1. Status Report on Journals: Suggestions are welcome!

With nearly 100 currently active subscription, exchange and complimentary titles, the CAS Library holds almost 500 journal titles in addition to the journals available through Rutgers University Libraries. Many of our journals are available in print only in the library or have on-site electronic access, i.e. are available from the two CAS buildings, and not displayed in IRIS, the online catalog of Rutgers Libraries at all. We are currently exploring solutions for easier access for all our electronic subscriptions, while we are also analyzing whether to drop or add subscriptions. We are going to send you a short survey soon to find out more about your needs.

*Suggestions are welcome!*  
*Your opinion matters!*

2. Social Networking: Are you LinkedIn?

With the ready availability and multitude of Web 2.0 applications (Facebook, LinkedIn, LiveJournal, MySpace, Second Life), there is a potential for libraries and other institutions to reach audiences through these digital avenues. Some libraries have taken a step toward Library 2.0, applying these technologies in service of their patrons. Additionally, aside from the purely entertaining, these applications have the potential to house and produce research while connecting individuals with similar interests into a community. A random query of groups on Facebook using the term “alcohol” resulted in over 500 hits. These groups range from the absurd to the therapeutic. The difference between these applications and chat rooms is the personalization of the users’ profile and the move away from anonymity.
A LinkedIn profile of one of the Center of Alcohol Studies Library employees (very professional, as commented by Judit):

That same employee’s Facebook page (more like that of a grad student, as commented by Judit):

Rutgers University has one of the largest networks on the academic social networking site called Facebook (52,866 users, as of February 4, 2008).

The visual presentation of each of these social networking sites is quite different. However, each contains similar information such as contact information, current employment, educational history and a general description of the member.
3. OvidSP: New Interface launched on February 4, 2008

The widely used database Ovid is streamlining its interface design, christened OvidSP. According to the vendor, the simplified interface will result in precision searching in less time. The new interface will allow multiple ways to search, from Basic Search (natural language searching-free text) to Ovid or Silver Platter syntax. The intent of the redesign is to allow researchers to search easily with a straightforward interface, similar in some ways to the appearance of Google.

Amongst the new features the user may search across media (journal articles, books and databases) and through numerous fields (abstract, body, etc.). Results are ranked by relevancy and are deliverable via RSS feed. As the OvidSP guide notes: “Greater search transparency allows you to narrow or broaden initial search results.”

The new interface will affect some of the most frequently used databases at CAS, such as PsychINFO and MEDLINE. As always, online help is available from the provider, while the Library is planning to have a demonstration, hands-on workshops, and one-on-one sessions are also available upon request. Rutgers University Libraries, however, are planning to change the provider from OVID to EBSCO (provider of Academic Source Premier, Medline, etc.).
The new OvidSP search result page with search history, options to filter, save, email, and search for full text articles (MEDLine).

4. In Librarianese: RSS

RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a family of Web feed formats used to publish frequently updated content such as blog entries, news headlines or podcasts. An RSS document, which is called a "feed," "web feed," or "channel," contains either a summary of content from an associated web site or the full text. RSS makes it possible for people to keep up with their favorite web sites in an automated manner that’s easier than checking them manually.

RSS content can be read using software called an "RSS reader", "feed reader" or an "aggregator". The user subscribes to a feed by entering the feed’s link into the reader or by clicking an RSS icon in a browser that initiates the subscription process. The reader checks the user’s subscribed feeds regularly for new content, downloading any updates that it finds. (Source: Wikipedia)
See the RSS feed on Judit’s Google Home Page (http://www.google.com/ig - created with the help of a Google account). The bottom left is a search from OvidSP (MEDline), while BBC News and the NYT have also been set up (on the right).

5. Featured Library Catalog: WorldCat

WorldCat (http://worldcat.org/) is an online network composed of a number of library catalogs and services spread across the country and world. In librarianese: WorldCat is a union catalog of participate libraries of the OCLC global cooperative. Users may search for materials (books, music, videos, articles and
digital items) across a range of library catalogs and locate the closest repository. Utilizing this tool as a bibliographic database in conjunction with Rutgers University Library Delivery and Interlibrary Loan services library patrons may expand their research capabilities.

In the CAS Library, we are also using WorldCat to locate books to check citation for book chapters or other entries.

WorldCat is available from the Rutgers University Library’s web page. Click on Search IRIS and Other Catalogs in the left panel, scroll down to OTHER LIBRARY CATALOGS, and click WorldCat (OCLC).
6. Tip of the month: Disk Cleanup

Cleaning up your drive is simpler and easier than you think. A fast and easy way to free up disk space and get rid of unnecessary files is to use the Disk Cleanup tool that comes with Windows XP. The following path will lead you to the utility: first click on Start, then Programs, Accessories, System Tools and finally Disk Cleanup.

Clicking on Disk Cleanup will launch the program and a scan of all temporary folders. A report is created once the scan is complete listing the amount of space used by each of the areas listed. The checkmark next to each location will confirm that area is to be cleaned once the OK button is clicked. Users can view the files to be deleted by clicking the View Files button. Files found by Disk Cleanup are usually temporary files stored during installation of programs, websites and other temporary files created by programs. Be warned that this is NOT always the case and users should always view files before deleting them!

Disk Cleanup is a great way to easily clean out old temporary files that are no longer needed and are simply taking up space.
7. New face in the Library:
   Ankit Shah, undergraduate information/research assistant

My name is Ankit Shah and I am a senior majoring in Cell Biology and Neuroscience in Rutgers College. I have been working with Dr. Patricia Buckendahl, also at the Center of Alcohol Studies, for the past three years on the physiological significance of osteocalcin particularly on alcohol drinking in mice. I decided to work at the library this spring semester because I know the center and its faculty well. After graduation, I plan to go to medical school and pursue a career in biomedical research. Some of my interests include running, music, art, and good movies.

Contributors to this issue:

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Your contributions, questions as well as topics of interest are also welcome!