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Wilbur Stolt
University of North Dakota

Patricia Kranovich
University of North Dakota

Sandy Slater
University of North Dakota

Curt Hanson
University of North Dakota

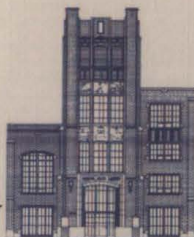
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Lux et Lex

"By the light of Knowledge we read the laws of life"

Volume 10 Number 1

Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota

Spring 2004

CONTINUING AND CHANGING ROLES OF LIBRARIES

Throughout history, the library has been the place where people sought knowledge, where they escaped into the imaginations of fiction writers, and where they investigated the ideas and activities of past generations. The library has served as the institution that acquired and organized books, journals, newspapers, manuscripts, and other materials, items which promoted an educated and informed society. A truly great library was one that held within its walls publications needed by anyone who entered. The world is changing and libraries are adjusting to new methods of information storage and delivery. No longer are bound publications the only method of organizing and delivering ideas and stories. Digital formats and the electronic delivery of information across high speed networks have changed library operations and library user expectations. Indeed, new formats have created a variety of challenges for librarians as they continue to serve educational institutions as the gatekeepers to scholarly information.

With the advent of technology, the expectations and processes of research and learning have changed significantly, and with them so have libraries. In recent years, the Chester Fritz Library has evaluated and acquired access to electronic journals and databases, which are rapidly growing both in content and popularity. These electronic resources offer the researcher and scholar an opportunity to explore large volumes of information with the assistance of sophisticated computerized searching tools that can isolate relevant information in a matter of seconds. Digital formats also allow access that is convenient to the researcher. The term 24/7 has appeared in our lexicon in recent years and it represents the shift to information access anywhere and at anytime. No longer is it necessary to come to the library. Seekers of information may have it delivered to their desktop in their office, lab or at home.

The Chester Fritz Library provides information to University of North Dakota students, faculty and staff using both traditional paper formats and new digital formats. While some believe that all information may be found through the Internet, a great deal of scholarly information is still available only in paper format and thus the Library continues to purchase books and journals. Library bibliographers offer an important service to the University through their specialized knowledge of the publishing industry. Through these individuals, books are ordered and journal subscriptions are managed as they have been since the establishment of the University.

Librarians utilize technology in all facets of acquisitions and the storage and delivery of materials. Even though new relationships have developed with publishers and information providers to enhance the delivery of information, the role of the librarian remains constant. Whether information is printed on paper, transferred to microfilm, or converted to computer bytes, the librarian fulfills the role of the specialist who facilitates the exchange of scholarly information within and among universities and research organizations.

One of the unexpected benefits of working with electronic resources is the opportunity for libraries to join together to evaluate content

and negotiate access to digitized scholarly information. At the University of North Dakota, the Chester Fritz Library has worked closely with the Thormodsgard Law Library and the Harley E. French Library of the Health Sciences to provide digitized resources across campus whenever possible. This cooperative activity has produced a better understanding of the role and mission of these libraries within the University.

The Chester Fritz Library has also joined with libraries from other states to form evaluation and purchasing groups. The Library is a member of the MINITEX Library Information Network, which is a publicly supported network of academic, public, state government, and special libraries working cooperatively to improve library service for their users. MINITEX is a Minnesota-based organization, but libraries in North Dakota and South Dakota participate in MINITEX programs through contracts between the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office and North and South Dakota State Libraries. MINITEX has played a very important role in the acquisition of electronic resources. Recently a librarian from the Chester Fritz Library participated in an extensive MINITEX-sponsored evaluation project, which will help bring electronic resources to libraries throughout North Dakota. This cooperative work has saved and is expected to continue to save thousands of dollars through volume discounts negotiated by MINITEX on behalf of libraries in the three state region.

EPSCoR Science Initiative Group (ESIG) is another important library consortium that has facilitated the acquisition of significant electronic resources for the University. This group was formed by libraries in EPSCoR states to increase access to journals in science and technology, access critical to faculty for advancing research and teaching programs. EPSCoR, the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, is a joint program sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and several states and territories. Through EPSCoR, participating states have enhanced science and technology resources through partnerships between universities, government and the private sector.

In the same way, ESIG libraries have joined together to enhance their purchasing power. By negotiating with information providers as a group, ESIG libraries have benefited from more attractive purchasing packages. The Chester Fritz Library, as an ESIG participant, has expanded the number of science and technology journals by more than one thousand titles and at a fraction of the cost of individual subscription prices.

The University has greatly benefited from the Library's participation in these consortia. The results of these cooperative efforts have improved the Chester Fritz Library's ability to provide those scholarly information resources necessary to fuel dynamic research and diverse teaching programs at UND. As educational and scholarly communications continue to expand and formats continue to change, the Chester Fritz Library looks forward to supporting and enhancing the research, learning and scholarship that make UND an extraordinary institution of higher learning.

Wilbur Stolt, Director of Libraries

SEARCHING FOR BUSINESS INFO

Researching any subject can be a daunting and frustrating endeavor. Knowing where to look for accurate, authoritative, and timely information at times can be overwhelming. Further complicating a research quest is the possibility that the information is available only for a fee. When research is specialized, this possibility often becomes a frequent reality. One way libraries eliminate fees to the user is through database subscriptions. *Business & Company Resource Center* is one such database.

An InfoTrac product, *Business & Company Resource Center*, is one of many InfoTrac databases accessible via the Chester Fritz Library's home page. Multiple InfoTrac databases offer uniformity of interface – the search screen is the same in appearance and allows the user to select similar searching and limiting options.

The *Business & Company Resource Center* indexes peer-reviewed journals, magazines, and newswires from state, national, and international sources. Information includes company profiles, financial statistics, industry overviews, investment reports, news items, and more. Daily updates to the database insure timely coverage of current events. Market share and rankings provide useful comparative statistics, especially pertinent when assessing industry information.

In addition to journals and magazines, the *Business & Company Resource Center* indexes one other noteworthy resource, the trade magazine – an essential source for anyone researching a particular company or specific industry. Usually issued by associations, trade publications are utilized by students, faculty, entrepreneurs, investors, and others to locate statistics and demographics for a particular industry. These publications also assess and evaluate an industry's past and present. More importantly, they discuss industry trends and provide a rich resource for comprehensive industry information – and they are free, available without a fee, by virtue of the library's database subscription.

Searching options are plentiful in this resource; one can search by company or industry. Selecting either one produces SIC (Standard Industrial Classification) numbers, which are currently being replaced by NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) numbers – utilized by the federal government to classify business establishments. These numbers track national and international statistics, especially as they relate to trade. United States statistical agencies utilize these numbers to measure employment, labor costs, manufacturing output, productivity, etc. The NAICS number also more accurately reflects the service sector, in addition to the ever-evolving technological sector.

Tabs at the top of each page in the *Business & Company Resource Center* database link to a variety of articles, including corporate chronologies, financials, histories, investment reports, rankings, industry overview, and related associations. When doing a company search, there are also links to articles related to operations and technology, products and services, sales and marketing, and much more. Marketing information can be tracked easily by conducting a subject search with phrases such as consumer preferences, consumer behavior, and customer satisfaction.

Limiting a search is a useful feature, especially when keywords may yield hundreds or thousands of articles. Limiting options include full-text, peer-reviewed journals, newspapers and newswires, date, and journal name. Keyword search can be changed to title, author, SIC or NAICS number, etc.

Each indexed article will provide a citation, with some articles offering full-text or full-page imaging. Articles may be printed or e-mailed. One of the advantages in utilizing a database is that it enables the researcher to use one article to find others. Most articles provide subject links, which direct a search to additional, related articles – an effective and productive way to search. One may also search a specific journal or magazine issue and browse its contents, or one may peruse an article bibliography – again leading a user to more information.

If an article is not full-text, a click on the link to the library catalog (ODIN) automatically searches for the journal or magazine at the Chester Fritz Library. If the journal is not available at the Library, any UND student, faculty, or staff can request an interlibrary loan. Online interlibrary loan forms may be accessed from the Library's home page under: **Information & Services** and then by clicking on *Interlibrary Loan*.

The Chester Fritz Library subscribes to numerous other databases, some multidisciplinary in coverage, others indexing specialized subjects.

The latter includes, but is not limited to, chemistry, computer science, engineering, history, music, and psychology. These electronic resources index peer-reviewed journals, magazines, and newswires, many available in full-text or full-page image. The Chester Fritz Library provides easy access to these databases for UND students, faculty, and staff anywhere on campus. Off-campus access is also possible by connecting to the library's proxy server (instructions provided from our home page under: "How to use the library" – *Off-Campus Online Access*).

Librarians offer database introductions and search strategies to faculty and their classes via bibliographic instruction sessions. We often refer, in these sessions, to the difference between Internet and database searching, emphasizing the quality of information retrieved and time saved when utilizing the latter. Internet searching for business information can be especially overpowering. Many times, the information is available – but for a price. Many times, the information is not objective. Database searching minimizes time spent searching the Internet and becomes a reliable provider of scholarly information. A database also identifies the source of information – article title, author, and journal – elements that are not as easily identifiable on the Internet.

There will be occasions when online resources are not the best choice, especially when researching historical data. The Chester Fritz Library holds many older, specialized print indices in the Reference section on second floor. These may be located by searching the ODIN catalog.

Please take a look at the Chester Fritz Library databases from our home page – www.und.nodak.edu/dept/library/. There are alphabetical listings (*Article Indexes and Databases*) and subject access (*Resources by Subject*). Not sure where to look? Need help navigating? Click on *Subject Specialists* and contact a librarian. We want you to find what you need! Please call Reference and Research Services at 777-4629 or click on the ASK US button on the library's homepage. We are here to help.

Patricia Kranovich, Reference and Research Services



THE MERRIFIELD COMPETITION'S FIRST DECADE

The Merrifield Competition, named in honor of UND's third President and first University Librarian, has passed a noteworthy milestone: its first decade of encouraging, recognizing, and rewarding student research.

The Merrifield Competition was established by the Chester Fritz Library, in partnership with the UND Alumni Association and Foundation, to achieve a variety of purposes. The Library's goal was to increase awareness and use of the unique collection of primary source materials held in the Department of Special Collections and University Archives. The Library sought to foster research about the University and about North Dakota, its people, and its heritage. In so doing, the Library deemed it important to recognize and encourage outstanding scholarly research by UND students and the development of excellent writing skills.

The Merrifield Competition presents an annual award of a \$1500 UND scholarship, made possible through the Alumni Association's support and long-term commitment of the Competition. The Merrifield Award has motivated students to conduct scholarly historical research in original sources and be rewarded for their efforts. Eight graduate students have claimed the Merrifield Award and two undergraduates. These students have majored in history, geography, and English; one was an Honors student and one a two-time winner.

University Archives has provided research materials for three of the award-winning papers. Students examined the terms of two UND presidents, the one year term of William Blackburn, first UND President, and the nearly fifteen year tenure of Thomas Kane, fifth UND President, in addition to the lengthy deanship of Joseph Kennedy.

The first 155 pages of a leather bound ledger book containing the Minutes of the Board of Regents of the University of North Dakota reveal the launching of the institution on April 21, 1883, construction details of Main, the only campus building until 1887 when Davis Hall was completed, and an account of Blackburn's presidency. In addition, a small collection of Blackburn's sermons from 1855 to 1898 offer his philosophy as a Presbyterian theologian and nineteenth century evangelical. The Board of Regents dismissed Blackburn on May 12, 1885, on a vote of three-to-two, primarily because of differences in his approach to education. Blackburn favored a more practical common-sense approach to higher education, one he deemed more appropriate for the fledgling institution on the plains where incoming students were not as well-prepared as students in the East. The only other faculty on campus, Henry Montgomery and Webster Merrifield, preferred offering a classical education, similar to that found at eastern universities.

A combination of University Archives records and several manuscript collections described Thomas Kane's presidency from 1918 to 1933. Correspondence found in Kane's papers and those of several faculty members, Dean William Bek, Orin G. Libby, John Gillette, and Vernon Squires, reveals turmoil during his tenure, particularly during his first and final years. In addition to these resources, records of the President's Office, minutes of the Board of Administration, and articles from the *Grand Forks Herald* and *Dakota Student*, document his term. The Kane research paper suggested a presidency rift with political polarization, faculty dissent, and student activism.

Joseph Kennedy accepted a UND position as Assistant



Webster Merrifield

Professor of Pedagogy and Principal of the Preparatory Department in 1892. He was appointed Dean of the Normal College in 1900, which became the Teacher's College in 1904 and the School of Education in 1911. Kennedy remained Dean until his retirement in 1928. His papers, and various secondary sources, provided an examination of Kennedy's area of expertise, psychological research and the influence of William James on Kennedy's pragmatic ideas about pedagogy and curriculum in higher education.

The other award-winning Merrifield papers investigated primary sources held in the extensive Orin G. Libby Manuscript Collection, which comprises approximately 1450 individual collections. Two research papers examined early settlement in North Dakota. One studied the horticultural contributions of Fannie Mahood Heath, "Flower Woman of North Dakota" and Grand Forks County pioneer. Correspondence, articles written by Heath, and her drawings of native prairie plants reveal her experimentation and conservation of Plains flora and her efforts to educate the public as to their value. The other paper looked at the homesteading experience of Jewish immigrants in North Dakota. The memoirs of several women homesteaders and the papers of Isadore Papermaster, Grand Forks rabbi, describe the attempts of these immigrants to farm the prairie and suggest the reasons for their ultimate failure.

World War II provided the stage for three research topics. Special Collections holds one of twenty sets of Nuremberg Trial records, procured through the efforts of James Morris, a North Dakota Supreme Court judge who sat on the War Crimes Tribunal. These records provided a glimpse into the personal experience of the Ostarbeiter and the lives of three million Soviet civilian slave laborers, mostly Ukrainians, during the Third Reich. Most other scholarly investigations have primarily delved into the administrative side of Germany's slave-labor system.

Enemy alien subject files within the extensive 720 box collection of the William Langer Papers contained the materials, mostly correspondence, to research Langer's advocacy of civil liberties on behalf of German and German-American internees on Ellis Island after WWII. As a member of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, "Wild Bill" Langer, through legislation, congressional hearings, and political lobbying, secured the release of many of those unjustly interned. The third WWII paper researched the effect of the War on the home front in North Dakota and Minnesota. Several collections of family papers, including those of the Murphy family, were studied and oral interviews were conducted. Although limited in scope, the paper concluded that the War changed expectations and affected marriage, child care, housing, and the workforce.

To further illustrate the diversity of the collections, photographs of the 1882 Grand Forks lynching of Charles Thurber, as well as *Grand Forks Herald* articles, allowed one researcher to delineate the historical context of this incident in the city's past. In addition, the papers of Lynn Frazier, North Dakota Governor from 1917 to 1921, and numerous contemporary state documents and newspaper articles, were examined to document Frazier's seizure of the state's lignite mines in 1919 to avert a fuel crisis and the resultant coal miners strike.

All of the Merrifield award-winning papers, as well as those not chosen, may be examined in Special Collections. The Department looks forward to another decade of student research and award presentations.

Sandy Slater, Special Collections

ENHANCING ARCHIVAL ACCESS

An emerging trend in the archival profession is the creation of electronic databases to index and provide access to detailed and complex information in original primary source documents. These databases are often mounted on the World Wide Web where they can be searched by users across the globe. The overall effect of this phenomenon is that researchers are able to access information they would have thought impossible several years ago. The Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections has kept up with this trend, and has recently completed three important Oracle database projects.

The first project involved the conversion of an existing card catalog index to the *Dakota Student*. Special Collections maintained this catalog, with staff indexing the newspaper back to its very first issue in 1888. Each original article in the paper was indexed by subject, followed by a short description detailing each article. Citation information was included as well. Data entry alone for this massive project took approximately four years and was accomplished by dedicated student assistants.

This newly created database searches keywords within both subject and description fields, and searches may be limited by a single year or a range of years. Results are alphabetized first by subject, and then are arranged chronologically for multiple entries for one subject. By using citations from a successful search, the researcher may obtain copies of *Dakota Student* articles preserved on microfilm in Special Collections. The newspaper database may be searched at:

<http://www.und.nodak.edu/dept/library/Collections/searchDakotaStu.jsp>

The second project involved the records of E.J. Lander & Co., a real estate, land development, and farm management firm. Founded in Grand Forks by E.J. Lander in 1883, the company worked with farmers and ranchers primarily in northern North Dakota and Montana, a smaller number in Minnesota and South Dakota, and eastern investors.

The E.J. Lander & Co. Land Records database indexes the contents of over 160 archival boxes, consisting of the firm's loan files, Eastern Client files, and real estate files. All of the records are searchable by name, date, location, and acreage. Most of the material dates from 1902 to 1953, with the bulk dating from 1916 to 1942. For scholars, the files provide a picture of land settlement patterns on the northern Great Plains and detail fifty years of the region's agricultural economy. The land records also offer family historians yet another insight into the lives of their ancestors. The Lander land records are incredibly detailed and complex. Access to them would have been very difficult before the creation of this database, which is available at:

<http://www.und.nodak.edu/dept/library/Collections/lander/index.html>

The third project involved Grand Forks County Coroner certificates. The Coroner is charged with the responsibility of investigating any death arising from suspicious and unusual circumstances, including criminal or violent means, suicide, accidents, and sudden death when in apparent good health. The

Coroner is a licensed medical doctor appointed by County Commissioners.

The database indexes more than 3,200 certificates, dating from 1882-1989. Many of the files for pre-1956 certificates were quite voluminous, and often included testimony before inquests of both the Coroner and the State's Attorney, an inventory of possessions found on the deceased, and statements of the coroner's expenses. Most of the files after 1956 consist of a single piece of paper, the coroner's certificate itself. The database searches first and last names, and may be limited by year. Search returns are arranged alphabetically by surname, then by given name. Please note that according to Chapter 23-02.1-27 of the North Dakota Century Code, only family members of the deceased may view the certificates. The database can be searched at:

<http://www.und.nodak.edu/dept/library/Collections/searchGFCoroner.jsp>

Special Collections has initiated another database project in its continuing effort to provide online accessibility to records. The same committed volunteer who completed the Lander and Coroner databases has recently begun data entry for an online index of hand-written Grand Forks County Marriage Licenses dating from 1875. This monumental project will enhance a separate database created by the County, which primarily indexed typed licenses.

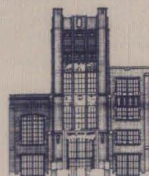
The creation of all these databases was a team effort. Special Collections identified the nature and scope of the projects, and received technical assistance in administering each of the databases from Chester Fritz Library Systems and Services and UND's Informational Technology Systems and Services. The Department also worked closely with Library Systems to create each Web search interface. Special Collections is especially indebted to its student and volunteer data entry workers and their attention to detail. The result is efficient access to records valuable to a wide variety of researchers.

Curt Hanson, Special Collections



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Chester Fritz Library
University of North Dakota
Grand Forks, ND 58202
(701) 777-2189
Fax: (701) 777-3319



Director of Libraries: Wilbur Stolt

Editor: Sandy Slater, Head, Special Collections
Technical Support: Heather Stecher, Student Assistant

Contributors: Wilbur Stolt, Patricia Kranovich, Sandy Slater, Curt Hanson

Library home page: www.und.nodak.edu/dept/library