strings for later use. In addition to the search functionality, MetaLib also provides end users the ability to create their own accounts on the System to store their favorite searches, to create journal alerts, and to store their frequently used resources. "MetaLib will be previewed during the session, and unveiled to the general public in August, prior to the fall semester," said Stephen Cunetto, Administrator of Systems, MSU Libraries.

Reference:


**MetaLib** of those databases and to refine the and broadcast a search across each permits users to select databases. For example, databases relating to biology might be categorized under biology might be categorized under Biology Resources.

The more advanced users can use the MetaSearch function which permits users to select databases and broadcast a search across each of those databases and to refine the query, the results, and the search
Workshops @ the Library

As part of the ongoing outreach to the university and community, the MSU Libraries sponsors a number of workshops each year. Here are some of the workshops scheduled for this summer and fall:

- U.S. Census Workshop, Friday, June 3, 2005. For more information, contact LaDonne Delgado (325-7600) or Deborah Lee (325-8810).
- Genealogy Fair, Saturday, June 11, 2005. For more information, contact Lynne Mueller (325-3935).
- 5th Annual NASIG Workshop: The E-files: Investigating E-journal Tools and Trends, Friday, July 8, 2005. For more information, contact Maria Collins (325-8184).
- Nonprofit Workshop, Friday, July 15, 2005. For more information, contact Medaune Hollingshead (325-6781).
- Workshops on the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library System joins GTRLC

After twelve years the Golden Triangle Regional Library Consortium (GTRLC) announces the signing of another public library system to the multi-type consortium. In March 2005 the Consortium signed an agreement with the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library System under the leadership of Ginny Holtcamp to merge their holdings with that of the Consortium.

Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library includes the Starkville Public Library, Maben Public Library and the Sturgis Public Library. “Starkville-Oktibbeha County Library System is looking forward to offering the expanded access to resources that joining this consortium will enable us to bring to our communities. Additionally, delivery of materials in the Golden Triangle Region will greatly enhance our services to patrons,” said Holtcamp, Director, Starkville-Oktibbeha County Library System.

By becoming a member of the Consortium, all of the libraries’ holdings will be merged from their separate online catalogs into the online catalog housed at the Mississippi State University Libraries.

Once the holdings have been merged into the database, patrons searching the MSU online catalog will see the holdings for the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library System.

With the addition of the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library System, the Consortium will contain the holdings of seventeen libraries including the Mississippi State University Libraries, the Mississippi University for Women Library, Starkville High School and Armstrong Middle School Libraries, and the Tombigbee Regional Library System (Clay, Webster and Monroe counties).

By pooling both personnel and financial resources, all of the Golden Triangle Regional Library Consortium member libraries, including the larger academic institutions, benefit from the Consortium. Not only does the Consortium provide a means of reducing costs for the member libraries, it also creates a local support/user group for the libraries and better utilizes resources, both technical and financial, within the Consortium.

The smaller libraries don’t have to worry about the ongoing maintenance of the online system, and they are provided with the additional technical personnel from whom they can receive additional assistance/training.

As a consortium, the libraries have a stronger voice when working with the automation vendors, and their buying power is increased. The Consortium also provides the patrons with many added benefits including easy access to holdings of 17 libraries, a courier service and additional borrowing privileges at each member library.

“The Consortium is the only multi-type consortium of its kind in Mississippi. We are very proud of the Consortium and of the service that it is offering to the counties in this area of the state,” says Stephen Cunetto, Director of Systems, MSU Libraries.

The GTRLC provides an excellent example of libraries working together not only to make better use of their financial resources but also of their personnel. By working together, these libraries provide their patrons with a larger, easily accessible pool of resources. Without having to switch catalogs, patrons can easily find a copy of a particular work and either borrow it directly from that library or request that it be sent to them via a courier service.

While the Consortium has certainly grown over the years, it has continued to be a manageable endeavor from which all members, including the lead institutions, benefit.

Scholarly Communication: Challenges & Opportunities

Libraries have traditionally been a key partner in the scholarly debate that occurs across disciplines. This partnership is being threatened by the rapidly increasing cost of access and ownership.

Professional and research organizations are responding to this threat by developing new mechanisms for scholarly communication to occur. The Mississippi State University Libraries sponsored a visit by Julia Blissrud, Assistant Executive Director of External Relations for the Association of Research Libraries.

Ms. Blissrud presented information about scholarly communication, SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition), and open-access journals.

Ms. Blissrud is an adjunct faculty member of the Association of Research Libraries’ Office of Leadership and Management Services and conducts nationwide workshops on facilitation and the culture of assessment.

Ms. Blissrud discussed the challenges facing scholars today.

The increasing cost of specialized research materials has resulted in a decrease in the availability of these materials to scholars.

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Strategies such as institutional repositories (which warehouse faculty publications) and open-access journals (which shift the cost of production to the author) are some of the options currently being pursued.

Summer Reading: Using NoveList

With summer approaching, you might be looking for that perfect summer novel or two! To take on vacation. Consider using the database NoveList to find that perfect summer reading project!

Provided through the state-wide libraries consortium MAGNOVA, NoveList is a fiction database that provides subject heading access, reviews, and annotations for over 120,000 fictional titles.

The database covers both adult and juvenile fiction and includes other content of interest to fiction readers, such as Author Read-alikes, Book Discussion Guides, Book Talks, and Feature Articles.

NoveList allows readers to use a favorite author as an index to locate other authors and titles of interest.

By looking up a favorite book in NoveList, you can click the “Find Similar Books” button (at the top of the title record) and search for more titles like the one you enjoyed. NoveList also allows you to enter your own descriptive terms in Describe a Plot.

NoveList is available through the MSU Libraries’ listing of indexes and databases available on the Libraries’ website at: http://library.msstate.edu/resources/databases. For additional information using this or any database, please contact the Reference Department at 325-7667 or reference@library.msstate.edu.

‘Grisham’ continued from page 1 and best-selling novelist. In addition to manuscript materials, photographs, correspondence, and promotional materials, the public exhibit features foreign language versions of the author’s novels as well as media accounts and other items about the author and his work.

The partnership between ARC and National Geographic was launched last fall.

The common goal of each is to promote geotourism through the region’s culture and heritage, according to Mike Armour, director of the Mississippi ARC office. “Sites were selected after extensive research to show the region’s rich, diverse, and, in many cases, undiscovered assets,” he explained.

Among other Mississippi sites in the Golden Triangle are Waverly Mansion in West Point and the Tennessee Williams Birthplace in Columbus. Calling cultural heritage tourism “the fastest-growing sector of the travel market,” Armour said, “we hope that travel and tourism-related businesses will realize increased benefits from this project and that travelers will have enjoyable and educational experiences.”

Presently, the National Geographic Travel web site receives four and seven million hits each month, he added.

The Map Guide to Appalachian is available online at: http://www.national geographic.com/appalachi a.charts.

Armour said the project’s successful launch owes much to the “invaluable support” of Governor Haley Barbour, the Mississippi Development Authority’s tourism office, MDA Deputy Directory Bill Crawford, and the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District.

The John Grisham Room is open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays. For more information on the John Grisham Room, telephone (662) 325-2557 or visit http://library.msstate.edu/grisham_room.
Llull begins tenure as Libraries new Associate Dean for Public Services

The Mississippi State University Libraries is pleased to announce the appointment of Harry Llull as Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Public Services.

Llull comes from the University of New Mexico Libraries, where he worked with reference and library instruction.

“I am excited to be here at Mississippi State,” Llull said. “There is so much to love about MSU, including being a part, again, of SEC sports and that great southern cooking at Perry Cafeteria.”

While at UNM, he helped found the Alliance for Innovation in Science and Technology Information and served as director of the Alliance for two years.

He also was the first director of the ISTEC Library Linkages Project, which trained faculty and students in searching online databases and delivered articles through the Internet to universities located throughout South America and Spain.

Llull has been active in ACRL and is a past editor of Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship.

Llull has an MLS from the University of Michigan and a BS in Mathematics from Auburn University.

To contact Harry Llull, call 325-0679 or email hllull@library.msstate.edu.

Libraries UN Guide honored as excellent source of information

The Mississippi State University Libraries' United Nations Research Guide has been cited in The Infography as one of the most excellent sources of information about the subject of the United Nations.

The Infography is an online reference tool which enables students, teachers, and librarians to identify exemplary sources of information on the Internet.

The subject specialists who select the citations published in The Infography are professors, librarians, and other scholars who specialize in selected areas of expertise and who are charged with selecting only those resources considered "seminal for research."

The United Nations Research Guide was developed by LaDonne Delgado, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Government Documents and Microforms Department. The Guide was developed to augment the United Nations collection at the Mississippi State University Libraries. MSU is the only UN depository library in the state of Mississippi.

Additional information about the United Nations collection at MSU may be obtained by contacting LaDonne Delgado at 325-7660 or ldelgado@library.msstate.edu.

Farm Family of the Week Collection available online

Thousands of photographs of Mississippi farm families during the 1950s and 1960s can now be searched and viewed on the Internet, thanks to a project of the Mississippi State University's Consortium for the History of Agricultural and Rural Mississippi (CHARM).

Photographs and scripts of 136 families from the Howard Langfitt WLBT "Farm Family of the Week" Collection are the first group completed from some 17,000 images and 342 scripts which are being preserved, digitized, and made available to the public.

To date, 212 families have been located and have given permission for their images and photographs to be used on the CHARM web site.

The images and scripts were collected and donated to the MSU Libraries’ Special Collections Department by Howard Langfitt, producer of the "Farm Family of the Week" program.

These weekly half-hour features appeared each Friday from 1954 to 1961 as part of the daily agricultural show "RFD Televisit."

For more information about the "Farm Family of the Week" website and CHARM, contact Mattie Sink, Manuscripts Coordinator at 325-3848 or msink@library.msstate.edu.

Hargrove recognized for Fulbright honor

Dr. Nancy Hargrove is congratulated by MSU Provost Dr. Peter Rabideau (above) and by Dr. Bob Wolverton on her selection as a Fulbright Distinguished Chair to Austria. The Library hosted a reception in her honor.
More than 20 Mississippi State faculty members, including Library Instruction librarian Bradley Brazzeal, gave up their spring break to take part in a week-long technology Boot Camp.

Coordinated by the Libraries' Instructional Media Center and ITS's User Services, Boot Camp 2005: Get an Edge on Teaching, offered nearly 40 hours of hands-on technology instruction combined with instruction in Library resources such as EndNote, using subject-specific databases, copyright information and more.

The program was supported by a $30,000 grant from the Office of the Provost. The funding allowed each of the 20 participants to receive a new laptop, complete with each of the software packages taught during the week.

IMC Coordinator Pattye Archer said the Boot Camp was a huge success.

"We feel the event was a complete success. Based on the productivity we saw during the week, the comments we received and the evaluations, we believe the intensive workshop had a positive impact on all 20 participants," Archer said. "We are eager to follow the progress of those who attended and see how they put what they learned to use in their classrooms."

Archer said the focus of the event was to improve teaching - whether it be through new technologies, using WebCT, incorporating PowerPoint into lectures, encouraging more readings from online journals, creating an online reading list or other innovative ideas.

"We wanted everything we taught to focus on how it could be applied to improving their teaching and ultimately the students' learning," she added.

Archer, Modeane Hollingshed, Jim Tomlinson, Bobbie Haddleston and Thomas La Foe from the IMC and Deborah Lee and Brazzeal, who did double duty as an instructor and participant, led sessions and worked with participants during the week-long event.

Mississippi Quilt Symposium & Exhibit draw much enthusiasm

The first special interest quilt symposium, entitled "Quilts: A Social and Cultural History of Rural Mississippi," was held March 4th and 5th in the Mitchell Memorial Library.

The event was co-sponsored by the Mississippi State University Libraries, the Consortium for the History of Agricultural and Rural Mississippi (CHARM), the Mississippi State University Extension Service, the School of Human Sciences and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the Mississippi Humanities Council.

A capacity crowd of over 100 attended the event, with speakers and exhibits available throughout the Library.

Speakers included Mary Elizabeth Johnson (a noted quilt scholar), Ollie Jean Lane (past president of the Mississippi Quilt Association), Martha Ginn (past president of the Mississippi Quilt Association), and Carol Vickers (Chairman of the Mississippi Quilt Association Heritage Quilt Search Project).

Attendees learned the history of quilts in America as well as distinctive aspects of Southern quilts. The speakers provided strategies for preserving quilts and offered attendees the opportunity to have a family quilt appraised.
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While the Consortium has certainly grown over the years, it has continued to provide their patrons with a larger, easier access to materials, the public exhibit materials, photographs, correspondence, and best-selling novels. In many cases, the public exhibit materials have resulted in a shift the cost of production to the author (e.g., author pays for the production of versions of the author’s novel). The exhibits are open to scholars.

Among other Mississippi sites in the Golden Triangle are Waverly Mansion in West Point and the Tennessee Williams Birthplace in Columbus. Calling cultural heritage tourism “the fastest-growing sector of the travel market,” Armour said, “we hope that travel and tourism-related businesses will realize increased benefits from this project and that travelers will have enjoyable and educational experiences.”

Presently, the National Geographic Travel web site receives between four and seven million hits each month, he added.
MetaLib to offer new search opportunities

Research has shown that Net Generation college students prefer searching the web using search engines like Google and Yahoo instead of searching library resources when doing research. According to the Pew Internet and American Life Project, "Nearly three-quarters (73%) of college students say they use the Internet more than the library, while only 9% said they use the library more than the Internet for information searching" (Jones 2002). Even though libraries continue to spend thousands of dollars providing access to hundreds of online databases and thousands of online journals, students continue to turn first to the web rather than to trusted library resources for their research needs...until now!

The MSU Libraries is in the process of implementing MetaLib, a metasearch product that provides users with a single, easy-to-use interface that simultaneously searches multiple online databases and resources. Metasearch products, also referred to as federated searching engines, are the latest craze in libraries as they provide end users with easy searching of multiple, disparate systems that integrate not only licensed databases but also electronic journals, digital libraries, institutional repositories, and many other online resources.

According to Frances N. Coleman, Dean of Libraries, "the John Grisham Room currently houses…" is directing travelers to a Mississippi State attraction. The new directory covers attractions in a 13-state Appalachian region stretching from Pennsylvania to the Deep South. Nearly a million copies of the Map Guide to Appalachia are inserted in the April issue of National Geographic Traveler magazine. The maps will also be available, while supplies last, through the Mississippi Division of Tourism.

Marszalek Series continues

The featured speaker in this year's Marszalek Lecture Series was Jared Peatman, a graduate student in the history program at Virginia Tech. Peatman presented his paper entitled "Richmond's Reaction to the Civil War and Reconstruction," which was based on his dissertation research conducted at Virginia Tech. Peatman's presentation was well-received, and the audience was engaged throughout the presentation. The Marszalek Lecture Series is sponsored by the John F. and Jeanne A. Marszalek Foundation and is held annually at the Mississippi State University Libraries to encourage research in areas related to the Civil War and Reconstruction, Jacksonian America, and race relations.

The series includes papers presented by graduate students in history and lectures by nationally recognized historians. This spring’s event was held in the John Grisham Room. The endowed lecture series features lectures on American history.