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Databases Deconstructed

You know about our extensive book collection and the music and DVDs available from the Alvin Sherman Library. But did you know we also offer entertaining and informative material through subscriptions to several hundred databases? This article introduces you to our database collection. You can access this information through a Web browser. Many databases can be accessed from your home or office computer, but some are available only when you visit the library in person. For both local and remote access, your Sherman Library card is the key to this wealth of information.

What is a database? Simply put, databases are large, well organized collections of information. You’ll find financial and investment information, collections of art, reference books like encyclopedias, and standardized test guides including SAT preparation materials, to name a few. These are all high quality, focused collections that get you what you want fast—no wading through thousands of irrelevant hits.

Using the Sherman Library databases, you can find articles from—and even entire issues of—magazines like Fortune, Money, Entertainment Weekly, People, Parenting, Foreign Affairs, Newsweek, and Time. All of these magazines and more are contained in one database called America’s News Magazines. You can also access the latest financial information. The databases ValueLine® and Standard & Poors are two more of our hundreds of sources.

The key to using databases successfully is looking in the right one. Looking for travel guides in a genealogy database just will not work. We make it easy to determine which databases are appropriate for your needs by organizing them according to subject. After choosing a subject area to browse, you’ll see a list of databases with descriptions. Taking a minute to read the descriptions will save you a lot of time. The rest of this article highlights some databases you might find interesting. This is just a sampling of the Sherman Library’s database collection.

All of our databases can be accessed from the “Databases” Web page on the Alvin Sherman Library Web site. Visit www.nova.edu/library/eleclib/ and begin your search. If you want help getting started, call the reference desk at (954) 262-4613. We are passionate about helping our library patrons learn about our amazing resources.

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Message from the Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian

Retirement! On December 31, 2007, I will retire from my position at Nova Southeastern University. At that time, I will have completed 11 years as the leader of the NSU library system. These 11 years have been exciting, eventful, and productive!

My success at NSU is the result of having strong support from Ray Ferrero, NSU president; George Hanbury, executive vice president; Ginny McLain, vice president; the Circle of Friends; deans; faculty members; and many others. Without Ray Ferrero's leadership, a joint-use library with the Broward County Commissioners would have been only a concept and a dream. In reality, the 325,000-square-foot Alvin Sherman Library is the largest library building in Florida. The staff members of the entire NSU library system also deserve much credit. They practice a service philosophy that is difficult to find in libraries. Their ability to effectively serve users from preschoolers to doctoral students, with the use of modern technology, is quite commendable. In addition, the use of the joint-use library by Broward County residents continues to exceed expectations.

After 43 years as a library administrator (including my time at the University of Michigan and Arizona State University), I am welcoming my retirement. NSU encourages innovation and creativity; and I will miss these opportunities. Moreover, I will miss the people at NSU. The human portion of the library equation is, and must remain, the most important component. I extend a special thank you to everyone who assisted me in improving the NSU libraries during the past 11 years.

Gratefully,
Donald E. Riggs
Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian
Databases Deconstructed (continued from page 1)

Business and Economics Databases

Business databases can help you plan a new startup, research ongoing businesses, or manage personal finance and investing. Using our subscription to the database ValueLine® will save you almost $1,000 a year, providing you with advice on stocks, mutual funds, options, ETFs, and special situations. The database ABI/Inform Complete includes articles on business strategy, management, accounting, marketing, ethics, and case studies. There are 28 additional business and economics databases to explore.

Computer and Information Science Databases

The latest technology isn't just for nerds anymore. Whether you want information about a particular computer operating system or a guide to taking better pictures with your new digital camera, you can find all things geek-chic in this collection of databases. Safari Books Online has complete books you can read online. If you are trying to learn something new about your computer or your digital camera, it's easier and more efficient to click open an e-book than to drive to the bookstore and wander through the isles. The database ProQuest Computing puts hundreds of computer magazines at your fingertips. Read reviews and product guides and learn programming languages or how to use the latest Web tools all in one place, with no popup ads to distract you.

Ebooks Databases

Not all books sit on shelves. Ebooks can be found and read on the Internet, making them accessible from your home or office computer. The database Gale Virtual Reference Library offers 65 reference books to assist with research or simply entertain. In the mood to reminisce? Check out Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th-Century America. Need business tips? We've got the Business Plans Handbook, Volumes 1–13. Interested in learning about timely issues? The Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World is available online. Ready to discover healthy alternatives? The Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine is just a click away. If you're searching for books on film history, scholarship directories, or theater guides, we have an ebook to meet your needs. The database NetLibrary offers over 14,000 volumes, and even The Oxford English Dictionary is accessible online.

Education Databases

Nova Southeastern University has more graduate students studying education than any other university in the country. Naturally, we have an outstanding collection of education-related databases. Whether you are an educator, a parent, or an interested citizen, these databases are excellent resources. The Teacher Reference Center and ProQuest Education Journals both contain articles about special education, home schooling, continuing education, current pedagogical research, curriculum development, instructional media, language arts, and literacy standards.

General and Multidisciplinary Databases

This group of databases is the catch-all resource of databases. No matter what you want, you can find something of interest here. The database Academic OneFile has full-text articles from over 3,000 journals. General Reference Center Gold has 44,107,255 articles. Looking for a great restaurant in Aruba? They have 42 articles to peruse. You can dive into these two databases and almost always find relevant and timely answers to your questions.

Health and Medicine Databases

Our variety of graduate programs in health sciences has inspired our rich database collection in health and medicine. Whether you are looking for the latest research or general background information, you can find it here. The database Health and Wellness Resource Center and Alternative Health Module includes medical encyclopedias, health assessment tools, a drug and herb finder, a medical dictionary, and news about health topics. It's a good place to start your search for general information about health-related issues. The database Health Reference Center Academic is more advanced, providing detailed and academic information including clinical reports, research studies and reports, reviews, case studies, disease and drug overviews, and additional articles.

Homework Helpers Databases

If you have children, look no further than our Homework Helpers collection of databases. For students in elementary school through high school, you'll find great resources here to assist with research for reports (Student Edition), science fairs and experiment design (Science Online), debate preparation (Opposing Viewpoints), and so much more. Teachers will find that most of these databases include lesson plans and curriculum guides. Many include a "News of the Day" feature to enhance current events assignments.

Community Focus

The Alvin Sherman Library was recently awarded a $10,000 TLC Program Grant from the Community Foundation of Broward. The program focuses on providing emergent literacy learning activities and cultural programming to families in Broward County. Since 1984, the Community Foundation of Broward has enabled people to become philanthropists and make a difference through charitable giving in their lifetimes and beyond.
What Does Our Joint-Use Facility Mean to You?

In 2001, Nova Southeastern University and the Broward County Board of County Commissioners signed a unique and innovative agreement enabling anyone living or working in Broward County to have access to the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center. This agreement is the only one in the country between a private university and a county system. Our goal is to provide all Broward County patrons with the opportunity to take advantage of our valuable resources at no charge.

Alvin Sherman Library card holders can
• access more than 200 databases online 24/7 and at the library, which is open 100 hours per week—more hours than any other Broward County library
• enjoy many of the same privileges as NSU students and staff and faculty members, including reserving meeting rooms and one-on-one librarian support
• check out books or other Sherman Library materials, including DVDs, CDs, and books on tape, and return them to any Broward County library (or vice versa)

Tech Talk

Do the words blog, podcast, IM, VOIP, and Web cast seem like they're from a foreign language? The growth of the Internet has resulted in a language of its own. "Tech terms" are often misunderstood, perhaps because many people don't use the gadgets, programs, and functions this lingo represents. Here's a brief overview of what these terms mean.

A blog, or an online journal or discussion forum, can be accessed by invitation only or is open to the public. A blogger is the individual who contributes content to the blog. A podcast is a method of broadcasting audio files, via the Internet, that users can downloaded to their iPod, MP3 player, or computer. Podcasts are much like traditional radio, except the programs are being broadcast over the Internet, instead of via radio waves. But, unlike radio, podcasts offer more flexibility to listeners, as they can download programs and listen to them at any time (and stop, pause, and rewind). Podcasts are popping up all over the world, covering hundreds of topics from politics, sports, news, entertainment, management tools, money-making tips, travel, and even libraries!

Instant messaging (IMing) is simply sending a message online, instantly. Much like text messaging with your cell phone, IMing uses free instant messaging software such as AOL, MSN, or Yahoo! It allows users to communicate with friends, family, even co-workers, all while sitting at the computer. IMs can even be read and sent from PDAs (personal digital assistants). The Alvin Sherman Library has its own instant messaging service for patrons wanting to communicate with librarians. Visit www.nova.edu/library/help/askalib.html for more information.

Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) takes instant messaging one step further by allowing individuals to have actual verbal conversations over the Internet. Users subscribe to a service that allows them to call other users via the Internet. A headset with a microphone is all the user needs to talk, type, and surf the Internet, all at the same time.

What is a Web cast? Simply put, it's a broadcast sent and received online. Web casting captures the audio and video channels, digitizes them, and broadcasts the content through a computer. Seminars can now be turned in to "Webinars," and weather reports, newscasts, and even talk shows can be viewed online via Web casting.

eBooks: The New Way to Read

The Alvin Sherman Library houses 33 databases filled with thousands of electronic books in genres including history, fiction, nonfiction, biographies, mysteries, best sellers, children's books, and educational materials. You can read an electronic book by best selling authors like James Patterson, Dean Koontz, Jane Austen, and J.K. Rowling. Or, enjoy the classics like The Great Gatsby, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, or The Scarlett Letter.

Check out these recommended ebook databases:

Credo Reference
This database offers information on more than 250 reference books covering art, biography, business, conversions, dictionaries, encyclopedias, food, geography, history, language, law, literature, medicine, music, philosophy, psychology, quotations, religion, science, social sciences, and technology.

Net Library
With a current collection of more than 14,000 copyright-protected eBooks, this database provides full-text electronic books in all subject areas.

Oxford Reference Online
This contains full-text versions of numerous Oxford reference works, providing information across 25 subjects. These include full-text dictionaries, Oxford Companions, quotations, and bilingual dictionaries, as well as maps, timelines, and illustrations.

Safari Books Online
This database provides more than 3,700 eBooks, covering computer hardware and software technologies.

World Book Encyclopedia for Kids
Based on the World Book Student Discovery Encyclopedia, the content is chosen and written for younger readers. There are thousands of colorful illustrations, diagrams, and maps to enhance learning.
Beverly Pepper, a native New Yorker, has been exhibited around the world, including at several New York City galleries; the Palais Royal in Paris, France; and at the Forte Belvedere in Florence, Italy. Standing 12 feet high and made of 160-million-year-old Chavigny stone (French limestone), the glorious sculpture commanding the atrium is an interpretive work titled Withstanding Presence. It is a permanent installation donated in part by the Circle of Friends for the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center.

Dale Chihuly is an internationally renowned glass artist responsible for the library's newest permanent installation, The NSU Glass Garden, located on the second floor mezzanine, overlooking the atrium.

Peter Max, a German-born American artist, came to international prominence in the 1960s with his "cosmic" art. Since then, Max has explored many new styles and worked in a variety of media. He is known for his vibrant colors and Art-Nouveau-like graphic designs. The library has eight works of art on loan from collectors Donna and Frank Horkey. Better World and Liberty are two well known pieces flanking the entrance to the second floor gallery.

Franck Louissaint is known for his street scenes and paintings of rural life. His works are found in many public and private collections in Europe and the United States. The Orange Thennos (2003), an acrylic on canvas, is located on the atrium wall to the right as you face the elevators. It was purchased by NSU to commemorate the second annual Black History Month Art Exhibition—African Presence 2005: The Caribbean Connection.

Therman Statom, a fellow Floridian, is an internationally recognized glass artist. Working with glass, paint, and found objects, he creates unique works of sculpture. Statom uses the images of houses, ladders, chairs, and other common objects in his work, making these simple objects come to life with bold color and energy. Woman in Red Dress (1998), a mixed media, is located on the first-floor atrium, to the left as you face the elevators. It is on long-term loan, courtesy of the Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale, a gift of the Joan and Milton Baxt Foundation.

One of the most popular additions to the library is the Prayer Wheel, hand-forged by craftsmen in India and blessed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama during his visit to Nova Southeastern University. The use of the prayer wheel as a mystical and religious practice dates back to at least 400 CE in China. The idea of the prayer wheel may have originated with a play on words of "turn the wheel of the dharma," a metaphor used for the teachings of the Buddha. The Prayer Wheel is located to the right of the atrium, as you enter the library.
President’s Message

Dear Friends,

The Circle of Friends has new and unique events planned for the upcoming year that are certain to bring you to the library. Our first commitment is to increase the visibility of the library in the community. All residents of Broward County should be aware of the resources that are available to them free of charge. We will accomplish this by expanding and developing our commitment to provide intellectually stimulating opportunities and by creating new relationships with organizations such as the Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale.

In addition, we have recently acquired a genealogy collection graciously donated by the Genealogical Society of Broward County. This acquisition will be the basis of new adult and children’s programming designed to peak interest in this popular hobby. Look for an official launch of this collection this spring.

We will also continue our very successful State of the University address, presented by Ray Ferrero, Jr., NSU president, and the LitLive members-only brunch with a nationally known author. Your opportunities are as endless as your imagination!

We hope to see you often throughout the year.

Glenda Abbate
President
Circle of Friends

Upcoming Circle of Friends Events

Friday, February 8, 2008, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Book Review; “Afghanistan and Its Challenges: Realities of the Kite Runners”
with Bahauddin G. Mujtaba, Hutzenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship

Saturday, March 15, 2008
Friends-only brunch in conjunction with the Broward Public Library Foundation’s LitLive. Time and author to be determined.

Thursday, April 24 through Saturday, April 26, 2008
Join Circle of Friends as we launch our new genealogy collection at the Alvin Sherman Library. The event kicks off on Thursday at a members-only evening followed by two days of learning and exploring the vast world of genealogy.

Join the Circle of Friends

A Circle of Friends membership supports library projects and offers many member benefits and opportunities.

Call (954) 262-4627 for more information, or fill out the attached membership envelope.
On December 6, Circle of Friends members and friends, along with Nova Southeastern University’s Oceanographic Center and the Guy Harvey Research Institute, enjoyed an evening of fun and education at the International Fishing Hall of Fame. They viewed a special screening of the critically acclaimed documentary film Sharkwater. Proceeds from the event went to the Alvin Sherman Library Circle of Friends and the Oceanographic Center.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey R. Ackerman
Mr. William E. Adams
Mr. David Att
Ms. Mildred Anderson
Ms. Helen Zernieke Blaine
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ballotta
Ms. Mary Ellen Ballotta
Mr. and Mrs. James Bates
Mr. and Mrs. James Batmasian
Mr. and Mrs. John Bauer
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Beal
Dr. Oscar Bekoff
Drs. Gal and Drew Beyer
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Brady
Ms. Diane K. Brewer
Mr. David Brodie/
Southern Audio Visual, Inc.
Ms. Harriett Bunch
Ms. Amalia Cevillé
Ms. Sharon Caso
Mr. and Mrs. George Cavallaro
Mr. Paul Chacon, Jr./Cuban-American
Bar Association, Inc.
Mr. Arthur D’Oacite
Ms. Helene Gincebeaux
Mr. Ed Davis/
C. Davis Electric Company, Inc.
Ms. Julie Devlin
Ms. Susan S. Dickman
Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Dobrin
Ms. Marian Dombeck
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Drujick
Ms. Frances M. Duhe
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dwors
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Edison
Ms. Joel Ernits
Ms. Barbara Fielderman
Mr. Benjamin Figgle
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Finklestein
Ms. Carmela Figlie/The Stanley
and Ann Trusk Scholarship Fund
Mr. James Fry/
MJ Simpson Corporation
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Galiner
Mr. Ronald Gazer
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Gierenvinkel
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Goel
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Greenberg
Mr. Roger Griffis/NOAA
Ms. Yveta Grignon
Mr. John W. Harris
Dr. Robert Hemphill
Ms. Barbara Henninger
Dr. Paul Hershay
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Hill
Mr. Mark Holmes/Eastern
Financial Florida Credit Union
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Hooper
Mr. Charlie Johnston
MS Cable & Wire Installations
Ms. Martina Kerkova
Mr. Chris King/World
Saltfish Championship
Mr. Karl Knoech
Mrs. and Mrs. Norman Kublin
Mr. and Mrs. Svato Kudel
Ms. Margaret Larkin
Mr. and Mrs. John Leech
Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Lea
Ms. Anne M. Leon
Ms. Michelle Lien
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Lipikineott
Mr. Irwin Lipkineott
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Lovern
Mr. David MacNeil/
Mostyn Foundation, Inc.
Ms. Mary Maker
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Marcoone
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Marcoone
Ms. Deborah Maurer
Ms. Linda Mey
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mencarelli
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Mijares
Mr. Bob Moss/Moss Miller
Joint Venture LCC
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Murphy
Ms. Selma Nicholas
Ms. Helena Novakova
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis O’Leary
Mr. and Mrs. John Pepper
Mr. Mark A. Petersen
Mr. and Mrs. Elias Porias
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Povey
Ms. Jill Preston
Mr. David Rafaelis
Ms. Peggy Rhodes
Ms. Maureen Riley
Ms. Blanka Roberts
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Plomer
Ms. Guethle Reiz
Ms. Tricia Rutesis
Mr. Ron Ryan
Mr. and Mrs. Luigi Salvaneschi
Mr. Greg Sandefur
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Sautter
Mr. and Mrs. Don Savino
Mr. and Mrs. George Schmidt
Mr. and Mrs. David Sexton
Mr. Bill Shedd/AFTCO
Manufacturing Company, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Simigran
Ms. Anna Sokolova.
Dr. William Spears
Mr. Bryce Statham/
Blue Moon Fish Co.
Ms. Joyce Steward
Ms. Sharon Stites
Ms. Nancy Strong
Ms. Marie Svoboda
Mr. Marvin Teperson and
Ms. Rosalie Sherman
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Umschweeis
Ms. Lori Walsh
Mr. Jay Walters/Harbor Branch
Oceanographic Institute
Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Watson
Ms. Diane Weinbrum
Mr. Len W. Wieselberg
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Winston
Mr. Manny Zapata/Pepsi-Cola Co.
of Fort Lauderdale
Mr. and Mrs. George Zartolas
Mr. Richard Zipes and
Ms. Denise Gannon
Special Events and Programming

Visit www.nova.edu/library/about/events to learn about special events and performances at the Alvin Sherman Library and the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center.

The Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center is a joint-use facility between Nova Southeastern University and the Broward County Board of County Commissioners.