

## Special Library Services

### New Library Information System

The Libraries migrated to a new Web based state of the art integrated library system in June 2000. This new system is a flexible and open system with transparent interface to other systems and databases which allows for easy resource sharing capabilities. It provides expanded access to the Libraries' collections, databases, and services. The new system provides a variety of methods for searching the Boston College online catalog which includes books, periodicals, media materials, microforms, newspapers, and links to electronic materials at [www.bc.edu/quest](http://www.bc.edu/quest). QUEST can easily be searched from any Web browser regardless of platform or location, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Users can interact with the system and receive immediate feedback on the status of requests; they can place a hold, recall, 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 over 183 Web accessible databases, to full text journals, and to digital collections such as the Liturgy and Life Collection of the John J. Burns Library.

### Digital Resources

The Boston College Libraries offer access to hundreds of databases 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 on the Resources menu of the Libraries home page: [www.bc.edu/libraries.html](http://www.bc.edu/libraries.html). The database list includes groupings by subject and an alphabetical listing by title. Many 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. Many of these resources are fully cataloged and you can link directly to them from a record in the Boston College Libraries Catalog ([www.bc.edu/quest](http://www.bc.edu/quest)). 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.

Most databases available through the Boston College Libraries are restricted to the Boston College community. In order to access these databases from off campus, you need to log in as a verified Boston College community member. This can be done in one of two ways: using the modem pool (617-552-2790) or using the VPN (Virtual Private Network) software which allows access to the Boston College network and the Libraries' databases using commercial Internet service providers. For more information, check out the Computing and Communications page: [www.bc.edu/infotech](http://www.bc.edu/infotech).

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: [www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/ulib/Burns/](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/ulib/Burns/).

Librarians offer 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. See the list of Subject Bibliographers to know which librarian to contact: [www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/ulib/ref/subspec.html](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/ulib/ref/subspec.html).

### 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 O'Neill Library in order to borrow directly from the member libraries. Access to these collections will be enhanced as the Consortium introduces its Virtual Catalog in 2000/2001. The Virtual Catalog will allow searching of all Consortium libraries with the ability to request delivery of books to Boston College. Ask at O'Neill Reference for more information.

### Association of Research Libraries

In October 2000, the Libraries became the 112<sup>th</sup> member of the Association of Research Libraries. Membership in ARL is limited to research institutions sharing common goals, interests, and needs. The mission of ARL is to shape and influence forces affecting the future of research libraries in the process of scholarly communication. Membership is by invitation upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors and approval of the membership.

### United States Government Publications

Boston College is one of 1,350 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 following web page: [www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/ulib/ref/govdocs/Govdocs.html](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 the O'Neill Library.

### Media Center

The Media Center on the second floor of the O'Neill Library houses information in many nonprint formats: videocassettes, DVDs, laserdiscs, compact discs, audiocassettes, LPs, and CD-ROMs. All media may be used by patrons within the Center in individual carrels. Faculty may conduct media classes in either of our two 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 43 million bibliographic records from the Library of Congress and other national libraries, and from over 27,000 other libraries worldwide.

Source: University Librarian