

# Nexus

A RYERSON UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY THE LIBRARY

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## Now you own 'em now you don't e-journals and the academic library

Brian Cameron, Co-Manager, Access Services

IT HAS BECOME CLEAR that the rapid growth of scholarly publications available in electronic formats has allowed libraries to better meet the needs of patrons. In many cases, electronic content is received faster than its print counterpart and libraries are able to provide their users in remote locations with access to this information. In addition, many journals are now being published electronically only, which significantly enlarges the resource base. While these developments have brought a number of widely recognized benefits to the scholarly communication process, researchers should be aware of the challenges related to the dynamic nature of access to the resources. This article will address some of the issues of permanent archiving and ownership of electronic journals.

Libraries are at the mercy of vendors and publishers for a variety of reasons. Libraries normally purchase subscriptions to electronic resources either directly from publishers, who license access to all or part of their catalogue of serials, or from aggregators, who have negotiated full-text rights with publishers, and then disseminate that content to subscribers.

Vendors and publishers have a vested interest in encouraging consortial purchases, with attractive prices, because only a select group of libraries could otherwise afford the products. Consortial purchases of journal databases have given libraries greater purchasing power, and many have acquired

access to numerous databases previously unavailable through one-on-one licensing agreements. However, while these advantages are enormous, libraries often surrender choice, and will have to consider long-term costs, especially if print subscriptions are cancelled to pay for these resources.

### Change in electronic content

Aggregators routinely lose and gain rights to full-text journals and some companies may merge or go out of business. Subscribers welcome new content, but the loss of journal titles is a serious problem, especially if a library has cancelled the print subscription to journals offered in full-text databases. Libraries may never be able to acquire the missing issues in print or have room in the budget to subscribe to additional databases offering the titles in question.

### Harvard Business Review

A recent case in point is the Library's loss of access to the *Harvard Business Review*. Formerly available in full-text from Proquest's ABI/Inform, *Harvard Business Review's* electronic content had become exclusively available via EBSCO, another aggregator. In order to gain full-text access to this title, Ryerson Library would have had to subscribe to EBSCO's Business Source Premier<sup>1</sup>. The problem of exclusive titles is worrisome for libraries. It is feared that if an aggregator negotiates exclusive rights to titles, at higher than average fees, a bidding war may ensue among aggregators, and more content could vanish from databases,

forcing libraries to subscribe to more and more databases to maintain access to core resources. Fortunately, Ryerson did not cancel its print subscription to this journal. Decisions about hard-copy retention (cost and space criteria) are complex indeed.

### Embargo

One other major problem is that most of the major aggregators of full-text journals are forced to embargo recent content — from a few days to one year or more — because they are concerned about losing print subscriptions to their journals. Embargoes have an impact on document delivery and interlibrary loans departments, and, perhaps, even on user perceptions of the library. What's worse is that embargoes can conceivably be applied to any title at any time in the future. In dynamic fields such as molecular biology and chemistry,

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## e-journals continued

where researchers require access to the most recent literature, this is a serious problem.

### Rolling back-files

Similarly, access to some serials is limited by a rolling back-file. This means that access is granted to, for example, the most recent five years' articles, with older content dropping off as new content is added. In dynamic areas such as consumer health, such a practice may be appropriate, but in other areas this practice impedes research.

### Guaranteed archival rights

Early agreements on electronic subscriptions often contained no provision for continuation of the purchased content. In most cases, content vanished when access was severed (with print subscriptions, we retained those issues on the shelves). One

of the positive outcomes for all partners in consortia is the model for guaranteed archival rights to the content that had been licensed or purchased. The Canadian National Site Licensing Project (CNSLP), an initiative of 64 Canadian universities including Ryerson, has made advances in this area. A key component of the CNSLP-negotiated agreements required the content of the 700 journals we acquired in the project to continue to be available to us, regardless of whether the agreement is carried forward. Ryerson Library's Web site at [www.ryerson.ca/library/info/databases/cnslp\\_dbs.html](http://www.ryerson.ca/library/info/databases/cnslp_dbs.html) lists the components of the CNSLP and provides links to journal lists for each of them.

Research institutions and libraries worldwide have developed bold initiatives such as the CNSLP, SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources

Coalition), JSTOR and other partnerships to anticipate and address emerging issues of scholarly communication and mitigate the power of commercial vendors to control the information market. As one Director of Libraries advises, we should consider the lessons learned and the strengths gained through partnerships and "find ways to improve those business relationships with publishers and vendors who are most committed to quality service and the academic enterprise."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Harvard Business Review* has subsequently become available in certain products not purchased by Ryerson.

<sup>2</sup> Frazier, Kenneth. (March, 2001). The Librarians' Dilemma, Contemplating the Costs of the "Big Deal." *D-Lib Magazine*, (7) 3. Retrieved April 10, 2002, from <http://www.dlib.org/dlib/march01/frazier/03frazier.html>

## E-journal publishing terms

### aggregator

Aggregators gather together at one site numerous electronic journals from different publishers. Proquest and EBSCO are two of the major vendor/aggregators from which the Ryerson Library acquires several thousand journals.

### consortium

An association of independent libraries and/or library systems established by formal agreement, usually for resource sharing, coordinated acquisition or licensing advantage.

### embargo

In the context of this article, the withholding of the full-text content of the most current issues of a journal, temporarily, for a period of 2 months or more. In some cases the unavailable content is indexed.

### vendor

A company/entity in the business of selling electronic information (including one or more databases, journals or other information product) in multiple formats, through licensing agreement or on a per search basis. (Adapted from Reitz, Joan M. (2002). *ODLIS: Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science*. Retrieved April 13, 2002, from <http://vax.wcsu.edu/library/odlis.html>).

## Examples of embargoed\* e-journals

Journal Title	Embargo Period
Media Culture and Society	2 yrs
Journal of International Business Studies	1056 days
Administration & Society	1 yr
Clinical Nursing Research	1yr
Journal of Family Nursing	1yr
Journal of Environmental Sciences	3 mos
Archives of Physiology & Biochemistry	6 mos

\*At this writing

## Some e-journal archiving initiatives

### Canadian National Site Licensing Project

<http://www.uottawa.ca/library/cnslp/cfi/index-e.html>

### Ontario Council of University Libraries.

(Ontario Information Infrastructure: Strategic Programs)  
<http://www.ocul.on.ca/OIIStrategicprograms.html>

## Science's Next Wave

*Science's Next Wave* is a weekly online publication that covers scientific training, career development, and the job market. The Ryerson Library has recently acquired access to this website/portal. Published by *Science* magazine and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, *Science's Next Wave* seeks to prepare graduate students, postdocs, junior faculty and other early career scientists to be more competitive in today's employment market. Next Wave Canada is available as a subset of this portal. Free access to *Science's Next Wave* is generously sponsored for all Canadian universities by Merck Frosst and can be accessed at

<http://www.nextwave.org>

## Ryerson librarians at the front line — OLA Super Conference, February 2002

Ryerson librarians played an active role in the recent Ontario Library Association Super Conference in Toronto, reflecting the professional commitment and high calibre of the team at Ryerson. The event is the largest library conference in Canada and attracts over 3,500 delegates from libraries across the country.

**Don Kinder** served as program planner for the 22 sessions offered by the Ontario College and University Library Association. He will co-ordinate the Super Conference in 2003/04.

**Brian Cameron**, Co-Manager Access Services, convened the session, "Critical Thinking and Library Instruction."

**Sue Giles**, Data Librarian, convened, "CANSIM II: A New Database for the 21st Century."

**Diane Granfield**, Head of Reference Services, spoke at the session, "Virtual Reference Desks — Going Digital," which focused on Ryerson's experience with LSSI and its 'Ask a Librarian' Virtual Reference Service.

**Trina Grover**, Head Cataloguer, spoke at the session "Managing Web Resources in the OPAC". Trina also convened the session, "Service Quality in Assessment in Research Libraries: The Guelph/Waterloo ARL LibQUAL+ Project."

**Cathy Matthews**, Chief Librarian, spoke on "Pre-Grant, Grant, Post-Grant: funding issues for your research proposal" at the session, "Preparing for Research: Publications, Presentations and Leaves."

**Daniel Phelan**, Head of Technical Services, convened the session, "Collaborative Partners: Universities and Colleges".

**Susan Patrick** spoke at the session, "The E-Book Experience: The Saga Continues ..." which focused on Ryerson's experience with NetLibrary, an e-book product.

## Ryerson to house George Brown ECE collection

The Library has agreed to accept the donation of the George Brown College Nightingale campus library collection in the area of Early Childhood Education. George Brown College will be sharing the new SuperBuild space on campus (The Sally Horsfall Eaton Centre for

Studies in Community Health), and while the students will be enrolled as George Brown students and will be taught the George Brown College program by GBC faculty, they will reside on our campus and use our Library. A collaborative agreement on support and services is currently being negotiated. We expect to hire summer staff to assist with the integration of almost 1000 volumes by September 2002.

## Library pursues its vision of an integrated Information and Learning Commons

As the elements of our case are scaleable and the funding environment yet unpredictable, we may pursue the various elements of our Content, Access, Space and Expertise (CASE) in a more fluid manner than originally envisioned. Nevertheless we are still committed to an integrated learning commons that brings content to users, using the expertise of our community working together. Costs of various elements run between \$1 million to \$6.5 million.

## Extensive Canadian geospatial data available

The Ryerson Library has signed a data licensing agreement with DMTI Spatial Inc., a leading provider of state-of-the-art geospatial products and services.

GIS is a computer-based technology used for accessing and managing geospatial data, analyzing it, and producing findings in the form of maps or reports. Many private and public enterprises employ these innovative methods to explain events, predict outcomes, plan strategies and make informed decisions. If you have used a recent map that sited a new retail outlet, targeted a new customer base, or provided driving directions on the Web, you've probably benefited from GIS data. For example, DMTI GIS software powers the Canadian maps on MapQuest under the trademark name CanMap.

Under the terms of the licensing agreement Ryerson University now has access to the geospatial data and geocoding software DMTI creates and distributes and Ryerson Library is responsible for distributing these data to the Ryerson academic community. Data files are to be used for teaching and non-commercial, academic research. Commercial use of the files requires an appropriate license from DMTI Spatial Inc. For more information contact Sue Giles at 416-979-5000 ext 6890 or [sgiles@ryerson.ca](mailto:sgiles@ryerson.ca).

## CISTI SOURCE: THE ULTIMATE RESEARCH TOOL

### For current awareness, document delivery, library services support

From anywhere and at any time, faculty will now have full access to the new CISTI Source, a COMBINED library service that is INTEGRAL to scientific research.

- Current awareness service to keep you up to date
- Instant access to full-text articles
- Immediate access to scientific information worldwide
- Speedy delivery of journal articles when you need them
- Interlibrary loan to supplement other information needs
- Combined service FREE to faculty participants

Pick up an application form from the Interlibrary Loan desk or download the form from [www.ryerson.ca/library/info/cisti.html](http://www.ryerson.ca/library/info/cisti.html). Return the completed form to Interlibrary Loan, 2nd floor, Ryerson Library.

For more on this pilot project, visit our CISTI Source Web page, [www.ryerson.ca/library/info/cisti.html](http://www.ryerson.ca/library/info/cisti.html) or the Interlibrary Loan desk, and send suggestions/comments to Ophelia Cheung, Head of Audio Visual/Interlibrary Loan, [ocheung@ryerson.ca](mailto:ocheung@ryerson.ca), tel: 416-979-5097.

## Did you know?

**Bookbinding:** We bind an average of 2900-4000 books a year. The number peaked in 1999 -2000 and has now stabilized at about 3000. However, the rising cost (about 6-10% a year) means we pay more for fewer books bound.

**Book repair:** Library staff repair more than 200 volumes a month.

**Additions to RILOSH:** (Ryerson International Labour and Occupational Safety and Health Index). We add more than 6,000 new articles annually to this Canadian and international journals' database that is produced at the Ryerson Library.

## Still at an all-time high!

	Academic Year to Date	Winter Term	March 02
Volumes shelved	271,200	120,540	47,820
Visits	717,563	290,701	107,811
Items borrowed	234,574	107,252	44,727

## Speaking of the Library

**MAY RYERSON FACULTY CONFERENCE,**  
**Ryerson University, May 15/16, 2002**

### Presentations by Library staff

"Where did My Students Find this Great Research Material?"

**Zita Murphy, Susan Patrick**

"Information Literacy — Helping Students Navigate the Complex World of Information," **Daniel Phelan**

"MAP IT!!! Reveal the Spatial Relationships between Your Variables as never before," **Suzette Giles**, with **Susan Laskin and Stephen Swales** of Applied Geography

"DID YOU KNOW? Statistics Canada Publications on CD-ROM."

**Suzette Giles** (poster session)

"The Virtual Reference Desk — Ask a Librarian — LIVE"

**Diane Granfield, Bob Jackson, Don Kinder, Susan Patrick** (poster session)

### EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS

"Virtual Reference Collaborations and Consortium Planning for Ontario University Libraries," OCUL directors meeting, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, April 8, 2002, **Diane Granfield**, Head, Reference Services

"Becoming Visible, Staying Viable: Researching, Publishing and Mentoring" panel at the Association of College and Research Libraries (Western New York/Ontario Chapter) Spring Conference, Niagara-on-the-Lake, May 3, 2002, **Cathy Matthews**, Chief Librarian

"Will They Ever Learn? The Challenge of Teaching Health-Care Professionals," Canadian Health Libraries Association Conference, The Spirited Connection-Liens Animes, May 28 /June 1 2002, Waterloo, Ontario, **Daniel Phelan**, Head, Technical Services & Nancy Labelle, Toronto East General Hospital

### PUBLICATIONS

Chief Librarian, **Cathy Matthews** recently wrote a brief article "Writing Winning Nominations" which appeared in the spring issue of *OCUFA Forum*. Cathy is completing her term as Chair of the OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee.

### Forthcoming

**Trina Grover**, Head of Cataloguing, co-edited with Mary Mc Connell of the Univ. of Calgary, the book, *Basic Library Skills*. DocMatrix & Scarecrow Press.

**Brian D. Cameron**, Co-Manager, Access Services (Systems) published the article, Celiac Disease: Internet Resources in *Health Care on the Internet*, 6(3), 2002.

**Daniel Phelan**, Head of Technical Services and Richard Malinski, Program Director, Distance Education, co-edited the special spring 2002 issue of *Library Trends*, entitled Midlife Career Decisions of Librarians, *Library Trends*, 50(4), 2002.

### APPOINTMENTS

**Cathy Matthews** was recently elected Vice Chair of the Ontario Council of University Libraries, for 2002-2004. She is Chair of the OCUL Information Resources Committee, which will be meeting at Ryerson University this May.

**Cathy Matthews** has been appointed to the Seneca College Advisory Committee on the Library Techniques program.

**Brian Cameron** just completed his year's assignment as reviews editor of the *Journal of Hospital Librarianship*.

## Nexus

### CONTRIBUTORS

The following people have been instrumental in the production of this NEXUS issue:  
*Brian Cameron, Lucina Fraser, Sue Giles, Cathy Matthews, Daniel Phelan, Zita Murphy*  
**Publications Committee:** *Brian Cameron, Lucina Fraser, Diane Granfield, Don Kinder*  
Please address all comments and correspondence concerning this publication to:  
Lucina Fraser, Editor, NEXUS, Library, 350 Victoria Street, 2nd floor  
Telephone: (416) 979-5000 ext. 6887

[www.library.ryerson.ca](http://www.library.ryerson.ca)

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