

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

James A. Gibson
Library



Number 6, January 2003

One year ago, the Library was deeply engaged in a planning exercise, the results of which appear in a document entitled *James A. Gibson Library Three-Year Plan 2002-2005*, produced in the spring of 2002. As stated in the opening paragraph of the document, "*the strategic plan of the University Library is intended to serve as a guide for positioning its development and establishing its direction over the next three years. The plan specifically identifies a set of goals and initiatives to focus and align the Library's efforts with University priorities, to inform its decision-making and measure its success.*" It is anticipated that many more initiatives will be developed during the coming months. A copy of the Plan is available at <http://www.brocku.ca/library/about/typlan.pdf>.

Many of the new resources and services highlighted in this *Newsletter* are closely linked to the goals articulated in the Library's *Three-Year Plan*. I encourage you to visit our web site at www.brocku.ca/library for additional information, and to contact us with questions or suggestions.

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New Digital Resources

The Library's offerings of digital resources continue to expand steadily, both as a result of our participation in consortia, and through local initiatives. We are selective in our participation in consortium agreements, choosing products that support teaching and research at Brock, that are affordable, and do not impose unreasonable licensing terms.

The Library is offering several new databases, effective January 2003, as replacements for subscriptions to print indexes and abstracts. Some of these include *L'Annee Philologique*, *British Humanities Index*, *Humanities Index*, *CPI-Q (Canadian Periodical Index)*, *FSTA - Food Science Technology Abstracts*, *Leisure Tourism Abstracts*, and *Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS)*.

Other digital resources acquired with Indirect Research funding include *Art Index Retrospective*, *JSTOR Arts & Science Collection II*, additional archival coverage for the *Web of Science* (from 1985 on), and the complete archive of journals from the Institute of Physics.

Additional recent subscriptions to digital resources include the *Oxford English Dictionary*, with quarterly updates, and *SciFinder Scholar*, a product that integrates several of the most important Chemistry databases, including *CAPLUS (Chemical Abstracts)* from 1907 on.

All of the above products are accessible from <http://www.brocku.ca/library/databases/>.

National Agreement with Elsevier Science

In 1999, the Brock Library was one of only four Canadian libraries to offer access to the complete Elsevier suite of journals. The Elsevier collection is essential to a broad range of disciplines and is the Library's most heavily used, and most costly resource. The recently negotiated national site license with Elsevier is a very positive development for the Library, and for everyone who uses these journals.

The national agreement was concluded by the Negotiating Committee of the Canadian

National Site Licensing Project and offers a large number of benefits, including significantly lower costs over the longer term, improved price protection through the period of the agreement (2003-2006), and provision for authors at participant institutions to self-archive their articles on their personal homepage or on an institutional server for open access. The agreement also provides access to journals in the Harcourt Health Sciences collection (Mosby, WB Saunders, and Churchill Livingstone imprints).

BioMed Central Membership

The Library has established a membership with *BioMed Central*, an independent publishing house committed to providing immediate free access to peer-reviewed biomedical research. As indicated on *BioMed Central's* web site, "this commitment is based on the view that open access to research is central to rapid and efficient progress in science ...". Authors who publish original research articles in journals published by *BioMed Central* retain copyright over their work.

The membership enables researchers to qualify for an article processing charge waiver (US \$500 per published article), and provides the right to list all relevant research papers generated at the University on the *BioMed Central* web site, on a page customized for Brock.

Additional information on *BioMed Central* is available at <http://www.biomedcentral.com/>

Scholarsportal

As indicated in an earlier *Newsletter*, the *Scholarsportal* initiative is an exciting provincial collaborative project that will take shape over the next 3-4 years. Funded by the Ontario Innovation Trust, the *Scholarsportal* is intended to bring order to the growing array of scholarly digital resources by providing a common interface, creating coherence and linkages among disparate sources, and establishing a secure archival record by loading content at the University of Toronto.

In practical terms, at this stage in its development, *Scholarsportal* provides access under a single interface to the entire journal suites of Elsevier Science (including Academic Press), Kluwer, Springer and Wiley. By allowing for the simultaneous searching of the contents of roughly 3300 journals and millions of articles, *Scholarsportal* makes the research process more efficient and effective. The current version of *Scholarsportal* is available at <http://www.brocku.ca/library/databases/>. As development work accelerates over the coming months, the product will be enriched and transformed.

Library Smart Classroom Project

Plans will be finalized soon for the construction of a smart classroom on the main floor of the Library in space that faces the north Thistle corridor. The Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies will be occupying new quarters in the Library once renovations are completed, and will be sharing the classroom with the Library. Collections and Cataloguing staff who currently work in the area that is destined to become the smart classroom will be moving to the 11th floor in the near future.

Library Receives Funding for New Data Centre

The Library has received CFI funding from the South-Western Ontario Research Data Centre (SWORDC) to acquire the hardware that will enable it to establish a small data centre. The hardware will be used to support the research programs of faculty and graduate students by facilitating access to Statistics Canada data available at SWORDC. It will also allow for the storage of large data files. The data center will be established on the main floor of the Library in conjunction with renovations planned for the smart classroom project.

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