

**Miami-Dade Community College  
North Campus Library Newsletter  
FALL 2002**

**RELOCATION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES**

All of the Library's collections, computers, and service points are now located on the first floor of the Library. The faculty, staff, and administrative offices are all on the first floor also, with the exception of the Assistant Library Director's office, which is still in room 2260-3. Room 2118 now houses part of the periodicals collection as well as the periodicals and interlibrary/intracampus loan staff. The second floor of the Library, which is presently undergoing a major renovation, will house Basic Skills labs and the Library's group study area.

The Reference Desk statistics have jumped dramatically since the Reference Desk moved to the first floor. For example, in February, March, and April of 2001, the reference librarians answered a combined total of 5,571 general reference, electronic reference, and directional questions. During the same three-month period in 2002, the reference librarians answered 9,780 questions in those three categories. Having the Library's three service points (the Circulation Desk, the Reference Desk, and the Periodicals Service Window) close to each other, to the entrance and exit doors, and to the collections and PC's, has definitely increased and improved student access to library services.

**THE LC CONVERSION PROJECT**

At the North Campus Library nearly 100,000 volumes were assigned new call numbers, labeled, and moved so that their order on the shelves reflects the new call number sequence. This project was massive and labor-intensive, but here at North we were fortunate to get assistance during the August 2001 recess from staff members of the Computer Courtyard and the Media Services Department. The conversion from the Dewey Decimal Classification System to the Library of Congress Classification System has helped to bring uniformity to the records of the online catalog shared by the community college libraries of Florida as almost all of these libraries use the LC system. Another reason for the switch was to facilitate students' transition to four-year programs, including M-DCC's, since most academic libraries, including Florida's state university libraries, are organized according to the LC system.

**NEW ONLINE RESOURCES AND SERVICES**

Databases

These are some of the online databases that became available to our students during the 2001-2002 academic year. The descriptions were provided by the College Center for Library Automation (CCLA).

- Facts on File's Issues and Controversies: "Updated twice a month, Issues and Controversies presents a balanced look at current issues through outlines, chronologies, news stories, websites, and primary documents..."
- ProQuest's Criminal Justice Periodicals Index: "Criminal Justice Periodicals Index offers 190 titles with 50 in full-text. The database provides coverage on a wide variety of criminal justice topics, including corrections administration, law enforcement, social work, and criminal and family law."
- EBSCO's Military FullTEXT: "Military FullTEXT offers current news pertaining to all branches of the military... It includes abstracts and indexing for over 430 titles, providing cover-to-cover full-text for over 230..."

To access these databases, go to the North Campus Library's main page on the Web at <http://www.mdcc.edu/north/library>, click **Research**, and click **LINCCWeb Electronic Resources**. Your borrower ID is your student number or Social Security number without any dashes or spaces separating the digits.

### eBooks

A collection of full-text electronic books became available in April 2001 through the LINCCWeb Electronic Resources menu. Hundreds of titles have been added since then to the original list of 800 offerings. The books cover a wide variety of subjects, and there is a particularly strong selection of works dealing with computer-related topics. To reach eBOOKS, follow the same instructions given in the last paragraph under "New Databases."

### LINCCSearch Requests

LINCCSearch, the online catalog of the community college libraries in Florida, now allows registered users to place direct electronic requests for materials owned by any of these libraries. Requests are initiated on the screen that shows the item's full record. Just click where it says **Click here to submit request**. The delivery of the item to the borrower's campus library takes from a few days to over a week. LINCCSearch is an option on the Research menu mentioned above.

### MyAccount

Patrons can use MyAccount to see their library records, including books checked out, materials requested from other libraries, fines, etc. They can also renew book loans through MyAccount. Links to MyAccount can be found in LINCCSearch.

### Ask-a-Librarian

This new feature of the LINCC system enables students to send questions electronically to the reference staff in their community college libraries. The North Campus librarians have already received and answered over fifty online queries. Ask-a-Librarian can be accessed from both LINCCSearch and some of the screens of the LINCCWeb databases.

## **RECOMMENDED SITES**

The Library's list of recommended websites continued to grow steadily this past year. The list identifies hundreds of sites in dozens of subject areas, such as Criminal Justice, Geography/Maps, History, Law, Literature, and Medicine. For each site there is a link and a brief description. Two recent additions are Statistical Resources on the Web (<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/stats.html>, listed under Reference) and Virtual Religion Index (<http://religion.rutgers.edu/vri>, listed under Religion). The list can be found by going to the North Campus Library's main page on the Web. Then click **Research** and click **Recommended Sites**.

## **SPECIAL FUNDING FOR BOOKS**

The M-DCC Libraries received special funding in June 2002 to update their book collections. The North Campus Library's share of the "Vision Funds" is approximately \$57,000. We started to buy books with these monies in the summer and will continue to do so through the fall. One of the first purchases was the McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology. This 20-volume reference work, published in 2002, replaced the 1992 edition that we had.

## **BOOK DISPLAYS**

The number of book displays in the Library increased substantially during the 2001-2002 academic year. Through some of the displays the Library contributed to the observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, Women's History Month, and the Fourth of July at the North Campus. Already ten displays have been scheduled for 2002-2003.

## **LIBRARY STATISTICS**

These are some of the Library's statistics for the last fiscal year, which began on July 1, 2001, and ended on June 30, 2002. It is clear that thousands of students benefited from the Library's resources and services during that 12-month period:

Questions answered at the Reference Desk: 26,726  
Questions answered at the Circulation Desk: 9,981  
Circulation transactions: 31,107  
Requests for unbound periodicals: 3,350  
Usage of periodicals on microfilm (reels used): 1,188  
Interlibrary and intracampus loan transactions: 1,434  
Students who signed in to use Internet computers: 17,131  
Library instruction sessions taught: 135  
Gate count: 1,009,909