



Library Newsletter

James A. Gibson Library
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*This issue of the Library Newsletter provides some very positive news on the achievements of the groundbreaking **Canadian National Site Licensing Project (CNSLP)**. Negotiations with publishers and vendors have recently been concluded; a national launch is planned in early April when additional information will be provided. In the meantime, access to the products negotiated is available from the Library Home Page at www.brocku.ca/library/. Individual titles with links to full text will appear in the library catalogue shortly.*

*Margaret Grove
University Librarian*

The Canadian National Site Licensing Project

Background

The CNSLP is a three-year, \$50 million project funded jointly by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and contributions from 64 participating institutions from across the country. The objective of the project is to increase dramatically the quantity, breadth and depth of research literature in science, health, engineering and the environment to Canadian academic researchers, and to provide expanded and equitable access to the content through electronic formats and network access/delivery mechanisms. By adopting a national strategy, the CNSLP intends to help institutions aggregate their buying power and influence in the marketplace, and secure access to an expanded body of published research at lower cost than could be achieved through institution-specific or regionally-based licenses.

A common desiderata list of over 20 digital products (e.g. journal suites, citation databases) was developed through consultation with regional library groups. A model license, designed to meet the needs of participating libraries was prepared, and publishers were then asked to submit proposals in response to a competitive bid process.

Current Status of the Project

Agreements with 7 publishers have been finalized, thus concluding the negotiation stage of the project. A common site license agreement, one of the most progressive licenses in the marketplace, applies to all products. Some of the benefits of the license include: no limits on the number of users; access by authorized users regardless of location; use by visiting faculty and walk-in users; use of products for course packs, electronic reserve and interlibrary loan; and perpetual rights to the information contained in the products.

The 7 licensed products are:

- **American Chemical Society - ACS Web Editions** (30 full text titles) **
- **American Mathematical Society - MathSciNet** (the online equivalent of Mathematical Reviews and Current Mathematical Publications with coverage from 1940 on, and extensive linking to full text journals)
- **IDEAL (Academic Press)** (approximately 175 titles) *
- **Institute of Physics Publishing - IOP Journals** (33 full text titles) *
- **ISI - Web of Science.** 1999 on
- **Royal Society of Chemistry RSC Electronic Journals** (23 full text titles) **
- **Springer Verlag - LINK service** (410 titles) **

* The Library already subscribes to these packages through provincial agreements, but will acquire access at much lower costs through CNSLP.

** In 2000, the Library had print subscriptions to 10 ACS titles, 7 RSC titles and 15 Springer titles. Total gain in content from these 3 publishers alone is 431 new titles.

Significance of the Project for the University Library and the Brock Community

There is no question that the project will have an enormously positive impact on the level of support the Library is able to provide to research. The achievements of the CNSLP, combined with individual initiatives of the Library such as the Elsevier Science agreement, will provide resources to faculty and students that previously would only have been found in large research libraries. The above 7 agreements enable the Library to offer 2 significant research databases and more than 430 additional full text journals. In conjunction with Elsevier Science, Project Muse and other agreements, the Library has been able to provide access to more than 2000 new journal titles in the last 18 months alone.

Although the project was mandated by CFI to focus on resources in science, technology and medicine, the benefits are by no means limited to the sciences. The **Web of Science**, a multi-disciplinary citation database, incorporates the **Arts & Humanities** and **Social Sciences** citation databases, and includes extensive links to full text journals in all areas.

A preliminary assessment of the financial implications of the project suggests that the CNSLP has met one of its basic objectives: to acquire more content at lower cost. Based on information available to date, this would certainly appear to be the case for Brock.