

Full Text

University Libraries Newsletter

Fall 1997

POLARIS HAS ARRIVED

POLARIS, the new information system for George Mason University Libraries, promises great and exciting things. The follow-on to XLibris (our library system for the past eight years), POLARIS not only replaces XLibris but extends its capabilities in a number of ways. The system's attributes are familiar to anyone tracking current trends in information technology--client/server architecture, scalable UNIX host, standard internet-proven protocols, web-enabled, multimedia-capable, ORACLE-driven, etc.

The name POLARIS is unique to Mason--it was coined by Linda Swann, a long time member of the library's Collection Management Division. For some it is an acronym (Patron Online Academic Research Information System), to others just a nicer name than Voyager--the name Endeavor Information Systems uses for the product. In either case, POLARIS is a next-generation library system that leapfrogs the current state of the art in library automation. Gone is the character mode interface familiar to XLibris users, in its place a hypertext-enabled graphical client. Of course, there are times when a character based look and feel works best (e.g., dialing in on a slow link), so POLARIS provides that option. Like XLibris, our new system offers full bibliographic information on the library's collection but it expands that capability to include multimedia resources as well. The first time you follow a hypertext link from a bibliographic record to an online journal you'll begin to appreciate the power this system offers. The convenience of e-mailing search results to yourself or a colleague will appeal to many users as will the ability to check your borrower status online. All these features and more will become available as the full range of system components is implemented this Fall.

ACCESSING POLARIS

There are three ways to access POLARIS. Depending on your preference, you may choose to connect to POLARIS via the World-Wide Web (<http://polaris.gmu.edu>), through windows client software, or by telnet (<telnet://polaris.gmu.edu> login: library). If you elect the Windows client (the same software used in the libraries) you can obtain a self-installing copy of the software from the library's web <http://magik.gmu.edu/polaris.html>.

LEARN MORE ABOUT POLARIS

POLARIS is designed to accommodate both the beginning and advanced researcher by providing four search options: TITLE/AUTHOR/ SUBJECT (and CALL NUMBER), WORD SEARCH, GUIDED SEARCH, and ADVANCED SEARCH. Each option varies in how to formulate a search allowing the researchers to choose the method most suited for them. Online help screens are available. You may, however, attend any number of demonstrations or classes being offered by the GMU Libraries. A list of current classes can be found at: <http://library.gmu.edu/events/events.html>. Use this new system once and see the difference.

POLARIS is your gateway to electronic information. Whether you need to search the GMU Libraries' catalog, the WRLC shared catalog, indexes to articles, course reserves, or the Internet, this new system will guide you through the rapidly changing world of information.

PRINCE WILLIAM LIBRARY OPENS

On August 12, GMU Library System's Prince William Campus Library moved from two tiny offices at the Donegan Drive location to a new 10,000 square foot facility at the new Prince William campus. The new library has five group study/presentation rooms, off ices and workspace for 9.5 employees, over 200 seats, 18 fully networked public workstations, the same exit control system as at other GMU Libraries, and, as yet, virtually no stacks or furniture. The stacks and furniture are scheduled for installation d uring the first two weeks of October, but the library isn't waiting for their arrival to open - it opened the first day of classes with an improvised "electronic library" supplemented by a few reference books and, most essential, library staff to help PW patrons find resources they need. The book collection will be stored in boxes until the stacks are installed, but library staff will do their best to get materials online or through document delivery.

The paper collections of the Prince William Campus Library are being developed to support the programs offered at Prince William, and will evolve as the campus develops. In addition the PWC Library will serve as the library for the American Type Culture Collection, and will house many of the specialized scientific materials owned by ATCC. This will enable it to support the advanced degree work in biosciences, bioinformatics, and biotechnology that is being planned by IB3. All of the networked electronic resources available to library patrons at the Fairfax campus will also be available at the PW campus.

To provide the research support students, faculty, staff and researchers at Prince William will require, the library has been funded for seven additional positions: three librarians and four classified staff. These positions will supplement the Prince William Librarian, a half-time classified staff position, a graduate assistant, and student help already employed by PWC Library. A new Prince William Librarian, Heather Groves Hannan, has been hired (see article following) and potential classified staff are being interviewed. Searches for three librarians have begun, with deadlines of October 15. The three librarian positions are the Prince William Social Sciences Reference/Instruction Librarian, the Prince William Computer Science/Engineering Reference /Instruction Librarian, and the Prince William Biology Reference/Instruction Librarian. Until the new librarians are in place, Fairfax campus librarians Joe Kraus, Information Technology and Engineering Reference/Liaison Librarian, Eileen Chandhoke, Science Reference/Liaison Librarian, and Maureen Connors, Social Sciences Reference/Liaison Librarian are providing research assistance and library instruction in their areas of expertise. In addition, Sarah Sheehan-Harris, Social Sciences Reference/Liaison Librarian, will serve as liaison to all IET programs, regardless of location.

The PWC Library has also been provided with \$180,000 in funding for books and research materials, and selection of appropriate materials has been assigned to a collection development team headed by John Walsh, Associate Librarian for Collection Development. The collection development team also includes Heather Groves Hannan, Prince William Librarian, and Eileen Chandhoke, Maureen Connors, Joe Kraus, and Sarah Sheehan-Harris, Reference/Liaison Librarians. The PWC Library has been collecting materials for programs taught there for several years, and has the capacity for 7,000 volumes, 2,000 reference books, and 1,000 media materials when the shelving is installed. In keeping with the intention to provide a full-service library at the Prince William campus , there will also be a small collections of general periodicals and popular reading.

Our misfortune in not having stacks and furniture arrive on time has turned out to provide an advantage for

the rest of the Prince William campus, since the library space will be used for two special events in September and early October: the grand opening celebration and the opening of the Route 234 bypass.

NEWS FROM THE ELECTRONIC COLLECTIONS FRONTIER

[VIVA](#) (The Virtual Library of Virginia), now entering its fourth year of existence, continues to seek out and evaluate electronic resources that are most appropriate and desirable for the public colleges and universities of the Commonwealth. Students, faculty and staff all across Virginia now have Internet access to more than twenty different electronic databases, including many full-text ones. VIVA has just initiated state-wide subscriptions for two new databases, both of which incorporate many full-text resources:

Congressional Compass (published by the Congressional Information Service, or CIS):

Congressional Compass delivers Web access to more than 25 years of congressional information, including publications with general research value and facts and figures on almost any topic of current interest. It includes the full-text of:

- Congressional Record
- Code of Federal Regulations
- Federal Register
- congressional working papers
- Bill legislation as it works its way through Congress

Students and researchers can track the history of bills as introduced, revised, signed, and enacted. They can also track the development of legislative and public policies. Congressional Compass also provides a wide range of additional information such as member biographies, committee assignments, voting records and financial data.

[Dow Jones News/Retrieval Academic Edition](#) (published by Dow Jones).

Some of the component database groups are outlined below:

Dow Jones Newswires offers exclusive Dow Jones national and international newswires with the latest information on companies, markets, and economic developments including:

- news from the Wall Street Journal's American, European, and Asian editions
- capital market reports
- in-depth activity reports on 10,000 stocks
- SEC filings
- Full-text press releases from public companies

Dow Jones Publications Library provides full-text access to many of the top U.S. newspapers including:

- The Wall Street Journal (back to 1984)
- The New York Times
- The Washington Post
- The Los Angeles Times
- The Financial Times (of London)

For these last four newspapers Dow-Jones carries the most recent 90 days.

Dow-Jones Company and Industry Data includes:

- information from the last two-three years of both Disclosure SEC and Worldscope international financial reports
- earnings estimates, buy/sell recommendations, and Standard and Poor's financial profiles for nearly 5000 companies

Dow-Jones Quotes and Market Data includes:

- 15 minute delayed current quotes for stocks, bonds, and mutual funds
- one year's worth of daily stock quotes as well as ten years worth of monthly and quarterly stock quotes
- historic industrial, transportation, utility, and composite Dow-Jones averages

You may notice that our connection to the Dow-Jones service is currently through a telnet application. This is because Dow-Jones is in the process of completing its web-based system, which should be available by the end of 1997.

PROJECT MUSE NEWS: (This full-text database of more than forty journals is published by Johns Hopkins University Press.)

George Mason University Libraries has added the full-text version of the highly respected Johns Hopkins Guide to Literature and Literary Criticism to our subscription to [Project Muse](#).

GMU Libraries has also procured several new electronic resources highlighted by:

J-STOR:

[J-STOR](#) is a highly ambitious national initiative (originally funded with Mellon Foundation funds and coordinated in its early stages with the libraries of some of the nation's most respected institutions of higher learning) which has selected one hundred extremely important journals for digital imaging and mounting on the world wide web.

J-STOR is quite unique in that it has targeted established journals, with long publishing histories often extending back into the 19th century, and is putting the entire runs in full-text form on the Internet. Furthermore, they have gone beyond just providing the text, per se, in that all of the journals appear in their original form in fully scanned digital images.

Thus far J-STOR has mounted the complete runs (excepting the most recent few years of each) of 26 journals out of a projected one hundred. The fields represented so far are: ecology, economics, education, finance, history, mathematics, political science, and population studies. For instance, Annals of Mathematics is now online in its original format, from the years 1884 through 1990; The American Historical Review from 1895-1989.

George Mason University has elected to become one of the first group of institutions to buy into the project.

MEDLINE:

As many of you may have heard, the United States Government has recently mandated that all information previously made available from the National Library of Medicine only through commercial vendors will now be made available to citizens free of charge. As a result, you will now find a complete Internet version of [Medline](#) at the GMU Libraries web page.

Forthcoming Database Highlights: Look for these new electronic resources to be available as the Fall semester begins:

HARPWEEK:

This is an exciting new full-text (and full-image) resource that will make available the complete versions of Harper's Weekly from 1857-1865. As of now the first half of the project is done and fully indexed (advertisements, letters to the editor, etc.) . In fact the extremely detailed indexing is one of the most interesting features of HarpWeek.

BHA (Bibliography of the History of Art):

For the first time the two most important bibliographic indexes in the field of Art and Art History are now available in one merged database through the World Wide Web: RILA, or the International Repertory of the Literature of Art, from 1975-1989 and BHA (a joint project of RILA in the U.S. and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris) from 1990-the present.

Look for all of the above databases (with the exception of HarpWeek) on GMU Libraries home page, under the "Databases and Indexes" section. Congressional Compass and Dow-Jones may also be accessed by choosing the "VIVA" button on the Libraries' home page . HarpWeek will initially have a dedicated electronic workstation in Fenwick Library. Look for updates on forthcoming electronic resources under the "NEWS" section of the Libraries' home page as well.

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION

In Fall of 1997 the library will discontinue its workbook, used by so many GMU freshman over the years. In its place the libraries have developed A Guide To Research, an instructional packet that can be used in conjunction with a class assignment. Unlike the workbook, which emphasized the mechanics of using library resources, A Guide To Research uses a concept-based approach explaining the basics of information access, retrieval, and evaluation.

While A Guide To Research will be used primarily by English 101 students, it is appropriate for any student or class. Each Guide contains a worksheet that can be used to practice the concepts presented. If used for a class, the worksheet, along with an accompanying annotated bibliography, will be assessed by library staff according to a rubric explaining basic research competencies. These graded worksheets are then returned to the individual instructors.

English 101: About 1,400 students are expected to take English 101, Basic Composition, during the Fall of 1997. In a pilot program that goes beyond the use of A Guide To Research, the libraries will hold a series of classes for four of these English 101 sections.

These classes, three for each pilot section, will closely follow the outline used to create A Guide To Research. The first session will focus on skills needed to select, analyze, and express a research topic. Session two will explain the basics of how information is organized and stored in the electronic

environment, as well as the basics of access to information. The third session will explain the evaluation of information and the tools used to access it. This final section will also explain the World Wide Web and its use as a research tool.

An important aspect of library instruction for English 101 students this fall will be the comparison of two populations: those that use only A Guide To Research and those that are also part of the pilot program of class instruction. Comparing the two populations will generate information which librarians can use to develop more effective instruction.

[New Century College](#) (NCC): This fall, the library continues to work closely with New Century College. Jim Young, Reference Librarian at the Johnson Center Library, will be a full-time member of the teaching team for Unit 1 of NCC's first-year curriculum.

Fifteen library research classes will be taught for students enrolled in Unit 1 of New Century College. Ten of these classes will include hands on instruction. Over 100 students will participate in and attend three different sessions. Two sessions will cover Basic Library Research (topic analysis, database search strategies and evaluation techniques) and the last session will cover an introduction to the Internet (email, listservs, and the World-Wide Web). Student assignments will be assessed by both librarians and NCC instructors to better evaluate the learning process.

[Honors Program](#): This fall a library component is being developed by the honors department faculty and librarians. Using a framework similar to the English 101 and New Century College sessions, the honors students will learn research techniques and strategies for searching online databases and the World-Wide Web.

[Electronic Information Classes](#): Several new workshops are being offered this semester: POLARIS - the Libraries new online information system, will cover the basics of the new system emphasizing the GMU Libraries catalog. Scheduled workshops are being offered throughout the semester. Registration is not required. Schedules are available at any of the GMU Libraries Reference Desks or visit <http://librayr.gmu.edu/events/events.html>.

Advanced Internet - for patrons who have already taken Internet Basics or have prior experience using the World Wide Web. Advanced search engine techniques and more in-depth Netscape options will be covered.

Periodical Databases and Indexes - covers differences between databases, methods for accessing the various databases, and effective search strategy techniques.

LIBRARIES IMPROVE SECURITY, INSTALL NEW SYSTEM IN FENWICK

During the summer Fenwick Library installed a new exit control system that uses the same technology as the exit control systems in Johnson Center and Prince William. This new technology relies on a concealed target and eliminates the need for book pockets and date due cards, instead "desensitizing" the book as it is charged out and "resensitizing" the book as it is returned. 3M, the vendor of the system, has a strong reputation for reliability, and is the vendor that has taken over system maintenance and upgrades in Johnson Center. Fenwick staff spent many hours this summer inserting targets into the collection, and will continue to do so over the next year as materials circulate.

The new system has many benefits, including long-term cost savings and more effective security, and it also

enables us to create a more open and attractive lobby area. Fenwick Library hopes to receive funding soon for a complete renovation of our entrance, but in the meantime the small improvement is noticeable.

The most important benefit of having all three libraries (and the Law Library at Arlington campus) on the same system is that books which are removed from one library without proper desensitizing will set off an alarm in any library. Since all libraries share the same Circulation system, library staff will be able to check to see that the item is properly charged. This should help alleviate concerns about the effectiveness of the security in Johnson Center, and further motivate patrons to properly check out materials. In addition the Johnson Center has installed closed-circuit cameras at each door, which record entrance and exit, and is updating its self check-out workstations with new software to provide more reliable functioning. A survey conducted by library staff last year determined that most of the alarms at the JC doors were caused by bookstore books, which sometimes arrive at the bookstore with targets inserted. We have worked out an agreement with the Bookstore and they are now desensitizing books, which should significantly reduce the number of false alarms. A new security plan in place for Johnson Center will also provide better monitoring of the doors.

ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

During the past several months Special Collections & Archives (SC&A) has been putting up a series of HomePages on the Internet to make it easier for GMU students and faculty as well as distant researchers to access information about SC&A's collections. Electronic information of nearly forty collections is easily accessible through SC&A's research HomePage at: <http://www.gmu.edu/library/specialcollections>

SC&A continues to add scanned images to its digitized collections, also available on the Internet. Two collections are receiving special attention. The first is the Electronic Document History collection that New Century College students use when studying the history of the University. The collection is available at: <http://www.gmu.edu/library/specialcollections/gmdcs.html>

The second digitized collection being augmented is Planned Community Archives, which is accessed by students taking courses ranging from utopian studies to urban design. <http://www.gmu.edu/library/specialcollections/planned.html>

Just follow the path listed at the top of the page.

STACKS EXPANSION AT FENWICK

Over the summer, Fenwick Library added more book stacks in strategic locations to provide for future growth throughout the collection. The most important addition of stacks occurred on Floor 2B; other, smaller sections of shelving were added on upper floors. These additions allowed a major shift of books from floor to floor. New guides to the locations of books are now available. Library of Congress call number ranges for books and their new locations are:

A - D	2B
DA -GV	3B
H - HN	3C
HQ - LC1754	4B
LC2015 - PQ	4C
PR - QA	5B

QB - Z5C
 Folios/Theses 5C

HURT ACCEPTS DIRECTORSHIP AT GEORGIA STATE

Charlene Hurt, Director of Libraries since 1984, has announced her acceptance of a new position as Director of the University Library at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. She assumes her new position October 1, 1997. John Walsh, Associate Librarian for Collection Development, will serve as Interim Director of Libraries while a search is conducted for a new Library Director. John has been at George Mason University for over nine years, beginning as a Humanities Librarian, then Assistant Head of Collection Development, then to his current position as the Associate Librarian for Collection Development.

PERSONNEL NOTES

GMU LIBRARIANS SHOWCASE COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES AT ALA

Three George Mason librarians gave a poster session at this year's American Library Association annual conference. Jim Young and Kevin Simons, Reference/Instruction Librarians at the Johnson Center Library, and Craig Gibson, Associate Director for Information Services, presented on the topic "Creating a Learning Community: Collaboration, Curriculum, and Assessment in the Learning Library." Their poster session, one of a small number chosen through a competition, was selected to demonstrate innovative ways in which academic libraries are becoming integral to the teaching and learning process.

The poster session focused on the ways in which the Johnson Center Library has collaborated with New Century College to develop students' information and research skills throughout their first year in that program. The poster session highlighted the sustained interaction among librarians, students, and New Century College faculty. Librarians working with the first year of the NCC curriculum are involved in formal instruction in information and research skills; in regular informal instruction, both for individual students and small groups; in curricular support, through developing appropriate collections; and through assessment of student papers and portfolios. All of these activities show how librarians can become partners with faculty and students in enriching the learning process.

Charlene Hurt did multimedia presentations on the Johnson Center at two national conferences this summer: American Library Association in San Francisco and the Society for College and University Planning, in Chicago.

Craig Gibson, Associate Director for Information Services, was recognized at the American Library Association's annual conference in San Francisco in June, with an award for an article he wrote in 1995. The award recognizes the best article appearing in the journal RQ (Reference Quarterly) during the past two years; the article itself discusses various definitions of critical thinking, and focuses on the importance of critical thinking concepts for librarians as they teach the use of contemporary information resources and systems.

Citation: Gibson, Craig. "Critical Thinking: Implications for Instruction." RQ 35 (Fall 1995): 27-35.

Jamie Wright Coniglio, Associate Librarian for Planning and Development, has been granted a year's Professional Leave to pursue other library activities. Her leave began August 25; she will return to the

libraries in August, 1998. During her absence Sarah Aderholdt, Information Systems Integrator Librarian, will take over the library web pages that Jamie maintained, Laura Burns, Arlington Campus Librarian/Fenwick Reference Librarian, will coordinate the regional libraries, Joan O'Hair, Administrative Manager, will coordinate orienting new employees and providing staff training, and the Librarians' Council's Professional Development Committee will organize training activities.

Pat Neighbarger, Cataloging/Bibliographic Maintenance/Gifts Librarian, retired from the library staff after 25 years of dedicated service. After some internal reorganization the Collection Management department has initiated a search for a Serials/Government Documents Librarian.

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Arlington Campus

Laura Burns is the Arlington Campus Librarian at Virginia Square and a reference librarian at Fenwick Library. She comes to GMU from the University of Michigan Library and the Ann Arbor Public Library system. She received her Master of Information and Library Studies from the University of Michigan. Laura also holds Teacher Certification for grades K-8.

Prince William Library

Heather Groves Hannan is the new Prince William Librarian. She has been a part-time librarian at both Prince William and Va. Square. Prior to assuming her new position, Heather was employed at MCI Telecommunications Corporation as a Research Analyst. Heather received her MLS from Catholic University.

Debra Robertson, an Office Services Assistant, came to GMU from Spokane, Washington where she was employed as a library technician. Debra is also has a degree as an interpreter for the deaf.

Fenwick Library

Andrew Sikorski is an Installation & Repair Technician with the GMU Libraries Systems Office. Previously he was employed by the INOVA hospital system in Fairfax. Andrew has a Master's Degree in Economics from the Cracow Academy of Economics in Cracow, Poland, and Professional Development course work in Information Technology from Northern Virginia Community College.

Vincent Butler comes to the Circulation Desk with over six years of library public service experience at Rhodes College and James Madison University. Vincent received his BA in History from Lyon College in Arkansas and has done graduate work in Constitutional Law at the University of Memphis.

Joseph Schill is an Office Services Assistant at the Circulation Desk. Joe graduated from GMU with a MA in European history and spent six months in Moscow studying the Russian language. Joe intends to complete a MLS program.

Johnson Center Library

Lara Bushallow-Wilbur is a new Instructional Services/Reference Librarian. Lara came to GMU from a position as Head of Library Instruction at the Undergraduate Library of the University at Buffalo. She received both her MLS and BA from the University at Buffalo.

Miriam Bridges joins the GMU Libraries as a Library Assistant at the Reference Desk. She was previously employed as a Learning Resources Technician at the College of the Albemarle in North Carolina. Miriam has a BA in Political Science and a Masters of Human Resources from Ohio State University.

Mary Buckley, an Office Services Assistant working at the Circulation Desk, comes to GMU after eight years as a library paraprofessional with Fauquier High School Library.

Louise Maraiah is an Office Services Assistant working in the evenings and weekends at the Circulation Desk. Lou received her BA in Environmental Sciences from University of Virginia and has done graduate work in counseling at California State University in Northridge.

Stephen Spohn is a Library Assistant for Information and Instructional Services. Stephen had previously held several positions in the Libraries at University of Maryland. He received a degree in Microbiology from University of Maryland in May , 1997.

Deshaun Williams has assumed the position of Evening Supervisor at the Circulation Desk. Deshaun received her BS from Radford University and remained there as an employee at McConnell Library until coming to GMU in May.