Digital 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, government documents, 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 a rich collection 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. See the list of Online Databases on the Libraries’ home page, www.bc.edu/libraries.html to get a sense of the range of resources. 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 the humanities, social sciences, sciences, health sciences, business law, and public affairs. Most databases can be reached directly by clicking on the web links. Some must be used on-site. An expanding number of links to electronic journals may also be found by selecting Electronic Journals from the Libraries’ home page. The libraries have also introduced technologies that provide links between the databases and ejournal collections, http://www.bc.edu/libraries/resources/databases/s-sfxfaq/. Most databases available through the Boston College Libraries are restricted to the Boston College community. Your BC username and password are needed to access these databases from off campus.

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: http://www.bc.edu/libraries/centers/burns/resources/digitalcoll/

Librarians offer classes in how to search databases effectively, by arrangement with professors, and also provide reference assistance at several service points and individual research consultations 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. http://www.bc.edu/libraries/services/ref-instruc/s-subjectspec/

**United State Government Publications**
O’Neill Library at Boston College is a member of the Federal Depository Libraries system. As a member of the depository system, O’Neill Library receives government documents in print, microfiche, and electronic formats and makes them available to the general public as well as Boston College students, staff and faculty. Patrons can locate government documents in Quest, the library catalog, and via specialized indexes. Many government publications are also available via the internet. Further information may be found at http://www.bc.edu/libraries/centers/govdocs/. Questions about the O’Neill collection and the availability of government documents should be directed to the Reference staff in O’Neill Library.

**Media Center**
The Media Center on the second floor of the O’Neill Library houses information in many non-print 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 Preview Room where faculty and/or students may meet in small groups for discussing or previewing media materials used in coursework. A portion of the collection is restricted to BC faculty loan only. Two day loan of non-restricted videos and DVDs is permitted to members of the BC community.

**Interlibrary Loan**
An Interlibrary Loan Service is offered to students, faculty, administrators, and staff to obtain research materials not available in the Boston College Libraries. Books, journal articles, microfilm, theses and government documents may be borrowed from other libraries. Except for unusual items, the waiting period is from one to three weeks; some materials arrive within a day or two. Requests are made by using forms in the Your Account function of Quest or the Find It option that appears in many online databases.

**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 Massachusetts System, 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. Ask at the O’Neill Reference Desk for more information about the Consortium.

**Association of Research Libraries**
The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) is a nonprofit organization of 123 research libraries in North America. Its mission is to influence the changing environment of scholarly communication and the public policies that affect research libraries and the communities they serve. ARL pursues this mission by advancing the goals of its member research libraries, providing leadership in public and information policy to the scholarly and higher education communities, fostering the exchange of ideas and expertise, and shaping a future environment that leverages its interests with those of allied organizations.

**New England Library Information Network/OCLC**
Through membership in NELINET, Inc., a cooperative of over 600 libraries in New England, our users have online access to WorldCat, the database of OCLC Online Computer Library Center, which contains over 62 million bibliographic records and 1 billion holdings from the Library of Congress, other national libraries, and from over 50,000 libraries in almost 100 countries.

Source: University Librarian