There is not enough space in any library to house every possible printed collection, therefore many collections are produced on microforms to save space. Microforms have other advantages, such as durability and a lower likelihood of theft and mutilation. Just what types of collections are available to the Library’s users via microforms? Here are some examples:

**American Periodical Series**
This collection provides the full text of 1,000 titles published between 1741 and 1900, including Benjamin Franklin’s General Magazine, the first American professional journal, and several consumer magazines still in publication, such as Vanity Fair, Harper’s, and Ladies’ Home Journal.

**Black Culture Collection**
This collection provides approximately 6,000 full-text titles documenting the past three centuries of the black experience in America and Europe. Included in the collection are books, pamphlets, speeches, photographs, dissertations, and other valuable papers on many topics, including slavery in the northern and southern states; black education; black music, literature, and poetry; the proceedings of the NAACP; slave trade records and memoirs; and information on slavery in Britain and France.

**Early British Periodicals**
The 169 full-text periodical titles in this collection address not only literature, but topics as diverse as slavery, Christian Socialist economics, popular science, psychology, fear of France, Celtic folklore, commercialism, religion, and badminton.

**Early English Books**
Offering the original printed versions of books between 1475 and 1700, this microfilm collection supports scholars in the areas of English literature, history, philosophy, linguistics, the fine arts, the sciences, popular culture, and women’s studies.

**Pamphlets in American History**
Historic documents of public opinion are made available through this collection of more than 15,000 titles. Materials are varied, including biographies, campaign literature, speeches, legal decisions, trade union leaflets, personal narratives, and more.
Library Options for Meridian Students, Faculty, and Staff

Meridian students, faculty, and staff have two library systems at their command when in need of library materials and services.

First, the L. O. Todd Library Resource Center at Meridian Community College is available to MSU-Meridian Campus students. For a complete list of services, visit http://msuinfo.ur.msstate.edu/meridian/library/. For additional information, call the Todd Library at 601-484-8760.

Second, Mitchell Memorial Library on the Starkville campus is available to MSU-Meridian Campus students, faculty, and staff. All are authorized to use the Library in person or may access the MSU Libraries’ distance support resources and services through the Libraries’ web site at http://library.msstate.edu/services/distance_education.asp.

Jake: Jointly Administered Knowledge Environment

Jake is a database containing information about various online periodical indexes, including which electronic databases index or contain the full text of a particular journal. Jake can be used in several ways:

- to determine which electronic databases index a particular journal
- to determine which electronic databases contain full text of a particular journal
- to expand journal abbreviations (for example, Engl Hist Rev)

Users can try a Jake search at http://library.msstate.edu/jake/

Introducing the Undergraduate Research Center @ your library!

The Undergraduate Research Center (URC) serves all undergraduate students, especially those who are unsure of a research topic and need information for term papers and speeches.

The URC, located in the Reference Room of Mitchell Memorial Library, is a collection of popular undergraduate reference materials that deal with both sides of an issue (pros and cons) and includes the following series: The Opposing Viewpoints Series, Contemporary Issues Companion Series, Current Controversies Series, At Issue Series, Information Plus Series, and older issues of the CQ Researcher (current issues of this title are found at the Ready Reference Desk).

Students are encouraged to browse in the URC to assist in establishing a topic for research purposes. Reference librarians are available for consultation in using this collection, other reference sources, electronic resources including full-text and electronic journals, as well as resources located in other areas of the Library.

The URC also includes a career center with a selection of resume books, cover letter books, and career encyclopedias.

For more information about the Undergraduate Research Center, contact the Reference Department at 662-325-7667 or reference@library.msstate.edu.
Electronic Theses and Dissertations Beginning to Come Online

The MSU Library has joined the Netweaked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) and is a contributing member to this organization. Membership in NDLTD, an international organization, will improve graduate education, increase sharing of knowledge, help universities build their information infrastructure, and extend the value of digital libraries and further support the creative use and application of information technology.

The MSU Library has begun a pilot project with the College of Engineering to implement a system which will accept the electronic submission of theses and dissertations. The College of Engineering has begun requiring students to submit their theses or dissertations electronically. It is anticipated that in the near future other schools and colleges within the university will begin requiring electronic submission of their theses, dissertations, and fifth year papers. There are no current plans to digitize theses and dissertations that have already been published.

The goals of the NDLTD include:

- To improve graduate education by allowing students to produce electronic documents, use digital libraries, and understand issues in publishing
- To increase the availability of student research for scholars and to preserve it electronically
- To lower the cost of submitting and handling theses and dissertations
- To empower students to convey a richer message through the use of multimedia and hypermedia technologies
- To empower universities to unlock their information resources
- To advance digital library technology

For more information, visit http://library.msstate.edu/etd/.

Extensive online help for authors of electronic theses and dissertations is available at http://library.msstate.edu/etd/author.asp.

Workshops and Seminars

Individuals who would benefit from an introduction to desktop publishing, graphics or web page software should consider the “Bits and Bytes” workshops provided by the Library’s Instructional Media Center. More information can be found at http://library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp.

The Library Instruction Services department offers Databasics seminars on topics such as identifying grants and funding resources, dissertation basics, and accessing the libraries’ electronic journals. For a schedule and seminar descriptions, visit http://library.msstate.edu/workshops/databasics.asp.

Morris W. H. (Bill) Collins Speakers Series

The Morris W. H. (Bill) Collins Speaker Series brings leading figures of the day to the Mississippi State University campus to engage in close and personal discussions about their lives and careers. Each meeting takes place in the Grisham Room in Mitchell Memorial Library between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Past and future speakers are listed and profiled online at http://library.msstate.edu/collins/, and their speeches are available for downloading.
Did You Know...

- the Library maintains online exhibits for users to view at their convenience? (see http://library.msstate.edu/exhibits/)
- a comprehensive listing of Mississippi’s African-American authors is available on the Library’s web site? (see http://library.msstate.edu/special_interest/Mississippi_African-American_Authors.asp)
- Bulldogisms are collected and defined online? (see http://library.msstate.edu/special_interest/websk/index.asp)
- newsletters published by the Library are available online? (see http://library.msstate.edu/library/newsletters/)
- Library users can easily keep up with the latest Library news? (see http://library.msstate.edu/library/news.asp)
- books can be donated in honor of friends or loved ones through the Library’s Notable Books Program? (see http://library.msstate.edu/notable/index.asp)

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