Cornell partners with Microsoft to provide global access
Cornell University Library has entered into a long-term partnership with Microsoft to digitize a significant number of its books and put the volumes online using Live Book Search service. The initiative will focus on works already in the public domain and allow students, researchers, and scholars to use Live Book Search to locate and read books from the library’s collections regardless of location. Cornell and Microsoft are teaming with Kirtas Technologies to digitize the materials. Kirtas is a recognized pioneer of solutions that enable high-quality, nondestructive bound document digitization at up to 2,400 pages per hour. The library is playing a key role in book selection and in setting quality standards for the digitized materials. The project supports the library’s long-standing commitment to make its collections broadly available and Cornell President David Skorton’s goal to increase the impact of the university beyond campus boundaries.

ACRL offering new book on social science info lit skills
ACRL has published Teaching Information Literacy Skills to Social Science Students and Practitioners: Casebook of Applications, compiled by Doug Cook and Natasha Cooper. The volume is based on the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education and presents cases on learning situations and how they can be analyzed and addressed. Also included are descriptions of instruction sessions for each case, notes, and teaching resources. Contributors cover topics such as data literacy, visual literacy, and developmental research skills training. Ordering information is on the ACRL Web site at www.ala.org/publications.

Miami University Libraries to house Center for Writing Excellence
Two alumni of Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) have donated $10.5 million toward the creation of a new writing center to be located in the newly renovated King Library. The center will be named the Roger and Joyce Howe Center for Writing Excellence, named for the 1957 Miami graduates who donated the funds for its development. The center is intended to benefit all Miami students, regardless of major, and will offer individual assistance with writing and work with faculty to evaluate writing assignments. The aim of housing the writing center in the library is to create an opportunity for collaboration between librarians and writing center staff to assist students through all stages of the writing process. The Roger and Joyce Howe Center for Writing Excellence is set to open in 2007.

New editors at the helm of Library Trends
W. Boyd Rayward and John Unsworth are the new editors of Library Trends, a quarterly thematic journal that focuses on current trends in all areas of library practice. Their editorship was effective August 16. The journal is sponsored by the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) and published by the Johns Hopkins University Press. The new editors succeed F. W. Lancaster, who held the position for 20 years and set the standards of academic quality and professional relevance for the journal.

Rayward is a professor in GSLIS and a former editor of Library Quarterly. Unsworth, GSLIS dean and professor, was a founding coeditor of the e-journal Postmodern Culture. The editors may be contacted at lis-pubs@uiuc.edu.

Academic OneFile added to Virtual Library of Virginia
The Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) is now offering Academic OneFile to its users. Created by Thomson Gale, Academic OneFile is a collection of more than 8,000 journals with full manual indexing, a robust back file, and coverage of a variety of academic disciplines. The majority of the content is peer-reviewed and available full-text with no restrictions. Content is provided in HTML and PDF. VIVA is the consortium of the non-profit academic libraries within the Commonwealth of Vir-
ginia. Members include all of the 39 state-assisted colleges and universities (the 6 doctoral universities, 9 4-year institutions, and 24 community and two-year branch colleges), as well as 32 of the independent (private, nonprofit) institutions and the Library of Virginia.

ACRL and Bowker launch new RCL Web site
Choice magazine, a publishing unit of ACRL, and R. R. Bowker, publisher of Books in Print, have launched the online edition of the new Resources for College Libraries. RCLweb, a database of hand-selected core titles for academic libraries, will be the successor to ALA’s classic reference work, Books for College Libraries, 3rd Edition (BCL3), which was last published in its third edition in 1988. More than 350 experts with advanced knowledge in their subject areas put together the core list. Students, faculty, and library staff will find RCLweb very user-friendly and easy to navigate. This new Web format consists of a core list of 62,000+ books and electronic resources in 58 subject areas, including interdisciplinary topics (a new feature). Users will be able to create, edit, and save lists, which can then be e-mailed or downloaded and printed. The print edition of RCL will be available as of November 28, 2006. For additional information visit www.rclinfo.net/.

EBSCO releases SUSHI 1.0 server
EBSCO has announced the release of its updated SUSHI server, now in production within EBSCOhost Electronic Journal Service (EJS). EBSCO was a partner in development of the NISO SUSHI (Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative) standard, released in September as a draft standard for trial use. EBSCO’s SUSHI server facilitates automated data retrieval from EJS in compliance with the standard. SUSHI builds on the work of Project COUNTER by allowing completely automated request and delivery of COUNTER-compliant usage reports. With SUSHI, usage reports are automatically retrieved on a monthly schedule for all of the COUNTER-compliant vendors with which the library does business. More information on the SUSHI initiative can be found at www.niso.org/initiatives/SUSHI/SUSHI_comm.html.

UW-Madison joins Google book digitization project
The University of Wisconsin-Madison (UWM) and Google have announced an agreement to include hundreds of thousands of public and historical books and documents from more than 7.2 million holdings at the UWM Libraries and the Wisconsin Historical Society Library in Google Books. The university is the eighth library to join Google’s book digitization effort, which will make the books searchable on Google Book Search. The combined documents of UWM and the historical society comprise one of the largest collections of documents and historical materials in the United States. The Wisconsin project will initially focus on library collections that are free of copyright restrictions. In addition to other documents, the UWM digitizing process will target other high-use collections, such as history of medicine, patents and discoveries, history of engineering, early publications of scientific societies, American and Wisconsin history, and genealogical materials.

I can’t live without . . .
This shortcut to searching your catalog would be difficult to do without. It has been around for a few years but continues to impress new users. Using a bookmarklet (a small line of code added to your browser), you can quickly search your library catalog from any Web page that includes an ISBN in the URL. Fortunately, this is the format used by most popular online booksellers like Amazon or Barnes & Noble, as well as a number of other sites. In addition to quickly linking to title information, libraries who make this tool available to its users may be able to connect with those readers who prefer to search at online bookstores.

A simple utility and nice time saver for your Web surfing toolbox.—Tom Reinsfelder, Pennsylvania State University-Mont Alto

Library Lookup Project
weblog.infoworld.com/udell/LibraryLookup
Investigating the impact of digital rights management systems on libraries: Synopsis of the research of the 2005 Lazerow Fellowship recipient

Ed note: Each year ACRL awards the Samuel Lazerow Fellowship for Research in Collections and Technical Services in Academic and Research Libraries. Recipients are awarded $1,000 cash and a citation donated by Thomson Scientific. Below is a synopsis of the research project conducted by Kristin Eschenfelder, the 2005 Lazerow Fellowship winner.

Information on all ACRL awards is available on the ACRL Web site (www.acrl.org, click Awards).

Technological protection measures
The Library TPM pilot project investigated how publishers and vendors are making use of technological protection measures (“TPM” also known as DRM) to control access to and use of licensed full-text scholarly materials or data sets. The study also explored librarian perceptions of the impact of access and use restrictions on learning, scholarship, and library management.

Study results include the following:
1. Identification of a small number of licensed resources containing “hard” access and use restrictions from a review of 75 licensed scholarly resources from the fields of history/art history, health sciences, and engineering.
2. Identification and description of four more common, “soft” access, and use descriptions.
3. Initial identification of themes regarding the impact of access and use restrictions on learning, scholarship, and library management.
4. Development of appropriate methodologies to identify and investigate TPM.

Hard versus soft TPM
Study results distinguish between “hard” and “soft” TPM restrictions. Hard TPM include configurations of software or hardware that disallow or strictly limit uses, such as printing, saving, copy/pasting, or e-mailing—even through use of the browser or computer operating system functions. Soft TPM include configurations of hardware or software that make these uses more difficult—but not impossible—to achieve.

The study found that soft TPM are prevalent and may prove a barrier to some users. We observed the following forms of soft TPM:

• TPM by obfuscation: In these cases, badly designed interfaces act as a barrier to use by concealing otherwise possible use functionalities.
• TPM by omission: Here, use functionalities (save, e-mail) are not embedded in the resource interface; rather, they are only possible with the use of browser and computer operating system functions.
• TPM by polyglot: The hybrid format nature of many e-resources complicates some use functions, such as saving and e-mailing because of the large number of different files associated with a particular target document.
• TPM by frustration: Many e-books break up content into small chunks making printing and saving frustrating, but not impossible.

We did not find examples of hard TPM in our sample, but interviews pointed to examples of TPM-protected resources not implemented at the study case site, and several instances where vendors had implemented, but then withdrawn, TPM requirements.

Interviews with librarians suggested that effects of access and use restrictions would vary by user group due to differences in information behaviors across groups, but some effects could be widespread because they interfere with common student work patterns and pedagogical practices. In terms of library management, librarians feared that TPM plug-in requirements and restrictions would complicate public computer terminal management and support for remote users. Kristin Eschenfelder, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, eschenfelder@wisc.edu

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Current Issues available on WilsonWeb

H. W. Wilson has announced that Current Issues: Reference Shelf Plus, a new full-text database, is now available on WilsonWeb. Current Issues presents selected articles from key publications on social, scientific, health, political, and global issues, chosen to make up a well-rounded overview. Organized by topic and presented in and infographic display, the database also allows users to launch searches for new information on each topic through WilsonWeb or the Internet and links to biographical profiles of prominent figures for each topic from Current Biography. Issues covered are selected to support the curriculum in social studies, current events, and sociology for school, college, and general research.

Univ. of Illinois developing informatics initiative

The University of Illinois has announced the Illinois Informatics Initiative, an organization under development at the Urbana campus. Also known as I3, the initiative will be a voluntary federation of units and individuals that will coordinate interdisciplinary informatics-related research, teaching, service, and economic development activities across campus. Informatics is broadly defined as the study of the structure and behavior of natural and artificial systems that store, process, and communicate information and the development of technologies to implement artificial systems. I3 is a key component of Chancellor Richard Herman’s Strategic Plan for the Urbana Campus, which includes establishing a campuswide undergraduate minor in informatics; creating graduate programs in informatics that would include students from the humanities, social sciences, and the arts; and incorporating informatics into academic curricula across campus.

Ingenta expands presence in China

Ingenta has announced plans to improve and expand upon its presence in China. The company, which provides technology and services to the publishing and information industries, has upgraded its server located in China and moved it onto a network that will ensure improved performance and security. Ingenta is also recruiting a Chinese customer service representative and translating key support documents into simple Chinese, amending them where necessary, to provide specialized advice appropriate to the different requirements of the Chinese market. Longer term, the company plans to introduce a Chinese interface to IngentaConnect.

Ken Marks, former dean of libraries at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, presented the Strategic Marketing for Academic and Research Libraries Train the Trainer workshop to librarians in Singapore and Hong Kong in June 2006. The workshops, which were sponsored by Springer, originated as part of ACRL’s Academic and Research Library @your library campaign. The workshops were held in conjunction with seminars conducted by Springer personnel to introduce their new eBook product.