be your first stop. A search by title, subject or person brings up a list of titles. For example, a search for “king arthur” brings up 11,111 items (this number, by the way, is likely to be different tomorrow as libraries add and remove items from their collections). If many of the results appear to be off topic, it’s a simple matter to limit the search by clicking on one of the links on the left side of the screen. For example, you can narrow the search by author, by content (e.g. ‘Language, Linguistics & Literature’ or ‘History & Auxiliary Sciences’), by format (book, visual material, article, etc.), by language, or by date. Each click of the mouse brings the original set of 11,111 down to a smaller number.

Selecting an individual title from the list brings up a screen containing not only the bibliographic information on that item, but provides a list of area libraries which have a copy. If you put 13820 as the zip code location, and if Milne Library owns the item, the bright orange “Search My Library” button on the top right of the page will connect you directly to Milne’s catalog to see the status of that item. In general, WorldCat does not list the materials located in smaller public libraries, such as our local Huntington Memorial Library.

An advantage to setting the zip code to 13820 is that a line will come up with links to the “Services from SUNY Col at Oneonta.” If Milne doesn’t own it, use the link “Request via Interlibrary Loan.” This brings you directly to Milne’s own Interlibrary Loan form: log in using your campus username and password and the form will automatically be filled in with the title, author, etc. Hit the submit button. Be forewarned, however, that if an item has only one or two libraries in the world that own it, the libraries are often unwilling to loan it. But if there are quite a few libraries that own the item, within a few days you will be notified that we’ve managed to get a copy of it for you.

Besides locating a copy of a book or cd, WorldCat is the premier tool for discovering what books and other published materials exist on a particular topic or discipline. In this instance, the library subscription version (find the link on the upper right side of the library home page) has the advantage. The searching abilities of the web version of WorldCat are fairly simple: an advanced search button takes you to a screen where you can search by keyword, title, author, ISSN or ISBN. The subscription version allows for far more sophisticated searching, particularly by allowing the user to set the search to subject, subject phrase, and title phrase. Both versions allow the user to separate results by type of material, e.g. book, musical score, internet source, article, etc.

Finally, WorldCat, whichever version you use, is an excellent place to verify citation information. The web version includes a link to Amazon, should you wish to purchase a copy of something. An added tip: WorldCat can be searched in either Google or Yahoo by combining the phrase “find in a library” (with quotation marks) or site:worldcatlibraries.org (no space after colon) with a keyword search. Including either phrase limits your search results to items owned by WorldCat libraries. For more information about searching WorldCat in either of its varieties, feel free to contact a reference librarian at 436-2722.

Kay Benjamin

May 2007
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Citation Tools

It’s no secret that undergraduate students have a tough time writing proper citations for college papers, whether it be in MLA, APA, Chicago, or some other style. And teachers don’t always have the time to cover the many intricacies of citing in a particular style and discipline. Frankly, even an experienced researcher can find it tricky to determine the correct citation for some of the esoteric online sources he encounters. Fortunately, there are a lot of excellent aids, particularly online, that can guide students with rules, examples, templates, and fill-in forms.

First of all, Milne Library has created two in-house guides, an MLA and an APA, which are available online at [http://www.oneonta.edu/library/infoliteracy/MLA2005final.pdf](http://www.oneonta.edu/library/infoliteracy/MLA2005final.pdf) and [http://www.oneonta.edu/library/infoliteracy/APAfinal2005.pdf](http://www.oneonta.edu/library/infoliteracy/APAfinal2005.pdf). Hard copies of these guides are available at the library. If you need copies for an entire class, just call the Reference Office at 436-2025 to have a set sent to your office. The advantage of these in-house guides is that the citation examples are specific to sources found through the Milne Library databases. For example, some citation styles require the inclusion of the library place and name where the database was used, so students can copy this information, correctly formatted, directly from the examples in these Milne Library guides. These guides include a generic format for the particular type of item being cited, followed by one or more specific examples.

Many other libraries have created instruction and example sheets for standard citation styles. Milne librarians have gathered links to the best of these guides, including the official American Psychological Association and the Modern Language Association guides, and created a web page at [http://www.oneonta.edu/library/infoliteracy/biblog.html](http://www.oneonta.edu/library/infoliteracy/biblog.html). You can easily get to this page from the library home page: just look for the link for “Citing Resources” in the middle of the right column. Of particular note are the guides from Northwest Missouri State University which are color coded and include examples of citing articles from specific databases, e.g. Lexis-Nexis, Academic Search Elite.

Of course, a simple way to help students get examples is to conduct a quick search on Google or Yahoo and add the words like “mla citation” to the search. For example, you might put in a search like interview apa citation style example. This is tremendously effective in bringing up a guide that will include an example of how to write an APA citation for an interview. Replace the word interview with whatever type of example is needed (e.g. book, symposium, database article, newspaper article, webinar, etc.) and it’s possible to find pretty much any kind of example you might encounter. The caveat is, of course, to examine whether the producer of the examples is trustworthy (e.g. a reputable library, a scholar, a discipline-specific association).

Students are inclined to use what seem to be the quickest and easiest methods to construct their bibliographies: online citation generators. The idea behind these web-based tools is that the user indicates which style she is using, then fills in a form (author, title, journal title, etc.) and the software spits out a citation that is, supposedly, in the correct style. The best known of these web-based tools is Son of Citation Machine at [http://citationmachine.net/](http://citationmachine.net/). For a good list of citation creators see the University at Albany’s list at [http://library.albany.edu/reference/citegen.htm](http://library.albany.edu/reference/citegen.htm). The problem with the online citation makers is that they do not necessarily format sources correctly. This disclaimer from Son of Citation Machine says it all: “There are many nuances to how MLA and APA citations are formed, and this software may not pick up on all of the circumstances that influence a citation’s proper format. Because of the myriad of characteristics in information sources...The Landmark project [cannot] fully guarantee the accuracy of citations generated by this tool.” If you suggest students use these tools, it’s important to emphasize that they will need to check the citation against a manual.

In the end, it is the printed manuals – APA, MLA, Chicago – that remain the ultimate authority, despite whatever examples might be found on the web page. These manuals are all readily available in the Reference Room on the first floor of the library – just stop at the Reference & Information Desk.

New Library Doors

Milne Library’s front doors are scheduled to be replaced right after commencement. The doors and the entire window wall up to the bottom of the 3rd floor will be removed and replaced. The current structure is suffering from serious corrosion due to wear and tear and the elements and will be removed and rebuilt from the ground up. The set of doors on the inside will also be replaced. The tiles in the front lobby area will be torn up and replaced, with a pattern and colors similar to the new ones now in place in front of the circ desk. There will also be tiles laid on the stairs going up to the second floor and the landing where the stairs turn. The entire front will be closed off during this project and library users will enter through the cafeteria entrance at the end of the building. The current schedule calls for completion of the job in about a month and if things go according to plan the project will be completed by July 1. We apologize for any inconvenience to library users during the project. We look forward to the result, a tighter, more secure, and esthetically pleasing entrance into the building.

Academic Achievement Awards

Academic Achievement Awards are given annually to seniors who have a minimum 3.50 GPA in their major, and who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement over four semesters; excellence in research, leadership and involvement in department, campus, and community activities; and participation in academic and/or professional situations outside the College.

A library book is purchased in each student’s honor, and is plated with their name and department and put in a display in the library lobby prior to final shelving in the regular collection. The list of students receiving the awards and the title of the books are given below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Book title &amp; author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africana &amp; Latino Studies</td>
<td>Shane Mayers</td>
<td>Christopher Keegan</td>
<td><em>Transatlantic Topographies: Islands, Highlands, Jungles</em>, by Ileana Rodriguez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>Molly Wetherbee</td>
<td>Renee Walker</td>
<td><em>The First Human: The Race to Discover Our Earliest Ancestors</em>, by Ann Gibbons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Kelly Senhouse</td>
<td>Nancy Callahan</td>
<td><em>Altered Book Collage</em>, by Barbara Matthisen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Stefanie DeMonaco</td>
<td>Nigel Mann</td>
<td><em>Pilgrim on the Great Bird Continent: The Importance of Everything and Other Lessons from Darwin’s Lost Notebooks</em>, by Lyanda Lynn Haupt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Arts</td>
<td>Erica Jones</td>
<td>Harry Pence, Christine Quail</td>
<td><em>Over the Edge: How the Pursuit of Youth by Marketers and the Media has Changed American Culture</em>, by Leo Bogart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperstown Graduate Program</td>
<td>Anna Huntley</td>
<td>Cynthia Falk</td>
<td><em>The Scrapbook in American Life</em>, edited by Susan Tucker, Katherine Ott, and Patricia P. Buckler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics, Finance &amp; Accounting</td>
<td>David Clements</td>
<td>Michael McAvoy</td>
<td><em>Emotionally Intelligent School Counseling</em>, edited by John Pellitteri, Robin Stern, Claudia Shelton, and Barbara Muller-Ackerman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Psychology &amp; Counseling</td>
<td>Lori Fisher</td>
<td>Emily Phillips</td>
<td><em>Developing &amp; Managing Your School Guidance and Counseling Program</em>, by Norman C. Gysbers and Patricia Henderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Psychology &amp; Counseling</td>
<td>Katherine Tulley</td>
<td>Lisa Tang</td>
<td><em>The Passion of Teaching: Dispositions in the Schools</em>, edited by Robert Lee Smith, Denise Skarbek, and James Hurst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Eleni Rammos</td>
<td>James Mills</td>
<td><em>Back to Nature: The Green and the Real in the Late Renaissance</em>, by Robert N. Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Sciences</td>
<td>Alexander Healy</td>
<td>Daniel Payne</td>
<td><em>Haute Cuisine: How the French Invented the Culinary Profession</em>, by Amy B. Trubek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Languages &amp; Literatures</td>
<td>Ann Richard</td>
<td>Ms. Karin de Waal</td>
<td><em>Mountains from Space: Peaks and Ranges of the Seven Continents</em>, by Stefan Dech, Reinhold Messner, Rudiger Glaser, and Ralf-Peter Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Kristal Dunbar</td>
<td>Paul Baumann</td>
<td><em>Medieval Schools: From Roman Britain to Renaissance England</em>, by Nicholas Orme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercollegiate Athletics</td>
<td>Kaitlin O’Sullivan</td>
<td>Matthew LoPiccolo</td>
<td><em>Constructing Corporate America: History, Politics, Culture</em>, edited by Kenneth Lipartito and David B. Sicilia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management, Marketing &amp; Information Systems</td>
<td>John O’Sullivan</td>
<td>Dona Sirgo</td>
<td><em>Brute Force: Cracking the Date Encryption Standard</em>, by Matt Curtin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Michael Reale</td>
<td>Dennis Higgins</td>
<td><em>Fever: The Life and Music of Miss Peggy Lee</em>, by Peter Richmond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Molly Wetherbee</td>
<td>Michael Koch</td>
<td><em>A Different Universe: Reinventing Physics from the Bottom Down</em>, by Robert B. Laughlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Charles Pizzolo</td>
<td>William Wilkerson</td>
<td><em>Comparing Political Communication: Theories, Cases, and Challenges</em>, edited by Frank Esser and Barbara Pfetsch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Christopher Rooney</td>
<td>Loraine Tyler</td>
<td><em>Mindset: The New Psychology of Success</em>, by Carol S. Dweck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Ed.</td>
<td>Denise Dirig</td>
<td>Anna Stave</td>
<td><em>Social Movements and Organization Theory</em>, edited by Gerald F. Davis, Doug McAdam, W. Richard Scott, and Mayer N. Zald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Steven Dansky</td>
<td>Mark Gaskill</td>
<td><em>The Best Stage Scenes of 2005</em>, edited by D. L. Lepidus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre</td>
<td>Diana Bayne</td>
<td>John Bagby</td>
<td><em>Chick Lit: The New Woman’s Fiction</em>, edited by Suzanne Ferriss and Mallory Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s &amp; Gender Studies</td>
<td>Matthew Kurz</td>
<td>Bambi Lobdell</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Staff news:

Jan Carpenter retired from Bibliographic Services on April 28, 2007. Jan worked in the library in various capacities for over 25 years, as a classified staff member in serials and cataloging.

Lindsay Albright, a student intern with Heather Heyduk in the Archives, has written the first-ever history of Art and Scope, the student literary magazine which began publication over 50 years ago. She also designed a display of its timeline that is currently on view in the library lobby.

Several librarians participated in the 7th Annual Faculty Research Show. Jessica Moyer’s display was entitled “Leisure Materials in Academic Libraries – REALLY!” Special Collections was represented by Mary Lynn Bensen, Michelle Hendley, Andrea Gerberg, Heather Heyduk, and Lindsay Albright. Their exhibit featured retro-technology, and included a working lantern slide projector and selection from the Lantern Slide Collection.

Jim Coan had a review of the novel Lost Son, a historical novel about the poet Rainer Maria Rilke by M. Allen Cunningham, in the April 15 edition of Library Journal. He also reviewed The Pesthouse by the British novelist Jim Crace in the Library Journal of March 1, 2007.

Graduating Seniors

Congratulations to the following students who have worked in the library and graduated in December or will be graduating in May.

Bibliographic Services:
Lindsay Albright – Intern
Heidi John
Suzi Lomax
Jennifer Noble
Kelly Senhouse

Interlibrary Loan:
Vincent Gentile
Erica Jones

Circulation:
Lindsay Albright
Robert Hildebrandt
Andrea Laufman
Jennifer Masterson
Kerry O’Donnell
Ashlee Whalen

Reference:
Robert Wind

Library Hours: Spring 2007

Regular Hours
Monday–Wednesday .............................................................. 8 AM–12 midnight
Thursday .................................................................................. 8 AM–11 PM
Friday ....................................................................................... 8 AM–10 PM
Saturday ................................................................................... 11 AM–10 PM
Sunday ................................................................................ 12 noon–12 midnight

Finals Week Extended Hours: Monday, May 7–Sunday, May 13
Monday–Thursday, May 7–10 .......................................................... 8 AM–1 PM
Friday, May 11 ........................................................................ 8 AM–12 midnight
Saturday, May 12 ................................................................. 11 AM–12 midnight
Sunday, May 13 ................................................................. 12 noon–1 AM
Monday & Tuesday, May 14–15 ............................................ 8 AM–12 midnight
Wednesday, May 16 .............................................................. 8 AM–6 PM

Intersession Hours: Thursday, May 17–Monday, May 28
Monday–Friday .......................................................................... 8 AM–4:30 PM
Saturday & Sunday ................................................................... Closed
Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day) ............................................................. Closed

Summer Session I: Tuesday, May 29–Thursday, June 28
Monday–Wednesday .................................................................... 8 AM–8 PM
Thursday & Friday ........................................................................ 8 AM–5 PM
Saturday ....................................................................................... Closed
Sunday ....................................................................................... 4 PM–8 PM

Alumni Weekend: Saturday, June 2 ............................................. 1 PM–4 PM