

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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Library



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The Library staff will most certainly remember the summer of 2003 as one of unprecedented activity. In addition to the major e-classroom construction project, the Library was engaged in a variety of initiatives to make the public space on the main floor more inviting and functional, upgrade computing performance, and provide additional study space for students. You can read about some of these changes in this edition of the *Library Newsletter*, and I hope that you will visit the Library soon for a firsthand look.

Our activities this past summer were not limited to renovations. Staff were also busy laying the groundwork for several new services, some of which are outlined below. The best source of current information on Library services and resources is our home page at www.brocku.ca/library/.

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E-Classroom Project

The Library's new e-classroom, located along the north Thistle corridor, is nearing completion. A photographic chronology of this exciting project is available at <http://www.brocku.ca/library/renovations.htm>. An open house is planned for later in the fall when work on the facility is finished. The Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies will be taking up residence shortly in its new suite of offices adjacent to the e-classroom.

Main Floor Makeover

The Library has made a number of significant improvements on the main floor, designed to increase the amount and variety of study space for students and to upgrade its computers. Here are some of the highlights:

- The main bank of computer workstations now features 30 thin client machines with flat panel monitors. Furniture at desk height along with comfortable chairs make it possible for students and other users to sit down while using the Library's online resources.

Several express workstations are available for those who wish to do a quick lookup or prefer to stand.

- A major network upgrade is underway, and will result in improved speed and performance when it is concluded later in September.
- A significant amount of study space on the main floor is now available to students. Three new group study rooms, equipped with computers, have been constructed in the northwest corner of the floor, and are available for booking. Several new tables have been acquired for the area adjacent to the Reserve desk to support collaborative work, and about 90 individual study carrels have been added to the southwest side of the floor for individual study. Many of the cane chairs, fixtures in the Library since it opened in the mid-sixties, have been replaced with more comfortable seating.

The Library was able to free

up space for students by reducing the size of the Documents Collection (many government publications have been integrated into the book collection; the remainder of the Collection is now housed in compact shelving on the main floor), and by relocating many low-use print indexes and abstracts.

- New books are now featured in a prominent and inviting area next to the windows, furnished with lounge chairs.

Table of Contents Service

The Library has recently introduced a new service designed to provide access to chapters in books via the online catalogue. Enhanced catalogue records permit searching of contents by title, author and keyword, and offer a display that emulates the table of contents found in printed books. Available records from 2002 on have been loaded into the database; new records will be added on a weekly basis.

For examples of table of contents records, search for the following titles in the Library catalogue: **The only efficient instrument** and **Abrupt climate change**.

Electronic Reserves

With more than 8500 journal titles and hundreds of thousands of articles available in electronic format, the Library is now in a position to offer a viable e-reserve service. Links to the full text of required course readings can be created in the Library catalogue whenever articles are available electronically, thereby providing students with continuous access both on and off campus. This new service will be particularly effective for faculty who use WebCT - by adding the appropriate links to the course home page, Library resources can be integrated with other course information. (N.B. It is important to use links provided by the Library to ensure that articles can be accessed remotely).

For more details on this important new service, see <http://www.brocku.ca/library/ereserves.htm>.

New Interlibrary Loan Service

The Ontario university libraries have collectively implemented a new interlibrary loan management system. Dubbed RACER (Rapid Access to Collections by Electronic

Requesting), the system is based on a provincial virtual union catalogue, and is intended to make it easier to locate items in other libraries and provide faster delivery time. For information on how to register and other important details, see <http://www.brocku.ca/library/racer.htm>.

Library User Survey Results

Last spring, the Library conducted an in-class survey of roughly 550 undergraduate and graduate students to learn more about how they use the Library and how well the Library is meeting their needs. The data collected from this survey will be used to help the Library determine its future service directions. The summary of the survey results is available at <http://www.brocku.ca/library/survey.htm>.

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