

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 recall books checked out 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 databases. The more than 300 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 is arranged alphabetically and by subject. 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. 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 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. See the list of Subject Specialists to make an appointment for advanced assistance in your discipline: <http://www.bc.edu/libraries/services/ref-instruc/s-subjectspec/>

A Digital Institutional Repository for Boston College

The eScholarship@BC Digital Repository is a central online system whose goal is to preserve the University's scholarly output. The repository manages submission, access, distribution, and preservation of scholarly information in digital formats. The repository maximizes research visibility, influence, and benefit by encouraging Boston College authors to archive and distribute online both unpublished work and peer-reviewed publications in an open-access environment. eScholarship@BC includes scholarly peer-reviewed electronic journals, archived peer-reviewed articles, conference proceedings, working papers, dissertations and theses, conference webcasts, and like

scholarship. For access and more information about eScholarship@BC, please see <http://escholarship.bc.edu/>

United States 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 to 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, laser discs, 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 O'Neill Room 211. There is a Preview Room where faculty and/or students may meet in small groups for discussing or previewing media materials used in coursework. Please contact the Media Center in advance to reserve rooms or media materials. 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 BC Interlibrary Loan 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, University of New Hampshire, Wellesley College, Williams College, as well as the State Library of Massachusetts, 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

ARL is a nonprofit organization of 123 research libraries at comprehensive, research-extensive institutions in the U.S. and Canada that share similar research missions, aspirations, and achievements. It is an important and distinctive association because of its membership and the nature of the institutions represented. ARL member libraries make up a large portion of the academic and research library marketplace, spending more than one billion dollars every year on library materials. Boston College was invited to become a member of ARL in 2000.

Source: University Librarian