

# LIBRARIES FACULTY NEWSLETTER

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## Boston College Libraries and Scholarly Communications

As Boston College Libraries become more and more digital and as technology increases in power and sophistication, it is a primary goal of BC's librarians to ensure that all faculty know what information resources are available to them and how such resources may be accessed, from within the physical walls of the library and from without. The traditional mission of the Library in facilitating scholarly communication is still of major importance in the networked environment.

In recent years library and publishing literature has often assigned a broader designation to the notion of scholarly communication. The Association of Research Libraries body, **SPARC, The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition** (<http://www.arl.org/sparc/>), defines scholarly communication as "the formal and informal processes by which the research and scholarship of faculty, researchers, and independent scholars are created, evaluated, edited, formatted, distributed, organized, made accessible, archived, used, and transformed." More specifically, it connotes faculty collaborating with librarians, among others, in solving the problem of the growing inability of libraries to keep up with the ever-increasing volume and cost of scholarly resources.

BC Libraries have gone from strength to strength over the past decade. Their collections, print, electronic, and other, have increased many fold. The Libraries are committed to continue building and making accessible strong collections in both traditional and digital formats while digitizing their own holdings, and providing increasing access to digital information elsewhere. It is a very exciting time for the Libraries and for the research they facilitate. Still, the Libraries are facing the scholarly communication problem mentioned above. The escalating quantity and costs of research publications, particularly in scientific and technological disciplines, are rendering it increasingly difficult for the Libraries to purchase all the materials that will meet the scholarly needs of current and future BC faculty and students.

BC Libraries encourage faculty to become better acquainted with the issues, goals and activities of **SPARC, The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition** (<http://www.arl.org/sparc/>) – Boston College is a founding member. SPARC is a worldwide alliance of research institutions, libraries and organizations that encourages competition in the scholarly communications market. SPARC's goal is to introduce new solutions to scientific journal publishing, to facilitate the use of technology to expand access, to partner with publishers that bring top-quality, low-cost research to a greater audience and, in short, to return science to scientists. More specifically SPARC, in cooperation with publishers, seeks to create a scholarly communication marketplace that is more financially competitive especially with respect to journal acquisition and use; to strengthen the proprietary rights and privileges of authorship; to facilitate the more equitable provision and use of electronic resources. The following leading academic organizations have endorsed SPARC: Association of American Universities; Association of American University Presses; Association of College & Research Libraries; Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada; Big 12 Provosts; National Association of State Universities & Land Grant Colleges; Joint Information Systems Committee, UK; Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee. For a list of the approximately 180 institutions that are members and affiliates of SPARC access <http://www.arl.org/sparc/core/index.asp?page=br>.

Particularly useful to BC faculty members wishing to become more involved in the scholarly communications movement are the strategies recommended in ARL's brochure **Create Change: A Resource for Faculty and Librarian Action to Reclaim Scholarly Communication** <http://www.arl.org/sparc/>. **Create Change** "seeks to address the crisis in scholarly communication by helping scholars regain control of the scholarly communication system—a system that should exist chiefly for them, their students, and their

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colleagues in the worldwide scholarly community, not primarily for the benefit of publishing businesses and their shareholders.” Another very informative web site is **Issues in Scholarly Communication** <http://www.arl.org/scomm/> hosted by the **Association of Research Libraries** <http://www.arl.org/> of which Boston College is a member. This provides many links pertaining to the philosophical underpinnings as well as more practical aspects of scholarly communications.

BC Libraries are swiftly and enthusiastically expanding their digital and print resources. The dynamic library and information environment is extremely exciting and favorable to the promotion of teaching, research, and scholarship. As stated, there are also difficulties in solving some of the challenges posed by the swiftly increasing amount and cost of resources. BC Libraries are very keen to keep faculty informed of and to garner faculty input regarding developments in all aspects of scholarly communications.

For more information on scholarly communications issues and a list of useful web links please see the page **Boston College Libraries and Scholarly Communications** [http://www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/ulib/ref/ScholComm.html](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/ulib/ref/ScholComm.html).

*Brendan Rapple,  
Collection Development Librarian*

## Transparent Texts: New Opportunities for Research and Teaching

The book as physical artifact has played a vital role in the history of learning. Inexpensively produced and distributed, it provides an easily accessible mode of communicating information. Yet because it presents its contents in a linear fashion, the book is largely an opaque medium. Indexes can assist readers in navigating the text, but these are often insufficient or absent. The advent of electronic texts has changed all that by making books completely transparent.

For many people, particular books can evoke fond memories; the book format has long proven to be “user-friendly.” Electronic texts have not yet achieved the same sort of status, but they are rapidly establishing their usefulness in research. For example, if one were to write a paper on Shelley’s concept of the imagination, he or she could search the database **Literature Online**. Containing full text versions of much of English and American literature, this resource enables the researcher within minutes to discover that Shelley used the term “imagination” 75 times in his poetry, drama, and prose. The database also provides the complete texts in which each of the occurrences of “imagination” appears, along with enough bibliographic information to lead researchers to the printed version.

The above example is a simple keyword search, but more sophisticated searches are possible. Someone using the database **Kafkas Werke im WWW** can locate all the occurrences of “Vater” (father) specifically in the critical apparatus accompanying the critical editions of Kafka’s works. An example of extensive indexing can be found in one of the BC Libraries’ most recent acquisitions, **North American Women’s Letters and Diaries (NAWLD)**, which currently includes more than 9,000 pages of diaries and letters of 107 women. Researchers can qualify their searches by a particular marital status, maternal status, age, nationality, and religion among many other parameters. This resource is still in the making; when complete, it will include more than 150,000 pages of primary materials spanning more than 300 years.

The resources just mentioned provide full text searching and access to the full text in digitized form. Some databases permit access to images of the text. An example of image access is **Early English Books Online (EEBO)**, a collection of every English language book published from 1475 to 1700. How the pages of a book looked can often be as interesting as their contents, and **EEBO** brings this kind of valuable visual information to a researcher’s workstation. Another new acquisition, **netLibrary** offers full text access to books of current scholarship published by State University of New York University Press, MIT Press, Oxford University Press, and Harvard Business School Press among others.

The examples thus far have been of electronic versions of materials shelved in the regular stacks. The electronic revolution has also transformed reference access as well. Standard reference works such as the **Grove Dictionary of Art**, the **McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology** (database title: **Access-Science**), the **Encyclopaedia Britannica** (database title: **Britannica Online**), and the **Oxford English Dictionary** are available online.

Users can access the titles cited above via the World Wide Web. First they need to go to the BC Libraries’ home page, <http://www.bc.edu/libraries.html>, and then click on the **Online Databases** link. The possibilities opened up by e-texts invite creativity in scholarship and teaching. Subject specialists at the BC Libraries are available for a collaborative exploration of what these possibilities may be.

*Jonas Barciauskas,  
Head of Collection Development*

## Electronic Journals

### What Are Electronic-Journals?

Electronic journals (often referred to as e-journals) are changing much of the nature of scholarly communication and of academic publishing. The term “electronic” simply means that they are published in some kind of electronic format. E-journals are usually published on the web although some are in CD-ROM format. An important distinction should be made: some e-journals *only* exist in digital or electronic format. Many, however, have print counterparts. E-journals exist in all disciplines, the arts, humanities and social sciences as well as scientific and technological areas. Some e-journals are peer reviewed, but many are not.

The number of e-journals is increasing at a very swift rate; however, the number of serious academic electronic journals is still relatively small compared to the huge numbers of print scholarly journals. Furthermore, even when a print journal is available electronically, all years/issues are not necessarily available in electronic format. In addition, BC Libraries may not subscribe to the electronic version of a journal that it subscribes to in print. It is also important to remember that while some e-journals are identical to their print counterparts, others are not. It depends on whether the full page image was scanned. Some e-journals do not scan the photographs, tables, statistics etc. that are in the print version. Moreover, some e-journals omit the advertisements, notices, letters to the editor etc. that often form part of their print counterparts.

### Accessing Electronic Journals

Some e-journals are free and are in the public domain. These are readily accessible to anyone with Internet access. Many other e-journals are subscribed to by BC Libraries and are subject to license agreements. To gain access to these, users must be screened by IP address for Boston College status. If you are dialing in from home using, for example, AOL as your internet service provider, BC may not recognize you as a member of the BC community and therefore deny you access to those e-journals to which BC Libraries subscribe. For more information on how to access e-journals from home, check the web page Remote Access Information [http://www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/ulib/ref/remote.html](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/ulib/ref/remote.html).

It is easy to tell whether BC Libraries subscribe to an e-journal. Search under title in **Quest**. You may also select “Journals on the Web” in the Format pull-down menu on the Advanced Search screen in **Quest**. Another strategy is to access **BC Libraries’ Electronic Journals page** (under the **Resources** pull-down menu on BC Libraries’ homepage). The direct link is [http://www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/ulib/ref/ejour.html](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/ulib/ref/ejour.html). This page has two links: **Electronic Journal Collections** and **Electronic Journals** listed alphabetically by title. The e-journals listed at these links include both free e-journals and those to which Boston College Libraries subscribe. (Remember **Quest** also includes some scholarly free e-journals, e.g. **Education Policy Analysis Archives** (<http://olam.ed.asu.edu/epaa/>)). To be precise, BC does not “subscribe” to such journals).

Sometimes the Library may not have the journal issues you want in electronic format. While some collections of e-journals have many of their back issues available electronically, for example **JSTOR**, many other collections, for example **Project Muse** and **Emerald Library**, only provide more recent years of journals in electronic format. Frequently the Library begins a new subscription to a journal starting with the current year. Perhaps the journal has been in existence since 1970 and the last five years, let’s say, are available electronically. However, in this case only the current year will be accessible to the BC community electronically. In short, much depends on what the publisher provides as well as on what BC Libraries pay for.

### Some Benefits of Electronic Journals

- **Speed**

From actual submission of an article to its eventual publication in a peer reviewed print journal requires multiple stages, stages that usually result in a lengthy time frame. However, e-journals generally involve a far quicker publication process. All scholars naturally wish to have the results of their research published as soon as possible. Moreover, in certain scientific and medical fields, such as AIDS or oncology research, it is highly desirable that results are made available as quickly as possible to the scholarly community. In this regard electronic journals clearly have a patent advantage over traditional print journals.

- **Access**

E-journals are easy to access from office or home — no need to go to the library. Moreover, there is no longer the problem of lost, stolen, or destroyed material that is associated with print journals.

- **Searching the Article**

It is generally much easier to extract relevant information from an article in an electronic journal than from one in a print journal. One can search by words and phrases and then copy and paste.

- **Added Features**

E-journals can easily provide a variety of hypertext links and such multimedia features as graphics, audio, video, and animated graphics.

- **E-Journals: E-Mail Alerts**

Many collections of electronic journals (e.g. **Cambridge University Press Journals**, **Oxford Univer-**

sity Press Journals, ScienceDirect, EBSCO Online and others) permit you to save a search profile/strategy. These are automated current awareness services that result, depending on the type of profile or strategy, in book citations, in table of contents of your chosen journals or a list of individual article citations being e-mailed directly to your e-mail box. For more information access the web page **E-Mail Alerts/Current Awareness Research Guide** [http://www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/ulib/ref/guides/gen/SDIs.html](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/ulib/ref/guides/gen/SDIs.html).

- **Links**  
Some electronic journals have the valuable enhancement of allowing the reader to call up, while reading an article, the actual document mentioned in a footnote or reference.
- **Longer, more detailed articles**  
In print journals the editor is often obliged to limit an article's notes and tables. However, this is not a real constraint in electronic journals. The latter can easily publish extremely long articles with extensive sidebars. For example, an article on Napoleon's campaign in Egypt can include lengthy analysis of relevant Egyptian history, of the contemporary social, political, economic, cultural, and social conditions in Egypt, a multitude of illustrations, statistics, bibliographic references etc.
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Electronic journals do not take up space on library shelves.

### Viewing, Saving, and Printing E-Journal Articles

Viewing, saving, and printing e-journal articles depends in large part on what the specific e-journal allows as well as on your local set-up. Generally, you are able to print out the article. Often, too, you are able to download the article either to a floppy disk or to a hard drive. Frequently e-journals require Adobe Acrobat Reader software in order to view articles. This software allows one to read the documents in PDF or "Portable Document Files" format, essentially a graphical representation of the printed page. The free Adobe Acrobat Reader software may be downloaded from the Adobe homepage <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>.

If you have further questions about electronic journals please contact your bibliographer or library liaison. A list of subject bibliographers is available at [http://www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/ulib/ref/subspec.html](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/ulib/ref/subspec.html). BC Libraries are always keen to hear suggestions that will improve their collections as well as services to faculty.

*Brendan Rapple,  
Collection Development Librarian*

### Additional Electronic Texts Available to the BC Community: A Selected List

(Note: Titles below in bold refer to entries on the **Online Databases** pages.)

**Acta Sanctorum Database.** A monumental work on the saints, this is the electronic version of the sixty-eight printed volumes published 1643 - 1940 by the Société des Bollandistes.

**American National Biography.** In its print form as a 24 volume reference work, the *American National Biography* (Oxford University Press, 1999) was conceived as the successor to the *Dictionary of American Biography*, first published between 1926 and 1937. The electronic edition will be periodically updated.

**ARTFL: A Textual Database.** Approximately 2000 French texts from the 13th-20th centuries in literature, philosophy, arts, and sciences among other subjects.

**Bertolt Brechts Werke im WWW.** This web edition of Brecht's works is based on *Ausgewählte Werke in sechs Bänden - Jubiläumsausgabe um 100. Geburtstag*, which collects Brecht's works and writings in six volumes with brief notes on each text.

**Dictionary of Literary Biography.** Documents the lives and careers of authors from all eras and genres. It includes essays on more than 6,000 authors.

**Eighteenth-Century Fiction (1700-1780).** Works include *Humphrey Clinker*, *The Farther Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* (1719) among others. One of a number of full text collections in **Literature Online**.

**Major Authors Online.** Works by Walt Whitman, the Brontes, Virginia Woolf, Miguel de Cervantes (in English and Spanish), Samuel Johnson and James Boswell.

**Women Writers Online.** Full-text collection of works by women writers covering the period from 1400 to 1850.

*Jonas Barciauskas*  
*Head, Collection Development, O'Neill Library*

## EBOOKS AT BOSTON COLLEGE

We have added a new kind of collection to the libraries' holdings, and you don't have to leave your home or office to browse through our new set of books. Working with a New England consortium, Nelinet, the Boston College Libraries have bought an experimental collection of electronic books, eBooks, from netLibrary. NetLibrary is a Colorado based private company which converts print books to electronic text. Founded in 1998 netLibrary now has 5,000 libraries as clients and offers over 30,000 eBooks in their total collection of electronic titles.

This joint collection includes 4,500 copyrighted books published from 1998-2000. Titles were selected from major publishers such as John Wiley, Macmillan, and Brookings Institution. A selected group of University Presses such as M.I.T. Press, Harvard Business School Publishing, University of California Press and Oxford University Press (both U.S. and U.K.) offer interdisciplinary titles in the areas of business, history, literature, psychology, science and sociology. Publishers such as O'Reilly and Associates and Sams Publishing contribute guidebooks to popular applications including Microsoft software such as Office, PowerPoint, and Access and programming such as HTML, XML, Java, Oracle, C++ and more. While the current collection is relatively small, there is potential to broaden the scope of the collection policy and add some specialized collections.

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