

CONNECTION

REGIONAL OCLC NETWORKS TO PROVIDE A NATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION TO THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY AND AMERICAN NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY!

Oxford University Press, Inc. (OUP) and the Regional Networks announced a groundbreaking collaborative alliance at the American Library Association Meeting in New Orleans. Under the alliance, the Networks will collectively aggregate the weighted users of participating institutions to effect a national subscription to the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) and American National Biography (ANB).

"Our alliance with the Networks ensures that Oxford's flagship publications will be available to a substantial population upon launch," said Edward W. Barry, President – Oxford University Press, Inc. "It also allows OUP to focus resources on content quality and editorial presentation for our online publications, ensuring that customers will enjoy the same high standards with OUP online as they have come to expect of our trademark print publications."

Over the last several months, Nylink Executive Director, Mary-Alice Lynch, has been working closely with OUP and the other regional Networks to solidify this new model of aggregated pricing. Along with Mary-Alice, Arnold Hirshon, Director of Neline, and Jim Rush, Director of Palinet, continue to work on the details of the arrangement, which will be announced this Fall for the products which will be published early in 2000.

According to Mary-Alice, "our goal in forming this new model is to realize the greatest savings in the shortest time for libraries, thus allowing libraries that may not have been able to afford the products to purchase them. With the 16 regional Networks working cooperatively as the aggregating agents using a national pricing model, options for libraries will be simplified and overhead reduced."

The Networks will provide a range of services including marketing, license negotiation and authorization, centralized billing and subscription payments, and support services. In addition, to meet the requirements of this extraordinary market base, OUP will provide a stable and usable publication environment to support an expected user population of 7-10 million. OUP intends, to the greatest extent possible, to adhere to the various guidelines of ICOLC concerning statistics, technical issues, and the purchase of e-information resources.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



*"Anyone who remains calm
in the midst of all this
confusion, simply does not
understand the situation."*

That was the opening quote of Roy Tennant (Manager of Berkeley's Digital Library and frequent author on the subject of digital libraries) in his keynote address on *Digital Library Futures: New Roles for Librarians* at the May OCLC Users Council. It struck me as an appropriate quote for our times.

Libraries have certainly gone through a series of significant changes and evolutions in the past few decades. Certainly the development of cooperative cataloging and shared resources significantly impacted and continues to impact our ability to use human resources wisely. The connectivity to the holdings in other libraries greatly enhances our ability to provide needed information to our patrons. The PC has certainly

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Librarians Gather to Learn About PCC

From left, Beacher Wiggins, Kate Harcourt, Michael Kaplan, and Glenn Patton.



On April 16th, Nylink and the Queens Borough Public Library cosponsored Cataloging Now!, an ALCTS Institute on the PCC Core Record. ALCTS, the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services, and PCC, the Program for Cooperative Cataloging, have presented the Cataloging Now! Institute in California, Massachusetts and Texas. Cataloging Now!, presented at the Queens Borough Public Library's new branch in Flushing, Queens, was the fourth presentation of the Institute nationwide. Approximately 50 attendees, from throughout the country, participated.

The Institute was anchored by Beacher Wiggins, Director for Cataloging at the Library of Congress (DLC). Other presenters included Kate Harcourt, of Columbia University (ZCU), Michael Kaplan, of Indiana University (IUL) and Glenn Patton, of OCLC.

Mr. Wiggins' presentation included an introduction to the Program for Cooperative Cataloging and the Core record, and addressed such issues as what characteristics identify libraries that should participate in BIBCO (the bibliographic record component of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging) as

contributors of Core records, and why. The current cataloging environment was appraised by Mr. Wiggins, followed by a description of the core record, and the benefits derived from using it as the cataloging standard.

In the afternoon, breakout sessions were held for each of the three intended audiences: 1) catalogers, led by Kate Harcourt; 2) technical services managers, led by Michael Kaplan; and 3) public services librarians, led by Glenn Patton. The Institute concluded with a wrap-up session which discussed why the core record is a good substitute for full level cataloging for some types of materials, such as popular fiction, how-to manuals, cookbooks, and other non-scholarly and non-technical types of monographic publications.

Participants' Reactions:

Catalogers mentioned that they felt a little tense during the Institute, since the core record standard represents a minimized approach to cataloging, one that may not be appropriate for all types of material. Catalogers were more interested in knowing what the implementation of the core record meant for their institution,

and they voiced concern about losing "value-added" records for their users.

Technical services managers, on the other hand, expressed their feelings by saying that they were already quite familiar with the PCC's "new values." They are primarily looking for help with 1) knowing how to educate catalogers who are still committed to full-level cataloging for all materials, 2) knowing how to communicate PCC values to higher levels of management, and 3) justifying participation in cooperative programs.

Public services librarians feel that it is important to keep open lines of communication with technical services colleagues so that cataloging standards and needs are balanced against increasing pressure to move items through technical services quickly, often without additional staff or resources.

The overwhelming concern with the core record was deciding what kind of access to material is lost and if it is that much faster in getting materials onto the shelves.

More information on the PCC Core Record standard is available at the Program for Cooperative Cataloging's home page, at URL <http://lcweb.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/>.

Staff Member to Present at Internet Librarian '99

Jane Neale, Information Technology Coordinator at Nylink, will be presenting *Networking Not Working?* at Internet Librarian '99 to be held in San Diego, California in November 1999. The session will provide attendees with a guide to basic troubleshooting of network and Internet slowdowns and other problems that they encounter when they use network-based resources. This session is sure to be a popular one!

WHAT'S NEW AT NYLINK.SUNY.EDU

As our new site grows larger the need for our old site lessens. Soon we will be taking the old site down and the old URL will redirect visitors to the new site.

We will be archiving the old site since it represents our initial presence on the World Wide Web.

If you have visited our new site recently you might have noticed that the Publications page has the pdf versions of all of our

most recent publications, sometimes days before they are mailed.

We will also be making the HTML versions of our publications available soon.

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**NYLINK
NEWS**

Nylink Advisory Groups Offer Advice

Nylink Advisory Groups met in Albany on April 16 to provide guidance as Nylink looks at its Planning Process for the next year. The meeting consisted of a joint session to look at Network services as a whole; and individual break-out sessions of the four groups in the afternoon: Collections and Technical Services, Information Technology [formerly Communications and Access], Reference Services, and Resource Sharing.

A list of Nylink accomplishments for the past year was circulated, which included the national aggregation for LEXIS-NEXIS Academic Universe; expansion of the Nylink Cooperative Purchasing Program; aggregated FirstSearch statewide pricing [the first statewide pricing for FirstSearch products that provided discounted prices on FirstSearch databases for all libraries in the state!]; access options/clean-up with a plan for assisting in the migration of remaining member libraries to OCLC's family of TCP/IP access options; new Web site design and navigation to reflect our new name; increased training opportunities for members; and FirstSearch overview and update programs and Customized ILL presentations throughout New York.

We turned to our Advisory Group members for feedback on what to work on in the future, and suggestions for services. Ideas offered included adding features to our Web site, including programs and significant findings, minutes to meetings and archiving; providing an electronic discussion list, to be used for publication notifications and announcements;

and sharing more information with members about what we have done for them and to show the cost-savings we provide. Reinforce the positive was a strong message!

The **Collections and Technical Services Advisory Group** discussed the pros and cons of cataloging fixed fee pricing; Network and member participation in CORC (Cooperative Online Resource Catalog), an OCLC pilot project that uses a web-based cataloging toolkit to describe internet resources using either the MARC format or Dublin Core descriptors; and PCC Core Records. Group members also provided input on the Nylink Training Program, including class descriptions and the curriculum in general.

The Communications and Access Group, reflecting the OCLC change, changed to the **Information Technology Group**, and will broaden and expand its role. Topics discussed were investigating software; print management; digitizing collections; security software available and what libraries are doing about it; video and audio: how libraries deal with dvd formats; and training in areas of technology, especially in the topics above.

The **Reference Services Advisory Group** began with a general discussion of recent and upcoming changes in reference services offered through Nylink, particularly OCLC FirstSearch and Electronic Collections Online, and LEXIS-NEXIS Academic Universe. Also discussed was access and pricing for full-text, and ideas for Nylink Member Training. It was suggested that Nylink offer training in the use of user statistics for FirstSearch and other reference products. Group members agreed that their membership in Nylink and OCLC was very valuable. Members felt that Nylink adds value to libraries beyond discount pricing and other financial benefits.

The **Resource Sharing Services Advisory Group** discussed its role as a "Think Tank" reflecting the concerns of ILL Librarians. It should better communicate activities/issues both from and to Nylink, and be more project oriented. The group discussed Net Lenders; the possibility of state compensation for net lenders; a decision to let the "marketplace" regulate institutions in "lower case" (non-providers); and a decision not to expand staff and energy into policing non-providers.

Nylink Assists in Training WLN Library

When WLN merged with OCLC last winter, one of the big tasks facing WLN staff was training staff at WLN libraries to use OCLC.

Two Nylink staff members, Lauren Pinsley and Jon Penn, recently had the opportunity to assist WLN staff in providing OCLC training at the University of Montana. At WLN's invitation, Jon and Lauren traveled to Missoula, Montana where they trained approximately 30 staff on OCLC searching, cataloging and inter-library loan.

Although WLN has been their primary system for both cataloging and ILL, staff at the University of Montana's Mansfield Library have used OCLC for approximately two years. Lauren introduced technical services staff to the Cataloging MicroEnhancer as an online and offline cataloging environment. They were pleased and excited by CatME's user-friendly interface and workflow friendly features. The ILL staff were also very receptive to OCLC.

"The ILL staff at the University of Montana were very sophisticated in their use of OCLC ILL," said Jon Penn. "They had a good understanding of the basic ILL cycle, and were using custom holdings, multiple constant data, and ILL Fee Management."



Nylink
Welcomes
SUNY
Student
Assistants



Ann Gunning,
top, and
Kathleen Snow.



Ann Gunning and Kathleen Snow began working at Nylink early this summer as student assistants.

Ann is enrolled in the M.L.S. program at SUNY Albany's School of Information Science and Policy, and has been assisting Nylink librarians in an effort to further organize Network functions and services. Kathleen helps support the Nylink staff with daily office tasks and answering phones.

Ann came to librarianship after working with TV Data, an information products company based in Glens Falls. "The seed [of interest in librarianship] was planted," as Ann said, while working in the Benjamin F. Feinberg Library at SUNY Plattsburgh while she was an undergraduate. She looks forward to completing her degree this December.

Kathleen will be a sophomore at SUNY Plattsburgh this Fall where she is working on her degree in Mass Media Communications. She hopes to put her degree toward her aspirations of becoming an actress.

NYLINK NEWS

Looking Ahead....

- **September 24:** LAMA (Library Administration & Management Association, a division of ALA) *Institute of the Year: Libraries in the Digital Age: Visions for the Future and Road Maps for Change*, Albany area. [Exact location TBA]
- **September 26-28:** Nylink Council Retreat
- **October 4-6:** *Continuity and Innovation in Resource Sharing: an OCLC Institute*, Poughkeepsie, NY. Co-Sponsored by Nylink and Nelinet
- **October 15:** Nylink Information Showcase, Madison Square Garden Theatre, New York, New York
- **October 27-30:** New York Library Association [NYLA], Buffalo, Nylink staff will be presenting and Nylink will have a booth
- **November 19:** Nylink Annual Meeting, Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown

Information about these programs will be posted on our Web site at <http://nylink.suny.edu>, and announced in our publications. Hope to see you there!

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Nylink Welcomes a New Training Site in NYC

Since 1993, Nylink (formerly the SUNY/OCLC Network) has offered training to its New York City area members at the SUNY College of Optometry. Due to increased in-house demand for computer lab time and an upcoming move to a new location, the College of Optometry has decided to suspend hosting Nylink training. We are very grateful for the training space and the assistance that SUNY Optometry Kohn Library staff (especially Claudia Perry, Marc Seybold and Brenda Oakley) have given us over the years!

Beginning in July, Nylink has been offering training in New York City at a new location: **The CUNY Office of Instructional Technology Open Systems Center at 555 W. 57th Street**. CUNY has agreed to host all of our training this Fall, and we are looking forward to this new partnership. Thank you CUNY Office of Instructional Technology!

Thanks also go to our additional training sites:

- Goethe-Institut New York (NYC)
- Nassau Library System (Uniondale)
- Rochester Regional Library Council
- Saint John's University (Queens, NYC)
- Southeastern New York Library Resources Council (Highland)
- SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (Syracuse)
- SUNY College at Potsdam
- SUNY Training Center (Syracuse)
- Western New York Library Resources Council (Buffalo)

Nylink welcomes the opportunity to deliver training across New York State. We received an enthusiastic response to our recent call for volunteer host sites. If you are interested in having your institution host Nylink training, please contact Lauren Pinsley, at 800 345-3353 or 518 443-5444 or via e-mail at pinsleyl@nylink.suny.edu.



Nylink Holds Interlibrary Loan Conference

On May 21, more than ninety-five staff from Nylink libraries assembled in Syracuse for the conference *New Models of Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing*. This conference examined how the ILL model is changing and provided a look at how libraries are using automation to effectively meet the challenges facing ILL.

The speakers included Tom Delaney, Interlibrary Loan Coordinator at Colorado State University; Harry Kriz, Assistant to the Dean of Libraries for Special Projects and Head of Interlibrary Loan at Virginia Tech. University; and Collette Mak, Resource Sharing Product Manager at OCLC, Inc.

In his presentation, *Virtual ILL in a Hard Copy World*, Mr. Delaney explained how a flood in the summer of 1997 caused extensive damage to the library's collections. This natural disaster put unprecedented pressure on ILL, but also provided a unique opportunity to evaluate old ILL procedures and eliminate many labor-intensive practices. In the two years since the flood, ILL borrowing at CSU has gone through the roof. In order to meet this increased demand, a number of tools, techniques, and strategies have been implemented. Mr. Delaney provided some valuable insights into what might be beneficial for other ILL departments as they increase the use of automation and implement new technologies.

Mr. Kriz spoke on the topic *Interlibrary Loan: A Value-Added Library Strategic Service*. He holds the view that in order to remain competitive, libraries must design their services to suit their customers. Virginia Tech's ILL service, known as ILLiad, was designed with the user in mind. Mr. Kriz explained how ILLiad contributes directly to customer success, while at the same time enabling librarians to better understand the nature of customer needs and desires.

Collette Mak's presentation was titled *OCLC ILL - Twenty Years of Unexpected Consequences*. Ms. Mak surveyed the growth of OCLC ILL since its beginnings in 1979 and reviewed many of the improvements that we all take for granted today. Clearly, OCLC ILL has been in a constant state of evolution. Ms. Mak suggested that the revolution created by OCLC ILL is continuing and provided a glimpse of where OCLC may be headed.

Please visit the Nylink Web site for copies of the presentations and photos at <http://nylink.suny.edu>.



Above (from left to right): Dorcas McDonald, Head of Interlibrary Loan at Syracuse University, and Jon Penn, Senior Network Liaison Officer at Nylink.

Below (from left to right): Tom Delaney, Interlibrary Loan Coordinator at Colorado State University, Harry Kriz, Assistant to the Dean of Libraries for Special Projects and Head of Interlibrary Loan at Virginia Tech. University, and Collette Mak, Resource Sharing Product Manager at OCLC.



Searching and Researching in the Web Environment: Looking Toward the Millenium



The Web and its use a reference/research tool was the theme of Nylink's Reference Conference which was held at The Donnell Library Center in New York City on June 4th. The conference's four speakers are pictured above: (from left to right): Marylaine Block, Associate Director for Public Services, St. Ambrose University; Elizabeth Liddy, President/CEO, Textwise, Syracuse, NY; Susan Feldman, Datasearch, Ithaca, NY; and Reva Basch, Aubergine Information Services, The Sea Ranch, CA.

Nylink Council Roster Changes

The Spring 1999 issue of *Nylink Connection* provided a list of Nylink Council representatives. The Independent Higher Education category should also have included Patricia Pitkin, Director of Library Services at the Rochester Institute of Technology, who is entering her second year as a Nylink representative. Patricia's email address is papwml@rit.edu.

Since his election to the Independent Higher Education category of Nylink Council, Patrick Callahan has accepted the position of Director of the Library at SUNY Purchase, so is ineligible to serve in this capacity. Congratulations to Patrick on his new position!

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Training Calendar Offers New, Revised Classes!

Nylink provides training on OCLC related topics as well as a range of training on technology and Internet related topics. The July to December training calendar [online at <http://nylink.suny.edu>] includes several new or greatly revised classes:

- Let's Be Careful Out There! An Introduction to Public Access Workstation Security
- Networking 101
- Windows: Tips & Tricks
- Building an Electronic Reference Collection of Web Resources
- Consumer Health Resources on the Web
- Search Engine Savvy
- Using the Web as a Research Tool
- The New Firstsearch
- The New Firstsearch: Administrative Module
- HTML: a Beginner's Guide; Intermediate HTML: The Next Step [REVISIONS]
- Advanced HTML: Formatting and Graphics
- Interactive Web Site Essentials
- OCLC ILL Direct Request: Letting the Patron (and the System) Do More of the Work
- OCLC ILL Solutions: Using OCLC ILL Tools to Save Time, Money, and Labor
- Cataloging Options with OCLC
- Copy Cataloging Techniques; and Original Cataloging Techniques [REVISIONS]
- Serials Format [REVISION]

See below for a preview of some of the new offerings. Complete course descriptions and pre-requisites are available in our Training Calendar, and on our Web site at <http://nylink.suny.edu>. Sign up now before classes fill up!

New HTML Classes

With the new Training Calendar, Nylink has updated and expanded its HTML curriculum, adding two new classes and revising the three existing classes.

"HTML: A Jumpstart" has been renamed "HTML: A Beginner's Guide" and has been updated to reflect changes in the HTML specification. Intermediate HTML has also been updated and will now include a section on using frames in Web pages. "Web Design for Libraries" has been re-written to include more hands-on exercises.

New classes include "Advanced HTML: Formatting and Graphics" which will cover Cascading Style Sheets, fonts, color, graphics, and image maps, and "Interactive Web Site Essentials" which will include forms, an introduction to JavaScript, and other dynamic elements of Web site creation.

OCLC ILL Direct Request: Letting the Patron (and the System) Do More of the Work

ILL Direct Request is a new feature of OCLC ILL that facilitates unmediated interlibrary loan. With Direct Request, ILL requests are created from an external source, such as FirstSearch, and then sent to the OCLC Interlibrary Loan service. Online profiles (filters) let you control the process and decide which requests are sent directly to potential lenders and which requests are sent to your review file. This hands-on workshop will provide you with knowledge you can use to begin using ILL Direct Request from FirstSearch.

OCLC ILL Solutions: Using OCLC ILL Tools to Save Time, Money and Labor

In the last several years, numerous enhancements and features have been added to OCLC Interlibrary loan. When exploited fully, these enhancements improve productivity and eliminate some of the more labor-intensive procedures. This on-line demo and discussion will examine how you can use some existing OCLC ILL features

to work more efficiently. Information will be provided on IFM, Custom Holdings, ILL Direct Request, ILL ME, Passport Macros for ILL, Full Text Option, Reasons for No, and New FirstSearch and ILL.

Windows Tips & Tricks

Want to optimize the Windows skills you already have by learning new ways to make Windows work for you? Attendees at this workshop will learn about successful file management, personalizing the Windows desktop, Windows keyboard and other shortcuts, and other tips and tricks.

Let's Be Careful Out There!: an Introduction to Public Access Workstation Security

Participants in this workshop will learn about PC security in two parts. Part I will cover security planning, risk assessment, developing and implementing a security policy. Part II will look at specific security threats to hardware and software, and will also look at ways to combat those security threats. We will look at products such as Fortres, Winselect Ikiosk, Everybody's Menu Builder, virus software, Centurion's HardGuard, and possibly others, as we learn to make public access PCs safer from potential threats.

Networking 101

Do you want to know more about networking? Participants in this workshop will learn about some basic networking concepts and definitions, pick up some simple network/Internet troubleshooting skills, and learn some of the terminology needed to talk about connectivity problems with technical staff. Topics to be covered will include networking hardware, TCP/IP protocol, IP addressing, and DNS as well as some simple diagnostic tools. This class is geared toward library staff who depend on computer networks and who need to communicate with information technology staff.

See new FirstSearch course descriptions on page 8



Nylink Member Librarians Provide Guidance to OCLC

Jennifer Morris, Associate Librarian at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, and Nylink Council Member, has been elected to serve on the OCLC Users Council Executive Committee. By being part of the Executive Committee, she hopes to be a more effective Users Council delegate.

In addition to the five Users Council delegates, the Executive Committee also includes Jay Jordan OCLC CEO and President of OCLC, Phyllis Spies, Vice President of OCLC's Sales and International Division, and other OCLC senior executives. Jennifer explains, "This is a great opportunity to express my ideas and concerns directly to OCLC top management. I want to provide the perspective of smaller OCLC members, public libraries as well as academic. And I want to focus on the membership aspect of OCLC – what it means to be in a member relationship rather than in a vendor-customer relationship." Congratulations to Jennifer, who will make a real contribution to the Committee.

In conjunction with Users Council, OCLC relies on its User Groups and Advisory Committees for guidance. These groups provide current information on activities pertaining to particular library types or products. Librarians from Nylink institutions currently serving on User Groups are Cerise Oberman, Dean of the Benjamin R. Feinberg Library at Plattsburgh State University of New York, who serves on the Advisory Committee on College and University Libraries (ACCUL) [Term ends 6/30/00]; and Gary Strong, Director, Queens Borough Public Library, who serves on the Advisory Committee on Public Libraries (ACPL). [Term ends 06/30/01]

Mary-Alice Lynch Newly Elected RONDAC Chair-Elect

Mary-Alice Lynch, Executive Director of Nylink, was elected Chair-elect of RONDAC at its May meeting. RONDAC, the Regional OCLC Network Directors Advisory Committee, is composed of the Directors of the 16 regional OCLC-affiliated Networks across the country, and meets with top OCLC management to offer advice on OCLC products and services. Along with OCLC Users Council and Advisory Committees, RONDAC is another way OCLC gathers input from its broad constituency. Mary-Alice has served on the Executive Council for the past year, and has served on several RONDAC committees, including the OCLC Distance Learning Committee and the OCLC Institute Advisory Committee. Mary-Alice "looks forward to my term as Chair-elect and chair of RONDAC so that I can be in a position to help guide OCLC to be the most responsive membership organization possible, and so that it continues to meet Nylink's members' needs in the future."



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changed how we do our daily work. (I smile now when I think of my initial reaction to my first Windows-based PC. Why would you ever need to have multiple windows open at the same time? Why not just do one job and then move on to the next? I sometimes long for those linear days before multitasking was such an intrinsic part of our lives!) The growing sophistication of library management systems has vastly increased access and provides us with the means to manage our libraries more effectively than we could have even a decade ago. But nothing has been as transformational as the impact of the Internet.

The impact of the Internet on libraries is so profound because it not only has provided the means for an explosion of digital content, but it has had a societal impact that drastically changes users' expectations concerning their access to information. The Internet has eliminated the barriers of space and time.

One of the phenomenons of this new environment is the concept of "good enough." Information on the Internet has become the information of first and often last resort. According to ARL statistics, reference questions in libraries are on the decline. As librarians, we are cognizant of the shortcomings of the "good enough" approach. The appropriateness, reliability and authenticity

of information is no longer a given as it was in the holdings in libraries in the non-digital age.

Internet users are, however, increasingly frustrated. They are bombarded daily by low quality information and advertising. This provides a great opportunity for librarians to use their traditional expertise in managing information in this new environment.

The challenge for librarians is to guide users through this maze to the resources they need, integrate access to disparate resources, (print and digital), provide ways to filter, categorize, rank and sort results, provide options to customize interfaces, increase ways to help remote users, and make print resources more desirable (e.g. digitize table of contents, indexes?).

Only four short years ago the word "yahoo" conjured up a vision of a boisterous cheer. That is undoubtedly not what comes first to mind today. The next four years will see the continued transformational effects of the Internet on libraries. There will be an inevitable shakeout of content providers, a true integration and enhancement of resources, and an opportunity for libraries to meet information needs in ways we could not have imagined only a few years ago. The spirit of collaboration that is intrinsic in our profession will be needed more than ever to help us to make sense of all this "confusion."

Mary-Alice Lynch
Executive Director

New FirstSearch Classes

FirstSearch will be undergoing a number of changes in the next few months, and Nylink has developed two new classes to help librarians prepare for the changes to come. Whether you are a novice or an experienced FirstSearch user, these classes can help you use the service more efficiently and effectively.

The introductory FirstSearch class, now titled "The New FirstSearch," has been completely redesigned and will offer an overview of the new interface, along with instruction in the many enhanced searching features. This hands-on workshop will cover basic searching techniques, cross-database searching, using the online thesauri, advanced and expert searching techniques, sorting and displaying search results, as well as full-text document delivery options.

The all-new "FirstSearch Administrative Module" class will give FirstSearch administrators the opportunity to learn how to use the many new features of the new Web-based Administrative Module and, as time permits, one-on-one help in configuring their own account's Administrative Module.

Both classes will be held at each Nylink training site throughout New York State in the coming months, and more dates and sites will be added as demand warrants. For information on currently scheduled classes, see the Nylink training calendar or visit the Nylink Web site at <http://nylink.suny.edu>. Watch for announcements of mid-calendar additions on the Web site and in upcoming Nylink publications, including *Nylink Connection* and *Status Line*.



FirstSearch Statewide Aggregation

For the second year in a row, Nylink has aggregated FirstSearch orders across New York State to bring Nylink libraries the lowest possible prices on FirstSearch packages, add-on subscription databases, and block searches.

The discount level for subscription packages reached the 32% level, and per-search prices also remained low, with Nylink members paying as much as 26 percent less than national list prices.

While there were no aggregated discounts for add-on databases this year, Nylink libraries generally paid less than national list prices for those databases.

Although the aggregation period has ended, these prices will remain in effect until June 30, 2000. If you would like more information on FirstSearch subscription packages, add-on subscription databases, or block searches, contact Joe Ceterski at 1-800-342-3353.

Thank you for your orders!

Members top last year's LEXIS-NEXIS aggregation!!

A special thanks to our academic members who renewed, or joined, the national aggregation for the LEXIS-NEXIS Academic Universe database, designed for academic institutions. This year, the national combined FTE was 5 million, up from 3.7 million last year. The Nylink aggregation reached 472,427, up from 400,000 last year! As a result the price per FTE is \$1.57.

If you are an academic institution who missed out on this, it's

not too late! Your institution may still sign up any time this year to receive the discounted cost prorated according to the length of the subscription. Interested? Call Nancy Steele or Joe Ceterski at the Network [800-342-3353].

PBS VIDEOdatabase available to members

Through arrangements with PBS, Nylink is currently offering the PBS VIDEOdatabase of America's History and Culture, to Nylink full members at a discount. Non-members can take advantage of this rate by joining Nylink's Co-operative Purchasing Program. When ordering through Nylink, members receive a 5 percent discount off the annual subscription price of \$3,500 for the first year and \$3,000 each year hereafter.

The database covers the entire history of America, and includes a set of printed curriculum materials and new video volumes and curriculum materials added periodically at no increase in cost. Intended for use by libraries of varying types, it is currently in use at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. PBS generously offered HVCC a two-year trial of its video database for use in its Instructional Media Center, a 5,000 title media collection, which can be used in the day-to-day instructional process at HVCC through faculty's use of the programs in the classroom or as assignments on reserve. Hudson Valley Community College has made the database available to its faculty for



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Welcome!!

The NYSafety Resource Center, in Albany, has become a Nylink member. Their OCLC symbol is SIZ, and the Director and full-time librarian is Ronald Joe. The Center is organizing and making available a body of materials that have been previously inaccessible, including reference manuals, training courses, handouts, and brochures, related to occupational health and safety [OSH] information. The material will be accessible on their WEBPAC, with plans for the WEBPAC to become a union catalog for the OSH community. Additionally, there will be access to online full-text materials. The University at Albany School of Public Health Continuing Education Program is the contractor for the NYS Department of Labor Hazard Abatement for this project. The Web site www.nysafety.org will be operational by November 1999.

Librarian from New York President-Elect of ALA

Nancy Kranich, Associate Dean at New York University's Bobst Library, has been elected president of the American Library Association (ALA) for the 2000-2001 term. As president of ALA, Kranich will be the Chief Elected Officer for the oldest and largest library organization in the world. ALA has a membership of nearly 57,000 librarians and library supporters.

Kranich will serve as President-Elect for 1999-2000 and will assume the presidency in July of 2000 at the end of the ALA Conference in Chicago. She will serve a one-year term as president. "I am thrilled to lead ALA into the 21st century," Kranich said. "Now more than ever we face serious

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Wildlife Conservation Society's Backlog Added to WorldCat



The OCLC TechPro service recently eliminated the catalog backlog of the Wildlife Conservation Society [<http://www.wcs.org>], located at the Bronx Zoo. The Society became a full OCLC cataloging member through Nylink last year. Steven Johnson, librarian at WCS, got started with TechPro in part because of the backlog, which grew due to other projects in a one-person library. To reduce the backlog WCS sent 125 recent books to Techpro to get started.

"Backlog aside, however, TechPro represented a way to increase my cataloging output on an ongoing basis. By sending 10 to 15 titles to TechPro each month, I ensure that at least that level of cataloging is maintained regardless of other activities which may claim my time," Mr. Johnson explained.

OCLC's TechPro service cataloged the books, added WCS records to WorldCat and delivered the books, and labels, to the Society. The collection included books on wildlife conservation, wildlife biology, marine science and related subjects.

Mr. Johnson stated, "Having TechPro available means that I can hand-off difficult original cataloging, such as a recent title by an author from Myanmar. More typically, using TechPro on an ongoing basis means that I can limit my own cataloging to rush books and titles older than the post-1988 titles specified in the contract with TechPro. I find OCLC services, obtained through Nylink, a cost-effective way to make the most of my professional time, and to participate in resource sharing with other OCLC members."

If your library needs cataloging assistance, OCLC's TechPro service offers off-site, short- and long-term cataloging and physical processing for materials in all formats and many languages. The service is available to members and non-members. If you have a special project in mind, OCLC will provide you with a free, no-obligation custom price quotation for TechPro services. For more information about TechPro, see the OCLC Web site at <http://www.oclc.org/oclc/promo/6171tech/6171tech.htm>, or call Nylink at 800-342-3353.

New York Public Library Receives More Than \$1 Million in Grants

The New York Public Library has received two grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) totaling more than \$1 million to preserve rare and at-risk materials through microfilming and physical preservation. Funding will cover the preservation of materials published between 1800 and 1950 from the Latin American Collection, including works on South America, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean.

A two-year project to microfilm materials from NYPL's Latin America collection, continuing the work accomplished by five previous projects funded by NEH since 1989, will be funded by \$944,571. NEH also granted \$133,440 to fund a two-year project to catalog, preserve, and enhance access to National Civic Federation records, a New York-based patriotic think tank operating from 1876-1949, mostly from the 1900-1930 time period. The brittle, poor-quality paper will be removed from its current acidic containers and microfilmed. [*Library Hotline*, Volume XXVIII, No. 15]



The National Baseball Hall of Fame Library. *Photo courtesy of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.*

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME LIBRARY

Who do you call when you need the top hitter of 1944? The National Baseball Hall of Fame, in Cooperstown, of course. This is one of the easier questions library staff members might encounter while handling questions from approximately 10,000 researchers on-site in an average year, topped with phone, fax, and letter requests, totaling about 65,000 inquires annually.

The questions come from everyone – from 3rd graders finishing a homework project to PhD students working on their dissertations. The Hall of Fame's library receives calls from all levels of the media, book authors, publishers and documentary film crews. In the past year the staff has dealt with the White House, the US Supreme Court, several US Congressional offices, the Jeopardy TV show, the X-Files and Star

Trek: Deep Space Nine. They even receive calls from bartenders all the time to help settle a bar bet between patrons! As Jim Gates, Library Director, appropriately puts it, "You never know who is going to be on the other end when the phone rings."

The National Baseball Hall of Fame has been cataloging on OCLC for about a year. They wanted to contribute their records to WorldCat and be able to have access to a large database to help catalog their collection, and also to insure that their records would be available to the greatest number of libraries. Although the Hall of Fame operates as a research level library, they do have a collection that is very popular with those who do not often use that level of a collection. OCLC's wide range of members was an important consideration in deciding to become a member.

The library's collection, which includes 2.6 million items, includes materials in all formats, ranging from the early 19th century up to the present day. Formats include photographs of players, teams and stadiums; biographical files on every person who has played in the Major Leagues; manuscript collections, letters, contracts and financial records; baseball publications (books, magazines, sheet music, etc.); scrapbooks and home movies; radio and television broadcasts; and interviews and oral histories. Additionally, the library houses thousands of hours of moving image and sound recordings.

In addition to cataloging all types of materials, this collection poses special challenges for cataloging. The most pressing challenge relates to the fact that the vast majority of the collection is



The opening of Yankee Stadium in 1923. *Photo courtesy of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.*

unique and must be originally cataloged, which is very time-consuming. Also, due to the fact that the entire collection relates to one topic – baseball – library staff have had to expand the LC subject headings to meet the search needs of its patrons. There are also special circumstances surrounding such tasks as ILL, storage and preservation.

Handling these multiple, and exciting tasks is a staff of 17.5 FTE working in the library, which is broken into four departments: Research; Photo; Technical Services; and Film, Video, and Recorded Sound. Of the staff,

seven are professionals. Like any other library, the staff looks for professional training appropriate to the needs of the collection. An expertise in baseball is not required, although it does help if you are a fan of the game.

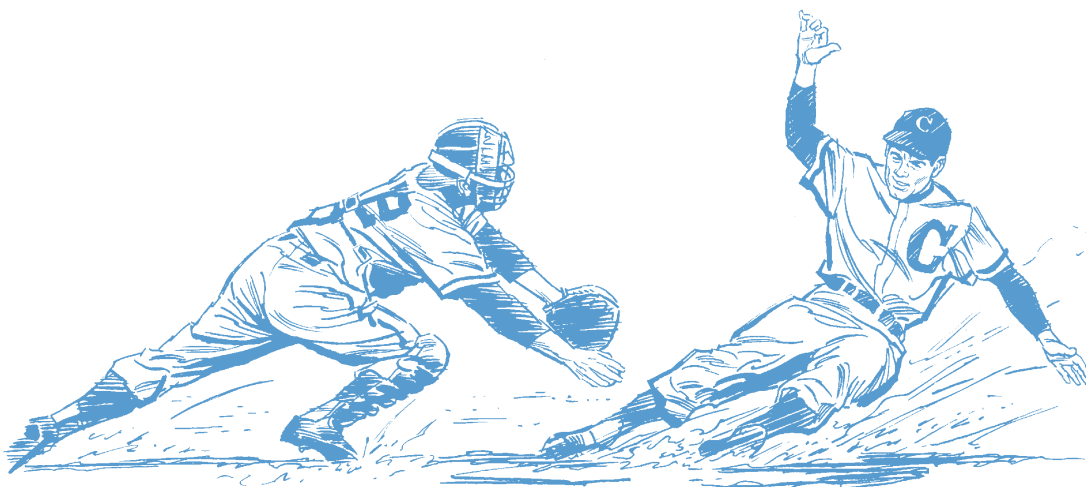
Jim Gates, Library Director, explained that there seems to be a new story every day: “Let’s face it, it’s fun to answer baseball questions particularly if it’s the White House calling. I could probably come up with a hundred stories about people using the collection. More than once we have had a patron cry when they discover we have an old photo of a family

member and that a copy can be obtained for them. On days like that you go home with a big smile on your face.”

The National Baseball Hall of Fame is located in the center of the state in the beautiful setting of Cooperstown.

For more information, and directions to the Hall of Fame and its Library, visit them on the Web at <http://www.baseballhalloffame.org/index.htm>.

Thanks to James L. Gates, Library Director, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc., for contributing to this article.

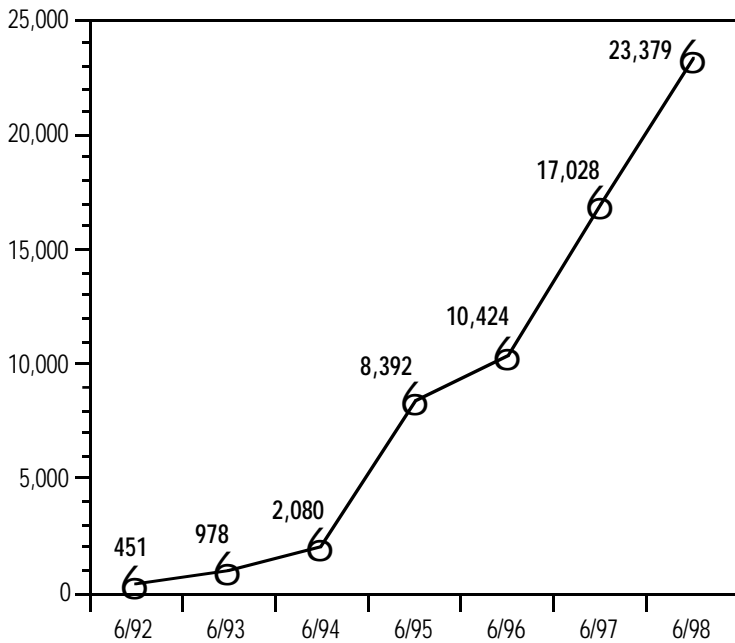


Continued from page 8

course content, and the database can be used to search the almost 300 hours of PBS videos available in the library by topic area.

You are invited to view the PBS VIDEOdatabase online at <http://pbsvideodb.pbs.org/guest> on the Web. If you have questions or are interested in ordering this extensive resource, please call Mr. Ed Werner at PBS at (800) 233-2563, ext. 1026.

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REGIONAL OCLC NETWORKS ...

Continued from page 1

Subscribing institutions will obtain significant savings through the national aggregation made possible through this arrangement. Although institutions can subscribe directly to OUP, they will not be eligible for the cost-savings available through the national subscription.

Further details and developments will be announced this Fall. For more information about the products that will be available, visit <http://www.oed.com> and <http://anb.org> on the Web. The Oxford University Press Web site is <http://www.oup.com>.

Congratulations to Mary-Alice and other Network directors in making this alliance a success!

Continued from page 9

threats to public access and the free flow of ideas. As ALA president I will focus my efforts to ensure that we have the will – and the means – to act decisively to fight for First Amendment and fair use rights.

“I look forward to working together with ALA members, our chapters, library users and supporters to influence funding and public policy and to galvanize public support for libraries and librarianship.”

Kranich is chair of ALA’s Committee on Legislation and a former member of the ALA Executive Board and Council. She speaks and writes frequently on topics related to digital libraries, the Internet, freedom of information, government information and telecommunications policy, fees for library service, evaluation of library services and legislative action for librarians.

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