

# BOSTON COLLEGE

## LIBRARIES

# FACULTY NEWSLETTER

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### Collection Development: A Matter of Balance

It used to be that the building of library research collections consisted primarily of acquiring books and periodicals. The phrase “a balanced collection” referred to a proper proportion between books and periodicals and between the subject areas represented in the library collection as a whole. But recent trends have forced the library world to reexamine what it means by balancing a collection. In the past ten years, dramatic developments have occurred in the world of commercial publishing. The rapid growth of electronic information has transformed the research process in nearly all subject areas, while the cost of traditional print sources has continued to climb beyond inflation. For example, periodical prices have increased at an average annual rate of 10%. The Libraries have been among the most forward-looking academic libraries in acquiring digital resources to support research and the curriculum. Moreover, Boston College has managed to do so without the deep cuts in book and periodical acquisitions experienced by many institutions, including some within the Association of Research Libraries.

Because formats of information and knowledge have proliferated, the task of collecting has become far more complex and is indeed “a balancing act.” Given the challenges posed by numerous demands on the library budget, it has become necessary to conduct a review and ask whether library funds are being used to acquire the best possible combination of resources. One important part of our review is a reassessment of current periodical subscriptions and serial acquisitions. While periodicals are by no means the

only type of material under review, they constitute a significant part of the library materials budget (nearly 60%). Faculty throughout the campus have been asked to evaluate the periodicals collections in their subject areas. With regard to other formats, librarians are reviewing current arrangements with book vendors and reexamining databases when their renewal date approaches.

Another difficult but important aspect of our review is the reduction of duplication. With the availability of more and more reference resources and journals on the web, decisions need to be made about whether or not to retain print materials which are duplicated electronically. Faculty input will be crucial, because some items may need to be available in both formats. For example, the quality of images on the web is often still lower than in print, and there are instances of different content between print and web versions of a journal. Yet duplication must be reduced in order for library funds to be spent effectively. The Boston College Libraries will continue to acquire significant new electronic resources while building on a legacy of excellence in print materials. Despite the greater complexity of the information landscape, the Libraries will continue to offer “a balanced collection.”

For an introduction to the breadth and depth of the Boston College research collections, visit <http://www.bc.edu/libraries/resources/collections/>.

*Jonas Barciauskas*

*Head of Collection Development*

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Spring 2002



## From the Scholarly Communications Corner

In recent years many research libraries have been facing difficulties posed by certain commercial publishers who have sharply raised prices of their publications, especially journals, in their eagerness to gain what are arguably excessive profits. During the period 1986 to 1999, there was a 55% increase in the number of journals published (from 103,700 to 161,000). The cost of scholarly journals also rose greatly in this period, 175 percent, compared to an increase of 49 percent in the Consumer Price Index and 111 percent in the price of healthcare. It is estimated that the average North American research library has had to cut journal acquisitions by more than 6% since 1986, and book acquisitions by 26%. This has obvious major implications for scholarship. Though Boston College Libraries in recent years have greatly strengthened their digital resources while maintaining a strong acquisition program of print materials, it is important that faculty be aware of some of the difficulties, especially those of cost, that the Libraries are increasingly encountering in their acquisition process. Indeed, it is desirable that faculty become involved in helping to change problematic aspects of the swiftly evolving scholarly communication system and develop one that best meets their research needs and those of future scholars. The Association of Research Libraries' brochure *Create Change* recommends a number of strategies for faculty wishing to become involved in reclaiming scholarly communication. Some are listed below:

- Encourage discussion of scholarly communication issues and proposals for change in your department.
- Include electronic publications in promotion and tenure discussions.
- Encourage your professional society to consider creating enhanced competitors to expensive commercial titles.
- Support your society's electronic publishing program by submitting papers, reviewing, and serving on the editorial board.
- Encourage your society to explore alternatives to contracting or selling publications to a commercial publisher.
- Encourage your society to maintain reasonable prices, and faculty and user friendly access terms.
- Modify, if appropriate, any contract you sign with a commercial publisher ensuring your right to use your work, including posting on a public archive.
- Examine the pricing, copyright, and licensing agreements of any commercially published journal you contribute to as an author, reviewer, or editor.
- Consider using your influence by refusing to review for expensive journals; by refusing to serve

on editorial boards of such publications; by supporting the library's cancellation of expensive, low-use titles; and by encouraging colleagues to do the same.

- Invite library participation in faculty departmental meetings and graduate seminars to discuss scholarly communication issues.
- If you are a journal editor, take an interest in the business and financial aspects of your journal and if warranted, consider moving your journal to a noncommercial publisher or creating an alternative journal.

More information may be found on the [Boston College Libraries and Scholarly Communications page](#) .

[Brendan Rapple](#)

*Collection Development*

## Talk to Us (and Your Colleagues!)

We would like to hear from you about your library use, your approach to research, the new libraries home page, and the changes in Quest. We are also interested in submissions from faculty for this newsletter. Please take a moment to fill out our [online survey](#).

[Ed Tallent](#)

*Head of Reference and Instructional Services*



## New Librarian for Collection Services

The University Libraries are pleased to welcome [Geri Linkins](#) as Associate University Librarian for Collection Services. This senior management position oversees planning and administration for the Collection Services Division of the University Libraries and is responsible for collection development and technical services policies. Collection Services staff perform selection, acquisition, processing and preservation of all library resources, traditional and digital. Geri comes to Boston College from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee where she was head of the serials department. Prior to that, she was Director of Libraries at the State University of New York at Potsdam where she was responsible for planning, managing and evaluating all library operations for the main and music libraries. Geri has a bachelor's degree from Seattle University and an MLS from Rosary College (now Dominican University). She participates actively on several committees of the American Library Association.

[Monique Lowd](#)

*Associate University Librarian*

## Seminar to Graduate Students on Teaching

What are your goals as a teacher? What kind of “social space” is the classroom? What strategies will help you reach your goals within this space? Recently Professor David Karp of Sociology talked to graduate teaching assistants and fellows about how his own goals have changed from making sure to cover the information and concepts of his discipline to communicating broader paradigms and showing students enthusiasm for the subject. In order to understand the dynamics that lead to a successful class, Professor Karp analyzed the social system of the classroom and the ways that students participate. His most critical findings were that four or five students were responsible for 75% of the conversation, that other students resent this while relying on the talkers to carry them, that almost all students think they can tell immediately if a teacher truly welcomes their participation and that gender matters—women talk more in classes taught by women. Some strategies arising from these classroom observations include: be aware of gender; prepare extensively for every class but be ready to depart from your plans; show respect to all student contributions; use teachable moments; and give many examples. He also suggests bringing current research questions to class and inviting students to help find solutions. What students remember in the end is a teacher who is passionate about a discipline and cares about them.

Professor Karp’s seminar was part of the series offered every semester by the Academic Development Center. His article, “The College Classroom: Some Observations on the Meanings of Class Participation,” has been widely reprinted (most recently in J. Macionis and N. Benokraitis (eds.), *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2001) (O’Neill Course Reserve HM51 .S375 2001).

[Sue Barrett](#)

*Director, Academic Development Center*

## Faculty Publications Database Forms

Tenure track faculty are now able to submit citations to the *Faculty Publications Database* using online forms available through the [Libraries homepage](#). By choosing Online Requests/Forms from the *Quick Links* choices and clicking *Go* they may access the appropriate form. Tenure track faculty are encouraged to use these forms to ensure that their citations are received in a timely and efficient manner. If using these forms is not a convenient option, citations may still be submitted to Gail White, Reference Department, O’Neill Library [whiteg@bc.edu](mailto:whiteg@bc.edu). Publication citations that have appeared in the annual *Boston College Celebration of Scholarship* have already been received and need not be re-submitted.

[Gail White](#)

*O’Neill Reference*

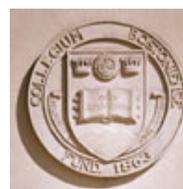
## Improved Access to ICPSR Data

Faculty, students and members of the Boston College community can now directly download data sets from the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) web site. ICPSR is an archive of thousands of data sets on topics covering education, health care, demographics, social indicators, political behavior, and much more. Find data by searching the database by keyword, investigating agency or by an ICPSR study number. Most data collections now have online codebooks, which are also searchable and downloadable. When an online version of documentation is not available, the library will acquire a print copy and add it to our collection. Faculty and students who have used ICPSR data for years will find it faster and easier to download the data themselves. To manage large data sets requiring additional space and research support, you may contact either Barbara Mento, [mento@bc.edu](mailto:mento@bc.edu) or Rani Dalgin, [dalgin@bc.edu](mailto:dalgin@bc.edu), for further assistance.

For access instructions and links to the ICPSR catalog, go to the following url: <https://www.bc.edu/cgi-bin/webscript/icpsr.html>.

[Barbara Mento](#)

*Manager, Virtual Data Center*



## Travelling for Research this Summer?

The Reciprocal Faculty Borrowing Program (RFBP) allows faculty members of participating institutions borrowing privileges and on-site access to the collections of some of the most important research libraries in North America.

Materials may be used on the premises of the owning library or may be borrowed, depending on the policies of the lending library. Privileges vary from library to library and the lending library determines whether a user under this program will have on-site use and/or borrowing. With this privilege also come responsibilities. Boston College faculty visiting other institutions must observe the regulations of the lending library; return materials, in person or by mail, within the loan period established by the lending library; and pay all fines or other charges incurred due to late return or damage to materials.

Stop by the O’Neill Library reference services desk for a list of participating institutions and more information. You must have an RFBP borrowing card, issued by the Boston College Libraries, to gain access or borrow from a participating institution.

[Margie Fiels](#)

*Head of Access Services, O’Neill Library*

## Early English Books Online Text Creation Partnership

The database [Early English Books Online \(EEBO\)](#) makes available in full facsimile image on the internet nearly every English language book published from the invention of printing to 1700. When completed EEBO will contain over 125,000 titles listed in Pollard & Redgrave's *Short-Title Catalogue (1475-1640)*, Wing's *Short-Title Catalogue (1641-1700)*, and the *Thomason Tracts (1640-1661)*. Another interesting development, [The Early English Books Online Text Creation Partnership \(EEBO-TCP\)](#), is currently converting 25,000 works found in EEBO into searchable text. Boston College Libraries are partnering with about forty other libraries in making this project possible (a list of participating institutions is available at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/eebo/partners.html>). The partnership is devoting five years to the first phase of the conversion process, which will create SGML text files and link them to EEBO page images, thereby allowing users to perform keyword searches as well as see features of the original work in facsimile. Thus, scholars will be able to pinpoint even minute references to their subjects as they appeared in a wide variety of early modern works. The search interface will also allow scholars to uncover repeated word patterns across texts that recently were only available in archives or on microfilm. The forty-plus library partners in the conversion project also act as co-owners of the encoded text files, enjoying full rights of access, adaptation, and distribution.

The [EEBO-TCP web site](#) is available for full text searching. Please remember, however, that only a very small proportion of the conversion project has been completed.

[Brendan Rappelle](#)  
*Collection Development*

## Online Reserves

Many journal articles, book chapters, lecture notes, sample exams, etc., that are required reading for a course are now available online and are included with the books and other paper items on reserve lists in Quest Course Reserves. Online reserve documents are available 24/7 to Boston College students, faculty and staff. Documents are delivered as PDF files or links to full-text databases and are identified in Course Reserves as Internet Online Resources.

Although online image files or links to full text databases have not completely replaced traditional paper reserves, we estimate that 50% of the reserve lists submitted by faculty now have at least one or more items that are Internet Online Resources. Students like the convenience of viewing reserve materials online without having to visit the library, and the flexibility to print on demand.

There is no need to make a special request for this service. Library staff at O'Neill, Bapst Library and the Social Work Library will routinely scan and provide on-line access to your materials if allowable under current copyright regulations. For more information please consult the [Course Reserves webpage](#).

[Margie Fiels](#)  
*Head of Access Services, O'Neill Library*

## "Reference Now!" Brings Librarians to Your Personal Computer

On February 4, 2002, the Boston College Libraries proudly launched a new service that has better enabled us to help students and faculty members who are not physically present in the library. The new "Reference Now!" service allows members of the BC community to have a live, online research consultation with a librarian. The service is currently available Monday -Friday, 1:00 - 5:00pm. We will be investigating different scheduling configurations for the Fall semester.

How does this work? You simply go to the [Boston College Libraries homepage](#). You then go to the "Quick Links" menu and select "Reference Now!". Once you are in the "Reference Now!" software, you will be able to exchange typed messages with the librarian on your own computer. One half of your screen will show you the typed exchange that is taking place between you and the librarian, and the other half will let you view the same catalog, journal database, or web site that the librarian is seeing on her screen. In this way, the librarian will be able to provide you with typed explanations of the electronic resource that you are viewing on your screen. The combination of typed messages and shared screens enables us to be your virtual guide through resources that will help you find the information you need to complete your research.

Why are we so excited about "Reference Now!"? The World Wide Web has transformed how we do research. A rapidly growing number of journal abstracts and full-text articles are now accessed through the Internet. This means that more people can do library research from locations other than the library. Students and faculty members can do research from home, and "Reference Now!" enables you to get help from a librarian even if you are at your own personal computer. BC students who are in Maine, Worcester, or Rhode Island have already taken advantage of "Reference Now!". We have even helped a student who is currently studying abroad in Sweden.

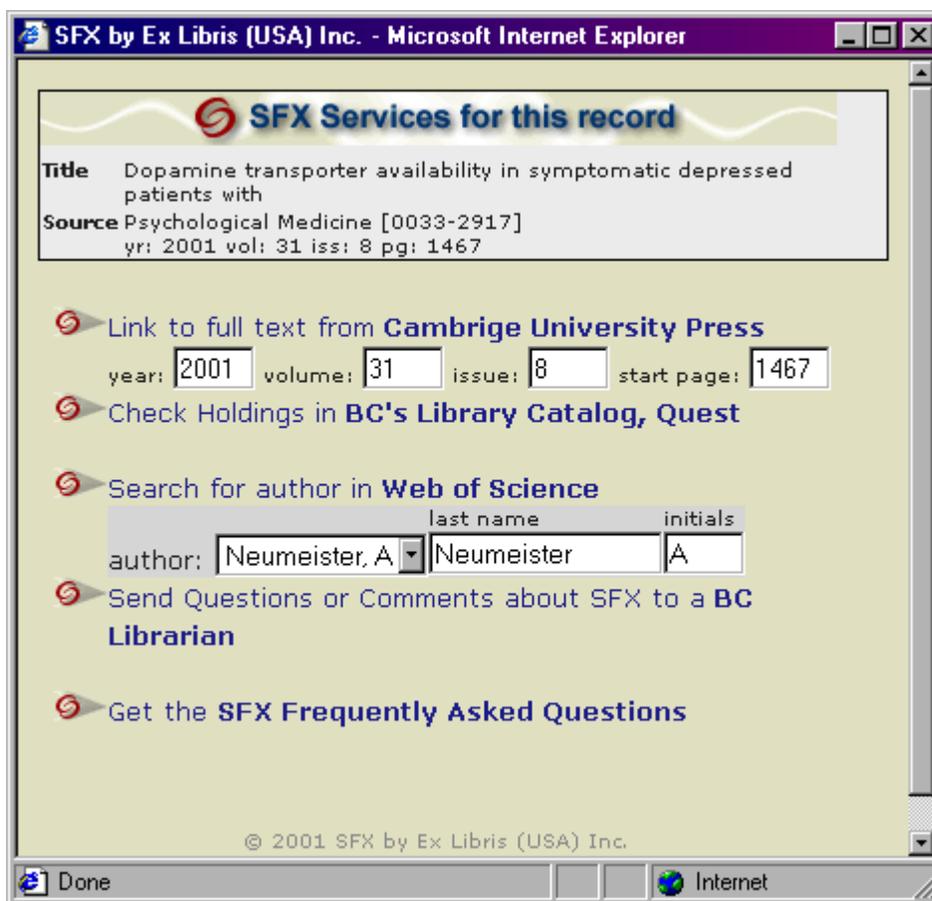
Are you doing work at home today? We will be happy to assist you!

[Kate Silfen](#)  
*Reference Librarian/Bibliographer, Social Work Library*

## SFX now appears in 25 library databases

When you find a citation in one of the databases listed below, you can use SFX links to find a menu of choices related to that citation. SFX uses OpenURL technology to offer you services that include links to

full-text, the option to check Quest, a link to search the author's name in Web of Science, the option to ask a librarian a question and the option to search the Web. The SFX menu looks like this:



Currently, the following library databases contain links to SFX:

ABI/Inform Global  
Alt-HealthWatch  
Art Abstracts  
Artbibliographies MODERN  
ArticleFirst  
Book Review Digest  
Business Source Premier  
Education Abstracts  
Electronic Collections Online  
ERIC  
GeoRef  
GPO  
Library Literature  
Linguistics and Language Behavior Abs  
MetaQuest  
MLA Bibliography

PAIS  
Philosopher's Index  
PsycInfo  
Social Work Abstracts  
Sociological Abstracts  
Sport Discus  
Web of Science  
WorldCat  
Worldwide Political Science Abstracts

SFX expands your ability to find books and articles by linking the collections at Boston College and beyond. SFX is being added to more library databases in the future. For questions about SFX, please see the [SFX Frequently Asked Questions](#) or contact Theresa Lyman, Digital Resources Reference Librarian, at [lymanth@bc.edu](mailto:lymanth@bc.edu).

*Theresa Lyman*  
Digital Resources Reference Librarian

## Some Online Periodical Indices for 19th Century Research

All of the databases below may be accessed from the [Online Databases page](#)

➤ [Nineteenth Century Masterfile \(NCM\)](#)

The online database *19th Century Masterfile* (formerly entitled *Poole's Plus*) is a very large resource for nineteenth century studies, with over 4 million citations online. William Frederick Poole's *Index to Periodical Literature, 1802-1907*, NCM's most significant index, remains a core resource for researching nineteenth century topics. The edition of *Poole's Index* which is available through *19th Century Masterfile* is an enhanced edition of 485,000 citations with essential date and title information not contained in the original volumes. *19th Century Masterfile* also includes William T. Stead's *Index to Periodicals, 1890-1902* which contains more than 265,000 citations. More than 200 of the periodical titles indexed by Stead are not indexed by Poole. Between Poole's and Stead's indices, there are 654 unique titles indexed. *19th Century Masterfile* also searches such indices as Jones & Chipman's *Index to Legal Periodical Literature (1786-1922)*, Richardson's *Index to Periodical Articles in Religion (1890-1899)*, *Cumulative Index to a Selected List of Periodicals (1896-1899)*, *New York Times Index (1863-1905)*, other newspaper indices, in addition to a number of patent and Government Document indices.

➤ [Periodical Contents Index \(PCI Full Text\)](#)

The database *Periodicals Contents Index (PCI Web)* combines a broad subject base with deep chronological coverage going back over 200 years. It provides access to the contents pages of 3,781 journals from their inception, some right back to 1770, to 1995 and contains separate records for over 12 million journal articles. It has an exceptionally broad, international coverage including every area of the humanities and social sciences, together with journals of general interest. PCI grows by more than one million records each year. PCI also contains the full image for 165 complete journal runs, providing access to two million article pages. It is expected that in subsequent years at least 100 full-text journals will be added per year, thereby offering a virtual library of complete runs of retrospective journals. A list of the titles already included in PCI Full Text may be accessed at <http://pcift.chadwyck.com/titles/titles.html>.

➤ [African-American Newspapers: The 19th Century](#)

This database provides the complete texts of major 19th century African-American newspapers. The newspapers indexed include: *Freedom's Journal*, *The Coloured American*, *The North Star*, *The National Era*,

*Provincial Freeman*, *Frederick Douglass Paper*, *The Christian Recorder*.

➤ [PscINFO](#)

This index to scholarly psychology literature, which includes journal articles, books and chapters, begins in 1887.

➤ [Historical Newspapers Online](#)

This database contains two indexes useful for research into the nineteenth century: *Palmer's Index to The Times* which covers the period from 1790 to 1905 and *The Historical Index to The New York Times* which covers from 1851 to September 1922.

➤ [American Periodicals Series \(APS Online\)](#)

This is an index of articles from American journals from 1740 to 1900. More than 1,000 titles are indexed including Benjamin Franklin's *General Magazine*, the first American professional journals, and several popular magazines still in publication, such as *Vanity Fair*, *Harper's*, and *Ladies' Home Journal*.

➤ [International Index to Music Periodicals \(IIMP\)](#)

The IIMP indexes 375 international music periodicals from over 20 countries. Citations go back as far as 1874.

➤ [International Index to the Performing Arts](#)

This database covering nearly all aspects of performing arts, from scholarly studies to snapshots of popular culture, has citations from periodicals dating back to 1864.

➤ [SPORT Discus](#)

This database, consisting of bibliographic records pertaining to sports medicine, exercise physiology, biomechanics, psychology, training techniques, coaching, physical education, physical fitness, active living, recreation, history, facilities and equipment, indexes material from 1830.

➤ [GeoRef](#)

*GeoRef* is a large database of geophysics material, from North America since 1744 and other areas of the world since 1933.

[Brendan Rapple](#)

Collection Development

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