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Remote Access to On-Line Resources: New, Seamless Proxy

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Office of INFORMATION SERVICES

Libraries & Technology Newsletter



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From the Vice Provost...

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter. Thanks to the efforts of the incredible Office of Information Services team, we have made much progress in expanding and enhancing our services to you.

While much has been accomplished over the last year - even under some very difficult financial constraints - the challenges we face in the future will be even greater. As the State continues to wrestle with impending budget deficits, the further erosion of State support for the University seems likely. And, this year also marks the last of the Technology Bond financing.

Clearly, we have our work cut out for us in attempting to maintain the progress we've made in developing our technology infrastructure, and at the same time finding ways to further cost efficiencies.

While we will continue to try and find ways to contain expenditures over the course of the coming year, it's important to keep this in mind:

Technology and library services can no longer be considered just an academic program "add-on" that can be reduced in bad economic times.

Students now expect to have on-line content, on-line registration, and the latest in electronic services. They also need the Library and our computer labs to be places where they can study, work collaboratively, and get guidance navigating the vast assortment of information at their disposal. These services are not just important; they are at the core of higher education's future.

The real challenge for us in these very difficult financial times, therefore, is to avoid further reductions in library and technology services, which lie at the heart of our academic programs. And, more importantly, it is to take advantage of our technology and information infrastructure to develop more innovative means of

delivering instruction and services that can reduce costs while improving the learning environment for students and the teaching and working environment for faculty and staff.

-Paul Gandel
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In this Issue...

New Developments

Web Development Group at Your Service.....	2
Can't Find that Library Journal You Checked Out?	2
Second Annual OHE Technology Conference.....	3
Find Out What's Happening at URI	4
Wireless Network Experiment Goes Live.....	4

Service News

Media Equipment Delivery Gives Way to New Options.....	5
Brown University Joins HELIN	6
HELIN Introduces the <i>InRhode</i> Library Catalog	6
COMPUSTAT is Back.....	7
URI's Internet Connections Upgraded.....	7
Kingston Dialup Lines Consolidated.....	7
Remote Access to On-line Library Resources.....	8
Budget Cuts Hit Library's Serials.....	8
New On-line Databases	9
InterLibrary Loan Articles Delivered to Your PC.....	9
On-line Library Skills Tutorial.....	9
Library Schedule Reduced	9
AskHelin - Another New Library Service	10

For Your Information

ARIES Upgraded.....	11
Improved Computer Support for Residence Halls	11
Traffic Control on the Internet	12
Multimedia Savvy in Just a Few Hours.....	12
PeopleSoft: The Transition.....	13
Have a Speaker for Your Class - Via Video Link.....	13

Projects Update

Changes in Library's Circulation Department	14
Pay-for-Printing Update	14
Greek Connections	14
PeopleSoft - Live and in Production	15
Update from NETS.....	16

Remote Access to On-line Resources: New, Seamless Proxy

The HELIN Consortium is in the process of setting up a seamless proxy server for remote access to Library on-line resources.

Access to all resources is not yet available on the new server, but is in place already for many electronic databases and journals.

With the new setup, you can connect to the Internet using any Internet Service Provider - AOL, Cox, AT&T, Verizon, Earthlink, etc. The first time you click on a restricted on-line resource on the University Libraries Web site or from within the HELIN library catalog, you

will be prompted for your name as it appears on your University ID and for your library barcode, also located on your University ID. You will have to enter this information only one time per session. Once you have been "authenticated" as a URI borrower, you may begin your search.

When connecting this way, your level of access to the databases is determined by your "patron type" as recorded in the HELIN computer system; for example, your patron type might identify you as a URI graduate student or a Providence College undergraduate student.

If you feel that you have been denied access to a database in error, please contact the Circulation Department at 874-2672 to make sure that:

1. You've activated your barcode and thereby established a "patron record" in the HELIN system

2. Your patron record has not expired
3. Your patron record accurately reflects your current status; e.g., URI undergraduate student, URI graduate student, URI graduate student in a course numbered 599 or higher, URI staff member, URI faculty member, etc.

If you have questions about accessing Library databases from off-campus, please call the Reference Desk at 874-2653. We hope to replace the current HELIN proxy server with

the new one by the end of the semester, and will be running both until the new server is fully tested and operational.

*Andree Rathemacher
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Another Cancellation Sweep for the Libraries' Serials

Projections of an 8% serials cost increase in FY 2003 and the rising cost of serial aggregator services and indexes have necessitated a 10% serials budget cut. Although the Libraries actually had an increase in the materials budget this past year, inflationary changes have nevertheless resulted in a 10% cut.

The URI Libraries have been in relatively good shape when it comes to budget cutting. Other libraries that have not been in tune with the need to do so right from the start of the inflationary boom in serials, are finding themselves behind the proverbial "8 Ball!"

UMass, our neighbor to the North, as well as other large, well-respected institutions, are now finding it necessary to make huge cuts in material budgets to survive. UMass's capital (books, journals, etc.) has been in the millions of dollars this year. We currently spend about \$2m on serials alone. We hope that making changes to electronic formats when the cost is appropriate, will also help us reduce cost.

*-Michael Vocino
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