Do Research with a Pro
By Greg Anderson, Reference Librarian

ResearchPro, on the Library’s home page, is a new way to do research. ResearchPro can search several Library resources simultaneously.

ResearchPro is a federated search service not a search engine. ResearchPro itself does not actually search the selected databases. It passes the search query to each database, which conducts the search using its own native search engine, and passes its results back to ResearchPro. Then it organizes and displays all the results, while linking them back to their records in each database. ResearchPro is really a portal to the Library’s resources. This distinction is important. ResearchPro does not have the power and flexibility that the databases’ own native search engines do. For example, ResearchPro cannot limit search results to full text, peer-reviewed journals the way most databases can.

Currently, the following resources can be searched using ResearchPro:
- 26 of the library’s subscription periodical databases, including full-text databases such as JSTOR, Project Muse, BioOne, and Emerald Insight;
- Approximately 1000 reference books in three collections, plus the Encyclopaedia Britannica;
- Two popular “public” resources (Artcyclopedia and PUBMED);
- The library catalog.

Here are a few hints for using ResearchPro:

- Some databases interpret the default keyword search as a full text search, possibly producing hundreds of not-very-relevant records. When this is a problem, a title search often returns more relevant, although fewer, results.
- To target a search to databases other than the default group, or search specific subject areas or individual resources, use the “Multi-Search” option. Remember to unclick the “Default Search” box.
- To search a topic with two or three facets – “sandhill cranes” AND “Nebraska” for example, use “Advanced Search”, which is linked from the “Multi-Search” screen.
- To conduct sophisticated multi-faceted searches using truncation and nesting, as well as to filter searches by document type, date range, or other limiters, search each database individually using its own native search engine.

ResearchPro is indeed a new way of searching the library’s resources. Examples of comments from faculty include: “ResearchPro is awesome. It is very Google-like and much easier to use.” “Oh my gosh, I can complete research in a one hour period on ResearchPro that would take me days, literally, searching the old way.”

Please direct comments to Dr. Ron Wirtz at wirtzrl@unk.edu or 865-8592 or leave a comment at: http://tinyurl.com/library-comment.
Jon Ritterbush - Electronic Resources Librarian
By Jennifer Harvey, Curriculum Librarian

Coming to Kearney is a homecoming of sorts for Jon Ritterbush, Electronic Resources Librarian, his wife, Laura, and their two sons. Jon’s grandfather, Joy, resided here and managed a Wheeler’s store formerly located on Second Avenue. His father, Bernard, was Kearney High School valedictorian for the class of 1963. An aunt, Judy, and uncle, Lee, both earned degrees from Kearney State College.

As Electronic Resources Librarian, Jon primarily serves our patrons by managing the library’s growing number of databases, electronic book collections, and electronic journal collections. His past experience prepares him for these responsibilities. He has served as a systems librarian for two libraries and as a reference/instruction librarian at another. He had his first experience working in libraries as an undergraduate at Albion College in Michigan. When discussing this experience, he said, “I just really enjoyed helping people do research and sharing my knowledge. I think that’s what opened my eyes to librarianship as a career possibility.” Jon attended library school at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. While there he pursued an interest in technology, as well. Following his graduation in 1999, he worked in a public library in Indiana and later at two academic libraries (the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Regent University in Virginia).

Jon is working to complete a second Master’s degree in Education and Public Administration. “There’re so many new technologies coming down the pike. It seems like every day, and I think the pace is accelerating,” he said. “I would like to continue learning about merging technology with education. In particular, I’m interested in how to improve the instructional process using different technology tools.”

The satisfaction Jon derives from helping people access information came up again and again during our interview. “I’m really looking forward to getting back on the reference desk and doing library instruction. When I have the chance to help sell those databases, working at the reference desk or in an instruction session, and see the patron’s eyes light up, or hear comments to the effect of, ‘I didn’t know we had that resource available. This will make my research so much more engaging or exciting or easier,’ — that’s where I get my kicks—get my buzz,” he said laughing. “It still goes back to that early experience in my undergraduate days of sharing what I know with other people, and helping them to make a more engaging research paper, or deliver an engaging presentation in a conference or in a classroom.”

Please join us in welcoming Jon to UNK.

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This is the front cover of the 1988 Blue & Gold yearbook. Yearbooks beginning with 1908 and ending with 1989, have been digitized and linked from the library Web site: library.unk.edu.
The Missing Links in Online Instruction
By Jon Ritterbush, Electronic Resources Librarian

Educators in the online realm enjoy special opportunities to provide instruction through asynchronous methods. PowerPoint slides and podcasts are easy to post in Blackboard and can be reviewed by students any time of day, anywhere an Internet connection is available. One part of the Web that is often under utilized by online educators, however, is the library and the vast number of online scholarly resources that aren’t accessible through Google.

Linking to journal articles can be useful for broadening students’ understanding of a topic and can serve as a touchstone for online discussions in Blackboard. Many of the library’s databases offer a “persistent” link within article records that can be copied into a Blackboard course. These links should also include the library’s proxy address, so that authenticated off-campus users can easily access these resources. The persistent links to library databases document is located at http://tinyurl.com/awp4ud and includes additional examples of proxied and persistent links to articles. Reference librarians are available to help faculty locate these persistent links for use in an online course or bibliography. For contact information, please refer to the library liaisons list located at: libraryliaisons.notlong.com.

The library also provides an electronic reserve service, which could be linked to from Blackboard or a course Web site. Instructors may submit print or electronic copies of articles or book chapters and have these posted in the library’s “eReserves” Web site at http://eres.unomaha.edu/eres/default.aspx. A single link to the “eReserves” site from Blackboard would be the only link needed to connect students with their assigned readings. Guidelines for submitting materials to “eReserves” are also posted at http://eres.unomaha.edu/unkcpolicy.htm.

Some Web addresses, or URLs, are incredibly lengthy and difficult to write in a document, Web page or a Blackboard posting. Text wrapping or one mistyped character can render the entire URL useless to a reader. To circumvent this problem, try using a free URL shortening service, such as TinyURL.com. TinyURL allows users to paste in a lengthy Web address and receive a shortened URL that will redirect to the longer address. Type this “tiny” URL into your browser, http://tinyurl.com/1tt6, and see the long Web address it redirects to! These tiny URLs can also work with proxied, persistent links to database articles or UNK Web pages.

24/7 Reference Service
By Dr. Ron Wirtz, Coordinator of Library Services

UNK librarians continue to offer chat and e-mail reference help through the QuestionPoint service originated by the Library of Congress and OCLC, the Online Computer Library Center. When Calvin T. Ryan librarians are not on duty, the service is monitored by librarians from 664 other academic libraries in North America and elsewhere in the world.

In general, the system works well, and has handled about five times the volume of online help requests as the previous e-mail only system. Go to library.unk.edu and click on “Ask us 24/7” to access QuestionPoint. Here are a few suggestions to insure success:

• Give the librarian a few seconds to answer your chat request – don’t log off after five to ten seconds. A general policy among the Nebraska libraries is to allow up to twenty seconds for the librarians on duty to identify the home library for the patron. An answer should be received within thirty seconds, since there are usually between ten and twenty librarians nationwide monitoring the chat service.
• Don’t expect an answer via chat for a complex question. Use the e-mail question link for questions requiring extensive research.
• Always provide an e-mail address. Click on the e-mail tab on the chat form, or in the course of the chat exchange with the librarian, provide contact information. That will allow the librarian to follow up, and to e-mail answers, articles, or citations to you.
• The service is in operation 24/7/365, and someone is always there.
Back to the Future
By Janet Stoeger Wilke, Dean of the Library

“The major development in the field of academic libraries during the past few months has been the emphasis placed on library service for students.”¹ This is the opening sentence in the December 1963 entry for the “The Library,” a feature that ran in The Journal of Higher Education in the early 1960’s. The article goes on to delineate the specifics that came out of the American Library Association conference held earlier that year. Among the points raised were:

- Identify what is needed by students in a particular locality and what is being offered
- Encourage co-operative activity among different types of libraries to meet student needs
- Seek to apply technical and mechanical advances
- Devise fresh approaches in aiding students to the make the most effective use of libraries
- Make more effective use of library personnel
- Increase financial support for all libraries

“Increase financial support” is a given on any list, in any age. For the rest, close to fifty years later, the intent is as current today as it was, apparently, new and innovative when written. Today we can look at each of the issues and apply the strides made in technology, staff training, library cooperation, information access via the Internet, librarians teaching information skills, and more, to address the recommendations. The recommendations fit — for on-campus students as well as for our growing distance education student population. It is hard now to believe that an “emphasis on library services for students,” ever had to be articulated, but it was, and rightfully so. Although our predecessors could not have envisioned the majority of the changes that have come about, either in the library or the university as a whole, they did recognize that student service was then, and remains today, the heart of the academic library. Back to the future!


To Support Calvin T. Ryan Library

Financial
Private financial support is vital to creating a margin of excellence at the Calvin T. Ryan Library. Your gifts can assist in bringing valuable collections of information to the library on paper and electronically, as well as creating a physical environment which complements learning by UNK students and other library users. Gifts supporting the library are tax deductible and are handled by the University of Nebraska Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation. Thank you for your support.

Collections
Books and other resources that are no longer needed may be just what we can use to enhance a library collection. We are especially interested in items with a UNK, Nebraska, or Great Plains connection. See this site for details: http://www.unk.edu/acad/library/admin/index.php?id=38556.

For more information please contact:
Kristin Howard
University of Nebraska Foundation, Kearney Office
P.O. Box 2678, 214 West 39th St., Kearney, NE 68848
khoward@nufoundation.org or call (308) 698-5270
http://www.nufoundation.org/Shop/showDivision.sp?cat=62
**Who was Calvin T. Ryan?**

By John Lillis, Archives Librarian

Calvin T. Ryan was born January 1, 1888, and died February 4, 1971. He received his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from George Washington University (then George Washington College), and a Master’s of Education from Harvard University.

He taught at Nebraska State Teachers College at Kearney from 1928, until his retirement in 1958, and served for many years as chair of the Department of English. He taught courses in Biblical literature, the history of language, journalism, world literature, advanced writing, and methods, and received Distinguished Service Awards from both KSC and the Cosmopolitan Club.

He was widely known for his “Sunday School of the Air” radio program, which he directed for 36 years. On October 31, 1963, the new KSC library was dedicated as the Calvin T. Ryan Library.

“That’s a real thrill having a library named after you.” - Calvin T. Ryan, as quoted in a (Kearney) Hub article appearing on December 28, 1967.

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**Library Gifts**

The Library has recently received book donations from several faculty including: James Rohrer, Susanne Bloomfield, Deborah Murray, James Payne, Diane Wysocki, and Janet Stoeger Wilke.

The Curriculum/Non-Book Department received 76 complimentary children’s books from Houghton Mifflin valued at around $1140 and 11 items valued at $858.19 from Super Duper Publications.

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**Library Host to Guests from Korea and Ukraine**

By Diana Keith, Government Documents Librarian

**Yong-Sun Lee**

Yong-Sung Lee, Electronic Resources Service Librarian from the Central Library of Kyung Hee University in Seoul, Korea, visited the library in September. He came to the United States for a two month visit to assist Korean graduate students who were beginning their enrollment at UNK. He was very interested in spending time at Calvin T. Ryan Library to gain a better understanding of another academic library. He met with personnel in various departments and was given an overview of the purposes and functions of each. In order for him to gain a more complete picture of American libraries, arrangements were also made for him to spend time at Kearney Public Library, the Kearney High School media center, and the Meridian Library System office.

**Valentyna Zalevska**

In August, Valentyna Zalevska from Ukraine arrived to take UNK classes. Her studies are sponsored by the International Research and Exchanges Board as a Global Undergraduate Scholarship Fellow. She attends classes at UNK in addition to taking a full load of library science classes through her home university in Ukraine.

During the Fall and current semester, she has been introduced to several library departments to help in her understanding of academic and general library operations in the United States. She is also serving as an unpaid intern at the Calvin T. Ryan Library.
MONA on Display

The Library’s lobby displays works from the permanent collection of the Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA). MONA also displays works inside the Library Coffee Shop. The display is changed each semester. Please visit the MONA Web site at: http://monet.unk.edu/mona.

“Untitled”
Collage
William Wolfram

“Metal Collage”
Metal
Olga Folda Stepanek

“Fibonacci: Red Field”
Acrylic on Paper
Larry Schulte
(Kearney State College graduate)

Come visit us at: library.unk.edu

Serving on University Committees

The Calvin T. Ryan Library gives to the University in many ways. One way is the service of the faculty and staff to campus-wide committees. Library representatives serve on the faculty and staff senate, on subcommittees of both senates and on several other university committees. A total of twelve library faculty and staff serve on 31 committees.