Special Library Services

Quest – Library Information System
The Quest system includes BCAT, the Boston College Online Catalog, which provides access to approximately 5.2 million items including books, media materials, microforms, newspapers, and periodicals. BCAT may be searched by author, title, call number, subject, or keyword from workstations throughout the libraries or from remote locations, both on and off campus. FACP is a database of publications by current BC faculty. A separate file, NEWT, lists items recently cataloged for the collection. A major attraction within Quest is LIST, which links to over 25 periodical indexes covering a wide range of disciplines. Rounding out the Quest offerings are two major bibliographic databases, WCAT and RLIN. WCAT, or WorldCat, is the OCLC union catalog containing more than 30 million records of items located in OCLC member libraries. OCLC can be used by researchers to locate materials in other libraries around the world. RLIN is a union catalog of nearly 88 million items held in comprehensive research, special, and some corporate libraries. Quest may be searched through a World Wide Web interface, accessible from the Libraries' home page (http://www.bc.edu/libraries.html).

Computer Searching
A growing number of general and specific databases are available for searching via the Web. A complete listing of all online databases available through the libraries can be found by clicking on Online Databases from the Libraries' home page (http://www.bc.edu/libraries.html). The list includes both subject groupings and an alphabetical listing by title along with a designation for full text databases. Many of the databases may then be launched directly through a hot link. All other listings provide information explaining exactly where to access the database, usually 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 topics in the humanities, social sciences, sciences, health science, business, law, and public affairs. A few databases must still be accessed from dedicated workstations in the library, but most are now available through the university's computer network delivering the databases directly to the researcher's desktop.

The 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 they need through the materials available to them through the libraries 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 on magnetic tape. 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 library is a member of the Boston Library Consortium, a group of area libraries which includes Brandeis, Boston University, Brown University, Tufts, Wellesley, Northeastern, MIT, Massachusetts State Library, Boston Public Library, the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, and the University of Massachusetts System. Faculty and graduate students may apply for a Consortium borrower's card at the Reference Department in the O'Neill Library. Further information may be found in the User Guide and the Consortium Handbook, available in all libraries. A gateway to the BLC member library on-line catalogs is available on the Libraries' web site.

United States Government Publications
Boston College is one of 1,365 Federal Depository Libraries located throughout the United States. This status entitles the O'Neill Library to receive, on a selective basis, United States government publications at no cost with the stipulation that they be made available to the general public. Most of the material circulates in the same manner as books. Inquiries related to the use of government documents should be directed to Government Documents and Microforms staff on the first floor of the O'Neill Library.

Media Center
The Media Center on the second floor of O'Neill Library houses information in many nonprint 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. The Center also includes the Vision Resource room which holds adaptive equipment for patrons with vision impairments.

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