

ELECTRONIC JOURNALS - NOT JUST "ON THE WEB"....

In a paper documenting research aimed at examining the uptake of electronic resources assembled for the HE community by JISC and others, an academic at a midlands university was quoted as asking... "what have electronic journals got to do with the Library – they're on the Web!" For academic librarians, it's rather alarming, though not perhaps altogether surprising, that colleagues fail to realise that the e-journals available to them don't just appear on the web by magic. It's to help to dispel this misunderstanding that we arranged for Portsmouth users of the Science Direct e-journal service to be greeted with the legend 'Brought to you by the University of Portsmouth Library'.

So how do e-journals come to be available to you, and why do you have access to the ones you do and not to others? To give a full answer would involve a great deal of complicated explanation since the economics and organisation of the e-journal market is complex, fast-changing and in many ways unsatisfactory. Reducing it to the bare essentials, we (the University Library) provide our users with access to e-journals by one of the following routes:

- Via a subscription to the print version which also entitles us to access the electronic.
- Via a deal concluded with the publisher.
- Because the e-journal is freely available to all (this category is very small).

Those journals which we have by virtue of print subscriptions are mostly accessed via Ebsco Online – largely because Ebsco is our subscription agent for print titles. For various reasons, however, there are other titles accessible via other so-called 'aggregators'. All of these journals are listed in our online catalogue and also in the Portia Web site, with live links from each to the journal itself.

What about the deals? Offers are made to the academic community via a number of routes. Usually the response time is short, which means we are unable to consult as widely as we would wish before making a decision. Also the deals are complex and often involve conditions, particularly a stipulation that print subscriptions must be maintained. This causes difficulties and we will need to keep our funding arrangements under review as the e-future unfolds. At present we have, or are about to conclude, deals with a number of major publishers, though each deal is slightly different.

Elsevier (Science Direct). The previous deal, which gave us access to most of Elsevier's

journals, came to an end in December 2001. A new contract has been signed for a further two years, with the difference that this time the contract is for electronic access only. We believe this is the way the future lies but are regarding this as a trial to assess user reaction to the loss of print versions.

Blackwell Publishing. Following a recent merger between Blackwell Science, Blackwell Publishers and Munksgaard, the new company, 'Blackwell Publishing' is offering a variety of deals on its combined portfolio of 594 journals and the University Library has opted to subscribe to the full service, retaining existing print subscriptions.

Wiley Interscience. As with Blackwell, free access to subscribed titles will shortly come to an end. The Library intends to sign a deal which will enable us to retain electronic access to these titles (but not the full Wiley range).

MCB (Emerald full-text). Provides 130 journals, mainly in the field of business management and property.

Wiley and Blackwell titles will be hosted by the Ebsco site, whilst Emerald and Science Direct journals are contained within the publishers' own sites. In all cases no password is needed to access the journals from within the University. For external access, all but Science Direct use the Athens authentication service, whilst Science Direct uses its own registration system for off-campus access. Contact your subject librarian or the General Enquiries desk for details. What about Ingenta, some of you may ask – we know that many of you are familiar with Ingenta through using the BIDS service to access citation indexes. Ingenta is neither a publisher nor a subscription agent, but is a commercial company which attempts to gather together journals from a range of publishers and make these available on their web site – free to users who are entitled to use them, but on payment to others. The trouble is that Ingenta's records as to what we subscribe to seem to be rather inaccurate and we have had a number of reports of users being asked for payment to access journals which we are actually entitled to free of charge. For this reason we don't advise people to use Ingenta to access our e-journals.

So what is the best way to access the journals? Essentially the choice is via the publishers' or aggregator's web sites, or via our catalogue and web site. The advantages and disadvantages of each are as follows:

VIA PUBLISHER/AGGREGATOR.

Advantages: list all titles available from individual publishers; have a search facility enabling you to search the contents of the available journals.

Disadvantages: You will need to search a number of sites to fully cover our available titles; aggregators may not have accurate records about our entitlements.

VIA LIBRARY CATALOGUE/PORTIA.

Advantages: every title listed is available free of charge; listings by subject area in the subject directory of Portia.

Disadvantages: no facility to search journal content; not all titles from subscribed deals are catalogued.

Of course, the electronic resources available via Portia extend far beyond electronic journals.

The trouble is, we don't know how much they're used – or useful. The research I mentioned at the beginning found that most students and many staff simply use a Google search to try to find electronic resources – but we also know that 85% of Web resource are not found by search engines. We want as many people as possible to know what we have to offer, and we want to organise our resources as helpfully as possible and integrate them as closely as possible with the increasing development of e-learning. To this end, there will be a series of presentations about electronic information resources through-out semester 2, hopefully involving every department. If you would like to arrange a session for your department, please contact Ian Mayfield or your subject librarian.

URLs: Library catalogue
<http://lib.port.ac.uk/>

Portia:
<http://www.lib.port.ac.uk/>

EBSCO: <http://www-uk.ebsco.com/online/>

Science Direct:
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/>

Emerald:
<http://pinkerton.anbar.com/>
full text/index.htm

By Ian Mayfield, Associate University Librarian (Electronic Services) (Ext. 3239) or email: ian.mayfield@port.ac.uk

LIBRARY TRIPS 2001

Visits to other libraries by staff from the University Library have become a regular feature of the long months of the summer vacation. Aimed at discovering the variety of different library services and collections available, they provide us with useful information which we can then pass on to our users. The summer of 2001 was no exception, and an assortment of visits were arranged. What follow are brief descriptions of some of last summer's highlights.

West Dean College near Chichester runs a selection of courses on traditional crafts, and their small, specialist library supports these with books, folios and the like. The group who visited were shown around, and given a brief talk on the history of the College and its library, which is housed in a beautiful and atmospheric building. A look behind the scenes at the book conservation department was as thought provoking as it was inspiring, while the brief exploration of the famous grounds provided a relaxing end to the trip.

By contrast, the British Library Newspaper Archive at Colindale in London is a vast, awe-inspiring collection which is housed in a complex, semi-modern building with a network of storage rooms and compact rolling shelves. Based largely on legal deposit, this collection dates back to the early seventeenth century and contains copies on paper and microfiche, of every newspaper and magazine published in the UK. Donations and a small number of subscriptions make up the rest of the stock, which for the most part contains at least two publications from each country in the world (to ensure no political bias). The visiting group on this occasion were allowed a privileged look through the stacks, which are usually closed to the public and accessed only through requests from the reading room. They were also shown the binding and conservation department, which like West Dean was well equipped and caused envy among those staff from Portsmouth whose jobs contain elements of mending.

Carried back to Portsmouth from this visit were a wealth of leaflets and information on the services and provision for access to the collection, which the group felt they should advertise to users at the University as a valuable resource, especially the website and photocopy service. Nearby Highgate Cemetery provided a stop-off en-route back to Portsmouth on this occasion, with enough time for a guided tour and stroll (camera in hand) through the two halves of this dramatic monument to the Victorian obsession with death.

The Zoological Society of London's Library is based in Regent's Park, a short walk from the famous Zoo. Primarily a research library, it supports the work of the Zoo by



providing information to staff and students in the field. The visiting group on this occasion were given talks by several members of staff which informed on the history of the Society, the development of the Zoo and parallel development of the Library, and shown some of the more notable items in the collection, including old photographs of the Zoo and extremely valuable folios of work by animal artists including Edward Lear. With a large collection of 200,000 books and over 5,000 journal subscriptions, this library is open to the public for reference purposes on payment of a small daily membership fee.

Of course, the group couldn't leave without paying a visit to the Zoo to see the work that the library supports, and spent an enjoyable couple of hours wandering

among the enclosures before heading home.

Our thanks to all the libraries which received the groups last year.

For more information, visit the websites:

West Dean College:
<http://www.westdean.org.uk>

British Library: <http://www.bl.uk>

Friends of Highgate Cemetery:
<http://www.highgate-cemetery.org>

Zoological Society:
<http://www.zsl.org>

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ACADEMIC SUCCESSES FOR LIBRARY STAFF

Last year three members of the Library staff successfully completed Open University courses, in subjects as varied as 'Art History', 'The Enlightenment: the intellectual movement of the 18th Century' and the 'Discovering Science' foundation course. We're a brainy lot in the University Library; other library staff have acquired – or are working on – NVQs, first degrees and post-graduate qualifications in subjects as diverse as history and ecotourism. Philip Dance, our Technical Services Librarian, has created a website on surnames, so good that it is now cited in a popular book published (November 2001) by the Public Record Office – 'The Genealogist's Internet' by Peter Christian.

By: Andy Barrow, Harvest Editor. Ext. 3236
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USING PROCITE FOR YOUR INTERLIBRARY LOAN REQUESTS

Using ProCite to manage your references?

Do you know that you can output references from ProCite as interlibrary loan request forms - including a copyright declaration for you to sign? This could save you the laborious task of copying your

requests by hand to an interlibrary loan form – and also make it easier for Interlibrary loans staff to read your requests! For details on ProCite, a software program for managing bibliographical references, contact Andy Barrow, extension: 3236 or e-mail: andy.barrow@port.ac.uk

LIBRARY STAFF BECOME ILT MEMBERS

Anne Worden and Roisin Gwyer became the first members of the library's staff to gain Institute of Learning and Teaching membership over the summer: Roisin Gwyer, Subject Librarian for Health, Social Care and Criminology successfully completed the in-house PG Cert in Learning and Teaching in HE which leads to automatic membership of the ILT. Anne Worden, Subject Librarian for Languages, Geography, Social and Political Studies filled in the ILT membership form applicable to all experienced lecturers and was accepted by the panel of ILT reviewers.

"As I work closely with academic staff in providing appropriate taught library sessions for students, I believe I should reflect on my work in the same way as staff in departments and so decided to apply for ILT membership. I put a great deal of effort into making sure that my sessions meet the needs of the students at each point in their course and it is nice to have some external recognition of my work."

By Roisin Gwyer, Subject Librarian for Health, Social Care and Criminology.
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LIBRARY EXIT SURVEY - THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Library Exit Survey in the week beginning Mch 11th. We obtained well over 1000 responses and we are now analysing the results. We will publish our findings in the next issue of *Harvest*

MODUL LIBRARIES?

Last December saw the end of a two-year involvement with Bulgarian university libraries for two librarians from the Frewen Library, in the persons of Harvest editor Andy Barrow, Life Sciences Librarian, and Judith Stamenkovic, Business School Librarian. Portsmouth University library has been the UK partner in an EU Tempus Programme project designed to help a group of Bulgarian academic libraries modernise along western lines. The project called 'MODUL - Modernization and Organizational Development of the University Library'. has involved 4 Bulgarian universities from the Sofia area and partners from the UK, Netherlands, Spain and Portugal.

Portsmouth was invited to take part by the lead partner, the New Bulgarian University (NBU). NBU's library director,

would not break down.

Following the workshop three groups of librarians from the Bulgarian partners came to Portsmouth; one group on a short familiarisation visit to the Frewen Library and neighbouring academic libraries and the other two for week-long training sessions at the Frewen, which also included visits. Topics included strategic planning and marketing for libraries as well as more practical issues such as the running of a reference desk and inter-library loans. Among the participants were library directors at the very top of their profession and more junior colleagues just starting out.

When Nadya Terzieva first visited Portsmouth she was impressed by the subject librarian system in operation here and hoped that a similar system

more importantly to set up a Bulgarian equivalent of the British SCUNL (Society of College, National and University Libraries, founded 1950). The Association of University Libraries in Bulgaria (AULB) which "supports the improvement and development of library information services in the field of higher education in Bulgaria...for consolidation of the professional community of University Libraries and their activity in the information society" was officially launched at the French Information Centre in Sofia on December 3 2001 at a gathering attended by politicians and leading academics as well as university library directors from all over Bulgaria. Our illustration shows Andy Barrow and Judith Stamenkovic (right of picture) listening to one of the presentations at the launch.

By *Judith Stamenkovic, Business School Librarian. Ext. 3238 or email judith.stamenkovic@port.ac.uk*



Mrs Nadya Terzieva first got to know the university when she spent a month here in 1998 with the aid of a grant from the British Council. However the Library's Bulgarian connections go back much further than that; Andy Barrow took a year's leave of absence in 1993-94 to manage the library of the American University in Bulgaria, an American liberal arts college established in 1991 in Blagoevgrad, south-western Bulgaria.

The project started with an initial workshop for all the partners in Sofia one snowy weekend in February 2000. There, training tasks for the project were shared out and partners from Western Europe were made aware of the difficult conditions under which our Bulgarian colleagues work - sometimes a complete lack of funds for books and journals purchases or even, in one case, insufficient funds to repair the library's sole photocopier. All the Western partners found this a sobering experience which made them reflect on how privileged we are and how much we take for granted. Here in Portsmouth we have got used to having library services delivered to the desktop and moan at the occasional system malfunctions. In one library we visited there were only 2 or 3 computers vintage c1993 running the automated catalogue and staff were crossing their fingers that the equipment

could help foster good relationships between Bulgarian university libraries and the faculties of their parent institutions. So, Andy and Judith were also lucky enough to be invited out to Sofia to conduct a week-long training course on all aspects of subject librarianship. This was delivered to 24 participants in July 2000 in a heatwave when temperatures climbed to over 40 degrees.

As always with these projects, it was not all work and no play. Andy and Judith were made to feel incredibly welcome with true Balkan hospitality, including many a toast with some incredibly strong local brandy and a packed after-hours cultural programme which included visits to national treasures, the Bolshoi Ballet and the Opera. The undisputed highlight of the UK visit of the Bulgarian junior librarians was a trip to London to see all the famous sights.

Concrete progress has been made by the Bulgarian partners as a result of the project and not just in the developments that have taken place in the individual libraries and which were reported at the final workshop in December. The experience of working closely together for the first time has given them the mutual trust and confidence to form a purchasing consortium to negotiate better deals for electronic resources and

IS IT SMART? IS IT BORED? NO, IT'S A SMART BOARD..

Thanks to the generosity of the University Teaching and Learning Committee's 'Blue Skies' fund a SMART Board - an interactive whiteboard - has been installed in the larger of the two seminar rooms (Seminar Room No.1) in the Frewen Library. The SMART Board - which I first saw in action at the Mountbatten Library of Southampton Institute of Higher Education about a year ago - enables the user to drive most common applications simply by touching the screen. The user can activate programs, scroll through files, drive PowerPoint slide shows, surf the Internet and do a whole host of wondrous things simply by touch, and a gentle touch at that. Particularly neat is the facility to 'write' on the screen (in black, blue, green or red) to highlight a point, then using an 'electronic' eraser, one can simply wipe the board clean. It is also possible to capture these annotated screen shots for subsequent printing out.

The SMART Board software has been installed on the computer at the front of Seminar Room 1, and the software loads automatically when the computer is booted up. The 'Blue Skies' bid requires me to provide training in the use of the SMART Board (this will follow soon as I haven't trained myself yet) and to monitor and evaluate its effectiveness as a teaching aid. To this end a logbook is provided, and once trained, any users should note their use of the SMART board in that logbook. Use of the board simply as a white surface need not be logged, but sessions that make any use at all of the board's interactive features should be logged. If you are interested in taking part in a training session please email me.

By: *Andy Barrow, Team Leader (Science & Technology). (Ext. 3236 or email andy.barrow@port.ac.uk)*

UNIQUE IDENTIFIERS IN THE LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT

The modern world is beset by attempts to assign each of us a wide variety of unique numbers. How many cards do you carry about your person? A quick check of the contents of my wallet reveals 8 cards; each with a different unique identifier. And this did not include my University identity-cum-library card.

(Editor's note: I have 23 ID cards in my wallet. Memo to self: I must cancel my membership of some libraries...)

The world of books and journals has an equal plethora of unique identifiers. There are two which stand proud of the rest – the ISBN (International Standard Book Number) and the ISSN (International Standard Serial Number).

ISBN

This is usually found on the back cover of a (post-1970) book. Quite often now, it will appear above its bar-coded equivalent. A typical example may be: 1-897850-00-X

What type of books can carry an ISBN? The following are eligible: all books, audio books, and CD products carrying text and that are primarily designed to instruct or educate, so the ISBN is not restricted to just printed material.

However, it is important to note that the ISBN is assigned to the manifestation, not to the title. If a publisher produces Macbeth as a hardback, paperback, audio-book and CD, each version will have its own unique ISBN.

HISTORY

The ISBN came into existence in 1970: for the previous 3 years it had just been the SBN Standard Book Number applied to British books alone. The ISBN is now a worldwide standard, and is administered by the Internationale ISBN-Agentur at the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin.

However, each country usually has a National Agency, who liaises with that country's publishers, and assigns the publisher's element of the ISBN. In the UK, the National Agency is the Standard Book Numbering Agency Ltd. – a subsidiary of Whitakers, the publishers of British Books in Print.

STRUCTURE OF AN ISBN

An ISBN is 10 digits long, and is split into 4 constituent parts: the divisions are shown by hyphens, although this is not mandatory. (They are normally dropped for entry into computerised systems).

For example: 1-897850-00-X

i) The Group Identifier

This may be 1 to 5 digits long, and identifies the national, language, geographic or other area in which the book is published. In the above example, 1 (and previously 0) represents publications of the English-speaking world i.e. Australia, English-speaking Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, UK, USA, and Zimbabwe

ii) Publisher Identifier

This forms the second part, and may be 1 to 7 digits long. In the example it is the element '-897850'. The more productive publishers receive a shorter identifier, thus releasing more space for the larger volume of titles they produce. For example, Oxford University Press's identifier is just '19', whilst our university's is '86137'.

iii) Title Number

The National Agency gives these as a running block to each publisher, who assigns it to each manifestation. It can be from 1 to 6 digits long – depending on the allocation left after the assigning of the previous elements.

For the university, the Librarian's secretary has the responsibility for assigning the title number (and indeed can provide the complete ISBN)

iv) Check Digit

The last part of the ISBN. It is calculated from the first 9 digits using modulus 11 with weights 2 to 10. A check digit of 'X' is used to represent the numeral '10'. There is a useful ISBN Check Digit verifier at: <http://www.d.umn.edu/~jgallian/msproject/chap0.html> and also at <http://www.cs.queensu.ca/~bradbury/checkdigit/isbncheck.htm>

ADVANTAGES

The ISBN has many advantages. For the university library in particular:

- It enables us to download catalogue data from a central database
- It facilitates the electronic transmission of orders directly to the publisher
- It allows book order reports to be directly transmitted into our order record

FURTHER INFORMATION

The International ISBN Agency has a website at:

<http://www.isbn.spk-berlin.de/>

ISSN

The recommendation to publishers is that they place their assigned International Standard Serial Number on the front cover of each issue of the serial. A typical example from The Journal of Interdisciplinary History is: ISSN 0022-1953

Like the ISBN, the ISSN can be assigned to a wider category than may at first be presumed. It is allocated to publications in any medium issued in "successive parts bearing numerical or chronological designations and intended to be continued indefinitely". So it is applied to periodicals, newspapers, annuals (reports, yearbooks, directories, etc.), the journals, series, memoirs, proceedings, transactions, etc. of societies, whether in printed or electronic form.

Like the ISBN, each manifestation should have a different ISSN. For example, the e-journal should have a different ISSN to the printed version. If a journal changes title – as so many frequently do – then it too requires a fresh ISSN.

HISTORY

The ISSN has been in existence since 1971. Administratively, the ISSN is a two-tier network, with an International Centre in Paris (part of UNESCO) and national or regional centres in individual member countries. In this country, the British Library was designated the national centre for the UK. The British Library is responsible for numbering all serials published in the UK and for recording the required bibliographic data. This information is forwarded to the International Centre in Paris for registration in its central database.

At present, in excess of 900,000 serials published in 180 countries have been given ISSNs. There are 67 national ISSN centres which each year identify more than 40,000

serial publications.

STRUCTURE OF THE ISSN

Whereas the ISBN had some intelligence, in that elements could be unpicked, the ISSN is a dumb beast. It consists of 2 groups of 4 digits, separated by a hyphen. The 8th character is a check digit calculated using modulus 11. The check digit may be an X

Note that the hyphen is integral and thus mandatory. Each group of 4 digits does not have any significance. Rather, it is a 7 digit running number with a check digit, separated by a hyphen for ease of presentation.

ADVANTAGES

- An ISSN can identify a title regardless of its language or country of origin.
- An ISSN provides an efficient and economical method of communication between publishers and suppliers.
- An ISSN is used in libraries for identifying titles, ordering and checking in serials, and claiming missing issues.
- An ISSN simplifies interlibrary loan systems.
- An ISSN, employed as a standard numeric identification code, can be used in computers for updating and linking files, and retrieving and transmitting data.

FURTHER INFORMATION

There is a useful website about the ISSN at:

<http://www.issn.org/index-eng.html>

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NEW SERVICE LAUNCHED FOR NON-STANDARD STUDENTS

The start of the second semester sees the Frewen Library launch a new service for non-standard students, these being distance learners, part-time students, and those students on placement of ten weeks or more. The number of non-standard students on courses at the university has grown rapidly in recent years and, as Craven (2001, p11) highlights, there are now some 4750 part time students, approximately 28% of the student population. In light of this the Library examined how it could provide these students with a service that is as equivalent to Portsmouth-based students as possible.

The service that has been developed is a subscription based Document Request Service, whereby a payment of £10 will entitle students to 5 Document Request Forms. These forms can be used to request copies of articles from journals, conference proceedings and chapters of books held in the Frewen Library's stock in accordance with UK copyright regulations. Once the request has been received the photocopy should be returned to the student within a week.

Request forms can be ordered on line at: <http://www.libr.port.ac.uk/distance/application.html>

For further information on the service please see: <http://www.libr.port.ac.uk/distance/index.html>
contact Paul Egan at Ext.3248 or email paul.egan@port.ac.uk

Reference Craven, J. (2001). Vice-Chancellor's report: supplementary papers. Portsmouth: University of Portsmouth.
By: *Paul Egan, Assistant Librarian*