

Libraries

Newsletter

http://www.ums1.edu/library

TJ & Mercantile collections now merged

The libraries took a giant leap forward this summer in the on-going process of merging the Thomas Jefferson (TJ) and St. Louis Mercantile Library collections. Previously the book stacks housing the TJ collection were on level four, in Library of Congress (LC) call number order. The Mercantile general book collection was housed on level one, in Cutter call number order, an older system of classification rarely used anymore. In effect we had two separate monographic collections, each possessing a different subject arrangement.

Call number locations in Thomas Jefferson Library:

A - F Level 1
G - Z Level 4

In the spring and early summer, the catalogers focused their efforts on this retrospective conversion task. The goal was to merge the two collections into one single collection in consecutive LC call number order. Under the direction of Elias Hindeleh, student workers performed the labor of moving and intershelving the books.

We had hoped, given the scope of the Mercantile collection, to house on level one--one of the Mercantile floors--the call number range A through F. A through F would include the History subject

classifications, a noted strength and focus of the Mercantile general collection. As it turned out, this portion of the merged collections did indeed fit well on level one. The remainder of the merged collections, call number range G through Z (excluding L call numbers which are housed at Barnes), were then arranged on level four.

Once again we have a unified, single monograph collection arranged in LC call number order. Now a patron can browse the shelves with the assurance that all the books we own in that particular subject are in one place.

A new feature of our web page, thanks to Librarians Chris Dames and Raleigh Muns, allows patrons to click on the location code of a book and retrieve a map identifying the floor which houses that title.



The completion of this merger represents a landmark in the affiliation of the Mercantile and Thomas Jefferson Libraries and will provide a significant benefit to the faculty and students of the University.

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Access authoritative Internet resources via the Libraries home page

College students are more and more likely to submit assignments incorporating internet based resources into their work. How can an instructor be confident that these materials are reasonably valid sources? Though it cannot be denied that full text resources of high quality abound on the Internet, the problem for students and instructors is one of not easily knowing the validity of these resources. The solution is surprisingly the same as it ever was: send the students to the library! In this case, we mean the online presence of the UM-St. Louis libraries via web pages which point to pre-evaluated, scholarly, and citable resources.

Years ago, students would have had to access information in books and journals by physically coming to the campus library. The understanding was that the library had evaluated books and journals based on their scholarly nature and utility before adding them to the collection. For UM-St. Louis, the library home page at <http://www.ums1.edu/library> presents an array of resources that have been previously evaluated based on their scholarly nature and utility before adding them to the collection.

The full text publications available by using various databases, such as Expanded Academic ASAP, ABI/Inform, and Education Full Text (just to name a few) are word for word identical to their print counterparts. In some cases, the actual images of the page of an article as it appears in a print version

of a journal are presented. An instructor could easily recommend to their students to use primarily the online resources that are contained in such databases. Conversely, to issue a blanket statement prohibiting use of internet resources of all types can easily be denying students access to perfectly useable full text publications. Making things more difficult is the fact that more publications are available to library patrons ONLY in an online full text format.

Probably the best way to check out the growing array of valid full text resources (that just happen to be delivered via the Internet) is to go to the library database of full-text journals at <http://tjrhino1.ums1.edu/serialsonline/> and look at the list of titles arranged by publisher or database. The 165 publications listed under JSTOR are an excellent example of full text images of paper publications. The 1,716 full text titles contained in Expanded Academic ASAP range from "19th Century Music" to "Ziff Davis Smart Business for the New Economy."

Consider online library resources when deciding to allow or prohibit access to full text internet resources. When librarians are asked "where on the Internet can I find?" they are likely to rephrase the question to "where can I find?". Whether it is a journal online, or a bound journal on the 5th floor of the Thomas Jefferson Library or in the Barnes Library, in the end it is all the same information.

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...to issue
a blanket
statement
prohibiting
use of
internet
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denying
students
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perfectly
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full text
publications.

Tutorials linked around the globe

University of Missouri-St. Louis Instruction Librarian Chris Niemeyer has created several interactive, web-based tutorials that have been linked by libraries around the world. Libraries at the University of Chicago, Purdue University, Tel Aviv University, and the University of Alberta are just a few of these libraries. The tutorials teach the library catalog and some of the more significant online databases available through the UM-St. Louis Libraries' home page. These web-based projects are examples of integrating technology for teaching and learning. Their aim is to instruct the university community about the many resources available at the library, and to do this in a way that is interesting and informative. Feedback indicates that the tutorials have been favorably received because they are informative, interactive and web accessible.

In October a new tutorial was developed that is a comprehensive description of the UM-St. Louis Libraries' home page. It describes the libraries that exist on this campus and also describes the many library services available to students and staff via the home page. For instance, the tutorial contains sections on interlibrary loan, the research consultation program, the MOBIUS union catalog and more. It also describes the variety of web-based databases accessible through the home page.

An exciting development in the tutorial program has been that now instructors can easily assign a tutorial for their classes. Instructors simply go to the tutorial home page at: <http://www.umsl.edu/services/libteach/libinst.htm> and select the option toward the top for "Assign an online tutorial for a class." This option will take instructors to a registration page where they create a password-protected account, which they can use to assign any or all tutorials to their classes. Once assigned, the instructor can confidentially check to see which students have done which tutorial. This process of registering and assigning tutorials is fast and easy.

While the above tutorials are interactive and web-based, the Libraries have also created a "walking tour" which serves as a physical introduction to the libraries' facilities. The walking tour is actually a printable web page with maps and prose descriptions of the university libraries. Students are directed to print out the web page, then visit various locations and answer simple questions about what they see. In the process they will visit each library and become acquainted with major service points and areas.

For information about the tutorials or the walking tour, contact Chris Niemeyer at 314-516-7008, or email him at niemeyer@umsl.edu.

Mercantile creating online index to the *Globe-Democrat*

Acquired by the St. Louis Mercantile Library in 1986 when the 137 year old newspaper ceased publication, the clipping files and photo archives of the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* form an historical library of record for the city of St. Louis and the state of Missouri. In their earliest days, the newspapers which eventually merged to form the *Globe-Democrat* were staunch advocates of freedom and anti-slavery in Missouri. The *Globe-Democrat* eventually became the most widely-read morning paper in St. Louis, and used this base of support to promote civic responsibility and causes including urban improvement. A casualty of dwindling circulation due to competing forms of media, less income from advertising, and crippling strikes, the *Globe-Democrat* left a record of unmatched documentary and journalistic achievement as represented in its files.

This vast collection covers the history, culture and life of the St. Louis region. The clipping files also include much material preserved from various competing newspapers, giving this newspaper morgue unusual depth. An estimated 10,000,000 clips and 225,000 photos cover a wide array of topics, from individuals, to events, to a multitude of other subjects. As librarians and researchers alike have discovered when researching St. Louis or Missouri history, no index predating 1976 exists for any St. Louis based newspaper, making research in this important primary source a difficult and tedious procedure. The clipping file of the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, which includes clips from the early 1930's, has helped to bridge this gap for over 15 years.

Until now the researcher had to rely solely on contacting the staff of the rare book reading room to determine if a needed clipping file existed. This

is no longer the case. The staff of the St. Louis Mercantile Library, with considerable technical assistance from the Reference Department of the Thomas Jefferson Library, has established a web accessible database that when completed should do much to ease the tediousness of the searching process.

The initial step has been the creation of two databases for the clipping files most often used, the Name clipping file and the Subject clipping file. The Name file represents approximately 40% of the total number of clipping envelopes and is organized, as the name suggests, by proper name. This portion of the database includes over 40,000 entries.

The Subject file is a smaller but heavily relied upon portion of the clipping files. Due to its smaller size, approximately 15,000 entries, it is much closer to completion. It should be noted that this file covers only St. Louis City, not St. Louis County or the surrounding metropolitan area.

The database includes only such information as exists on the heading of the clipping envelope and not individual articles housed inside. To examine the articles individually the patron will still need to visit the reading room of the St. Louis Mercantile Library. The database can be accessed from the Special Collections Directory on the St. Louis Mercantile Library's homepage: <http://www.umsl.edu/mercantile>

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