

Library Services

Quest: The Library Information System

Quest, the Libraries' Web-based integrated system provides convenient access to the Libraries' collections, digital resources, and services from www.bc.edu/quest. It offers a variety of methods for finding books, periodicals, media resources, microforms, newspapers, and electronic materials.

QUEST can easily be searched from any Web browser regardless of platform or location, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Users can interact with the system and receive immediate feedback on the status of requests; they can place a hold, recall, or request rush processing for a new book right from their desktop. Users can also initiate and track requests for document delivery and interlibrary loan transactions, and may renew materials that are currently charged to them. The Web interface and expanded cataloging capabilities allow unprecedented access to thousands of Web accessible scholarly resources, to full text journals, and to digital collections of photographs and other material.

Digital Resources

The Boston College Libraries offer access to hundreds of electronic indexes and databases. A growing number of these databases include full text access to thousands of books and journals directly from the researcher's desktop. A complete listing of all online databases available through the Libraries can be found by selecting Online Databases on the Libraries' home page: www.bc.edu/libraries.html. The list includes groupings by subject and an alphabetical listing by title. Databases range in coverage from very general to very specific and cover a wide range of research areas in humanities, social sciences, sciences, health sciences, business law, and public affairs. Most databases can be reached directly by clicking on the Web links. Others can be accessed in the Electronic Information Center in the O'Neill Library or the Law Library. An expanding number of links to electronic journals may also be found by selecting the Electronic Journals from the Libraries' home page.

Most databases available through the Boston College Libraries are restricted to the Boston College community. In order to access these databases from off campus, you will need to authenticate yourself with your BC login and PIN.

The Libraries also support an expanding digital collection of special and rare materials such as the Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Photographs, the Liturgy and Life Artifacts collection and the Boston Gas Company Photographs via the John J. Burns Library Rare Books and Special Collections Web page: www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/ulib/Burns/.

Librarians offer classes in how to search databases effectively, by arrangement with professors, and also provide individual coaching at various library services points or by appointment. Researchers who cannot locate resources needed may contact a librarian to develop a search strategy to locate relevant information. See the list of Subject Bibliographers to know which librarian to contact: www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/ulib/ref/subspec.html

Interlibrary Loan

The Interlibrary Loan Service is offered to students, faculty, administrators, and staff to obtain materials not available in the Boston College Libraries. Books, photocopies of journal articles, microfilm, theses, and government documents may be borrowed from other libraries. Except for unusual items, the waiting period is from one to four weeks. For anyone willing to use the material at another library, a computerized system at the reference desk will provide locations. Requests can be made by using electronic forms available on the Libraries' Web site or by visiting a Boston College library.

Boston Library Consortium

The Boston College Libraries are part of the Boston Library Consortium, a group of area libraries which includes Brandeis University, Boston University, Brown University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, Tufts University, University of Connecticut, University of Massachusetts System, University of New Hampshire, Wellesley College, Williams College, as well as the Massachusetts State Library, the Boston Public Library, and the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole. Faculty and students may apply for a Consortium borrower's card at the Reference Department in O'Neill Library in order to borrow directly from the member libraries. Choose **Mapquest** from the Libraries' home page to search several of the library catalogs simultaneously. Ask at O'Neill Reference for more information about the Consortium.

Association of Research Libraries

The Libraries have attained membership in the Association of Research Libraries, a distinction limited to 124 research institutions sharing common goals, interests, and needs. The mission of ARL is to shape and influence forces affecting the future of research libraries in the process of scholarly communication. Membership is by invitation upon the recommendation of the ARL Board of Directors and approval of the membership.

United States Government Publications

Boston College is one of 1,300 Federal Depository Libraries located across the United States. As a Depository, the O'Neill Library receives thousands of government documents in print, microfiche, and electronic forms, and makes them available to the general public. Many government publications are now available via the Web or in CD-ROM format. Locate government documents in the Quest library catalog. Further information may be found on the following Web page: www.bc.edu/libraries/centers/govdocs/. Questions about the O'Neill collection and the availability of government documents should be directed to the Government Documents and Microforms staff on the first floor of the O'Neill Library.

Media Center

The Media Center on the second floor of the O'Neill Library houses information in many nonprint formats: videocassettes, DVDs, laserdiscs, compact discs, audiocassettes, LPs, and CD-ROMs. Patrons within the center, in individual carrels, may use all media. Faculty may conduct classes using media in either of our two classrooms. There is a Faculty Preview Room for faculty meeting with small groups or previewing media materials. Loans of videos are restricted to BC faculty.

New England Library Information Network/OCLC

Through membership in the New England Library Information Network (NELINET), our users have on-line access to publishing, cataloging, and interlibrary loan location information from the data bank of OCLC, Inc., which contains over 50 million bibliographic records from the Library of Congress and other national libraries, and from over 41,000 other libraries worldwide.

Source: University Librarian