

Special Library Services

Next-Generation Library Information System

The Libraries are replacing the existing Quest Library Information System with a state of the art web-based system that will provide expanded access to the Libraries' collections, databases and services. As with Quest, the new system will provide a variety of methods for searching the Boston College Online Catalog, which includes approximately 5.2 million books, periodicals, media materials, microforms, newspapers and links to electronic materials. Unlike Quest, the new system will be available 24 hours a day, and will include an expanded array of patron services that allow students, faculty, and staff to locate, request, and renew library materials and to request other library services online. The new system will also provide integrated access to the Libraries' increasing array of electronic resources including over 100 web accessible databases, full text journals and digital collections, such as the Liturgy and Life Collection of the John J. Burns Library. The migration to the new system will be completed in June 2000.

Digital Resource

The Boston College Libraries offer over 500 databases online via the web and in CD-ROM format. A growing number of these databases and journals provide full text access directly to the researcher's desktop. A complete listing of all online databases available through the Libraries can be found by selecting Online Databases from the Resources menu on the Libraries home page <<http://www.bc.edu/libraries.html>>. The databases list includes both groupings by subject and an alphabetical listing by title with special designations for full text databases. Many of the databases can be launched directly by clicking on the web links. All other listings provide information explaining exactly where to access the databases. These can usually be accessed in the Electronic Information Center in the O'Neill Library or the Law Library. 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. An expanding number of links to electronic journals may also be found under the Resources menu by selecting the Electronic Journals link.

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/bc_org/avp/ulib/burns/index.html>

Librarians offer training classes in how to search databases effectively, by arrangement with professors, and also provide individual coaching at various library service points or by appointment.

Researchers who cannot locate resources needed may contact a librarian to develop a search strategy to locate relevant information.

Finally, the Libraries facilitate access to many computerized numeric databases in business, economics, and the social sciences. Contact the O'Neill Reference Desk (refer@bc.edu) or

one of the Special Libraries for more information about these services, or to arrange demonstrations, workshops, and classroom presentations.

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 the holding 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 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 Massachusetts System, Wellesley College, as well as the Massachusetts State Library, the Boston Public Library and the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole. Faculty may apply for a Consortium borrower's card at the Reference Department in the O'Neill Library in order to borrow directly from the member libraries.

United States Government Publications

Boston College is one of 1,370 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 formats and makes them available to the general public. Many government publications are now available via the Web or in CD-ROM format. Further information may be found on the web page: <http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/ulib/ref/govdocs/Govdocs.html>. 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 O'Neill Library.

Media Center

The Media Center on the second floor of O'Neill Library houses information in many non-print formats: videocassettes, laserdiscs, 16mm films, compact discs, audiocassettes, phonodiscs, and CD-ROMs. All media may be used by patrons within the Center, in individual carrels. Faculty may conduct their classes in each of our two media 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 39 million bibliographic records from the Library of Congress and other national libraries and from over 27,000 other libraries worldwide.

Source: University Librarian