



Ask A Librarian Online



Do you have a question? Help is just a mouse click away. Chat live, one-on-one, with a librarian in an interactive online environment.

The Wolfson Library implemented virtual reference in September, so now there is one more way to get help with your information needs. The service provides convenient online access to a library professional for one-on-one assistance in locating and using electronic library services.

You can try the new service by clicking the *Ask A Librarian* button on the library's Web page, or you can go to <http://www.askalibrarian.org> and select Miami Dade College from the list of libraries. The virtual reference desk is open from 10:00 am until 10:00 pm Monday through Friday. You can tell when the desk is not staffed, because the chat button will be gray. You can always ask a question by email, and the service includes a searchable database of questions that have been answered, so you can check it before you ask your question.

The virtual reference desk is staffed by librarians from colleges, universities, and public libraries all over the state. Ask A Librarian is a statewide collaborative venture between the College Center for Library Automation (CCLA) and the Tampa Bay Library Consortium (TBLC). Miami-Dade Pubic Library and Barry University will go live soon. The initial implementation is funded by a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

New LINCCWEB Portal

In January, LINCCWeb will have a whole new look. The current software will be replaced by a portal that provides a single search with personalization.

If you want to research a topic today, you have look in at least two places. You search the catalog for books and other materials in the library, and then you search the databases – one at a time -- for articles. The new system will let you search all these resources and more at the same time.

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Library Hours:

- Monday - Thursday: 7:30 am to 9 pm
- Friday: 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
- Saturday : 9 am to 1 pm

Library Closings:

Semester Break: December 22, 2003-January 2, 2004

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How to Find Articles

Wolfson Library subscribes to a number of magazines and newspapers. You will find current issues on racks in the **Reading Room**. You can sit in the air-conditioned comfort of the library and read or browse these magazines. You can keep up with what's new, and save money on subscriptions. Back issues of these magazines and newspapers are available at the **Service Window**. The library has some periodicals on microfilm, and you can ask for them at the **Service Window**.

If you want to find articles on a particular subject, start with the databases. The College subscribes to a number of electronic databases that contain periodical articles and other reference sources. You will find the databases in a section of LINCCWeb, the online catalog, called *Electronic Resources* (<https://www.linccweb.org/eresources.asp>).

You will need to enter your borrower id, which is your student number. This validates that you are currently student, faculty, or staff at Miami Dade College. Although these databases are Web-based, they are not Internet resources. They are proprietary databases available only to registered students, faculty, and staff. Since the databases are available through the Web interface, they are available anytime, from anywhere you have access to the

Internet.

The research topic or subject determines which database or databases to choose. Some are general and others are more specific to a particular subject area. *Academic Search Premier* is a good place to start. It indexes thousands of periodicals from a wide range of academic areas including business, social sciences, humanities, general academic, general science and education.

Some databases, such as *Literature Resource Center* and *Health & Wellness Resource Center*, contain reference sources as well as periodical articles. The advanced search feature in *Literature Resource Center* gives you criticism of a particular work as well as biographies of the author. The same search could take an hour in the **Reference Area**. A search in *Health & Wellness Resource Center* will give you articles from *The Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine* and other reference sources as well as periodical articles.

Although these databases are Web-based, they are not Internet resources. They are proprietary databases available only to registered students, faculty, and staff.

New LINCCWeb Portal

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You can preview the new portal now by clicking this image from the LINCCWeb screens. The new system goes live December 8, 2003.

The personalization feature will allow you to maintain your own resource list. So when you use Advanced Search, you can just check items from your list to be searched. Resources include databases as well as other libraries. That means you could routinely search particular databases and the Miami-Dade Public Library and FIU Library everytime you search LINCCWeb.



You can preview the new portal now by clicking this image from the LINCCWeb screens. To use the personalization features, you have to login before you search. When you don't need personalization, you can use LINCCWeb as a guest.

If the single search feature sounds too good to be true, keep in mind that it only works for broad searches. It's similar to using meta search engines on the Web. If you are doing complex searches, you will need to search different resources separately. You might, for example, search library catalogs together and then search databases together or one by one.

The new Library Management Software (LMS) is Aleph by Ex Libris. Ex Libris is an Israeli based company, and Aleph is its flagship product. It is used by 3 million users at 700 sites in 48 countries

Using Your Library: a Tutorial

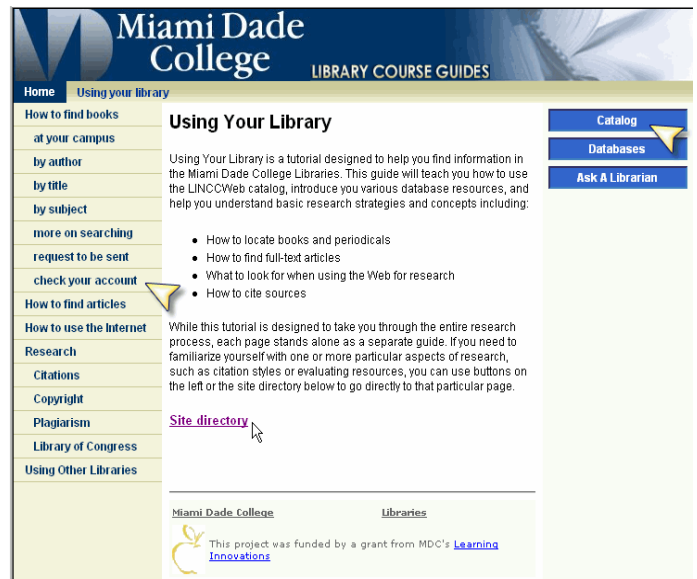
Everything you need to know about finding information at your college library is now on the Web.

If you came to the library for instruction and don't remember what the librarian told you about how to find a biography, don't worry. The answer is just a mouse click away.

Using Your Library is a new tutorial that you can use to refresh your memory about everything from how to find a topic for a research paper to how to cite your sources.

The tutorial is linked from the Library Web page, or you can go straight to it at <http://www.mdc.edu/wlib/>. Links on the left help you find what you need, and there is a complete list on the site map. Buttons on the right let you open LINCCWeb and try things as you learn.

The tutorial was created by three faculty librarians — Louise Lee at Wolfson, Laurie Hime at Kendall, and Erick Dominicus at InterAmerican. It is part of a project that was funded by a Learning Innovations Golden Apple grant.



<http://www.mdc.edu/wlib/>

Staff Changes

Dania Soriano has joined the staff as a library technician in charge of periodicals. A native of the Dominican Republic, she received her baccalaureate in business administration. She moved to Miami about ten years ago and worked at the North Campus Library before transferring to Wolfson Library.

Staff Directory

Diana Bearden (diana.bearden@mdc.edu)
Library Technician, Reserves.....73447

Zena Decky (zena.decky@mdc.edu)
Library Technician, InterLibrary Loan.....73454

Zenaida Fernández (zenaida.fernandez@mdc.edu)
Library Director.....73452

Esperanza García-Rubio (esperanza.garcia-rubio@mdc.edu)
Librarian/Cataloger.....73446

Winnie Huang (winnie.huang@mdc.edu)
Librarian.....73450

Claudia Jiménez (claudia.jimenez@mdc.edu)
Library Technician, InterCampus Loan.....73461

Louise Lee (louise.lee@mdc.edu)
Librarian.....73449

Raquel Olivero (ana.olivero@mdc.edu)
Library Technician, Circulation.....73090

Robert Randle (robert.randle@mdc.edu)
Library Technician, Acquisitions.....73568

Barbara Roberts (barbara.roberts@mdc.edu)
Assistant Library Director.....73476

Dania Soriano (dania.soriano@mdc.edu)
Associate Instructor, Technical.....73448



Services for Faculty

WOLFSON CAMPUS LIBRARY

Miami Dade College
300 NE Second Avenue
Miami, FL 33132
Phone: 305 237-3144
Fax: 305 237-3707

Information is our business

<http://www.mdc.edu/wolfson/learningresources/library/>

Instruction. Bring your class to the library for instruction. We can tailor it specifically to your subject or make it general. We can even do handouts. All we ask is that you let us know ahead of time and come with your class.

Reserves. Do you want your class to read a book, articles, or watch a video or DVD? Bring it in or ask us to put our copies on reserve for you. Students can check materials out from the Service Window and use them in the Library — or we can make them available electronically via the Web. That insures that all your students can get the materials you require.

Additions to the Collection. Your suggestions are always welcome. Send them by email, campus mail, or call us.

Make up Tests. Leave your make up tests with us and your students can take them in the Library. We don't monitor, but we will have the student sign when they pick up and return the test.

Check out videos and DVDs. Pick up videos and DVDs you plan to show in class ahead of time. It will insure availability and make life easier for Audio/Visual.

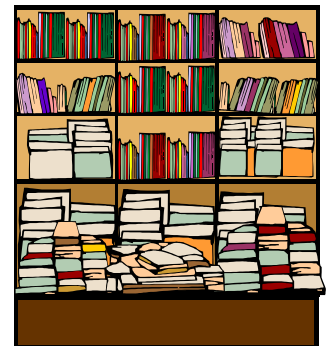
Course Guides. Work with a librarian to create a customized course guide (library instruction) for your classes. Bring your students to the library for live instruction and reinforce what they learned by giving them a link to the course guide.



Need more room on your book shelves?

Considering donating your unwanted books and videos to Wolfson Campus Library.

We'll give you a letter for your tax records and put them to good use.



Wireless Laptops Offer Convenience

A wireless laptop is a good way to make the most of your library visit. Go to the **Service Window** and check one out as soon as you arrive.

If you are working in the **Reference Area**, set up your laptop at a table or a carrel nearby. If you are working with a group, find a table downstairs or go out on the patio if you prefer fresh air. If you have a question about how to double space your research paper, just walk over to the **Reference Desk** with your laptop. When you want quiet, take the laptop upstairs and find a study carrel.

The wireless laptops give you flexibility and mobility and let you move around the library as it suits your needs. Send jobs to a print queue as you work. When you are ready, use the **Print Release Station** on the first floor to print everything at one time.

