

# BOSTON COLLEGE

## LIBRARIES

# FACULTY NEWSLETTER

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### New Search Technologies Coming Soon: SFX and MetaQuest

The Boston College Libraries recently installed and began testing two new products, SFX and [MetaQuest](#), which are designed to make searching within and across multiple databases easier. Both products are from Ex Libris, Inc. and Boston College Libraries have signed a contract to use them with as many of our bibliographic databases as possible.

SFX, an acronym for “Special Effects”, will allow users to connect from an existing BC database to several different types of services or resources. SFX uses information from a bibliographic record to match potential services for that record. For example, if you search a database such as PsycInfo and find a citation that is only available as an abstract, usually you would have to see if BC owns the print copy or try a different database to see if the full-text of the article can be found there. But with SFX, you will see an SFX button next to the citation in the PsycInfo database that will provide you with a menu of choices for finding more information on the particular article. Some of the options you will see may include:

- linking to the full-text available in another BC database
- checking Quest, the library catalog, to see if BC owns the journal or book
- doing a new search for additional articles by the author
- doing a cited author search using a citation index like Web of Science
- sending a reference question to a librarian
- doing a Web search using selected search engines
- and more....

SFX will expand the options for finding books and articles by linking the collections at Boston College and beyond. SFX will be rolled-out later this fall in about ten bibliographic databases. Eventually, you should see SFX appear in more databases and in [Quest](#), the library catalog.

The second product, [MetaQuest](#), is a gateway database that provides one interface to manage and search online databases and library catalogs. Users can select their favorite databases in what’s called the “My Resource List” which is then saved. [MetaQuest](#) also offers the ability to browse databases by subject area and the ability to search across one or more databases at a time. For example, if you are interested in business, when you enter MetaQuest you can select “Business & Management” and find the related databases. Depending on the database design, you are able to choose certain databases to search and are given the options to search by Author, Title, Subject, ISSN, ISBN, Year or All Fields. If you select five databases to search, then all five will be searched at the same time and the results will be brought back for each database. You can select records, merge your results, download records via e-mail or save records on your computer. The ability for databases to be searchable in [MetaQuest](#) depends on the database design, so for some resources you must link out of [MetaQuest](#) and directly to the database and then do your search.

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Fall2001/Winter 2002



MetaQuest is in the final stages of development and beta testing is under way. Faculty members are encouraged to test MetaQuest. If you are interested in participating in the beta test, contact Theresa Lyman, Digital Resources Reference Librarian, at [lymanth@bc.edu](mailto:lymanth@bc.edu) or 617-552-6334.

We hope that both SFX and MetaQuest will make searching and retrieving information easier from the BC Libraries' electronic collections.

[Theresa Lyman](#)

Digital Resources Reference Librarian

O'Neill Library

## Help Us Test New Productivity Software

BC IN THE NEWS	EVENTS
<p><b>BC Study Offers a New View on Proteins:</b> New findings on the workings of proteins by a team of chemists based at Boston College could have implications for some consumer products, and also offer a potential lead in developing treatments for Alzheimer's disease. The BC Chronicle reports.</p>	<p><b>Music at Teatime:</b> Shelagh Abat perform works by Richard Straus Hindemith on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m. in Gasson 100. <a href="#">Music at Teatime</a> is a weekly concert series of the music department. For more info call 617-552-8100.</p>
<p><b>The little quarterback who could:</b> The San Diego Chargers' Doug Flutie '85 has been defying odds since his college days, Clint O'Connor '82 writes in the Plain Dealer. <a href="#">More...</a></p>	<p><b>Dracula:</b> <i>Dracula</i> directed by John Badham opens Thursday, Oct. 13, 8 p.m. in the <a href="#">Center</a>. Performances on Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.</p>

The World Wide Web and desktop media creation tools have made possible the dissemination of various information formats (images, audio, video and text). With the help of Research Services, the Libraries are evaluating a unique new media collection/organization tool called **hyperfolio**, created by [Learn Technologies Interactive, Inc.](#) We are seeking faculty to participate, and to encourage their students to participate, in a six-month trial/evaluation of this new tool.

Whether using Web search engines, library Web-based databases or catalogs, or selecting media documents located on your various local drives, **hyperfolio** makes the process of collection, organization, and presentation of these media items easier.

**hyperfolio** is a user-friendly tool that enables you to select, drag and drop text, pictures, videos, and other media items from your web browser, or your disk drives. These media items can then be sorted, organized, cataloged and finally displayed as a multimedia document. All collected media items retain their source URL addresses. You can share your **hyperfolio** files with other **hyperfolio** users or export them as Web documents, and there is both a PC and Mac version.

All disciplines will benefit from **hyperfolio's** unique capabilities. **hyperfolio** can even make the multi-step process of marking, displaying, and saving bibliographic records from a database search as easy as drag and drop.

The Libraries' trial and evaluation of **hyperfolio** will last six months, and a listserv will be created for discussions, questions and posting documentation. Interested faculty and students should contact Mark Caprio at O'Neill Library (email: [caprico@bc.edu](mailto:caprico@bc.edu) or phone: 2-6432), or the [subject bibliographer](#) who supports their discipline.

[Mark Caprio](#)

Instructional Technology Librarian

O'Neill Library

## Virtual Data Center Development

At the Faculty Convocation on September 6, 2001, Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculties, John J. Neuhauser highlighted the Libraries' plans to launch a new Virtual Data Center (VDC). The primary mission of the Center is to strengthen the University's quantitative research infrastructure by consolidating access to data collections, analytical software and consulting services supporting quantitative research across disciplines. In keeping with the goals of other library digital initiatives, this project recognizes the growing demands of empirical research on University resources across Boston College and aims to provide easy desktop access to data resources for faculty and students to enhance both teaching and research.

The Virtual Data Center reflects a commitment among research support groups on campus to develop distributed virtual collections of data, software, documentation and services. Key contributing partners include Ted Gaiser, Director of Information Technology's Research Services, and FMRC Moderator, Kit Baum, who coordinates the Graduate Statistical Assistant Program providing statistical support services to faculty and students.

A new Virtual Data Center web site will be launched in the near future which will act as a portal for information about available data and delivery of data services. The web site will feature a newly created Data Resources Catalog, accessible through the Quest Library Catalog system. This database includes statistical data sets across disciplines with detailed information about coverage, contents and documentation. Many data sets include direct links to data, downloadable from any web browser linked to the BC campus network. The database is searchable by title, keyword, classification categories, data frequency and other search fields. The Data Resources Catalog is currently in the pilot stage; but, in addition to data owned by Boston College, the database will include freely available data used for teaching and research and will ultimately include unique data contributed by BC faculty and researchers. The Center will also develop a web form to expedite recommendations for the purchase of new data sets and for submitting data for archiving. The Graduate Statistical Assistants and Academic Technology Support professionals will work with Library staff to coordinate support for the use of these data sets in research and instruction.

We are currently meeting with several faculty members to identify data requirements and recommendations. Your participation in developing the Virtual Data Center is very important to us. A survey of faculty needs is planned in the next few months; but, if you have further questions or wish to set up a meeting to discuss the Virtual Data Center, please contact me by e-mail ([mento@bc.edu](mailto:mento@bc.edu)).

*[Barbara Mento](#)*

*Virtual Data Center Manager*

## FACTS.com - A Useful New Database

[FACTS.com](#), a full text database recently added to the Library's Online Databases page, is the online equivalent of the well known [Facts on File Yearbooks](#), which began publication in 1940. Students have long used the [Facts on File Yearbooks](#) to find out what happened on certain dates or during certain time periods. FACTS.com now contains the full texts back to 1960. By early 2002, coverage will extend back to 1940. Also included in the database is another source much used by students, [The World Almanac](#). Students will ask at the reference desk for the Nobel Prize winners, for example, and now they can get this almanac information from their desktops. The electronic version of the World Almanac is updated monthly.

There are several other full text sources included in Facts.com: Reuters News (last two weeks), World News Special Features, Issues and Controversies, Today's Science, and the World Almanac Encyclopedia. All can be added to a list of searchable source material on the left side of the search page by clicking on the source. On the right side of the search page is a "Special Features" section which has information by categories: World Heads of State and Government Leaders, Key Issues, Key People, Obituaries 1980-2001, Newspaper Editorials, Historical Documents, and Country profiles with maps. In short there is a wealth of information in FACTS.com.

*[Robert Bruns](#)*

*Collection Services Librarian  
O'Neill Library*

## New Members of the BC Libraries Staff

Kate Silfen joined the staff of the Graduate School of Social Work Library as Reference Librarian/Bibliographer in January 2001. Prior to coming to B.C., Kate worked in Reference at Newbury College. Kate has a B.A. in English from Goucher College and a M.S. in Library Science from Simmons College and is a member of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), New England Chapter. In her spare time, she likes to attend movies and concerts and read for pleasure.

David Horn became Head of Archives and Manuscripts at Burns Library in March 2001. David was Records Manager at NSTAR before coming to B.C. David has an A.B. in Philosophy from St. Anselm College, an M.A. in History from Boston University and an M.L.S. in Library Science with a concentration in Archives from the University of Oregon. David is a Certified Archivist and a Certified Records Manager and is a member of the Society of American Archivists, the New England Archivists, and the American Records Management Association (ARMA). In his free time, he likes to travel and read.

Theresa Lyman joined the staff of the Reference and Instructional Services Department at O'Neill Library as Digital Resources Reference Librarian in April 2001. Prior to coming to B.C., Theresa was a Business Information Librarian at Baker Library at Harvard Business School. Theresa has a B.A. in Political Science from Providence College and an M.S. in Library Science from Simmons College. In her spare time, she likes to go on cycling trips throughout New England.

Mark Caprio joined the staff of the Reference and Instructional Services Department at O'Neill Library as Instructional Technology Librarian in July 2001. Mark has a B.A. in Studio Art from Rhode Island College and a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Rhode Island. Mark worked as a Reference Assistant at O'Neill for six months while finishing his master's degree. Mark is a member of the American Library Association (ALA), the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) New England Chapter, ARLIS (Art Library Society), and the International Visual Literacy Association (IVLA). In his spare time, Mark likes to do oil painting.

[Marilyn Grant](#)

*Senior Reference Librarian/Bibliographer*

## Alt-Press Watch Database Now Available

Alt-Press Watch, a full text database from Softline Information, Inc., covers more than 100 publications with new titles added on an ongoing basis. The archive will cover the years from 1995 to date. Alternative newsweeklies are available in most cities and give readers another perspective on politics, government, culture, education, and local, national and international issues. The alternative and independent press provide in-depth coverage of a range of critical issues confronting society, including peace movements, ecology and the environment, grassroots organizing, labor, indigenous peoples, and other topics. Some of the titles include: *Alternative Press Review*, *Borderlines*, *Chicago Reader*, *Disclosure*, *Dissent*, *E: The Environmental Magazine*, *Foreign Policy in Focus*, *News from Native California*, *New Times Los Angeles*, *Poverty and Race*, *Socialism and Democracy*, and *World Policy Journal*. Click on the database name from the online databases link on the Libraries web page.

[Marilyn Grant](#)

*Senior Reference Librarian/Communication Bibliographer*

## American Civil War: Letters and Diaries

O'Neill Library has acquired a new history database, THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR: LETTERS AND DIARIES from Alexander Street Press. It consists of the electronic full texts of the diaries, letters and memoirs of hundreds of people both famous and obscure from 1855-1875. They are searchable both full text by keyword and by categories which can lead to detailed levels of searching. Under "Personal Events," for example, is the category "Death of a child," which retrieves documents from the collection on that topic which have been gathered by indexers and which may not contain the words death or child in the text. The usefulness of the topics goes beyond the topic of the Civil War. Future releases will expand the number of documents in the database. Also contained in the database is supporting biographical and bibliographical information.

[Robert Bruns](#)

*History Bibliographer*

## Chemistry Handbooks Now Searchable Via the Web

The Libraries now have four major chemistry handbooks available for searching via the Web. The titles are Handbook of Chemistry and Physics from CRC Press, Lange's Handbook of Chemistry, Chemical Properties Handbook, and Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook. The latter three titles are from McGraw-Hill Press and are bundled together as a subscription. The CRC Handbook contains the new set of CODATA recommended values, replacing the 1986 set and other data tables have been expanded substantially. Lange's Handbook covers the entire field of chemistry and has facts, figures, values, tables and formulas; it has been used for over fifty years as a classic source. The Chemical Properties Handbook provides accurate information on how chemicals behave at different temperatures and under different conditions and includes coverage of organic and inorganic compounds. Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook is the major handbook in this field and includes facts, figures, methods and data needed routinely by chemical engineers. All of these handbooks may be accessed via the Online Databases page of the Libraries web site.

*Marilyn Grant*

*Senior Reference Librarian/Chemistry Bibliographer*

## Virtual Librarians

Library research has never been more convenient. Boston College's wealth of full-text databases and electronic journals has made it easier for you to do research from home. Yet doing research away from the library can have a major disadvantage. What is that disadvantage? A librarian is not immediately available to provide you with his or her assistance and expertise.

The BC libraries are in the process of purchasing new software that will allow us to provide you with assistance when you are doing research from home. What makes this software special? It will allow you to have a live, online "chat" with a librarian. Many of you may have experienced this virtual chat when you use the Instant Message service that AOL provides to its customers. However, this new software has the added feature of allowing the librarian to guide you through a virtual tour of a database, electronic journal, or web site. You will be able to view the same database or web site that the librarian is guiding you through while you are "chatting." One half of the screen will display the site or database that you and the librarian are looking at together, and the other half will show the "chat" that is taking place. In this way, the librarian will be able to guide you through a research session even if you are miles away from the library.

We will be providing you with more information about this software once we have completed the purchasing and set-up process. We look forward to introducing this innovative library service to the Boston College Community during spring semester.

*Kate Silfen*

*Reference Librarian/Bibliographer*

*Social Work Library*

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