Database Demand

The Library’s databases have been in the news of late due to an administration request to cut the Library’s 2010-11 budgets.

Following a spirited debate among the Library faculty some $54,000 or nearly 20 percent will be trimmed from last year’s expenditures by cutting the following databases and indexes: Contemporary Women’s Issues, CQ Weekly, eHRAF, Europa World Plus, Global Road Warrior, Hispanic American Periodical Index, Literature Online, Marcive Web Docs, Oxford Islamic Studies Center, and Statistical Universe. Other cuts include microfilm subscriptions and paper periodical subscriptions including the San Antonio Express-News.

Department Chairperson Candace Peterson explains, “We zeroed in on the resources with the least usage by students and the least impact to programs. We left untouched the databases we share with our sister schools and of course kept databases required for accreditation.”

Peterson adds, “It is painful to cut resources but the Library, like other departments, is doing its part to trim budgets during the current fiscal crisis.”

(L-r) Hard-working student assistants Rebecca Villarreal and Jose Martinez are flanked by Chairperson Candace Peterson and Librarian Ralph Domas.

Library faculty and staff recognized the extraordinary efforts of 12 student assistants at a May ceremony. The students helped move, shelve, move again, and re-shelve some 800,000 items between the 3\textsuperscript{rd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} floors of Moody Learning Center during a 22-month time span while the 3\textsuperscript{rd} floor was completely renovated.

Librarian Ralph Domas adds, “The students never ceased to amaze me with their dedication to what was a difficult job. They always were looking for me to see what they could do next.”
So which databases are most popular with students? Here are the top thirty titles and publishers for the 2009-10 academic year.

**Top Thirty Titles**

1. Academic Search Premier  (EBSCO)
2. Gale Virtual Reference Library (Gale)
3. Academic OneFile (Gale)
4. JSTOR (JSTOR)
5. eBooks (netLibrary) (OCLC)
6. Literature Resource Center (Gale)
7. General OneFile (Gale)
8. Opposing Viewpoints (Gale)
9. Academic Universe (LexisNexis)
10. Literary Criticism Online (Gale)
11. CQ Researcher (CQ Researcher)
12. Newsbank (Newsbank)
13. Biography Resource Center (Gale)
14. CINAHL (EBSCO)
15. Magill On Literature (EBSCO)
16. Issues and Controversies (Facts on File)
17. Ferguson's Career Guidance Center (Facts on File)
18. Historical Newspapers (Proquest)
19. Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Coll. (EBSCO)
20. Credo Reference (Gale)
21. History Resource Center: US (Gale)
22. Literature Online (Chadwyck-Healey)
23. Project Muse (Muse)
24. Education Research Complete (EBSCO)
25. Safari Tech (ProQuest)
26. Nursing Full Text (Ovid)
27. ARTStor (ARTStor)
28. World Cat (OCLC)
29. PsychARTICLES (Ovid)
30. Health and Wellness Center (Gale)

Library faculty and staff hosted a reception on September 23 to honor SAC student artists and the juried 1st Digital Design Student Exhibition. Digital Design Instructor Berne Smith adds, “For many students this is their very first design competition. It means a lot to them for their creative work to gain recognition from faculty, staff, and their fellow students.”

The semester-long exhibition includes work from students enrolled in Graphic Design, Illustration Design, Animation Design and Web Design tracks. “We are so proud of our students,” Smith adds.

New exhibits are displayed at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. Artists may contact Eileen Oliver at eoliver@alamo.edu for possible exhibitions.

Stephen Dingman
Reference Librarian
Rambunctious Raccoon in the Stacks!

On Monday morning, October 11th, library staff found books knocked off a few shelves on the 3rd floor and all the garbage cans turned over. On Tuesday, October 12th, the garbage cans were turned over again, but brave Learning Resource Specialist Lupe Serna discovered the culprit: a curious raccoon!

Lupe cornered “Rocky” in one of the group study rooms and called Lori Swaney (Quality Control Inspector) for help. Lori got three grounds keepers to help her; they caught it in a large garbage can and escorted it out of the building to an unknown location. Thanks to Lupe for her quick action and thank you to Lori and the grounds keepers for help with the extraction!

So how did the raccoon get onto the 3rd floor? While one imagines the plucky little critter happily riding the escalator, apparently the raccoon entered through the ceiling. Just like Tom Cruise in Mission Impossible. We welcome students, staff, and faculty to be just as curious as this critter and browse our stacks, but please consider using the escalator instead of coming in through the ceiling.

Celita DeArmond
Reference & Distance Learning Librarian

The CQ Press Political Reference Suite: More than Meets the Eye

CQ Press has a reputation for developing online databases that answer the needs of the serious researcher. The SAC Library now subscribes to an all-inclusive political information source, the CQ Press Political Reference Suite [CQPPRS].

Accessible from home through the Library’s Articles & References page, the CQPPRS consists of 26 full-text reference book series. One set, the A to Z Series, presents detailed information on the Congress, the Presidency, the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Constitution, and (American) Elections.

The Guides Online also contains volumes on the congress, political campaigns in America, the presidency, U.S. elections, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Designed for those doing academic research, the series provides authoritative historical facts, statistics, and discussions of the role these federal branches play in the inner workings of the national government.

Another major resource series is the CQ Almanac. With coverage from 1945 to 2008, the CQ Almanac explores every session of Congress with legislative
analysis that includes information on floor votes, interest groups, laws passed, policy tracking, presidential messages, and more.

In addition to the reference series noted above, the **CQ Press Political Reference Suite** provides cover-to-cover information from these major sources:

1) *Congress and the Nation* series (1945-2004)
2) *The Contemporary Middle East* (c2007)
3) *Encyclopedia of United States Indian Policy and Law* (c2008)
4) *Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion* (c2006)
5) *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment* (c2008)
6) *Historic Documents* series (1972 – 2008)
7) *International Military Alliances 1648-2008* (c2008)
9) *The New York Times on the Supreme Court* (c2008)
10) *Political Handbook of the World* (c2009)
11) *Political History of America's Wars* (c2006)
12) *Politics in America* (c2008)
13) *The Supreme Court Compendium* (c2006)
14) *Supreme Court Yearbook* series (1989-2009)
15) *Vital Statistics on American Politics* (c2008)
17) *Washington Information Directory* (c2010)

The varied **CQPPRS** book series are revised periodically and can be browsed by title / topic or searched by keyword / subject. The individual sections or chapters can be formatted for printing or emailed to the user. Statistical results can be viewed as Excel or CVS documents. Charts, images and photographs are available as jpeg (jpg) files.

The bottom line is this: If you need current information on voting and politics in America or historical research on any branch of the U.S. government, simply log into the SAC Library’s premier source on politics, the **CQ Press Political Reference Suite**.

John R. Deosdade
Reference Librarian

Q: Which President of the United States later served as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court?
“Presidents come and go, but the Supreme Court goes on forever”—William Howard Taft

The retirements of U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justices David H. Souter in 2009 and John Paul Stevens in 2010 allowed President Obama to fill two Supreme Court vacancies in his first two years in office. Accordingly, Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, and Elena Kagan are the newest members of the highest court in the land.

These appointments, which required Senate confirmation, sparked an interest to see what the SAC Library and its Federal Depository have to offer on this venerable institution.

First, in the Web Guide, Federal Depository Library, look under Justice and Law Enforcement and you will find Supreme Court, the home page of that illustrious institution. Current decisions are displayed here, and under Supreme Court Information, you can find the Court’s history and current biographies of the Justices. Next, under Supreme Court Decisions, you can access the full text of 7,407 U.S. Supreme Court Decisions issued between 1937 and 1975.

For more biographical information, you can turn to Judgepedia’s Supreme Court of the United States, which lists former and current justices. For example, William Howard Taft, “served as the Supreme Court's tenth Chief Justice from 1921-1930” after serving as President of the United States from 1909-1913, a step up or a step down, you decide!

For materials available at SAC Library, look at the subject UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT in the QuickSearch of our home page, San Antonio College Library, and you will find biographies, history, statistics, and periodicals. A relatively recent reference work, available on the Library’s second floor, is Supreme Court A to Z / Kenneth Jost, Ref. KF8742.A35 S8 2007.

Finally, in the interesting web site, Oyez, we are reminded that even Supreme Court Justices begin in a lowly position within the Court: “As the newest member of the Court, Stevens had the duty of keeping minutes and answering the door in the justices’ closed conference. Stevens had to wait six years, until the appointment of Sandra Day O’Connor, before he relinquished his freshman spot.” We’ll see how long Justice Stevens’ replacement, Elena Kagan, has to act as a freshman!

Christina Petimezas
Federal Documents Librarian
Where can I find information on how to conduct a meeting? Is there a quick overview of Greek philosophy? These questions can be answered by one of the newest SAC Library databases, the Master Academic Collection [MAC].

With 5,600 full-length programs and 62,500 video segments, it provides unlimited, concurrent, 24/7 access to SAC students, faculty, and staff. The varied topics include: humanities & social sciences, business & economics, science & mathematics, health & medicine, archival films & newsreels, and much, much, more. To access the database, start at the library’s Articles & References page and click the Streaming Videos link. The MAC can be searched by: broad subject or specific keyword (topic).

a) broad subject searches can be conducted on these categories:

b) specific keyword searches can result in these specific videos:

To view a specific video, you must verify yourself through the library’s User Authentication page with your ACES username and password.

The MAC includes these Flash videos: Home Page Tour, Searching Basics, Browsing Basics, and Viewing Videos. For additional information on the content and possible uses of the MAC, click this hyperlink: ffh.films.com/LandingPages/Digital/FOD_Collections_Handout.pdf.

The next time you are thinking of assigning a class topic, consider using the Master Academic Collection as a value-added resource for academic research.

John R. Deosade
Reference Librarian

Web Wanderings: What Will They Think of Next?
With each passing day, I am constantly amazed at the never-ending array of information available through the Internet. Packed among its billions of web sites, you can find some very useful resources available at your fingertips. Here is a quick sampling:

**DeadCellZones.com**  [www.deadcellzones.com/](http://www.deadcellzones.com/)
Have you ever traveled and found that your cell phone is not working?

You have probably entered a “dead cell zone” where your cell phone carrier does not have a reliable transmission tower. Searchable by zip code, DeadCellZones.com pinpoints these areas of dropped calls for AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon

**Forvo**  [www.forvo.com/](http://www.forvo.com/)
“All the words in the world. Pronounced” — This logo tag is an apt description of this database. It currently has over 562,000 words with over 486,000 pronunciations in some 240 languages. The home page features the “language of the day” with a quick listing of words. Here is Forvo’s quick word of caution: “We mean that almost every word is allowed, including bad words. We think that it’s not the word what’s wrong but the way of saying or context that makes a word removable. “

**Internet Archive**  [www.archive.org/](http://www.archive.org/)
Founded in 1996, this non-profit resource was designed to provide “permanent access for researchers, historians, scholars, people with disabilities, and the general public to historical collections that exist in digital format.” It includes 265,000 moving images, 77,000 concerts, 523,000 sound recordings, 2,276,000 book texts, and 150 billion archived web pages.

**Old Magazine Articles.com**
[www.oldmagazinearticles.com/](http://www.oldmagazinearticles.com/)
“Designed to serve as a reference for students, educators, authors, researchers, dabblers, dilettantes, hacks and the merely curious,” this resource features cartoons, essays, fashions, historical reports, interviews, movies reviews, poetry, sports profiles, etc. from American magazines dated 1912 - 1940s.

This National Library of Medicine website allows the individual to identify tablets and capsules using imprint markings, color, shape, scoring, and size of pill. Once the pill has been identified, it leads the user to links for additional drug information. Although warns that it is not intended for clinical use, it remains an easy-to-use source for identifying unknown medications.

**Prints & Photographs Reading Room**
[www.loc.gov/rr/print/](http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/)
The Library of Congress has digitized images of fine and popular prints, photographs, drawings, posters, and architectural/engineering designs. It includes baseball cards, cartoons, Daguerreotypes, Historic American Buildings Survey images, *Look Magazine* photographs, panoramic photographs, WW I posters, etc.
RunPee.com  runpee.com/
This source helps solve every movie goers dilemma – When can I run to the bathroom and not miss an important part of the movie? Indexing major releases by date and title, it tells you both at what point in the movie there is a lull or unimportant scene and how long that lull lasts. Now you can take a bathroom break and not worry about missing something vital in the movie.

Scribble Maps
www.scribblemaps.com/#lat=42.314111&lng=-83.036825&z=3&t=Map&y=0&p=0
Google Maps has become a great tool for finding a detailed map for a local address. With Scribble Maps, you can make that newly created map better by adding text, place markers, arrows, shapes, photographs, and drawn directions. Once you have fully customized your map, you can save it for future use or viewing.

WhatApp?  whatapp.org/
Funded by the Rose Foundation, WhatApp is compiled by the Center for the Internet and Society at Stanford University. As stated on the website, the goal is: “...to establish an online resource where experts and other users can assess, discuss, and rate the privacy and security of mobile and Internet-enabled applications.” As part of this far-reaching goal, WhatApp attempts to review the privacy features and security of various Facebook and I phone applications.

El Día de Los Muertos: Honoring our Dead

One of the most fascinating customs of the Hispanic culture is the annual celebration of El Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead. From commemorative altars honoring deceased loves to the baking of pan de muerto (bread of the dead), families gather to celebrate the lives and legacies of relatives and friends who have died. How can you find information that explores and explains this treasured family tradition?

This is a listing of some of the sources on El Día de los Muertos available at the SAC Library:

1) Book sources:

Day of the Dead in Mexico
GT 4995 .A4 A5263 2003
The skeleton at the feast : Day of the Dead in Mexico
GT 4995 .A4 C37 1992
The Day of the Dead
GT 4995 .A4 H35 2004
Day of the Dead in the USA
REF GT 4803 .M45 2004
Fiesta ! Mexico: [a portrait of the country through its festivals and traditions]
REF GT 3930 .F54 Mex
2) Video sources:

The day of the dead [(DVD) videorecording]: a celebration of family and life
GT 4995 .A4 D53 2006

3) Photo sources:

AP Images: a searchable archive of over one million Associated Press Photographs. Here is a sample:

Q: Hey, is the information princess still around?

I had a question about the Library’s “scary foods” display. I grew up eating Pork Brains with Milk Gravy.

Why is that in the case with those other far more disgusting food items?

4) Article sources:

AcademicOneFile and Academic Source Complete: databases that cover magazines, journal, and newspaper articles on various subjects.

Ethnic NewsWatch: an interdisciplinary, bilingual (English and Spanish) and full-text database of the newspapers, magazines and journals of the ethnic, minority, and native press.

eHRAF: World Cultures: a cross-cultural database that has information on all aspects of cultural and social life.

NewsBank: Access World News: an index that accesses full-text newspapers from the across the world.


With these sources, you can readily explore the roots and meanings behind the celebration of El Día de los Muertos and perhaps adopt some of its time-honored traditions as your own.

John R. Deosdade
Reference Librarian
A: Hey, heck yeah I’m still around. I ain’t won the lottery yet!

Thank you for noticing our Scary Foods display on the 2nd floor MLC. These lovely items were brought from all over the world by library faculty during their summer travels. Vaunted treasures in hand, these foodstuffs were then honorably placed amongst the twin towers of food terror which reside in the office of one Tina Petimezas, our lovely and easily most witty Professor/Federal Documents Librarian/Technical Services Librarian. She wears many hats.

At any rate, with Halloween upon us, we said, “Why just gross one another out with these disgusting finds when we could make the whole college sick with fright?” So we asked our wonderfully talented Learning Resource Specialist Joseph Satterthwait to work up a display. And boy did he ever!

You might be familiar with the phrase “one person’s trash is another person’s treasure.” I think this saying definitely applies with your defense of the Pork Brains with Milk Gravy. Taken separately I might see the appeal, but together? That’s just gross, man. It’s like mixing peanut butter with mayonnaise. If you eat that combination you’re either crazy or pregnant. Or crazy pregnant. Now my personal opinion (and yours) aside, we should be sensitive to the fact that some of these foods are delicacies in certain cultures.

Some even have medicinal properties. Take the Irish Moss Drink for instance. Brought over from the Caribbean island of St. Croix, this drink is made from red algae (edible seaweed) and a lot of other ingredients that make it taste good, er...better. It’s very popular in the islands as a way to kick start your metabolism, clean out the intestines, and boost the immune system.
The canned Carterpillars (yes, it’s a misspelling on the label) on the other hand are simply meeting the nutritional needs of hungry people the world over. Caterpillars are plentiful and pack a protein punch! (sidenote: Do vegans have bugs and insects crossed off their acceptable edible food list? If anyone knows, please let me know.)

Haggis is, of course, the national dish of Scotland.

The least said about Haggis the better. It rhymes with “gag us” so really, what else do you need to know? But we do come to the one item in the display case that should truly disgust all of humanity, our pièce de résistance, the Canned Whole Chicken brought to us by the most inappropriately named “Sweet Sue.”

There is nothing sweet about this congealed monstrosity. Just look at it. Try and suppress your gag reflex. We dare you. The Sweet Sue Canned Whole Chicken is why our one rule for finding scary foods is “must not be able to see the actual food item within its container.” Now one could argue that this bird is far more appetizing than another bird dish served in the Philippines that goes by the name of balut. Balut is a fertilized duck (or chicken) egg with a nearly-developed embryo inside that is boiled and eaten in the shell. Google it to believe it.

Oh! I would be remiss if I didn’t share a wonderful resource about these and other culinary delights around the world:

The Encyclopedia of Food and Culture, SAC Reference 2nd Floor GT2850 .E53 2003 (v.1-v.3), which is also available online 24/7 in the Gale Virtual Reference Library database. Bon appétit and Happy Halloween!

Celita DeArmond
Reference & Distance Learning Librarian

We welcome and comments at sdingman@alamo.edu. Happy Halloween y’all.

Stephen Dingman, Editor
Leonard Ziegler, Photographer

For past portions of Library Soup, click on Archive.