

Message of thanks

As we look to the beginning of another year, it is most appropriate that appreciation be extended to those individuals whose work and support has been and continues to be so significant on behalf of MAGNOLIA.

The dedicated and capable leadership of the members of the MAGNOLIA Steering Committee and its advisory members, who give of their time and talents on an in kind basis, cannot be overlooked.

Certainly foremost is the ongoing support from members of the Mississippi Legislature, Lieutenant Governor Amy Tuck, members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, and Chairs of key legislative committees.

The continued support from this group of individuals makes the difference in the continuation of MAGNOLIA and its far reaching and positive effects in support of Mississippi's public libraries, schools, community colleges and universities.

All of these individuals are to be complimented for their vision and understanding of the excellent educational benefits for Mississippi's citizens, students and faculty served by MAGNOLIA.

The MAGNOLIA

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New products available to MAGNOLIA members

As a result of all university and community college libraries and the public library community coming together to contribute special funding in support of a separate project all libraries involved in MAGNOLIA now have access to EBSCO's Academic Search Premier, the leading scholarly full text database, and Novelist, a reader's advisory database.

Academic Search Premier is the world's largest scholarly,



multi-disciplinary, full text database designed specifically for academic institutions.

With the most valuable and numerous collection of peer-reviewed full text journals, Academic Search™ Premier offers critical information from

many sources found in no other database.

This resource contains full text for 3,956 scholarly publications with more than 100 going back to 1975 or further. Academic Search Premier includes PDF images for the great majority of journals; many of these PDFs are native (searchable) or scanned-in-color.

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How do schools access MAGNOLIA from school, home?

As long as your school is on the Internet backbone as provided by the State Department of Education, you will be able to use the MAGNOLIA resources without entering a username and password.

If you are not connected to the State Department of Education's Internet backbone, send your registered IP addresses (must be unique to your school) for your school to systems@library.msstate.edu along with your contact information and school name.

Students and faculty wanting to use the MAGNOLIA resources from home should use the URL <http://library.msstate.edu/magnolia/login.asp> to access the MAGNOLIA login page.

The user will be prompted for a username.



The username for all public schools is magn0897. This code will provide them with full access to all of the MAGNOLIA resources.

Using OCLC FirstSearch at school - or at home!

FirstSearch is a Web-based information system for searching online databases.

A database is a collection of related resources on a specific topic or from a specific source. Each entry in a database is called a record.

1. Once you have clicked onto the FirstSearch hyperlink, your searching process will begin. The first thing you will need to do at this point is to select a database(s). You may choose ArticleFirst, ECO, UnionLists, or WorldCat

2. Click the checkbox in front of each database you would like

to search (up to three).

3. You may then choose to do a basic search or an advanced search. Basic searching can be done by keyword, author, or title - plus you may include the source and the year (if you know these things) - plus you may limit your searching to only full text articles. Advanced searching is a bit more complicated - but still incredibly intuitive. The Advanced Search screen lets you construct more complex search statements using up to three search strings. Also, three indexes can be combined using Boolean operators

(AND, OR, and NOT) selected from drop-down menus. More search limits are also available at this level. (There is even an EXPERT searching level, if you are interested!)

One of the more interesting databases available to MAGNOLIA Project users is WorldCat.

Think of it as sort of having access to all of the books in all of the libraries everywhere.. Some librarians use this for verification when ordering, placing interlibrary loans, or for authority work in cataloging. Just be sure to use it!!!



New MAGNOLIA web pages for K-12

At the request of a number of K-12 librarians and teachers, a new set of web pages specifically designed for K-12 students has been created.

These pages are easy to use and were designed with the target audience in mind. Instead of one page for all databases, we developed a page for the elementary, middle and secondary students.

Each of these web pages lists the

databases that would be most often used by these students.

These web pages can be found on the MAGNOLIA K-12 web page located at <http://library.msstate.edu/magnolia> or you can go directly to the new pages by using these urls.

Elementary Page: <http://library.msstate.edu/magnolia/Elementary>

Middle School Page: <http://library.msstate.edu/magnolia/MiddleSchool>

Secondary Page: <http://library.msstate.edu/magnolia/Secondary>

This new look is a work in progress. Let us know if you have suggestions.

Need lesson plans that include MAGNOLIA information? Visit this new resource, which was developed by fellow teachers - <http://library.msstate.edu/magnolia/lessonplans>.

MAGNOLIA Project offers access to several GaleNET products

Take a look at all of the wonderful databases YOU have access to as a recipient of MAGNOLIA:

CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS

Provides current biographical and bibliographical information on modern authors of fiction, general nonfiction, poetry, journalism, drama, motion pictures, television, and other fields.

Provides complete biographical and bibliographical references for more than 90,000 contemporary authors in the U.S. and around the world.

CONTEMPORARY LITERARY CRITICISM SELECT

Contemporary Literary Criticism Select (CLC Select) provides an extensive collection of critical essays on contemporary writers.

Each CLC Select entry also contains a biographical/critical introduction including pseudonyms and nationality; a listing of principal works, and sources

for further study.

Search options help you target the specific information you need. Search options include author name, author profile, titles, subject/themes, critics and critical sources. CLC Select also contains an integrated index to the entire Contemporary Literary Criticism print series.

DISCOVERING COLLECTION

Combines DISCOVERING Authors and EXPLORING Poetry with numerous other databases to form a comprehensive database. Retrieve in-depth reference content for the core curriculum areas of Literature, History, Biographies, Science, and Social Studies. Includes Merriam Webster's Collegiate, Biographical, and Geographical Dictionaries.

GENERAL BUSINESSFILE ASAP

Use this database to find articles on: Finance, Acquisitions & Mergers, International Trade, Money Management,

New Technologies & Products, Local & Regional Business Trends, Investments and Banking.

PREDICASTS PROMT

Use this database to research companies, the products and technologies they produce, and the markets in which they compete. Includes summaries and full text from nearly 1,000 business and trade journals, industry newsletters, newspapers, market research studies, news releases, and investment and brokerage firm reports.

BUSINESS AND COMPANY RESOURCE CENTER

Business & Company Resource Center brings together in a single database company profiles, company brand information, rankings, investment reports, company histories, chronologies, and periodicals. Search this database to find detailed company and industry news and information.

For all the latest on MAGNOLIA, visit the website at <http://library.msstate.edu/magnolia/>

SIRS: A gold mine for teachers, students

The MAGNOLIA Project provides access to SIRS Researcher (grades 10 and above) and to SIRS Discoverer (grades 1-9) to all Mississippians, both within our libraries as well as remotely.

SIRS Publishing, Inc. has been in the business of helping libraries and students for over 25 years. SIRS Publishing is now affiliated with ProQuest, a nationwide leader in information publishing.

SIRS Researcher is a general reference database containing thousands of full-text articles on a variety of topics.

The carefully selected articles within Discoverer come from over 1,500 U.S. and international periodicals - including newspapers and government documents.

These articles date from 1988 to the present. Charts, maps, diagrams and colorful illustrations accompany many of the articles. The information contained within this database is updated daily! It is accessible by three different search methods: Keyword, Subject Heading and Topic Browser.

SIRS Discoverer is an award-winning reference database designed for children in grades 1-9.

The articles' publication dates range from 1992 to the present. The articles and graphics contained in Discoverer are carefully selected for their educational content, interest, and level of readability.

In fact, each article is actually assigned a reading level category based on the Flesch Reading Ease scale.

Discoverer's WebFind is a new SIRS product, provided to the recipients of the MAGNOLIA Project beginning this year.

WebFind is a database of carefully chosen Internet resources, evaluated for research value, high interest, credibility, age-appropriateness and reliability.

SIRS' editorial staff writes a summary for each and every web site on WebFind, making research more efficient.

These selected Internet websites are



monitored hourly to make sure they are "live" and that no significant content changes have been made to them.

Improvements made to Academic Search Elite

As of today, Academic Search Elite (ASE) contains 1,834 full text periodicals.

As of January 1, 2004, ASE's product definition will jump to 2,037 full text serials, representing an 11% increase in the number of full text journals offered through the database.

As of today, Academic

Search Premier (ASP) contains 3,970 full text journals.

As of January 1, 2004, ASP's product definition will jump to 4,406 full text serials, representing an 11% increase in the number full text journals offered through the database.

In addition, as you may

have heard, EBSCO recently acquired Whitston Publishing, the publisher of the secondary database: American Humanities Index (AHI).

This abstract/index database is a valuable source of indexing for humanities

■ See Elite, page 4

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What's New with EBSCOhost? PLENTY!!!!

My EBSCOhost is a personal folder in which you can save searches, links, search results, journal alerts and web pages. Think of it as your own personal searching secretary!

Once you "sign up" for this service, a MY banner will appear in the corner of your screen to signify that you have logged into your very own personalized searching folder. You will, of course, be able to save this folder from session to session.

Even if you do not decide to use the MY EBSCOhost service, remember that you can e-mail part or all of your "hits" to your e-mail box - or to someone else who might need the information (example: a teacher, a student, a professor, a patron).

Doing basic searches using EBSCOhost are easy:

1. Click on the EBSCOhost hyperlink.
2. Select the database(s) you want to search and click Continue.
3. On the Search Screen, enter your search terms in the box labeled: "Find:"
4. Select from available search options to adjust the focus of your search. Select

limiter options to narrow your search or select expander options to broaden your search (Note: expanders are not available with the Any Words search mode).

Below are some common options:

- Full Text - limits search results to full text articles only
- Magazine/Journal/Publication - limits search results to articles from a specific title
- Also search for related words - expands search results to include synonyms

and plurals of your term(s)

- Also search within full text of the articles - expands search results by finding your term(s) within the full text of the articles

5. Click the Search Button to begin searching.

One more thing: have you ever tried using the Wildcard (?) or Truncation (*) symbols?

You would want to use these symbols when there are unknown characters, multiple spellings, or various endings.

- Wildcard is represented by a question mark (?). To use

the wildcard, enter your search term(s), replacing each unknown letter with a ? EBSCOhost will then find all of the instances of that word with the ? replaced by a letter (example: ne?t would pull up neat, nest, or next).

- Truncation is represented by an asterisk (*). To use truncation, enter the root of a search term(s), replacing the ending with an *.

EBSCOhost will then find all of the forms of that word (examples: comput* would pull up computer or computing).

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journals and has very little overlap with either version of Academic Search.

Due to very limited overlap, AHI is also a good complement for MLA International Bibliography and H.W. Wilson's Humanities Index. For example, AHI contains indexing and detailed bibliographic records for more than 750 journals back as far as 1975.

Only 84 of those journals are currently indexed in Wilson's Humanities Index. Therefore, while this database

is not a replacement for Humanities Abstracts, AHI is certainly an excellent complement.

For all of 2004 (January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004), all current subscribers of Academic Search Elite or Academic Search Premier will receive American Humanities Index (AHI) at no additional charge. This includes single site customers and all consortium customers.

Further, for all of 2004 (January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004), all current subscribers of Academic Search Elite or Academic Search Premier will receive an additional new database,

Communication & Mass Media Complete (CMMC), at no additional charge.

Academic Search customers will not need to specifically request either database (AHI or CMMC); they will both be automatically added to profiles as of January 1, 2004.

Existing Academic Search customers who already purchase AHI, CMMI, or CMMC via EBSCOhost will receive a credit toward additional EBSCOhost databases.

CMMC will contain the entire Communication & Mass Media Index (CMMI), plus the world's best collection of full text communication and mass media journals. CMMI is the

definitive index of literature for these disciplines and includes the following:

1. All detailed bibliographic records from CommSearch, formerly produced by the National Communication Association

2. All detailed bibliographic records from Mass Media Articles Index, formerly produced by Penn State University

3. Indexing, abstracts and detailed bibliographic records for all major communication and/or mass media journals that were not previously covered by CommSearch or Mass Media Articles Index

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Access to *NoveList* is now available to all types of libraries

Thanks to a new agreement with our wonderful MAGNOLIA partner EBSCO, their wonderful reader's advisory product **NoveList** is now available to all types of libraries, complete with remote access.

Those who work in or use public libraries have long seen the value of **NoveList** when seeking like fictional titles, like authors, specific characters, etc.

Now those who are using State-supported academic institutional libraries and local public school libraries will be able to utilize this important reference tool.

Searching the NoveList database is easy!

Each of the searches available in NoveList (in the "Search our Database" box):

- Requires you to enter some kind of information on which to search (author, title, series character or name, location, setting, characteristic).
- Allows you to limit your results by reading level, Lexile range, number of pages, or publication date.

Which search strategy works best for you depends on what information you have or what you already know about the book.

If you prefer to "browse" instead of entering information, you can look through pre-made lists in NoveList:

EXPLORE FICTION provides over 1200 customized lists of books based on genre (mysteries, science fiction, westerns) or special categories by level (boys and girls, periods in history, contemporary). A description appears at the end of each list that tells you something about the books on the list or how to find more books like the ones on the list.

BEST FICTION provides lists of titles that have won awards. NoveList has lists for over 200 different awards for all age levels. The awards cover literary awards at all levels (National Book Award, Newbery, Caldecott) as well as specialized awards by genre or level (mystery, YALSA, etc.)



All Authors, Titles, Series Names and Subjects provides access to lists of authors, titles, series names, or subject headings that are available in the NoveList database. You can browse the lists alphabetically or through relevancy ranking.

Note: The Explore and Best Fiction lists are not only developed for genres and awards, but they are customized by level. The genres (categories) for adults include mysteries and science fiction.

In addition to the traditional genres, at the easy level you will find categories like seasons, holidays, or make believe. Children's categories include families, life and living, and friends. You can also browse only one level (adult, young adult, children, easy) at a time.

In addition to ways to search the database and browse pre-made lists, NoveList offers more content on fiction developed by experts in their areas of specialty:

AUTHOR READ-ALIKES

Joyce Saricks, nationally known Readers' Advisor and author of *Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction* (ALA, 2001), describes an author's writing style including several different appeal characteristics for the selected author. She then provides suggested read-alikes based on the appeal factors described.

Now, other well-know Readers' Advisory Experts following the same rigorous standards in creating author

read-alikes. Five new read-alikes are added each month.

BOOK DISCUSSION GUIDES

Guides for selected titles with everything a book discussion leader needs: author bio, summary of the book, discussion provoking questions with suggested answers, and additional titles like this book. (*Ways to use these: to lead book discussion groups, to gain a better understanding of the title.*)

BOOKTALKS

Provided for both children's and young adult titles, booktalks are short enticing descriptions of books designed to capture the interest of young readers. (*Ways to use these: As ready-made talks when visiting schools, as print outs for students to spark interest in reading in the classroom, as part of displays, to entice reluctant readers.*)

Feature Articles

This is an eclectic mix of short articles, author interviews, activities, and thematic lists. Organized by genre (mystery, adventure, etc), level (children, adult), and theme (Quick Picks, Sports). Feature Articles provide another way to explore fiction. (*Ways to use these: As handouts for your patrons, students, parents, as part of displays, to spark ideas and content for displays, to learn more about a topic that interests you.*)

FOR STAFF ONLY

Provided for both the public library and school personnel, these links access tools and training materials on specific topics of interest. The material is downloadable and free to our customers. (*Ways to use these: To increase your skills and knowledge when working with fiction readers, as content or ideas for staff meeting refreshers, as content for staff development, as content for lesson plans or special units, to share with colleagues.*)

TEACHERS – WHAT'S IN THIS FOR YOU

Check out this website and see!
<http://novelist.epnet.com/novel/nlc/SchoolStuff/AdditionalResources.htm>



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4. Vastly expanded backfiles of indexing, indicative abstracts and detailed bibliographic records for major communication journals

5. Extended informative abstracts for numerous top journals indexed in the database from January 1, 2004 forward

6. Searchable citations (A.K.A. linked cited references) beginning on January 1, 2003 for all peer-reviewed journals covered as "core" in the database [NOTE: EBSCO is processing backfiles of searchable citations for some of the journals in CMMC.]

7. Strong coverage of grey lit-

erature

8. Monographs, conference proceedings, working papers, etc.

In total, more than 285 journals will be indexed and abstracted as "core" in CMMI, while approximately 100 journals will be indexed as "priority" titles. "Core" coverage refers to sources which will be indexed and abstracted in their entirety (i.e. cover to cover), while "priority" coverage refers to sources from which we will include only those articles which are relevant to the field.

Priority sources often contain a substantial amount of quality content relevant to the subjects, but also contain a number of articles covering topics not related to the field of study.

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budget continues to be devoted entirely to costs involved with the ongoing maintenance/subscriptions of the core titles/databases.

Additional titles have been recommended and have been considered. However, due to budgetary confinements, the adding of new titles has been impossible.

Like other collection development budgets, inflation is a negative factor, resulting in the need of an additional 10% budget increase in support of retaining the titles in the core collection.

This 10% increase represents a need for an additional \$108,634 to an already established budget of \$1,086,340.

This need was recently presented to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. We remain hope-

ful that the Legislature will continue to support the MAGNOLIA project, which reaches out to the largest and, more importantly, the smallest communities in our State.

Best wishes for the holidays and the New Year. As always, do not hesitate to contact me or other members of the Steering/Advisory Committee should you have comments, questions or suggestions regarding MAGNOLIA.

In the meantime, please plan to take a few minutes of your busy holiday and post-holiday schedules to thank your legislators and other MAGNOLIA supporters for providing the resources needed to maintain MAGNOLIA, an exemplary project that benefits all types of libraries and individuals throughout the state of Mississippi.

Sincerely
Frances N. Coleman
12/15/03

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The diverse content is a valuable resource for your library, supporting core curriculum degree requirements and elective classes.

This scholarly collection provides full text journal coverage for nearly all academic areas of study - including social sciences, humanities, education, computer sciences, engineering, physics, chemistry, language and linguistics, arts & literature, medical sciences, ethnic studies, etc.